



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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J. LEE COMPTON
Chair

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

June 7, 2007

Commissioner Emily Lloyd
Department of Environmental Protection
59-17 Junction Boulevard, 13th Floor
Corona, NY 11373

Re: Clogged catch basins

Dear Commissioner Lloyd:

Manhattan Community Board 4 is writing regarding the continual and apparently unsolvable issue of clogged catch basin at 9th Avenue and 40th Street and 10th Avenue and 43rd Street.

For months now these corners have been heavily flooded, causing a public safety issue to pedestrians and automobile drivers. In fact, the catch basin on 40th Street abuts the south side of the Port Authority buildings; which means pedestrians are required to walk out in the street toward on-coming buses in order to cross the streets (see attached pictures).

Although these catch basins have been called in, added to the District Service Cabinet agenda, and the Manhattan Borough Service Cabinet agenda, they are still clogged. It has been suggested by some that illegally poured cement is the cause of the back-up. Your agency has confirmed cement in the 43rd Street catch basin but not the one on 40th Street. Either way, the community needs a resolution to this long standing hazard and if need be the City needs to hold those who dump cement legally accountable.

Failure to resolve this problem will only lead to greater problems. For example, due to the back-up on Ninth Avenue and 40th Street the water has run down to 39th Street and Ninth Avenue and this catch basin has also begun to clog up and cause a hazard.

Please feel free to call the Board Office and speak with the District Manager, Robert J. Benfatto, or Community Associate, Nelly Gonzalez, for more information or with any questions or requests.

Thank you for your prompt response.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Compton
Chair
Manhattan Community Board Four