



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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Delores Rubin
Chair

Jesse R. Bodine
District Manager

October 27, 2016

Michael P. Carey
Executive Director
Office of Citywide Event Coordination and Management
Street Activity Permit Office
100 Gold Street, 2nd Flr
New York, NY 10038

Re: Proposed Rule Changes to Street Events

Dear Mr. Carey,

The Arts, Culture, Education & Street Life Committee ("ACES") of Manhattan Community Board 4 ("MCB4") thanks Director Dawn Tolson of the Street Activity Permit Office ("SAPO") for presenting at our October 18, 2016 meeting. Also in attendance were several community groups and event operators.

Based on the comments from the community, the committee recommends that the current rules remain in effect and that SAPO reach out and hold hearings with community groups and operators in all five boroughs to develop new regulatory reforms. We are concerned that having operated under the current regulations since 2007, introducing this wide range of significant rule changes on such short notice will create a chaotic environment for both the operators and community organizations, that have relied on these street activities for their community needs and programs. Some of the groups have already begun planning their events for 2017. The community groups are especially concerned that a number of the changes SAPO has proposed will lead to their inability to comply and they will not be able to continue their street events. These new proposed changes include:

- Requiring that 50% of the vendors have a business or local presence within the same community board.
- Requiring a community sponsor to have an indigenous relationship to the specific street where the event is proposed.
- New fees that make it impossible for many smaller events to be economically viable.

The committee agrees that these events do have an impact on both residents and small businesses in terms of noise, accessibility and traffic congestion. However, the results from

SAPO's analysis of its own study suggest that the impact is mostly felt in Community Boards 2, 5 and 7. The committee feels that SAPO is proposing a "one size fits all" remedy.

The committee also requests that SAPO review the permitting of operators such as the Hell's Kitchen Flea Market ("HKFM") which supports a non-profit foundation, Hell's Kitchen Foundation, Inc. which is dedicated to advancing the needs of local artists. The HKFM operates year round on West 39th Street between 9th and 10th Avenues, an almost unpopulated side street. HKFM is self-sufficient for waste removal, security and traffic control. Using no City resources, operators such as HKFM should not be subject to the same regulations as Multi-Block Street Festivals. These operations often result from community requests with support from local officials.

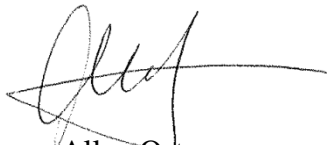
The committee agrees that revisions to the current regulations may be necessary to address the changes that have developed throughout the City of New York. The changes being proposed are significant but there has not been sufficient time nor opportunity for the community and operators to adequately engage with SAPO. Implementing these proposed rules changes without a constructive dialogue about the issues raised before the committee will negatively impact local community sponsors.

Thank you very much and we look forward to a continuing dialogue with your office on this matter.

Sincerely,



Delores Rubin
Chair
Community Board 4



Allen Oster
Co-Chair
ACES Committee



Austin Ochoa
Co-Chair
ACES Comittee

cc: Hon. Gael A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Corey Johnson, City Council