



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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J. LEE COMPTON
Chair

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

June 11, 2007

Mayor Michael Bloomberg
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

Manhattan Community Board 4 is writing to request the formation of a Manhattan Construction Task Force to help community boards address the issues raised, and the complaints caused, by construction.

The Chelsea/Hell's Kitchen/Clinton area, which lies within the boundaries of CB4, is soon to see the development of Hudson Yards and West Chelsea, the extension of the Javits Convention Center and the erection of a new Madison Square Garden on top of the Moynihan Station/Farley Post Office. In addition, there will be construction on top of the "Lincoln Tunnel Ramps", a 1,000+ unit development at 53rd Street and 11th Avenue, three affordable housing projects with three more proposed, and two major developments on 10th Avenue and 37th Street. There are three hotels under construction on 39th Street between 8th and 9th Avenue, a large residential building on Tenth Avenue between 16th and 17th Streets and several office buildings in the 20's between Sixth and Seventh Avenues.

The issues that arise from construction sites abutting occupied office and residential buildings include noise mitigation, closing of streets, queuing of trucks with idling engines, damage to property, illegal blocking on ingress and egress, illegal dumping, air quality, work without a permit and work not in conformity with permit or zoning regulations, and must be addressed to host of different agencies, NYPD, DOT, DEP, DOHMH, FDNY, DOB, CPC, and DOS.

Meetings and other constituent work are the core of a community board office's work, but community boards, with a staff of three or four, need to call several agencies for one constituent complaint if it relates to construction. The process is cumbersome and not conducive to an effective and efficient resolution, and since the pace of development is expected to increase significantly in coming years these calls will take an increasing share of community board staff time, with correspondingly less time to address other issues.

We believe that given the number of agencies involved and the anticipated increase in construction activity the City should create a Construction Task Force to deal with construction related issues centrally without requiring community boards to search for, and attempt to

communicate with, the appropriate agencies. A task force with the appropriate authority to handle these complaints will improve the City's responsiveness to construction related issues, reduce anger and improve quality of life.

We look forward to your prompt reply

Sincerely,



J. Lee Compton

Chair

Manhattan Community Board

cc: Electeds

Commissioners: NYPD, DOT, DEP, DOHMH, FDNY, DOB, CPC, DOS