



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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COREY JOHNSON
Chair

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

January 4, 2012

Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10041

Re: Parking regulations on the South Side of West 55rd Street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

Manhattan Community Board 4 requests that the parking regulation on the South side of West 55th Street for the approximately 30' in front of *Smart Toddler Pre-School*, 406 West 55th Street, be changed from "No Standing, Except Trucks Loading and Unloading 7am to 7pm M-F" to "One Hour Parking 7am to 6pm M-F."

The *Smart Toddler Pre-School* has approximately 100 children in attendance, most between the ages of 3 months to 5 years old. Given the age of the children, parents who drop off and/or pick up their children typically need to bring their children into the school, not just leave them at the curb. According to the school, this has caused several parents to receive parking tickets, since they leave their cars unattended for up to 5 minutes. Since the city does not have any shorter time permitted parking, we are requesting the 1 hour parking to reduce this problem for the approximately 30' of the *Smart Toddler's* storefront. We also note that the *Smart Toddler Pre-School* notified the surrounding businesses (who did not object) and presented a petition from block residents who supported this change.

We also would like to request that DOT investigate whether a new parking regulation classification should be created for locations such as pre-schools and services center for seniors and the disabled that would permit shorter term parking. Given recent populations trends that indicate substantial increases in the population for children (as parents are choosing to raise their children in New York City) and the elderly, such a parking regulation might be appropriate. We would ask that DOT report back within one year as to precedents from other cities and feasibility.

Given that we are uncertain of whether 1 hour parking will actually prove useful in mitigating the schools problem, we also intend to reinvestigate the parking regulations for this section of the street in one year.

We also request that the police precinct, who is cc'ed on this letter, be understanding of this situation until such time as the parking regulations are changed.

As always, we appreciate your consideration and assistance.

Sincerely yours,



Corey Johnson
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

Cc: Smart Toddler Pre-School
Midtown South Precinct