



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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COREY JOHNSON
Chair

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

November 9, 2012

Joseph Martens
Commissioner
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
1 Hunter's Point Plaza
Long Island City, NY 11101

Dear Commissioner Martens:

Manhattan Community Board 4 requests a meeting be held as soon as possible between your two offices, Rose Management, and the tenants, residents and operators of commercial businesses located at or near The Sheffield, 322 West 57th Street, New York, New York 10023 in order to discuss the events surrounding the oil spill which occurred there on Monday, October 15, 2012.

Recently, MCB4's Quality of Life Committee was presented with information compiled by residents and neighbors regarding this oil spill. Additionally, QoL was briefed by Jesse Bodine of Councilmember Gail Brewer's office about steps taken to mitigate the spill (which was then estimated to be in the range of 800 gallons). Since then, it has been confirmed by the DEC and EPA that this event has led to over **8,000 gallons of oil being spilled into the basement of The Sheffield**. In addition, it has now been confirmed that the groundwater in the surrounding areas has now been contaminated by this spill.

It is of the utmost concern of MCB4 that this environmental event and its aftermath have not and are not being dealt with in an upfront manner by the owners of The Sheffield, and the responding City and State agencies. It is the understanding of this Board that no one on this block (other than the tenants of The Sheffield) ever received **any** notification or information about what's transpiring at this now officially designated hazmat site.

Thankfully, we understand that once the oil spill was reported appropriate remediation efforts were made under the auspices of your agencies. However, the major concern of this Community Board remains that no apparent effort was made to alert any neighbors or nearby businesses of the magnitude and seriousness of this environmental event.

Only after repeated efforts made by the Office of Gail Brewer at the behest of concerned citizens, was this community board even alerted to the happening of this oil spill. As a result, there are many unanswered questions regarding the events that led up to this spill, its aftermath and its ultimate resolution. As such, we are writing to urge that a meeting be held by your offices with impacted tenants, residents and businesses as soon as possible to:

- ascertain officially the status of the remediation efforts so far;
- to determine if there are any health related dangers remaining to the community at large;
- to inform all affected parties of the expected time line of the remaining mitigation and what these efforts will entail; and

- to initiate a dialogue between the EPA and DEC with this Community Board in order to coordinate and improve upon any future community outreach efforts if such an event ever transpires in our District again.

Manhattan Community Board 4 looks forward to working with your offices, all affected tenants and residents of the impacted neighborhood to schedule and facilitate this emergency meeting at the earliest convenience of all parties.

Sincerely,



Corey Johnson
Chair
Manhattan Community
Board 4

[signed 11/9/12]

David Pincus
Co-Chair
Quality of Life Committee

[signed 11/9/12]

Larry Roberts
Co-Chair
Quality of Life Committee

CC : Environmental Protection Agency
Rose Associates, Inc.