



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**COREY JOHNSON**  
Chair

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

August 6, 2013

Mr. Andrew Lautenbacher  
Hess Corporation  
1 Hess Plaza  
Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095

**Re: Hess Station (502 W. 45<sup>th</sup> Street) & P.S. 51 - Pedestrian Safety**

Dear Mr. Lautenberger:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) appreciates the involvement of the Hess Corporation in promoting student and pedestrian safety in Hell's Kitchen by its creativity in installing sidewalk improvements and various safety enhancing measures along the entrances/exits on Tenth Avenue and West 44<sup>th</sup> and West 45<sup>th</sup> Streets. Based on continued discussion with P.S. 51 staff and parents and yourself, we would like to supplement the requests we made in put January 3, 2013 for changes to be made before the return of P.S. 51 in September, 2013.

When P.S. 51 returns, its new building will be adjacent to the Hess Station on the north side of West 44<sup>th</sup> Street between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues. The students – which will double in numbers- will not use the West 45<sup>th</sup> Street entrance any longer, but rather will use the W. 44<sup>th</sup> Street entrance. We appreciate your agreement, as per out January 3, 2013 request, prevent vehicle use of the West 44<sup>th</sup> Street entrances/exits to the Hess Station during the hours that students arrive (7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.) and leave either school or after-school activities (2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.).

Additionally, based on further discussion with the staff and parents from the school, we also request that Hess reduce the number of entrances on West 44<sup>th</sup> Street to one entrance, instead of the current two entrances. We also request, to prevent vehicles from entering the sidewalk during school arrival and departure hours, a chain link fence and a barricade at the property line before the sidewalk and a barricade at curb cut on West 44<sup>th</sup> during these hours. We also request that you ask the police for barricades that have as narrow as possible bases to prevent the barricades from being a sidewalk side obstacle for people with visual impairments. We also request signs both just west of the bumping stations and immediately before the West 44<sup>th</sup> Street exit(s) that this exit is closed during school hours. Beyond the treatments for the curb cuts, we request Hess place plantings near the curb on their portion of the West 44<sup>th</sup> Street before and after the curb cut that will both improve the ambiance and prevent the current problem of cars parking on the sidewalk, a practice goes from being an inconvenience to pedestrians to a serious safety hazard as the new residents and school students begin heavily using the street. We also

request three trees be planted (25 feet apart from each other) at the corner of Tenth Avenue and West 44<sup>th</sup> Street to more identify it as a primarily school and residential block.

Additionally, we ask that a Hess security guard be placed at the West 44<sup>th</sup> Street location during the school arrival and departure hours to prevent vehicle drivers from removing the chain link fence or moving the barricades.

Additionally, neighboring residents have reported that vehicles have occasionally entered the gas station from Tenth Avenue just south of West 45<sup>th</sup> Street from a curb, rather than at the curb cut. This creates a very unsafe condition for pedestrians on the sidewalk. We thus request that you add two trees next to the curb along Tenth Avenue near West 45<sup>th</sup> Street to avoid cars from being on the sidewalk except adjacent to marked curb cut areas.

As always, we appreciate your assistance and involvement and look forward to working with you to ensure a safe welcome back to our P.S. 51 school children and staff.

Sincerely,



Corey Johnson  
Chair



Christine Berthet, Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee



Jay Marcus, Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee

CC: Margaret Forgione – Commissioner, DOT  
Cathy Myers-Jusko – Assistant Principal, P.S. 51