March 15, 2018

Captain Robert O’Hare
Commanding Officer
NYPD 6th Precinct
233 West 10th Street
New York, NY, 10014

Captain Paul Lanot
Commanding Officer
NYPD 10th Precinct
230 West 20th Street
New York, NY, 10011

Deputy Inspector Steven M. Hellman
Commanding Officer
NYPD 13th Precinct
230 East 21st Street,
New York, NY, 10010

Re: Loading Zone and Bikeway enforcement in front of the Vermeer, 77 Seventh Avenue.

Dear Captain O’Hare, Captain Lanot, and Deputy Inspector Hellman,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) writes to you jointly because, while the property at hand – The Vermeer at 77 Seventh Avenue (which occupies the full block between 14th and 15th Streets, east of Seventh Avenue) – is in the 13th Precinct, the changes outlined below will require enforcement in each of your respective precincts. We ask that you increase enforcement of all bike lane violations by both cyclists (going the wrong way) and drivers (parking and loading in the bike lanes) in anticipation of changes at that location.

We recognize the special challenge of this 350+ unit residential building with the bike lane directly in front its main entrance on the avenue. Currently, the mixing zone in front of the entrance narrows due to the left turn lane. A safe and secure zone for residential deliveries, passenger pick-up and drop-offs, and Access-A-Ride vehicles is needed.

At its February 21st meeting, the Transportation Planning Committee voted unanimously in favor of supporting the delineation of a loading zone at the entrance to the Vermeer.

At its March 7th Full Board meeting MCB4 voted with 34 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote in support of a hotel-type loading zone with pedestrian crossing
across the bike lane, loading zone restrictions, and bollards to prevent vehicular encroachment into the bike lane. We also support the installation of signage which alerts cyclists to the oncoming condition so they may prepare to slow down as necessary. Additionally, we support a split phase signal at the intersection of Seventh Avenue and West 14th Street, in order to mitigate pedestrian danger from left-turning vehicles.

We were pleased to learn that the DOT has already been in touch with building residents towards reaching a satisfactory outcome and we request each precinct coordinate enforcement strategies for cyclists and drivers alike as these changes are implemented.

Sincerely,

Burt Lazarin
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4

Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

Dale Corvino
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

CC: Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker, City Council
Colleen Chatergoon, NYC DOT