



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

December 19, 2007

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

Re: Parking Regulations, West 54th Street (Tenth and Eleventh Avenue)

Dear Borough Commissioner Forgione:

Manhattan Community Board 4 recommends changes to the parking regulations and street signs on West 54th Street between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues. The proposed regulation will more closely match the resident's and business' needs.

The north side of West 54th Street is completely residential from Eleventh Avenue through approximately 150 feet west of Tenth Avenue. Clinton Towers, with hundreds of affordable apartments, sits at the corner of Eleventh Avenue and West 54th Street. Going on 54th Street one can find a playground, Centro Maria - a religious center for young women students - and finally Harborview, an affordable housing residence with 695 tenants.

The current parking regulation on the north side of 45th Street is "No Parking, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm", except for two parking spots in front of Centro Maria, marked as "No Parking Anytime". Recently, a 138 feet long layover space for charter buses was relocated from the south side of the street to the north, right in front of the Clinton Towers' playground. In spite of the "no idling" signs, these buses do idle for hours at a time with no respect for residents and children. The construction site on the south side of the street will result in 900 residential apartments, hardly compatible with a charter bus' layover area.

The residents have requested a change in parking regulations on the north side of the block, to "Alternate Street cleaning parking" to allow parking all the time, except for two hours a day, two mornings a week for cleaning. The "No Parking Anytime" zone in front of Centro Maria should remain. The businesses along a 150 feet stretch of 45th Street, west of Tenth Avenue will require a new loading and unloading zone with meters.

We suggest moving the interim location of the charter bus' layover area from the playground frontage to a commercial location: our survey of adjacent blocks shows that 208 feet of commercial parking are available next to the AT&T building on the north side of 53rd Street, west of Tenth Avenue.

We thank the Department of Transportation for considering this proposal. Our district experiences the second highest rate of asthma hospitalization in Manhattan, right behind Harlem. We expect these changes will enhance the quality of life for those who live and work on these blocks.

We thank the Department of Transportation in advance for considering this proposal.

Sincerely,



Jean-Daniel Noland
Chair
Manhattan Community
Board No. 4



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee

cc: Clinton Towers Tenant Association
Harborview Tenant Association
Pete Grannis
Electeds