



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

330 West 42nd Street, 26th floor New York, NY 10036

tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512

www.ManhattanCB4.org

JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND

Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.

District Manager

October 11, 2007

Department of Transportation
Borough Commissioner Margaret Forgione
59 Maiden Lane, 35th Floor
New York, NY 10038

**Re: Temporary Installment in Pedestrian Median Section of 9th Avenue between
14th and 16th Street**

Dear Ms. Forgione,

Manhattan Community Board Four is pleased that improvements have begun on the temporary installment on the pedestrian median section of 9th Avenue between West 14th Street and West 16th Street. We particularly appreciate the involvement and community outreach that the Chelsea Improvement Company has shown since it was designated to program and oversee the area.

Specifically, we appreciate that the Chelsea Improvement Company (CIP) is moving forward on several recommendations made of a subcommittee of the Transportation Committees of CB2 and CB4 and the Steering Committee of the Greater Gansevoort Improvement Project (GGIP) in August 2007. These include:

- Installation of movable tables and chairs and planters with flowers and trees (with taller foliage toward the middle of the area);
- Beginning discussions with the Department of Transportation and merchants of Chelsea Market regarding the placement of a cart at the Southern End of the area (for review of potential merchants and hours of operation by the Community Boards and GGIP);
- Discussion with area arts organizations regarding use of the central area of occasional performance and exhibition space (also for review by the Community Boards and GGIP before calendaring);
- Discussion with potential web-providers for the creation of a free web-access zone in area.

We remain concerned about evening activity, particularly given the proliferation of late- hour operating nightclubs and bars in the area, and encourage the CIP to investigate removing the tables and chairs during evening hours and improving lighting.

We also wish to express our disappointment that the Department of Transportation moved forward without community input on purchasing the (plastic) planters and table and chairs and devising the perimeter installations. We request that there be an on-going process for communication of future improvements, and for the longer term monitoring and oversight toward the design of the permanent installation. We request that there be a letter of agreement between DOT, CIP, GGIP, CB2, CB4, and area block associations on the communication process and public participation in the design process.

We also request that DOT monitor traffic conditions on Ninth Avenue between 14th and 16th Street, and report back to the Community Boards and GGIP.

Again, we are excited by the ideas and proposals of CIP and look forward to working with them as they move forward on improving and programming the 9th Avenue pedestrian median area.

Sincerely,



Jean-Daniel Noland
Chair
Manhattan Community
Board No. 4



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee

c.c.

Community Board 2
Chelsea Improvement Company
Steering Committee of the Greater Gansevoort Improvement Project
West 14th-15th and 16th Block Associations