

May 7, 2004

Mr. Maurice Buet
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
40 Worth Street, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10013

Re: Nighttime Taxi Stands on 10th and 11th Avenues, 24th - 29th streets

Dear Commissioner Buet:

Manhattan Community Board No. 4, at its regular meeting on May 5, 2004, voted 38 in favor, 1 against, 1 abstaining, 0 present but not eligible, to approve a six-month trial installation of nighttime taxi stands between 24th and 29th streets on the west side of Tenth Avenue and the east side of Eleventh Avenue.

As the number of nightclubs, and especially large nightclubs, has grown in this area of West Chelsea, the community has begun to experience serious problems caused by the increased traffic. Captain Dennis Dequatro and officers of the 10th Precinct have met with area nightclub owners in an attempt to develop solutions to some of these problems. On April 21 Captain Dequatro spoke to Board members and presented a proposal he believes could alleviate problems caused when large numbers of patrons leave the nightclubs at the same time.

Currently, patrons leaving the nightclubs look for taxis on Tenth Avenue, frequently blocking traffic as they move out into the street beyond taxis stopped to pick up people. Under Captain Dequatro's proposal, with the aid of nightclub staff patrons would be directed to taxi stands on both Tenth and Eleventh avenues. This would reduce the number of people and taxis on Tenth Avenue, would reduce the number of taxis stopped in the middle of the street and would keep traffic moving better and with less honking.

The Board approved a six-month trial of the proposal with a commitment from Captain Dequatro that the 10th Precinct would support the effort with officers and that they would experiment with different configurations of the stands. The Board is concerned with moving the nightclub patrons as expeditiously as possible, but it also is concerned about the potential negative impact on the residences on Tenth Avenue. Captain Dequatro said that he would do what he could to improve their chances of sleeping through the night.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



Joshua David
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



John Rust
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

Cc: Captain Dennis Dequatro, 10th Precinct
Matthew Daus, Commissioner TLC