



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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J. LEE COMPTON
Chair

MICHELLE SOLOMON
Acting District Manager

February 2, 2006

Borough Commissioner Margaret Forgiore
NYC Department of Transportation
40 Worth Street, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10013

Re: Traffic Mitigation in West Chelsea

Dear Commissioner Forgiore:

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 appreciates the partnership of the Department of Transportation as we seek to mitigate the severe traffic congestion caused by the concentration of nightclubs in West Chelsea, primarily from 27th to 29th Streets, 10th Avenue and west. The total liquor licensed capacity of the area is now over 10,000. The coming and going of club patrons between 11:00pm and 4:00am snarls traffic along Tenth Avenue, Ninth Avenue, and on cross streets as far south as 23rd Street. Residents in the area frequently complain of the resulting horn honking. The congestion has also had an effect on pedestrian and motorist safety. The Tenth Precinct reports that Tenth Avenue between 27th and 29th Streets had over 100 accidents last year, the majority at night and on the weekends.

In response to this situation, the 10th Precinct is suggesting a change in the traffic and parking regulations in the area. They believe that these changes will help them keep traffic moving, reduce noise, and increase safety. We greatly appreciate their efforts to address the traffic problems both through enforcement and through mitigation, and thus strongly endorse their proposal. We would therefore like to request that the Department of Transportation install the following street signs (also see attached map):

1. No Standing, 10pm – 6am:

- South side of West 27th Street from Tenth Avenue to Eleventh Avenue;
- South side of West 28th Street from Tenth Avenue to Eleventh Avenue;
- North side of West 27th Street, beginning at the corner of Tenth Avenue and running 100 feet westward;
- West side of Tenth Avenue from 26th to 28th Streets (thus removing taxi stand).

2. No Parking, 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday (allow overnight parking):

- East side of Eleventh Avenue from 26th to 28th Streets (thus removing taxi stand);
- South side of West 27th Street from Eleventh Avenue to Twelfth Avenue.

3. No Honking:

- West 27th Street and West 28th Streets from Tenth Avenue to Eleventh Avenue;
- Tenth Avenue from 26th to 28th Streets.

4. Reverse Direction of Vehicular Traffic on West 27th Street between Tenth Avenue and Eleventh Avenue, from westbound to eastbound.

We believe, along with the Tenth Precinct, that the changes in regulations outlined in 1a, 1b, and 1c will, if aggressively enforced, create moving pick-up/drop-off lanes for vehicles carrying club patrons along 27th Street, 28th Street, and Tenth Avenue. The NYPD reports that the taxi stands we requested last year have come to serve as layover areas for for-hire vehicles, and are actually obstructing traffic. We hope that this new solution will work better, but this is very much a work in progress, given the extremely heavy use of the area, and we may be requesting additional changes during the next year.

In addition to creating more lanes of moving traffic, the changes proposed above will:

1. Ensure that an existing food vendor does not relocate his truck to a spot directly in front of a residential building on the north side of West 27th Street;
2. Replace street parking used by residents of the area that will be lost on 27th and 28th Streets;
3. Allow police to more effectively prevent late night honking;
4. Redirect clubgoing traffic west on 29th Street, then south on 11th Avenue, and then east onto 27th and 28th Streets, hopefully moving related traffic jams and honking to 29th Street and to 11th Avenue, which do not have residential tenants, and away from heavily residential 10th Avenue

Again, we note that all of these changes are somewhat experimental, and we will revisit them if they do not work as intended. As always, we appreciate your assistance and cooperation and look forward to working with you in seeking to improve a truly intolerable situation.

Sincerely,



J. Lee Compton
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

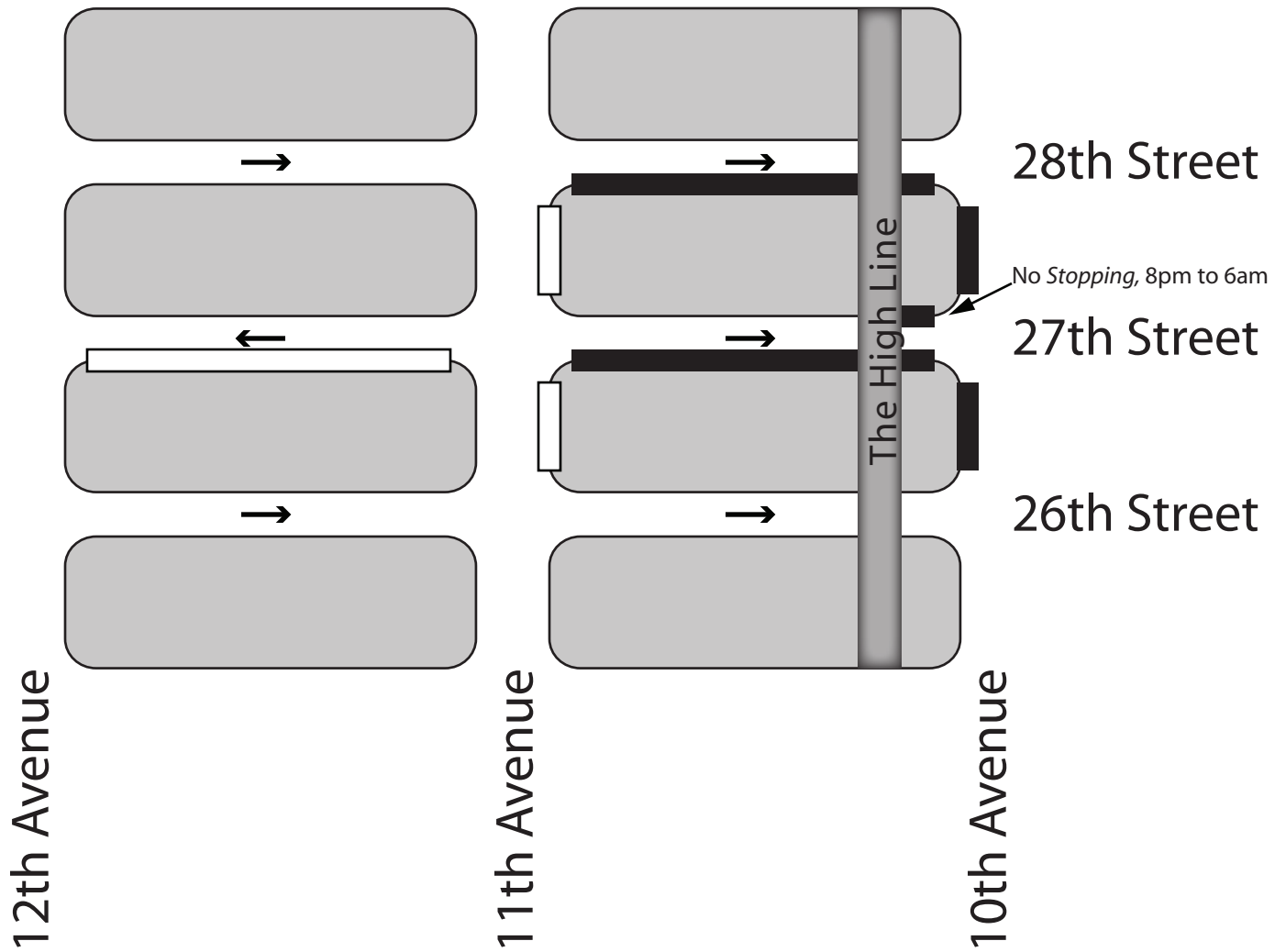


Jay Marcus
Chair
Transportation Planning Committee




cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor
Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
Local Elected Officials
10th Precinct

West Chelsea Parking Plan

Manhattan Community Board No.4 - Feb.2006



Parking Regulation Changes

-  No Standing, 8pm to 6am
-  Overnight Parking Allowed
-  Direction of Traffic