



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

330 West 42nd Street, 26th floor New York, NY 10036
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512
www.nyc.gov/mcb4

COREY JOHNSON
Chair

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

December 7, 2011

Mr. Tim Tompkins
President
Times Square Alliance
1560 Broadway, Suite 800
New York, New York 10036

Dear Mr. Tompkins:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) supports the request by the Times Square Alliance to make improvements at the Eighth and Ninth Avenue corners of Restaurant Row on West 46th Street. This approval is strictly limited to Restaurant Row due to the unique nature of this bloc in the otherwise residential Special Clinton district. Before the project is undertaken, we expect that the Design Commission will be consulted and we request that an agreement will be put in place between the Times Square Alliance and the owners of the properties adjacent to the concerned sidewalks as to the respective responsibilities to maintain the sidewalk and the installation.

Restaurant Row has been an important neighborhood presence for over a century, beginning with the founding of Barbetta in 1906. Over the next few years after Barbetta's opening, with zoning that allowed for first-floor commercial activity with rooming houses above, a unique midtown location was created. The block was officially designated Restaurant Row in 1973, with Mayor John Lindsey stating "Where else in the world, except possibly Paris, could you get sixteen of the best restaurants collected in such a short strip of land?" In the last three decades the number of restaurants has increased to thirty-four, several of which have also become staples for the theater community. Restaurant Row has thus become a unique historic block deserving of a unique treatment.

The proposed improvements for the corners with a bulb-out include:

- Placing a 1" by 9" kiosk in the bulb-out areas at the Eighth and Ninth Avenue corners that say "Restaurant Row" on the Avenue facing side and have a street map with the list of restaurants (imposed on a large fork graphic) on the other. The sign will be self-illuminated and in line with both the existing Ginkgo trees and building façades in the bulb-outs;
- Placing 4.5" diameter solar - powered light installations in the sidewalk flush with the pavement at all four corners – between 1" and 8" apart and approximately 25" into the street from the corner (a total of between 30 and 40 at each corner).

The Community Board also encourages the Times Square Alliance to pursue additional improvements on Restaurant Row, including seeking methods for improving the appearance of the parking lot on Restaurant Row. We note Time Square Alliance's intention to investigate the feasibility of pop-up cafés with Restaurant Row restaurants and to come back to the block associations and Community Board with any resulting proposals. Times Square Alliance has indicated that they would investigate both of the above as part of their "second phase" Restaurant Row improvements.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Corey Johnson
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee