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Terri Cude, *First Vice Chair*
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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE

NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

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Greenwich Village ◻ Little Italy ◻ SoHo ◻ NoHo ◻ Hudson Square ◻ Chinatown ◻ Gansevoort Market

January 23, 2015

Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 35th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Dear Manhattan Borough Commissioner Forgione:

At its Full Board meeting January 22, 2015, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution in support of co-naming the southeast corner of Bedford and Grove Sts. Larry Selman Way.

Whereas the Bedford Barrow Commerce Block Association (BBC), representing Bedford St. bet. Morton and Christopher Sts., Barrow St. bet. 7th Ave. S. and Hudson St., and Commerce St. bet. 7th Ave. S. and Barrow St., with some 300 members, has requested that the southeast corner of Bedford and Grove Sts. be co-named Larry Selman Way in honor and memory of their beloved neighbor whose dedicated efforts over 35 years helped improve the community's welfare; and

Whereas Larry Selman lived on Bedford St. close to 50 years and joined the BBC in 1978 at its initial meeting, thereafter selling raffle tickets for that non-profit organization's Spring Fair that brought in more than \$3,000 each year benefitting both the neighborhood and the broader community and enabling the BBC to give back to dozens of nonprofit organizations in the community (such as The Village Nursing Home, St. Luke's Community Garden, Greenwich House Music School, the Greenwich Village Halloween Parade and The Caring Community); and

Whereas Larry Selman worked ceaselessly for the community, also collecting all the prizes for the raffle from local merchants and other businesses while raising more money for BBC's Holiday party, where he played Santa Claus for over 30 years, and fundraising for the local firehouses; he also took it upon himself to watch over his neighbors' houses; and

Whereas despite being intellectually disabled (with a 62 IQ), Larry Selman fulfilled every bit of his potential in reaching out to the community and working for its well-being; although he lived at the poverty level, on Social Security checks, he generously collected thousands of dollars for others (including several charities outside the community, such as Muscular Dystrophy, the American

Cancer Society, Juvenile Diabetes, the St. Vincent's Pediatric AIDS clinic, the NY AIDS walk and Variety Charities); and

Whereas Larry Selman, with his natural friendliness and eagerness to speak to and help others and his ardent devotion to his block and neighborhood, formed the cement that brought his neighbors together and created a community bond between them that still persists (some called him the "unofficial mayor of the West Village"); and

Whereas, in appreciation for Larry Selman's many positive contributions to community welfare and with concern for his own well-being, his BBC neighbors joined together to establish a trust fund (through the UJA-Federation) to cover his ongoing needs, the first time a community (rather than a family) created such a trust; and

Whereas, in recognition of Larry Selman's unique accomplishments in giving to others and helping to build his community, one of his neighbors created a short film about him, *The Collector of Bedford Street*, which was nominated for an Academy Award and led to broader recognition of his laudable activities, for example, the Caring Institute presented him with their Caring Award for using his life "for the betterment of others," and the Kiwanis Key Club draws from his example for training service leadership for over 35,000 students around the world; and

Whereas a petition supporting the co-naming of the southeast corner of Bedford and Grove Sts. Larry Selman Way was submitted with 200 signatures, 172 from the neighborhood (140 within the immediate few blocks) and the remainder including former residents, while an additional 250 people signed an on-line petition praising his example as an inspiration for community service; and

Whereas several articles were submitted documenting Larry Selman's achievements in such publications as The New York Times, The Villager, the BBC Newsletter, the US News and World Report, the Associated Press and WestView News;

Therefore be it resolved that Community Board 2, Manhattan (CB2) strongly supports co-naming the southeast corner of Bedford and Grove Sts. Larry Selman Way.

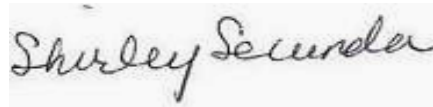
Vote: Unanimous, with 45 Board Members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Tobi Bergman, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Shirley Secunda, Chair
Traffic & Transportation Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

TB/EM

c: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
Hon. Deborah Glick, State Assembly Member
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Corey Johnson, Council Member

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Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 35th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Dear Manhattan Borough Commissioner Forgione:

At its Full Board meeting January 22, 2015, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

Resolution in response to NYC Dept. of Transportation Proposed Pedestrian Safety Improvements on 7th Ave. S. at W. 4th and Christopher Sts. and Waverly Place.

Whereas for many years, Community Board 2, Manhattan (CB2) has been asking the NYC Dept. of Transportation (DOT) to design and implement improvements at the dangerous intersection of 7th Ave. S., W. 4th and Christopher Sts. to make it safer for pedestrians; and

Whereas DOT presented a proposal to improve pedestrian safety at that intersection as well as on Waverly Pl. bet. 7th Ave. S. and Charles St. that includes the following actions:

- Install a new (additional) high visibility crosswalk across 7th Ave. S. on the north side of Christopher St. to provide a safer, more direct crossing (following pedestrian desire lines) from the northeast to the northwest corner of 7th Ave. S. and Christopher St.
- A sidewalk curb extension (neckdown) is being considered for the northeast corner of Christopher St. at 7th Ave. S. to shorten and make safer traversing 7th Ave. S. on the proposed new high visibility crosswalk across 7th Ave. S. from the northeast to the northwest corner of 7th Ave. S. and Christopher St. as well as on the current crosswalk across 7th Ave. S. to the northwest corner of 7th Ave. S. and W. 4th St. DOT indicates a community maintenance partner (resident or business or both) would be required for this to be done in order to clean the narrow space in the neckdown between the curb and street which couldn't be reached by a sanitation truck.
- Install high visibility crosswalks at all crossings.
- Adjust traffic lights to address conflicting pedestrian signals at Christopher and W. 4th Sts. at 7th Ave. S., reduce intersection blockage by vehicles, and promote improved signal coordination for pedestrian safety and controlled vehicular movement.

- Close Waverly Pl. bet. 7th Ave. S. and Charles St. with epoxied gravel and flexible delineators to prevent current soft-angle turns at high speeds from 7th Ave. S. into Waverly Pl., create and define pedestrian space, and ensure pedestrian safety.
- Close W. 4th St. bet. Christopher and Grove Sts. with epoxied gravel and flexible delineators to prevent current soft-angle turns at high speeds from 7th Ave. S. into W. 4th St., create pedestrian space and eliminate vehicular intrusion to safeguard crossing pedestrians there, while expanding the subway island at that location into 7th Ave. S. to produce a shorter, safer pedestrian crossing.; and

Whereas both community attendees and CB2's Traffic and Transportation Committee recognized the benefit and favored implementation of the proposed additional and high visibility crosswalks and adjustment of traffic signal timing, as well as neckdowns not only on the east but on the west side of 7th Ave. S.; and

Whereas all also recognized that a traffic analysis reporting only 30 vehicles per hour turning onto Waverly Pl. from 7th Ave. S. at the peak time showed that closing Waverly, as proposed, would have little traffic volume impact on other streets, and all favored the safe pedestrian haven the closing offers; and

Whereas a representative of Morandi Restaurant, which abuts the proposed pedestrian street on Waverly Pl., voiced support of the closing and willingness to maintain planters and other amenities there, to sweep and clean, and to guard against traffic entering, offering the potential for creating an attractive community place; and

Whereas the large group of community members present (including representatives from the Bleecker Area Merchants and Residents Association/BAMRA, Our Streets Our Lives, the Christopher Park Alliance, and the Central Village Block Association) all agreed that a traffic analysis reporting nearly 250 vehicles per hour turning onto W. 4th St. from 7th Ave. S. at the peak time showed that closing W. 4th St., as proposed, would have a severe negative impact in diverting heavy vehicular traffic, including tour buses, to already overrun, vulnerable streets, such as Bleecker St., with parking on both sides, a bicycle lane and one lane for motor vehicles, heavily burdened by delivery trucks, taxicabs and interstate buses, tiny Barrow St., and Greenwich Ave., and voiced their strong opposition; and

Whereas the majority of the Committee voiced concern about the negative impacts closing W. 4th St. would have in diverting heavy traffic, congestion and pollution to other already problematic streets, and all agreed that other options for alleviating the dangerous pedestrian conditions on W. 4th St. bet. Christopher and Grove Sts. need to be explored; and

Whereas DOT indicated its willingness to look at alternatives to the W. 4th St. closing and presented a partial alternate plan that so far is considering a dedicated turn lane from 7th Ave. S. on to W. 4th St., extending the sidewalk of the subway station triangle bet. Christopher and Grove Sts. into 7th Ave. (for a shorter crossing) and revising signal timing with a separate phase in which turning vehicles are held while pedestrians walk, and will be returning to CB2 to present a fully completed plan once that is worked out; and

Whereas DOT has given assurance that the proposed improvements will not conflict with CB2's requested Complete Street and extended West Village Slow Zone and can easily be integrated with them;

Therefore be it resolved that CB2 thanks DOT for responding to CB2's request to design and implement improvements at the dangerous intersection of 7th Ave. S., W. 4th and Christopher Sts. to make it safer for pedestrians; and

Be it further resolved that CB2 supports DOT's recommendations to install a new high visibility crosswalk across 7th Ave. S. on the north side of Christopher St. from the northeast to the northwest corner of 7th Ave. S. and Christopher St., to install high visibility crosswalks at all crossings, and to adjust and clarify traffic signal timing to safeguard pedestrians; and

Be it further resolved that CB2 strongly supports installing sidewalk extensions (neckdowns) on the northeast corner of Christopher St. at 7th Ave. S., and on the east side of 7th Ave. bet. W. 4th and Grove Sts. and also asks that sidewalk extensions (neckdowns) be installed on the west side of 7th Ave. S. at the north and south sides of Christopher St., the north side of W. 4th St. and the north and south sides of Grove St., while heartily encouraging DOT to seek out maintenance partners for the upkeep of all these spaces and committing CB2's own efforts to aid in this endeavor; and

Be it further resolved that CB2 fully supports closing Waverly Pl. bet. 7th Ave. S. and Charles St. for pedestrians, and urges DOT to work with Morandi Restaurant and other surrounding neighbors (such as Friends of McCarthy Sq.) to develop amenities and an agreement for maintaining that space; and

Be it further resolved that CB2 does not support closing W. 4th St. bet. Christopher and Grove Sts., welcomes and thanks DOT for their willingness to put aside the plan for closing and to develop an alternative plan for that location, and looks forward to DOT presenting a completed alternative plan.

Be it finally resolved that CB2 highly recommends that the new type Split Phase LPI (Leading Pedestrian Interval) for traffic signalization be installed at 7th Ave. S. and W. 4th St. that provides an exclusive pedestrian Walk (green) phase for crossing W. 4th St. bet. Christopher and Grove Sts. while at the same time preventing vehicles in the 7th Ave. S. turning lane from going left onto W. 4th St. with a red arrow, but allows through traffic to proceed down 7th Ave. S. with a green light.

Vote: Unanimous, with 45 Board Members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Tobi Bergman, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Shirley Secunda, Chair
Traffic & Transportation Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

TB/EM

- c: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
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