

1 **New Business**

Item #: 30

2
3 December XX, 2014

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5 Email : Santacon

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7 To Whom It May Concern:

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9 Manhattan Community Board 4 (“MCB4”) is writing to express our concerns regarding
10 SantaCon and the effects it has on the communities it visits. Although SantaCon started years
11 ago as a performance art piece, it has now grown into an epic pub crawl with thousands of
12 participants which has created unforeseen problems and issues. Each year our community board
13 is besieged by complaints as SantaCon passes through the neighborhoods of MCB4.

14 While SantaCon may be a short-term boon to a select group of local businesses, the many
15 adverse impacts it wreaks, such as vomiting in the streets, public urination, vandalism and
16 littering, disrupt community members’ quality of life. MCB4 recognizes that at any large event,
17 a few bad actors may disrupt an otherwise orderly affair, but at previous SantaCon’s bad actors
18 have hardly been the exception.

19
20 As such, significantly more must be done to combat the neighborhood scourge SantaCon has
21 become. Further, no matter the behavior of the participants, the event has grown large enough to
22 completely overwhelm sidewalks and public spaces, creating a public safety hazard for all.

23 MCB4 strongly urges you to work cooperatively with the New York City Police Department in
24 order to come up with a more effective written plan to combat public intoxication and to ensure
25 all participants are respectful of the neighborhoods they visit, as well as handling the
26 overwhelming crowds associated with an event this size.

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28 It is our understanding that your organization for the first time will be sharing the route of this
29 year’s SantaCon with the NYPD in advance of the event and we commend you for taking that
30 step. Additionally, we request that you provide for a sufficient number of temporary bathroom
31 facilities to be set up next to the various venues utilized on the day of the event to minimize the
32 sidewalks and streets of New York City being used as porta-poddies by the SantaCon
33 participants.

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35 MCB4 further urges you to make this written plan available to all affected local Community
36 Boards as well as local elected officials well in advance of your event so that they have time to
37 comment and help shape it.

38
39 Sincerely,

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41 Christine / Tina / David

42
43 CC: SLA
44 NYPD

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