



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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COREY JOHNSON
Chair

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

March 6, 2013

Cristin D. Burtis
Street Activity Permit Office
100 Gold Street, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10038

Re: Street Fairs prohibited on 14th Street

Dear Ms. Beach:

Manhattan Community Board 4 is concerned of the decision made last year and still in effect today to no longer allow street fairs on 14th Street.

In particular we are asking why there is such a policy. We are concerned that such a policy would later be applied to other streets like 23rd Street. Last August the a street fair by Feria del Sol was moved from 14th Street to 15th Street between Sixth and Seventh Avenue, a totally different type of thoroughfare. We cannot support moving events from major streets and avenues on to minor residential streets.

Using 15th Street as example, on that day residential property owners and tenants had to deal with street fair tethered tents and awnings with pedestrian-neck-level ropes tied to private property without any forewarning or permission whatsoever. Residents were sickened on that hot August day by the inescapable air pollution filling their narrow residential street from the many charcoal fires burning animal fats, the spillage of the resulting grease onto their streets, a portable brick pizza oven generating smoke, a couple of diesel fuel burning catering trucks, loud diesel fuel burning air compressors running unused children's slides, etc.

If this "14th Street Policy" is still in effect this will happen all over again and on probably more than one day. If it applies to other streets it could become a serious issue throughout the whole of Community District 4. This needs to be addressed.

We look forward to your considered response and given the soon to be warm weather expect to hear from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CJ'.

Corey Johnson
Chair