

September 9, 2002

Hon. Daniel Doctoroff
Deputy Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Construction Staging Area for Third Water Tunnel Shaft 27B

Dear Deputy Mayor Doctoroff:

Several years ago Manhattan Community Board Nos. 2 and 4 formed a committee to address the concerns of area businesses and residents in and around our common border, West 14th Street. One issue our committee is currently addressing is the location of a proposed staging area for the construction of Shaft 27B of the City's Third Water Tunnel.

In the mid-1990's the City's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) filed an application with the City's Department of City Planning (DCP) to acquire Manhattan Block 628, Lot 4 on West 13th Street, between 9th Avenue and Hudson Street for use as its staging area. The community approved of this plan because it would not unduly affect area businesses and residents. On August 15, 2002, we learned for the first time that DEP had change their staging area location in the final days of the Giuliani administration without informing the community and without withdrawing its acquisition application from DCP.

The current proposal is to use the eastern half of the street bed and sidewalk of Ninth Avenue, between Little West 12th and West 13th streets for a period of at least four years, encircling it with a 12 foot high wall. We are very concerned that this will cause major disruptions to the Gansevoort Meat Market operations, affecting the very survival of these area businesses. The market relies on Ninth Avenue as a truck staging and offloading area, and has no other alternative streets to relocate to. In addition, at least two MTA bus routes that traverse this area will be significantly affected, further disrupting the livelihood of area businesses and residents for years. Because of these reasons, we ask you to intervene immediately.

After the vacant lot was chosen as the construction staging area, the block was designated in the New York State Open Space Conservation Plan for future use as a park and historic building site. We request that the City honor its original agreement with the community and acquire Manhattan Block 628, Lot 4 for use as the construction staging area for Shaft 27B and then turn the site over

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to the City's Department of Parks and Recreation so that it may fulfill a State goal that has the support of the community, including area property owners, businesses and residents.

Sincerely,



Simone Sindin

Chair

Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Thomas Lunke

Chair

14th Street Area Committee

cc: Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President
Local Elected Officials
Honorable Andrew Alper, President, Economic Development Corporation
Honorable Adrian Benepe, Commissioner, Department of Parks and Recreation
Honorable Amanda Burden, Chair, City Planning Commission
Honorable Martha Hirst, Commissioner, Department of Citywide Administrative Services
Honorable Patricia Lancaster, Commissioner, Department of Buildings
Honorable Robert Walsh, Commissioner, Department of Business Services
Honorable Christopher Ward, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection
Honorable Iris Weinshall, Commissioner, Department of Transportation
Honorable Carol Yankay, Manhattan Community Board 2
Maurice Benos, M & W Packing
Irwin Cohen, Chelsea Market
Damen Dell, The Hog Pit
Michelle Dell, Hogs and Heifers
Karla Krasner, Dufour Pastry Kitchens
Keith McNally, Pastis
Richard Meilman, Meilman Management and Development
Florent Morellet, Florent
Diamond Meat Packers