



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**CHRISTINE BERTHET**  
Chair

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

July 28, 2014

Commissioner William Bratton  
New York City Police Department  
1 Police Plaza  
New York, NY 10038

**RE: Traffic Enforcement on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue between West 30<sup>th</sup> Street and West 47<sup>th</sup> Street**

Dear Commissioner Bratton:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) requests increased enforcement of traffic regulations and ticketing for intercity buses using unapproved routes for bus use of residential streets, and parking in spaces not designated for bus lay-overs.

CB4 continues to be inundated with intercity buses, particularly during rush hours and, on weekday afternoons, by buses queuing into the Port Authority. We consistently observe and have complaints from residential block associations and residents indicating that intercity buses are using almost every residential street between West 30<sup>th</sup> Street and West 47<sup>th</sup> Street to either arrive at or leave the Port Authority – far beyond the approved West 40<sup>th</sup> and West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street routes for access and West 42<sup>nd</sup> and West 41<sup>st</sup> Streets for egress. There have been several resulting pedestrian injuries and fatalities as a result, including most recently on July 14, two pedestrians being injured at the corner of West 47<sup>th</sup> Street and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

We have also had frequent complaints of buses interfering with pedestrian street crossing by either being mid-intersection or stopped in the middle of turn for long periods of time (including when the signal is against them). Given the buses large footprint, this typically results in the buses blocking pedestrian pathways and/or visibility to cross the street. We have also hear of several occasions where buses are parked in “No Standing, except Truck Loading or Unloading” and/or residential alternate side of the street parking areas on residential streets. Residents report that calls to 311 go unheeded, even though DOT has informed us that intercity buses should only use on-street parking in designated spaces. This is particularly frustrating for CB4 since we made a concerted effort in the last few years to designate certain areas for bus lay-over parking.

We urgently request the assistance of the Traffic Enforcement Division of the NYPD in addressing these issues. Most immediately we request:

- Increased placement of traffic officers at intersections along 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue between West 30<sup>th</sup> and West 47<sup>th</sup> Street during peak hours, including in the afternoons (around 2pm)

when the intercity buses begin queuing for entry to the Port Authority to pick up departing passengers during rush hour;

- In addition to the much needed traffic officers to guide traffic, there is also a need for increased traffic enforcement officers to provide infractions to bus drivers who use non-permitted routes through residential streets, and block pedestrian pathways/crosswalks;
- Increased parking enforcement officers to give tickets to bus drivers parked in non-intercity bus designated spaces and/or idling in those spaces. We also urge the police to work with DOT to install monitoring devices within the streets that will enable the police to detect when a bus is parked in a non-designated area.

We appreciate that there has been a slight increase in the number of traffic agents at intersections during rush hour since our request earlier this year. However, these new placements are only during rush hour, not during the heavy bus inflow on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the afternoon and at a couple of intersections. In addition, there remain very few infractions being issued to buses, despite the clear violations of both traffic and parking requirements.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Sincerely,



Christine Berthet  
Chair



Jay Marcus  
Co-Chair, Transportation  
Planning Committee



Ernest Modarelli  
Co-Chair, Transportation  
Planning Committee

CC: Manhattan Borough President, Gale A. Brewer  
Councilmember Corey Johnson  
NYS Senator Brad Hoylman  
Assembly Member Richard Gottfried  
Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal  
NYC DOT, Margaret Forgione