



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

330 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, 26<sup>th</sup> floor New York, NY 10036  
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512  
www.ManhattanCB4.org

**JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND**  
Chair

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

March 27, 2009

Andy Lautenbacher  
Hess Corporation  
1 Hess Plaza  
Woodbridge, NJ 07095

**Re: Safety Improvements Hess Station at 615 Tenth Avenue, New York**

Dear Mr. Lautenbacher,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) was delighted that Hess committed to improve safety for your property at 615 Tenth Avenue in January 2008. As we took stock of the situation during a joint site survey in November 2008, the progresses have been slow and uneven. At the CB4 Transportation Committee on March 18, 2009, the parents expressed disappointment and anguish that, 14 months later, their children are still at risk and that this matter is low priority.

We appreciate the results of Hess' efforts to date: to close one curb cut and secure the two remaining curb cuts on the 45<sup>th</sup> Street sidewalk closest to the school, to relocate one dangerous curb cut on Tenth Avenue away from the pedestrian crossing and to install few signs – unfortunately too small – to direct the traffic. These steps are very helpful but insufficient to achieve safety on the sidewalks.

We welcome your commitment as expressed at the meeting that all remaining items will be completed by either March 30 or April 30, 2009 except for one exception noted below.

The following original agreed upon steps need completion:

- Creating five tree pits and planting (seven year old) trees on the sidewalks;
- Painting 10 directional signs and text on the ground per approved plan; and,
- Installing or replacing 16 traffic signs with very large signs (few of them have been replaced but not all). The traffic signs should be placed as low as possible to be very visible to drivers.

The following steps agreed to at the site survey or at the meeting, are also to be completed:

- The traffic signs will be installed on their own poles – and not in the planters – to make sure they remain in place at the right location with the proper orientation; and,

- Speed bumps will be installed at the boundary between the property and the sidewalk at each entrance/exit bay.
- A 60 ft long and 5 ft wide continuous tree pit will be dug along the property on the sidewalk to better delimitate the sidewalk. This specific item may not be completed by April 30<sup>th</sup> as it requires further city approval.

These efforts are urgently needed and even more justified as the school is planned to double in size and a large affordable residential complex will be built on the same block west of the Hess property. I have enclosed the Community Board letter to the City related to the P.S. 51 site that mentions the Hess station and traffic concerns. We appreciate your efforts and renewed attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert J. Benfatto, Esq." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert J. Benfatto, Esq.  
District Manager

C.c.  
Richard J. Lawlor  
Vice President, Retail Marketing