



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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COREY JOHNSON
Chair

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

May 1, 2013

James Tuller
Chief, Transportation Bureau
NYC Police Department
1 Police Plaza
New York, New York 10038

RE: West 44th Street between 9th and 10th Avenue bus traffic/parking/double parking

Dear Chief Tuller

Manhattan Community Board #4 requests that the assistance of the NPYPD Transportation Bureau, Traffic Enforcement Division in addressing the illegal use of West 44th Street between 9th and 10th Avenues by empty buses by increasing enforcement on this block – more specifically increasing enforcement related to these buses use of a non-truck route for through traffic, idling for over 3 minutes and double parking.

There has been a substantial increase in the number of commuter buses using the Lincoln Tunnel in the last several years. Many empty buses, typically entering from either the Lincoln Tunnel or parking spaces further south or west, enter the Port Authority between 4pm and 6pm each weekday to load passengers and then depart. Traffic regulations require empty buses to use “Through” or “Local Truck Routes” to arrive at the Port Authority. These routes include 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th Avenues and West 40th Street between the Tunnel Entrance and 11th Avenue and the entire length of West 42nd Street. Unfortunately, empty buses have begun to illegally use other residentially oriented streets within Community Board #4.

The residents of West 44th Street between 9th and 10th Avenue, a street of primarily older 4 story residential buildings, have been experiencing a substantial increase of empty buses on their street. These empty buses are using West 44th Street both as a travel street and for parking and double parking, frequently also illegally idling for over 3 minutes. The bus traffic and illegal parking/double parking increases congestion and makes a residential street seem more like a Bus ramp.

The West 44th Street Better Block Association documented the situation between 4pm and 6pm on Wednesday March 13. They made the following observations (and recorded them on video and camera);

- 59 empty buses travelled on this block during those 2 hours;

- 35 (59%) of those came north on 10th Avenue, turned onto West 44th Street for one block and then went South on 9th Avenue
- Several of the buses doubled parked and idled for a portion of these two hours
- 5 companies, all of whom have Gates at the Port Authority, account for 75% of the above illegal bus traffic, including
 - Academy Buses
 - Community Lines Jitney
 - NJ Transit
 - Trans Bridge
 - Martz

In addition to it being illegal and harming the quality of life on West 44th Street, this traffic also causes increased back up on 9th Avenue as buses turning from West 44th Street onto 9th Avenue often block the avenue and pedestrian crosswalk, since their turning radius tends to take up all traffic lanes on 9th Avenue and back-up traffic prevents them from completing the turn.

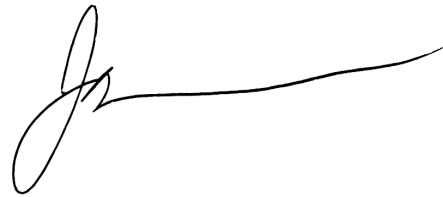
Sincerely,



Corey Johnson
Chair



Christine Berthet, Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Jay Marcus, Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee