



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

330 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, 26<sup>th</sup> floor New York, NY 10036  
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**JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND**  
Chair

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

October 7, 2008

Chief Mike Scagnelli  
NY Police Department  
One Police Plaza

Deputy Inspector Hughes  
10<sup>th</sup> Precinct  
230 West 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10011

**Re: Community Complaints re Horn Honking on Ninth Avenue from 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> Streets**

Dear Mr. Scagnelli and Mr. Hughes:

Manhattan Community Board 4 requests your urgent assistance to resolve a serious situation on Ninth Avenue between 14<sup>th</sup> Street and 17<sup>th</sup> Streets, every day between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m., particularly on weekends including Sunday night.

Gansevoort Plaza is now home to many clubs and lounges opened until 4 a.m. in the morning. Taxis come down Ninth Avenue to pick up or drop off their fare. This creates serious back up, as a result, they block the intersections and perpetually honk in a completely residential neighborhood at four in the morning. We have videos of the situation, which demonstrate that the vast majority of the cars are yellow taxis and they indeed illegally honk.

Fulton Houses, a housing complex with over 600 families, is located at 16<sup>th</sup> Street. Many windows that overlook Ninth Avenue remain open in the summer. We have received many complaints of children waking up and parents who cannot sleep at all. Other nearby residents complained as well.

Indeed, we have observed -- as pedestrians and taxi customers -- that the practice of illegally honking has become all too common. Many community residents believe that taxi drivers are not even cognizant of the law. This contributes to a state of lawlessness in the street and renders the horn, originally a safety device, completely ineffective for that purpose.

We would appreciate it if your offices undertook a stepped up focused enforcement of honking law on Ninth Avenue between 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Street especially from midnight to 4 a.m. on weekend including Sundays.

We appreciate your urgent help in this matter.

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:

Matthew Daus, TLC  
Commissioner Emily Lloyd, DEP  
Commissioner Janet Sadik Kahn, DOT  
Colleen Chattergoon, DOT

Brad Holyman, Chair Manhattan Community Board 2  
Shirley Secunda, Transportation Committee Manhattan Community Board 2  
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