



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.nyc.gov/mcb4

**COREY JOHNSON**  
Chair

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

June 6, 2012

Emil Lissauer  
Director  
Street Activity Permit Office  
100 Gold Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10038

**Re: Chelsea Plaza**

Dear Mr. Lissauer:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) is concerned about the increased use of Chelsea Plaza for Commercial uses. Chelsea Plaza is a unique park-like space that provides an area for people to sit and relax. We feel that should remain its primary use. Since it is such an important community resource and is a part of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, we feel any proposals to close a portion of the Plaza to enable a commercial event should be considered similar to a street closing and should require Community Board review and comment.

Manhattan Community Board 4 is one of the most under-parked community's in New York City. It has the least amount of parkland of any of Manhattan's Community Boards. The area around Chelsea Plaza has experienced a substantial increase in the number of hotel guests, office and retail workers, and, slightly further North, in residents during the last few years. The creation of the Apple store, the increased popularity of Chelsea Market and the adjacent Meat Market district has also resulted in a substantial increase in tourists. Chelsea Plaza is one of the few public places designed for people to sit, relax, read and talk.

We understand that a majority of the 20 plus commercial events that have occurred on the Plaza since its creation have been at the request of SAPO. Similar to our request of the Chelsea Improvement District (CIC), we ask that SAPO sponsor no more than 2 events each year at Chelsea Plaza and that these events be no more than 2 days in length. We further request, since these commercial events result in a partial street closure (the Plaza is part of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue), that any such use go through the street activity permit process, including Community Board review. While we understand that some of the applications are only filed two weeks in advance, we would rather devise an expedited review process than not have any review.

Thank you very much for your consideration and assistance.

Sincerely,

Corey Johnson  
Chair

Christine Berthet  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee

Jay Marcus  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee