



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND
Chair

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

April 14, 2008

Board of Standards and Appeals
Honorable Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chairperson
40 Rector Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10006

NYC Department of Transportation
Frank Puccio, Deputy Director of Permits
220 Church Street
New York, NY 10013

NYC Department of Buildings
Christopher Santulli, Borough Commissioner
Manhattan Borough Office
280 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

NYC Department of Parks and Recreation
Michael Vacek, Manhattan Street Tree Forester
Olmsted Center-Flushing Meadows-Corona Park
Flushing, NY 11368

**Re: Support for Hess proposal for gas station,
Tenth Avenue between West 44th and 45th Streets, Manhattan**

Dear Sirs:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) fully supports the proposal prepared by the Hess Corporation to improve pedestrian safety in the vicinity of the Hess gas station on Tenth Avenue between West 44th and 45th Streets. Hess has been working closely with us, and with the parents and principal of P.S. 51, an elementary school located at 520 West 45th Street adjacent to the gas station, to ensure the proposal meets the needs of our community.

On March 19th, Mr. Lautenbacher, representing Hess, presented a final proposal to our Transportation Planning Committee. A representative of NYC Department of Transportation and the school principal were present at the committee meeting.

We look forward to be working with Hess and your agencies on the design and implementation of the plan. In light of the immediate danger the current situation presents, we urge you to give highest priority to this plan.

This plan would present you with the opportunity to make this a safer location for all pedestrians. We urge you to help us to ensure the new situation is in compliance with American Disability Act (ADA) rules and regulations¹. We specifically request that:

- the gas station boundaries are clearly marked with a yellow line and that an ADA compliant rumble strip is placed between the gas station and the sidewalk;
- the number of curb cuts is reduced and that the curb cuts are made ADA compliant with flat landing and square corners;

¹ See for more information: www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/sidewalk2/sidewalk205.htm

- dedicated entrances and exits are marked with planters and painted directional arrows;
- signs at each entrance and exit will be installed to calm the traffic;
- bollards and chains will be installed to close off entrances on West 45th Street at times that children walk to and from school; and,
- new trees will be planted around the property.

We would also like to request that at the entrances to the station, rumble strips be installed along the curb as well as detectible warning strips, as defined by ADA Accessibility Guidelines. This will slow down cars crossing the sidewalk and be detectible to vision impaired pedestrians.

We have asked Hess to provide us with a DOB issued certificate that the curb cuts are compliant with current City and ADA guidelines for curb cuts in the city and in the Special Clinton District in particular.

We are very grateful for the urgency and thoroughness Hess has brought to this safety matter and we expect the involved city agencies to do the same.

On April 2, 2008 the Full Board voted to support the pedestrian safety proposal for the Hess gas station as prepared by Hess Corporation, dated March 04, 2008. The proposal is attached to this letter.

Sincerely,



Jean-Daniel Noland
Chair
Manhattan
Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee

c.c.

Andy Lautenbacher, Hess Corporation
Colleen Chattergoon, NYC Department of Transportation
Barry Johnson, PTA P.S. 51
Nancy Singbok, Principal P.S. 51