



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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COREY JOHNSON
Chair

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

July 18, 2013

Michael Dugan
Community Affairs Officer
Midtown North Precinct
306 West 54th Street
New York, NY 10019

Re: Security Guards at PS51

Dear Community Affairs Officer Dugan:

Community Board #4 supports the active recruitment, training and hiring of at least three security guards for the new PS51 on West 44th Street. One Guard at West 44th and Tenth Avenue, another at West 45th and Tenth Avenue and a third at West 44th and Eleventh Avenue.

Most students are likely to come from mass transit and the neighborhood immediately to the east of the site. We thus need a crossing guard at West 44th and Tenth Avenue. This is particularly important given the high volume of cars entering the Tenth Avenue sidewalk to use the Hess Station and the number of cars turning left from West 44th Street to go onto Tenth Avenue. In addition the students coming from the neighborhood will most likely be arriving from the north and cross at West 45th Street and Tenth Avenue, another intersection made problematic by the number of vehicles entering the side walk to use the Hess Station and the large number of trucks and buses who turn from 10th Avenue onto West 45th Street to use the vehicle repair and cleaning services on the north side of the block. In addition, with the creation of over 2,000 apartments on West 42nd Street between Eleventh and Twelfth Avenues, there is also a need for a security guard at West 44th and Eleventh Avenue. Given its proximity to the Lincoln Tunnel many of the vehicles entering the area are going in each of the direction – north, south, and east, creating a substantial number of unsafe turning movements at the immediate and adjacent intersections, substantially reducing pedestrian safety. An enforcement guard is very much needed that location for the PS51 students.

We believe the security guards should be recruited as soon as possible to enable sufficient involvement and understanding of both student and community safety needs and major transportation movement and conflicts and to become a part of the school community. The hours of employment should reflect not just arrival and departure hours, but also hours for after school programming that will likely keep student in certain areas of the school and its yard.

We appreciate your assistance and involvement in ensuring these crossing guard positions are funded and hired before the start of the school year in September.

Sincerely,



Corey Johnson
Chair



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair,
Transportation Planning Committee



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee