



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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J. LEE COMPTON
Chair

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

June 6, 2007

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

Re: Traffic-induced honking on 37th Street, from Eighth to Ninth Avenue.

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

Community Board 4 has long deplored the traffic congestion and its corollary noise in Community Board 4. Recently the problem has escalated with the rapid conversion of commercial space in residential space. We request that three “No honking- \$ 350 penalty“ signs be installed on 37th street at regular intervals and that signage be changed at 37th street and 9th avenue to reduce the congestion causing the honking.

37th street from Eight to Ninth Avenue is fast becoming mostly residential. Recently, a large parking lot was sold to make place for two residential towers. A loft building is being converted to residential and two more are occupied by residences. Finally, a commercial building is occupied by multiple venues with a total capacity of over 700 patrons, many of whom drive and park in the street. There are parking facilities for 500 cars, which generate much traffic on that block.

The entrance to Lincoln tunnel on 9th Avenue at Ramp C is frequently backed up, which results in honking from 3 pm to 12 midnight when the theatre traffic leaves, even on weekends. Meanwhile 37th Street from Ninth to 11th Avenue is empty and could be used to access the tunnel.

Community board 4 requests that the following measures be taken to alleviate the problem:

- Install three “No Honking - \$ 350 fines” at critical points on 37th street (please consult the board office for locations) .This will dispel the notion in drivers that the block is commercial and “nobody lives there”.
- Install a new sign at 37th street and 9th avenue showing “Lincoln Tunnel Alternate Route- Use 11th Avenue“, and arrow pointing straight West.

- Finally, Community Board 4 reiterates its long standing and repeated requests to install signage prohibiting a left turn from 37th Street onto Lincoln tunnel's Ramp C. Not only this measure would eliminate back-ups and honking, it would make this notoriously dangerous intersection safer for pedestrians and prevent further pedestrians injuries.

At its meeting on June 6th, 2007 the full Board approved this request.

Sincerely,



J. Lee Compton
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee