



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**CHRISTINE BERTHET**  
Chair

**JESSE BODINE**  
District Manager

December 8, 2014

Stacey Cumberbatch  
Commissioner  
NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services  
One Centre Street, 17th Floor South  
New York, NY 10007

**Re: Relocation request of FDNY EMS Station #7  
512 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street**

Dear Commissioner Cumberbatch:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) respectfully urges you to consider all available options for the relocation of the Chelsea EMS Station #7 from its current 512 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street location to a one more appropriate for such a vital operation.

**Urgent Need For Long-Promised Site Selection Review**

While CB4 is extremely grateful that an EMS station was re-located in West Chelsea after the closing of Saint Vincent's Hospital, it has always been our understanding that the current Site is *temporary*. We therefore request DCAS to swiftly commission the long-promised, but never conducted, full-scale site selection review for a permanent EMS Facility for the west side of Manhattan.

**Serious Issues with the Current EMS Site**

Firstly, it is important to note that the current Site was flooded during Super Storm Sandy. MCB4 is greatly concerned that when severe weather impacts that area in the future, the essential services EMS provides may become diminished. This would obviously defeat the EMS's ability to service our citizens.

Secondly, due to the fact that the current temporary location is not an enclosed facility, its operation is extremely disruptive and distressing to neighboring residents. The resulting 24/7 blaring of sirens and diesel exhaust presents significant quality of life nuisance issues and important health concerns. Ever since the EMS moved to this temporary location, MCB4 has received ongoing multiple complaints due to the fact that families, children and the elderly routinely have their sleep disrupted, that sirens are at a decibel level which, as demonstrated by multiple health studies, negatively affects the nervous system, and that respiratory problems have arisen due to exhaust fumes that enter residents' apartments on a daily basis.

Additionally, due to limited space availability at the current Site's lot, there is a constant overflow of both employee vehicles and ambulances on the street, which prohibits parking by businesses and residents.

In light of these serious issues, MCB4 conducted initial research on alternative sites and discovered that potential sites exist in our community—commercial developers, in fact, welcome the opportunity to work with the City of New York in finding a new location for this essential EMS facility. Specifically, we urge DCAS and our elected officials to reach out to the developer of a Site on Block 675, which is located between West 29<sup>th</sup> and West 30<sup>th</sup> Streets, and bordered by 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenues. Providentially, at the November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 MCB4 Quality of Life Committee meeting, representatives of the Fire Department of the City of New York indicated their initial support of a new station being constructed at this location.

### **Increased Demand for Services—Necessity for a Larger Site**

An appropriate new location will need to accommodate much larger capacity than the temporary one currently in place. The demand for EMS services, and other infrastructure needs, is expected to grow significantly in the next few years due to the massive residential and commercial development under way at Hudson Yards, as well other areas in West Chelsea. Thus, we respectfully urge DCAS to relocate the current Chelsea EMS station to a new Site that will provide ample vehicle capacity to accommodate the rapid population growth that will surely arise in the next few years.

Since the current conditions are untenable and unsustainable, we urge DCAS to locate the current West Chelsea EMS operation to a permanent, more appropriate Site as soon as possible.

We greatly appreciate your attention to this serious matter and encourage you to stay in close contact with MCB4 as things move forward.

Sincerely,



Christine Berthet  
Chair

[Signed 12/8/14] [Signed 12/8/14]

Tina DiFeliciano  
Co-Chair  
Quality of Life  
Committee

David Pincus  
Co-Chair  
Quality of Life Committee

CC: Brad Hoylman, NYS Senator  
Richard Gottfried, NYS Assemblymember  
Linda Rosenthal, NYS Assemblymember  
Jerrold Nadler, Congressman  
Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Corey Johnson, NYC Councilmember  
Helen Rosenthal, NYC Councilmember