



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**CHRISTINE BERTHET**  
Chair

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

July 28, 2014

Borough Commissioner Margaret Forgione  
Department of Transportation  
59 Maiden Lane, 35th Floor  
New York, NY 10038

**Re: Buses' Illegal Use of Residential Streets**

Dear Borough Commissioner Forgione:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) requests the assistance of your agencies in reducing the dangerous interaction of buses and pedestrian in our neighborhood of Hell's Kitchen. This request is made more urgent after the tragic collision which took place on Monday July 14, 2014, during which two pedestrians were struck by a Trans-Bridge Line bus at the intersection West 47th Street and Tenth Avenue.

There has been a substantial increase in the number of commuter buses using the Lincoln Tunnel in the last several years. Many empty buses, typically entering from either the Lincoln Tunnel or parking spaces further south or west, enter the Port Authority between 4pm and 6pm each weekday to load passengers and then depart. Traffic regulations require empty buses to use "Through" or "Local Truck Routes" to arrive at the Port Authority. These routes include Eighth, Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Avenues; West 40th Street between the Tunnel Entrance and Eleventh Avenue; and the entire length of West 42nd Street. Unfortunately, drivers of empty buses are illegally using other residential streets within Community District 4.

It has also come to our attention that drivers are unaware that they can only park at dedicated bus parking spaces and not at curbs with a simple commercial parking regulation.

CB4 recommends that the following steps be taken to direct the buses to the proper routes and parking spaces, in addition to the steps described in our letter on safety improvements dated (July 2013):

- Install a sign on West 44<sup>th</sup> Street indicating no bus parking and a sign reminding drivers of fines for Idling;
- Install signs clarifying that buses should not park in areas designated for commercial parking in the West 40's between Ninth and Tenth Avenues.

This community is overwhelmed with traffic and buses are a large contributor to the problem. We appreciate your help in containing their presence to routes and parking spaces that maintains a safe separation from residents and pedestrians.

Sincerely,



Christine Berthet  
Chair



Jay Marcus  
Co-Chair, Transportation  
Planning Committee



Ernest Modarelli  
Co-Chair, Transportation  
Planning Committee