



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4**

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**J. LEE COMPTON**  
Chair

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

November 2, 2006

Borough Commissioner Margaret Forgione  
Department of Transportation  
59 Maiden Lane, 35<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10038

**RE: Request for additional dedicated parking for the Red Cross in front of 520 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street**

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

At its October 19, 2005 meeting, Community Board #4 requested that the Red Cross be permitted two parking spaces in front of their new New York City headquarter building at 520 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street – labeled “No Parking Except Red Cross Vehicles.” We would like to reiterate that recommendation and deny their request for an increase in parking spaces to the entire frontage of their building.

Community Board #4 welcomes the Red Cross to this neighborhood. We appreciate their long history of service in New York and the United States and the benefit of them joining our community. We also appreciate their outreach to the Community Board during the design and development of their new headquarters.

However, we cannot approve their request for parking in front of their building, which takes up about a 1/3 of the Street on the South Side of West 49<sup>th</sup> Street. Their new headquarters has, according to their staff, approximately twenty-five (25) garage parking spaces. In addition they have several other locations in the city that have parking for their fleet of vehicles. Several businesses and residents from the Street came to the Transportation Committee meeting to object to the increase in parking and indicate that it would disrupt their businesses and street. In addition, the Committee was concerned that it would create a precedent. There are many worthy non-profit agencies in the Community, most without the resources for off-street parking. Providing street parking for all of those that would benefit would likely exceed the available parking in the district and put the Board in the uncomfortable position of deciding which ones are most worthy.

While we appreciate the addition of the Red Cross NYC headquarters to our district, we urge the denial of their request for additional dedicated parking on West 49<sup>th</sup> Street.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Compton  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

Jay Marcus  
Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee