

July 9, 2004

Honorable Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
40 Worth Street, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10013

Deputy Chief James McShane
Commanding Officer
NYPD Traffic Control Division
138 West 30th Street
New York, NY 10001

Re: Horn Honking and its Impact on the Quality of Life on West 17th street

Dear Commissioner Forgione and Deputy Chief McShane:

At its regular meeting on July 7, 2004, Manhattan Community Board No. 4 voted 34 in favor, 1 against, 0 abstaining and 0 present but not eligible to vote, to request that NYC DOT place "NO HONKING" signage with the maximum fine possible on 17th Street between 8th and 9th Avenues, starting at the middle of the block and continuing to the intersection of 17th Street and 9th Avenue. In addition, the Board requests that NYPD Traffic Enforcement stringently enforce such signage.

This area is troubled by heavy traffic and noise generated by automobiles using 17th Street as a through street to the far west side. This heavy traffic is augmented by arrivals and departures at the numerous bars and restaurants at the Maritime Hotel. The cause of the worst traffic back-ups and noise seems to be the hotel's Hiro nightclub, which uses a door on 17th Street as its signed entrance. Use of this entrance is illegal, as it is across the street from a school, but as of this writing the Maritime Hotel has not acted to remedy the situation, and the traffic problem continues.

Residents of 17th street came to the June 16th Transportation & Planning committee meeting to request this action and, upon hearing testimony from many residents, the committee unanimously voted to recommend this action. Hotel management proposed reducing the number of on-street parking spaces to allow better traffic flow, but residents strenuously objected to any reduction of on-street parking.

We believe that an active campaign of signage, education and enforcement can ease the problem of horn honking that traffic congestion produces, which negatively affects the quality of life of residents in this area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



Joshua David
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



John Rust
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

