



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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Delores Rubin
Chair

Jesse R. Bodine
District Manager

January 15, 2015

Eric Landau
Associate Commissioner, Public Affairs
New York City Department of Environmental Protection
59-17 Junction Blvd., Flushing NY, 11373

Re: Shaft Site at West 48 Street and 10th Avenue

Dear Mr. Landau,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) voted at its full board on Wednesday, January 6th 2016, to reiterate the community goals and the consultation process regarding the future of the DEP Shaft site at West 48 Street and 10th Avenue as described in our administrative letter dated December 23rd, 2015.

MCB4 would like to thank you and your staff for meeting with the leadership of MCB4 and Council Member Corey Johnson on December 2, 2015, regarding the Board's long-term goal of transforming a significant portion of the Department of Environmental Protection site ("DEP Site") on Tenth Avenue between West 48th and West 49th Streets into a park.

MCB4 appreciates your commitment to discontinue using the DEP Site as a staging area as soon as possible and to start the process of transferring the park portion of the site ("Park Site") to the Department of City Wide Administrative Services in order to begin the design phase for a public park. MCB4 was pleased to learn that the area to be reserved for DEP ("Shaft Site") will not exceed, and may be less than, an approximately 132-foot by 91-foot area on the south east corner of the DEP Site.

MCB4 is encouraged by:

- DEP's intent to try to reduce the size of the Shaft Site as much as possible and by its proposal to consider adding additional public seating on the outside perimeter of the Shaft Site;
- DEP's commitment that the finished Shaft Site area will not be used as a storage area or parking for DEP vehicles; and,
- DEP's assurance that it will meet with MCB4 to discuss fence and Shaft Site design.

As MCB4 emphasized at the meeting:

- The Shaft Site fence should be transparent so the Shaft Site area feels less walled off to the surrounding residential neighborhood. In particular, the separation between the two portions of the entire site (the Shaft Site and the Park Site) should be as transparent as possible to give more perspective to the park;
- The surface of the Shaft Site might be finished in such a way as to be visually integrated with the Park Site; and
- The entrance to the Shaft Site should be located on West 48th Street and the vehicular curb cut on Tenth Avenue removed and the sidewalk curb restored.

MCB4 also noted that trash accumulates behind the Jersey barriers on the sidewalk at the DEP Site and graffiti covers the barriers and sometimes the fence. This is an unsightly and unsanitary condition. We urge you to coordinate with the ongoing Department of Design and Construction Project to maintain the outside perimeter of the entire site in a responsible manner, one compatible with your location in a residential neighborhood.

MCB4 staff and board members have expressed a willingness to join you on a site visit to review the current outstanding issues. We look forward to our next meeting.

Sincerely,



Delores Rubin
Chair



Jean Daniel Noland
Chair, Clinton\Hell's Kitchen Land Use Committee

cc: Hon. Corey Johnson, City Council
Elke Fears, President, 47/48 Street Block Association