



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND

Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.

District Manager

October 6, 2008

Beverly Gotay, Deputy Director
Special Applications Unit
NYC Department of Consumer Affairs
42 Broadway
New York, NY 10004-1716

Application: Sidewalk Newsstand (NEW)
Proposed location: NEC West 15th Street and Seventh Avenue
DCA Application #: 1294354
Applicant: Mahamud Sapan

Dear Ms. Gotay,

Manhattan Community Board 4 recommends **denial** of the application of Mr. Sapan for a new newsstand on the northeast corner of West 15th Street and Seventh Avenue This was subsequent to review of the application by the Transportation Planning Committee at its Sept. 17, 2008 meeting.

There was significant opposition to the proposed newsstand by stakeholders in our community, mainly the West 15th Street 200 Block Association and the Board of Directors of the 161 West 15th Street Cooperative (the same building as 89 7th Avenue). Their letters to the Board have been attached. Several residents testified that the proposed newsstand is part of the continued private encroachment of public space, increases the clutter on the street, is on already pedestrian crowded area, and that the newsstand might propose a hazard to the underground vault for 89 7th Avenue. Many residents also had concern that the newsstand would harm the business of the small stores located across the street.

We share many of the community raised concerns about private uses occupying public spaces and struggle as we seek to reconcile the rights of potential newsstand operators with the goals of PlanNYC 2030 for increased public space. We are also concerned that the city's recent agreement with Cemusa to replace existing and create additional newsstands as a means to increase city revenue has led to an increase of newsstand applications in CB4 (five in the last three months - though two were withdrawn) and may unreasonably burden this Community Board.

In addition, at a time when our neighborhoods are struggling to preserve small businesses, non-rent paying newsstands create unfair competition that will further erode their ability to survive.

On Oct. 1st, 2008 the Full Board voted to recommended denial of this application.

Sincerely,



Jean-Daniel Noland
Chair
Manhattan
Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee

c.c.:

Mahamud Sapan
Brooke McKenna, Department of Transportation
Design Commission
West 15th Street 200 Block Association
Board of Directors of the 161 West 15th Street Cooperative