



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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COREY JOHNSON
Chair

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

March 28, 2013

Mr. Emil Lissauer
Director
Street Activity Permit Office
100 Gold Street – 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10038

Re: Proof of Non-Profit Status/Eight Avenue Festivals

Dear Mr. Lissauer,

It has been brought to the attention of Manhattan Community Board 4 that the Street Activity Permit Office needs additional information about two street festival applications on upper Eighth Avenue: the Eighth Avenue Festival sponsored by the Midtown North Precinct Community Council; and the Eighth Avenue Fall Festival, sponsored by four Hell's Kitchen block associations. Mardi Gras Festival Productions, Ltd produces both festivals.

CB4 knows of, and works with, both these event sponsors on community issues and hopes they will be able to continue to have their applications favorably received, as they have been each year they have applied. These organizations are non-profit, all volunteer, pay no salaries, no rent, and no overhead. Any money they earn goes back to the community.

The four block associations have been a positive force in the Hell's Kitchen community for decades. The Precinct Community Council has worked assiduously to promote better community policing and cooperation between NYPD and the Hell's Kitchen community.

Below are a few of the programs the event sponsors finance with proceeds from the festivals.

Eighth Avenue Festival

- The West 47th/48th Streets Block Association (EIN 13-3521466): Gardening supplies and plants for Hell's Kitchen Park; annual neighborhood children's Halloween party in the park, including a hayride for the children; hosts Jazzmobile.
- West 46th Street Block Association (EIN 13-2904750): Currently raising funds to restore the historic

Arnold Belkin mural in Matthew Palmer Park.

- West 45th St Block Association (8/9) (EIN 13-4165062): Purchases tree pit guards and flowers and maintains the block's tree pits.
- West 44th Street Better Block Association (EIN 13-3958120): maintain the garden on Pier 84 (44th Street and the Hudson River); hosts annual children's holiday party.

Eighth Avenue Fall Festival

Event Sponsor: The Midtown North Precinct Community Council. Hosts National Night Out Against Crime in Hell's Kitchen Park; hosts an annual event honoring police officers for exemplary service to the community during the year.

These local block associations and the Precinct Community Council are organizations that contribute to the fabric of our community. These are grass-roots, non-profit associations made up entirely of volunteers who contribute their time and talent. All events they sponsor are free. The associations also make contributions to local non-profit organizations.

Both Manhattan Board 4 and Manhattan Board 5 have approved their applications for Street Activity Permits every year they have applied in the past and we encourage SAPO to do the same this year.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CJ', is positioned above the printed name of the sender.

Corey Johnson
Chair