

May 8, 2002

Hon. Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
Department of Transportation
40 Worth Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: Muni-Meters

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 is writing to express its alarm regarding the content of your March 25, 2002 letter addressed to Community Board District Managers. This letter announced plans to add many more muni-meters in midtown, but failed to acknowledge either of the concerns the Board had communicated to Commissioner Weinshall about the design and positioning of these collection devices.

The Board has agreed that centralized parking fee collection has several potential advantages, but the units observed thus far are bulky, as they unnecessarily intrude into pedestrian circulation space. In addition, they are so boxy that they present a platform for abandoned food wrappers and coffee cups. The Board is certain that the volume purchasing power wielded by New York City affords an opportunity to dictate more enlightened design specifications to a vendor instead of simply accepting any product that is already available.

In addition, the devices are typically mounted too high to be conveniently used by people of short stature or who are in wheelchairs. Also, during the time this letter was written, the two West 55th Street muni-meters, which have been called to the attention of your department by Manhattan Community Board No. 5, remain in place, severely obstructing pedestrian movement.

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 will oppose the installation of any muni-meters on our narrow sidewalks until the Department of Transportation gives the Board some indication that a well-designed unit can be used, and in all instances, can be positioned with maximum consideration for all users of the sidewalks.

Commissioner Forgione

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Simone Sindin

Chair

Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Walter Mankoff

Co-Chair

Transportation Planning Committee

Ken Stewart

Co-Chair

Transportation Planning Committee

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 passed this letter at its May 1, 2002 full board meeting.

cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Jerrold Nadler, United States Representative
Hon. Tom Duane, State Senator
Hon. Eric Schneiderman, State Senator
Hon. Deborah Glick, State Assemblymember
Hon. Richard Gottfried, State Assemblymember
Hon. Scott Stringer, State Assemblymember
Hon. Gale Brewer, City Councilmember
Hon. Christine Quinn, City Councilmember
Manhattan Community Board No. 5
Manhattan Community Board No. 6
City Council Transportation Committee Chair
Andrew Hallerman, Dept. of Transportation