



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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CHRISTINE BERTHET
Chair

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

January 9, 2014

Chief James Tuller
NYPD – Transportation Division
One Police Plaza
New York, NY 1007

Re: Traffic Agents - intersections of Tenth Avenue and West 37th and West 38th Streets

Dear Chief Tuller:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) requests the assistance of the New York Police Department (NYPD) in improving gridlock and pedestrian safety conditions at the intersections of Tenth Avenue and West 37th and West 38th Streets. Conditions have become a serious safety concern and we thus request that the traffic agents that used to be posted at these intersections during peak hours Monday through Friday 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. return be posted again as soon as feasible.

There were 56 collisions in the last 12 months at these intersections, New Jersey Transit (NJT) bus drivers block pedestrian crossings at both West 37th and West 38th Streets as they proceed on or turn onto Tenth Avenue: With the buses' large footprint, a blocked crossing often means that the pedestrian cannot cross at all. As you know it is illegal to gridlock the intersection, yet this occurs on a daily basis on Tenth Avenue between West 30th Street and West 40th Street.

While this area was quite empty of pedestrians in the past, there are now 1,000 newly constructed residences and thousands more under construction on each side of the avenue. In addition, NJT bus drivers frequently do not yield to pedestrians who have the right of way while the buses turn right onto Tenth Avenue. Two pedestrians were injured in the last 12 months. A recent pedestrian safety report published by New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) identified that most New York City pedestrian fatalities occur at intersections, and further notes that truck and bus drivers who hit pedestrians do so mostly while turning right.

Residents have also complained that MTA bus drivers cannot discharge or pick up passengers on Tenth Avenue between West 34th and West 38th Streets between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., because of the continuous flow of NJT buses blocks access to the bus stops. Local transit users are left stranded with no alternative transportation options at peak hours. We would like to request that the traffic agents currently posted at the intersection of West 34th and Tenth Avenue and the new

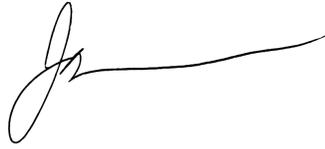
one proposed for West 37th Street, put their best efforts towards keeping the bus stop on the South East corner of this intersection clear for MTA buses.

We appreciate your office's help in addressing this intractable problem. We hope that reassigning the traffic agent posted at these intersections will drastically improve the safety for residents of our community

Sincerely,



Christine Berthet
Chair



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee

[signed 1/8/14]
Ernest Modarelli
Co-Chair, Transportation
Planning Committee

CC: Port Authority Bus Terminal