



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

330 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, 26<sup>th</sup> floor New York, NY 10036  
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512  
[www.ManhattanCB4.org](http://www.ManhattanCB4.org)

**JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND**  
Chair

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

September 22, 2008

Raymond X. Kelly  
Commissioner  
NYC Police Department  
One Police Plaza  
New York, New York 10038

Dear Commissioner Kelly:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) is requesting a meeting with concerning the timing of the police actions that took place on June 27, 2008, the Friday of LGBT Pride Weekend. Planned and implemented citywide, the timing suggests at best a benign indifference to the feelings and concerns of the LGBT community, and at worst the existence of an unexamined institutional homophobia within the NYPD.

Two of the targeted clubs, Marquee and Pacha, located in Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen/Clinton, were closed for the entire weekend forcing signature Pride events, which had been planned long in advance, to scramble for other venues. One of these was a crucial fund-raiser for Heritage of Pride, the community based organization sponsoring the weekend's major public celebrations. The third club, Splash, situated a few feet to the east of CB4's Sixth Avenue boundary, was temporarily closed and customers were not allowed to enter or leave during the inspection.

Residents of New York City and its suburbs, as well as tourists here for the LGBT events, received an unwelcoming message. Ironically, Pride Weekend memorializes the 1969 police raids on the Stonewall Inn and the immediate riotous reaction which gave birth to the modern LGBT rights movement. It also celebrates the contemporary identity, strength and achievements of the LGBT community. The closing down of two important Pride venues and the

mid-evening inspection suspending activities at another venue created an atmosphere of intimidation and suspicion reminiscent of that of 1969.

CB4 is neither questioning the appropriateness of legitimate inspections nor the enforcement of city and state law/code. Indeed we are grateful for exemplary work performed by the NYPD, most noticeable to us through our local precincts. Rather, we are expressing our serious concern over the timing of the actions taken by those under your command who, working with other city agencies, disrupted LGBT Pride Weekend, We are asking for a meeting with you to discuss the issues we have raised.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'Jd' in a cursive, stylized font.

Chair

cc: Mayor Michael Bloomberg

Nazli Parvizi, Commissioner, Mayor's Office of Community Affairs

NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn

Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer

NYS Senator Thomas Duane

NYS Assemblyman Richard Gottfried