



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**CHRISTINE BERTHET**  
Chair

**Jesse R. Bodine**  
District Manager

March 4, 2015

Elizabeth Glazer  
Director & Criminal Justice Coordinator  
Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice  
1 Centre Street  
New York, NY 10007

re: Support for additional funding

Dear Director Glazer,

Thank you for the recent enforcement work carried out by the Office of Special Enforcement (OSE) in our community. For more than a decade, Manhattan Community District 4 has been overrun with illegal hotel use and has seen the steady conversion of permanent residential apartments to transient use. The active presence of inspectors from the multi-agency Task Force and pro-active litigation against the most egregious violators by the Office of Special Enforcement (OSE), including the recent filings for 440 West 41 Street, 334-336 West 46<sup>th</sup> Street, and 5-19 West 55 Street help us tremendously in protecting the quality of life for tenants, the safety and security of tenants and tourists alike and the permanency of our housing stock.

Manhattan Community Board 4 supports the important work that OSE does, and wants to ensure that you have adequate resources to address the ever growing number of illegal transient use complaints. We were concerned therefore, in examining the Mayor's preliminary budget for FY 2016 that the amount allocated to OSE for personnel salaries is \$78,424 with a total budget of \$96,426. Obviously this cannot cover the existing personnel and OTPS and represents a marked decline from FY 2006 levels of \$979,470. It would be helpful for us to better understand the staffing and budget of OSE to know: 1) What are the staffing expectations for OSE for FY 2016?; 2) How many OSE staff members (and in what capacity) are dedicated to enforcing against illegal transient use?; 3) Are other personnel, i.e. inspectors from various agencies, also dedicated to illegal hotel use (but paid out of other agency budgets) and if so, how many? and, 4) How can CB4 most effectively help OSE better enforce existing regulations against the most egregious violators?"


Thank you again for the hard work of your enforcement team and congratulations on your recent court filings. We appreciate your sharing the requested information with us, so we can better

understand the operations and staffing of OSE and work with you to ensure that you have the necessary tools to enforce against illegal use and help us preserve our permanent housing stock.

Sincerely,



Christine Berthet  
Chair



Joe Restuccia  
Co-Chair  
Housing, Health and  
Human Services Committee

[Signed 3/10/2015]  
Barbara Davis  
Co-Chair  
Housing, Health and  
Human Services Committee