



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**CHRISTINE BERTHET**  
Chair

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

**VIA EMAIL: [blitzen@nycsantacon.com](mailto:blitzen@nycsantacon.com)**

To Whom It May Concern:

Manhattan Community Board 4 ("MCB4") is writing to express our concerns regarding SantaCon and the effects it has on the communities it visits. Although SantaCon started years ago as a performance art piece, it has now grown into an epic pub crawl with thousands of participants which has created unforeseen problems and issues. Each year our community board is besieged by complaints as SantaCon passes through the neighborhoods of MCB4.

While SantaCon may be a short-term boon to a select group of local businesses, the many adverse impacts it wreaks, such as vomiting in the streets, public urination, vandalism and littering, disrupt community members' quality of life. MCB4 recognizes that at any large event, a few bad actors may disrupt an otherwise orderly affair, but at previous SantaCon's bad actors have hardly been the exception.

As such, significantly more must be done to combat the neighborhood scourge SantaCon has become. Further, no matter the behavior of the participants, the event has grown large enough to completely overwhelm sidewalks and public spaces, creating a public safety hazard for all.

MCB4 strongly urges you to work cooperatively with the New York City Police Department in order to come up with a more effective written plan to combat public intoxication and to ensure all participants are respectful of the neighborhoods they visit, as well as handling the overwhelming crowds associated with an event this size.

It is our understanding that your organization for the first time will be sharing the route of this year's SantaCon with the NYPD in advance of the event and we commend you for taking that step. Additionally, we request that you provide for a sufficient number of temporary bathroom facilities to be set up next to the various venues utilized on the

day of the event to minimize the sidewalks and streets of New York City being used as porta-poddies by the SantaCon participants.

MCB4 further urges you to make this written plan available to all affected local Community Boards as well as local elected officials well in advance of your event so that they have time to comment and help shape it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christine Berthet", is placed over a light gray rectangular background.

Christine Berthet  
Chair

[Signed 12/5/13]

David Pincus  
Co-Chair  
Quality of Life Committee