

1 **Transportation Planning Committee**

Item #: 16

2
3 Emil Lissauer
4 Director
5 Street Activity Permit Office
6 100 Gold Street, 2nd Floor
7 New York, NY 10038
8

9 **Re: Chelsea Plaza**

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11 Dear Mr. Lissauer:

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13 Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) is concerned about the increased use of Chelsea
14 Plaza for Commercial uses. Chelsea Plaza is a unique park-like space that provides an
15 area for people to sit and relax. We feel that should remain its primary use. Since it is
16 such an important community resource and is a part of 9th Avenue, we feel any proposals
17 to close a portion of the Plaza to enable a commercial event should be considered similar
18 to a street closing and should require Community Board review and comment.
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20 Manhattan Community Board 4 is one of the most under-parked community's in New
21 York City. It has the least amount of parkland of any of Manhattan's Community Boards.
22 The area around Chelsea Plaza has experienced a substantial increase in the number of
23 hotel guests, office and retail workers, and, slightly further North, in residents during the
24 last few years. The creation of the Apple store, the increased popularity of Chelsea
25 Market and the adjacent Meat Market district has also resulted in a substantial increase in
26 tourists. Chelsea Plaza is one of the few public places designed for people to sit, relax,
27 read and talk.
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29 We understand that a majority of the 20 plus commercial events that have occurred on the
30 Plaza since its creation have been at the request of SAPO. Similar to our request of the
31 Chelsea Improvement District (CIC), we ask that SAPO sponsor no more than 2 events
32 each year at Chelsea Plaza and that these events be no more than 2 days in length. We
33 further request, since these commercial events result in a partial street closure (the Plaza
34 is part of 9th Avenue), that any such use go through the street activity permit process,
35 including Community Board review. While we understand that some of the applications
36 are only filed two weeks in advance, we would rather devise an expedited review process
37 than not have any review.
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39 Thank you very much for your consideration and assistance.

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41 Sincerely,
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