

December 9, 2004

Iris Weinshall, Commissioner  
New York City Department of Transportation  
40 Worth Street, Room 940  
New York, NY 10013

**Re: Problems Related to Traffic Congestion on Tenth Avenue North of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street**

Dear Commissioner Weinshall,

As the number of nightclubs (especially large nightclubs) in West Chelsea has grown, the community has experienced increasingly severe problems caused by late night traffic, particularly congestion and related horn honking.

Earlier this year, Captain Dennis Dequatro and officers of the 10<sup>th</sup> Precinct met with area nightclub owners and representatives from the Board in an attempt to develop solutions. Following the meeting, the 10<sup>th</sup> Precinct proposed that taxi stands be installed on Tenth and Eleventh Avenues, and that the precinct work with nightclub staff to direct patrons to the taxi stands. In May, the Board voted to support a six-month trial of the proposal (see enclosure) but understands from Captain Dequatro that the Department of Transportation has not yet approved the requested nighttime taxi stands.

The congestion on Tenth Avenue causes problems throughout the community, but especially on 25<sup>th</sup> Street between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues because of cars heading either for the nightclub area or the 30<sup>th</sup> Street Lincoln Tunnel entrance. When the traffic on 25<sup>th</sup> Street stops and does not move because of congestion on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, frustrated drivers honk their horns. During the spring and summer months, those with open car windows often blast loud music. The result is intolerable noise between approximately 11 PM and 4 AM for the residents of the Elliott Chelsea houses and the apartment buildings and townhouses on this block.

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 asks that DOT take every reasonable step to solve these traffic problems, and in particular suggests these three measures:

- The Board reaffirms its support for the 10<sup>th</sup> Precinct proposal and asks that DOT expedite the approval of the taxi stands and whatever other measures, including appropriate regulations and signage, would give police officers opportunities to reduce congestion in this area.

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- The Board asks DOT to install multiple, prominent No Honking/Fine signs on 25<sup>th</sup> Street between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues.
- The Board asks DOT to study prohibiting right turns from 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue onto 25<sup>th</sup> Street during late night hours - perhaps between 10PM and 5 AM - and to proceed with appropriate signage if it determines it to be warranted.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Jay Marcus  
Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee

cc: Elected officials  
DEP  
10<sup>th</sup> Precinct