



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

330 West 42nd Street, 26th floor New York, NY 10036
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512
www.ManhattanCB4.org

J. LEE COMPTON
Chair

MICHELLE SOLOMON
Acting District Manager

February 2, 2006

Commissioner Ray Kelly
New York Police Department
One Police Plaza
New York, NY 10038

Re: Additional traffic enforcement officers needed in West Chelsea

Dear Commissioner Kelly,

As you may know, Manhattan Community Board No. 4 has been working closely with the Tenth Precinct to manage the effects of the over-saturation of nightclubs in West Chelsea. The total liquor-licensed capacity of the area bounded by West 27th - West 29th Street, Tenth Avenue and west, is now over 10,000 patrons. The precinct has been working tirelessly to deal with the crime, noise, drunk and disorderly behavior, and traffic congestion that have become a daily fact of life for the residents of the surrounding area, and we greatly appreciate their efforts. However, the traffic congestion and related noise have now reached the level where the assistance of additional units of the NYPD is required.

Last year, over 100 accidents occurred on Tenth Avenue between 27th and 28th Streets - most of them at night and over the weekends. The area is no longer safe for pedestrians, especially given the high levels of intoxication of departing club patrons. The Community Board has also received an overwhelming number of complaints about the noise caused by club-related traffic congestion. Tenth Avenue is lined with residential tenants, and we also get complaints from residents of cross streets living as far south as 23rd Street.

At the urging of the Tenth Precinct, we have recently requested several changes to parking and traffic regulations in the area. The changes are designed to ease traffic flow and give the officers greater enforcement powers. However, in order for this to be successful, dedicated traffic enforcement officers are needed. In particular, we request enforcement against private cars and taxis that honk unnecessarily, that double and triple park, that stand or park in "no standing" zones, and that block intersections. We also request additional enforcement of laws against driving under the influence of alcohol.

In addition to enforcement efforts, we believe that officers directing traffic should be stationed at the intersections of 10th Avenue and 27th Street and of 10th Avenue and 28th Street. Congestion at those intersections is directly responsible for most of the problems - those two officers could therefore make all the difference in the world. Specifically, we ask that civilians from the Traffic

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Intelligence Unit and officers from the Manhattan Traffic Taskforce be assigned to the area on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

We appreciate your assistance in addressing this serious situation and look forward to further efforts to improve the quality of life in West Chelsea.

Sincerely yours,



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