



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

J. LEE COMPTON
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

June 1, 2007

Governor Eliot Spitzer
633 Third Avenue, 38th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Re: New York State Liquor Authority and CEO Joshua Toas

Dear Governor Spitzer:

Community Boards throughout the City of New York have been hearing rumors of personnel changes soon to occur at the State Liquor Authority (SLA).

Community Board 4 in Manhattan is writing to support what many who have dealt with the SLA over the years call the "New SLA". The SLA under the leadership of CEO Joshua Toas has become a model for government agency responsiveness to community and community board needs.

This Board's years of frustration with SLA indifference and disregard for our liquor license recommendations has undergone a sea change due to the leadership of Mr. Toas, his staff, and the new chairman and commissioners.

Mr. Toas, who works and lives in Albany, has been visible throughout his recent tenure at the SLA by attending Task Force meetings, various meetings with the Manhattan Borough President, and "Town Hall Meetings" held by elected officials. In fact, his attendance and leadership has been of great help in changing the community's opinion of the SLA.

Mr. Toas and the new commissioners have been responsive to community boards and community residents, and have taken strong action against many problem clubs quickly; many times closing them. Yet, at the same time, they have been able to recognize the need for vibrant restaurants and nightlife establishments in New York City.

We respectfully request that the current administration at the SLA be maintained under the leadership of Joshua Toas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lee Compton".

Lee Compton
Chair, Manhattan Community Board No. 4

cc: CEO Joshua Toas, SLA Commissioners, Elected Officials