

September 9, 2002

Hon. Daniel Doctoroff  
Deputy Mayor of the City of New York  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

**Re: Construction Staging Area for Third Water Tunnel Shaft 27B**

Dear Deputy Mayor Doctoroff:

Several years ago Manhattan Community Board Nos. 2 and 4 formed a committee to address the concerns of area businesses and residents in and around our common border, West 14<sup>th</sup> Street. One issue our committee is currently addressing is the location of a proposed staging area for the construction of Shaft 27B of the City's Third Water Tunnel.

In the mid-1990's the City's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) filed an application with the City's Department of City Planning (DCP) to acquire Manhattan Block 628, Lot 4 on West 13<sup>th</sup> Street, between 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Hudson Street for use as its staging area. The community approved of this plan because it would not unduly affect area businesses and residents. On August 15, 2002, we learned for the first time that DEP had change their staging area location in the final days of the Giuliani administration without informing the community and without withdrawing its acquisition application from DCP.

The current proposal is to use the eastern half of the street bed and sidewalk of Ninth Avenue, between Little West 12<sup>th</sup> and West 13<sup>th</sup> streets for a period of at least four years, encircling it with a 12 foot high wall. We are very concerned that this will cause major disruptions to the Gansevoort Meat Market operations, affecting the very survival of these area businesses. The market relies on Ninth Avenue as a truck staging and offloading area, and has no other alternative streets to relocate to. In addition, at least two MTA bus routes that traverse this area will be significantly affected, further disrupting the livelihood of area businesses and residents for years. Because of these reasons, we ask you to intervene immediately.

After the vacant lot was chosen as the construction staging area, the block was designated in the New York State Open Space Conservation Plan for future use as a park and historic building site. We request that the City honor its original agreement with the community and acquire Manhattan Block 628, Lot 4 for use as the construction staging area for Shaft 27B and then turn the site over

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to the City's Department of Parks and Recreation so that it may fulfill a State goal that has the support of the community, including area property owners, businesses and residents.

Sincerely,



Simone Sindin  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Thomas Lunke  
Chair  
14<sup>th</sup> Street Area Committee

cc: Mayor Michael Bloomberg  
Hon. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President  
Local Elected Officials  
Honorable Andrew Alper, President, Economic Development Corporation  
Honorable Adrian Benepe, Commissioner, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Honorable Amanda Burden, Chair, City Planning Commission  
Honorable Martha Hirst, Commissioner, Department of Citywide Administrative Services  
Honorable Patricia Lancaster, Commissioner, Department of Buildings  
Honorable Robert Walsh, Commissioner, Department of Business Services  
Honorable Christopher Ward, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection  
Honorable Iris Weinshall, Commissioner, Department of Transportation  
Honorable Carol Yankay, Manhattan Community Board 2  
Maurice Benos, M & W Packing  
Irwin Cohen, Chelsea Market  
Damen Dell, The Hog Pit  
Michelle Dell, Hogs and Heifers  
Karla Krasner, Dufour Pastry Kitchens  
Keith McNally, Pastis  
Richard Meilman, Meilman Management and Development  
Florent Morellet, Florent  
Diamond Meat Packers