



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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DELORES RUBIN

Chair

Jesse Bodine

District Manager

Hon. Jerrold Nadler, U.S. Congress Member
201 Varick Street, Suite 669
New York, New York 10014

Hon. Brad Hoylman, State Senator
494 Eighth Avenue
Suite 1700
New York, NY 10001

Hon. Adriano Espaillat, State Senator
5030 Broadway
New York, NY 10034

Hon. Richard Gottfried, State Assembly
Member
242 W. 27th Street
New York, NY 10001

Hon. Linda B. Rosenthal, State Assembly
Member
230 W. 72nd Street, 2nd Floor
New York, New York 10023

Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough
President
Municipal Building,
1 Center Street, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Hon. Corey Johnson, City Council Member
224 West 30th Street, Suite 1206
New York, New York 10001

May 12, 2016

Re: PABT Community Town Hall
Metro Baptist Church, West 40th Street
April 18, 2016

Dear Congressman Jerold Nadler, State Senator Brad Hoylman, State Senator Adriano Espaillat, State Assembly Member Representative Linda Rosenthal, State Assembly Member Richard Gottfried, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, City Council Member Corey Johnson:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) would like to thank you for your sponsorship and participation at the Community Town Hall on the Port Authority Bus Terminal (PABT) at the Metro Baptist Church on West 40th Street on April 18, 2016. We appreciate you lending your names, your ears, and your voices to the issues raised by the Port Authority's Design + Deliverability Competition to select a "conceptual design" for a new bus terminal.

It is very clear from the Town Hall meeting that our community is deeply concerned about the Port Authority's proposals to build a new bus terminal west of Ninth Avenue. The community is strongly opposed to the loss of businesses and residences to make way for a new terminal. In light of the unified outcry from the over 250 residents, business owners, workers, and representatives of community institutions who attended the Community Town Hall, MCB4 urges all of our elected officials to work together to strategize on how to protect the Hell's Kitchen South neighborhood.

The MCB4 slide show presentation at the Town Hall focused primarily on the Hell's Kitchen South area and highlighted some of the people, businesses, and institutions of a vibrant, residential neighborhood. The primary alarm raised by the proposal to build a new bus terminal is that it would require the demolition of the heart of Hell's Kitchen South, potentially resulting in the loss of, among other invaluable assets:

- Over 280 apartments;
- Nearly 30 businesses and stores;
- Buildings dating back to 1879, an integral part of the neighborhood's historic fabric;
- A vital community church with a congregation of over 100 members;
- A food pantry that serves over 800 people each month; and,
- A Head Start program that serves 40 families.

This impact alone is severe, but MCB4 recognizes that the effect of a new Port Authority Bus Terminal would be felt district-wide. As stated on the Port Authority website, the PABT "is not only the nation's largest bus terminal, it's also the world's busiest." As a significant piece of the transportation infrastructure for the Northeast, the redesign of this facility must be viewed within a wider regional lens. The community has spoken with one voice. An equally unified voice from all of you, our City, State, and Federal elected officials is critical.

MCB4 urges our elected representatives to:

- Take a stand against the demolition of any property within the Hell's Kitchen Sub-districts D4 and D5 (West 40th Street to West 35th Street, between Ninth and Tenth Avenues) of the Hudson Yards Special District.

- Devise a coordinated strategy that reflects the interests of the community to deal with any Port Authority expansion.
- Work with the Port Authority to explore alternative sites including a New Jersey terminal.
- Convince the Port Authority that respondents from the Design + Deliverability Competition meet with MCB4 leadership.
- Require that an in-depth study be conducted of the potential health risks associated with the potential air pollution associated with idling buses within our district for extended periods of time.
- Advocate for our position at the Port Authority Board meetings (the next one is on May 26, 2016).

Once again, MCB4 appreciates the strong support from all of our elected officials. We want to work with you to put the convictions expressed in words at the Community Town Hall into actions that result in preserving a vibrant and vital New York City neighborhood.

Sincerely,



Delores Rubin
MCB4 Chair



Jean Daniel Noland, Chair
Clinton Hell's Kitchen Land Use
and Zoning Committee

cc Pastor Tiffany Henkel, Metro Baptist Church
Joe Restuccia, Clinton Housing Development Company