



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**COREY JOHNSON**  
Chair

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

May 1, 2013

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

**RE: West 44<sup>th</sup> Street between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue bus traffic/parking/double parking**

Dear Manhattan Borough Commissioner Forgione:

Manhattan Community Board #4 requests that the Department of Transportation:

- install a sign on Tenth Avenue south of West 40<sup>th</sup> Street indicating that interstate buses should use West 40<sup>th</sup> or West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street to enter the Port Authority to pick up loading passengers,
- install signs on Tenth Avenue just south of West 43<sup>rd</sup> and West 45<sup>th</sup> indicating that interstate buses should not turn onto West 44<sup>th</sup> or West 46<sup>th</sup> Streets;
- install a sign on West 44<sup>th</sup> Street indicating no bus parking and a sign reminding drivers of fines for Idling

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 8th, 9th, 10th and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenues and West 40<sup>th</sup> Street between the Tunnel Entrance and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the entire length of West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. Unfortunately, empty buses have begun to illegally use other residentially oriented streets within Community Board #4.

The residents of West 44<sup>th</sup> Street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues, a street of primarily older 4 story residential buildings, have been experiencing a substantial increase of empty buses on their street. These empty buses are using West 44<sup>th</sup> Street both as a travel street and for parking and double parking, frequently also illegally idling for over 3 minutes. The West 44<sup>th</sup> Street Better Block Association documented the situation between 4pm and 6pm on Wednesday March 13.

The made the following observations (and recorded them on video and camera);

- 59 buses travelled on this block during those 2 hours;

- 35 (59%) of those came north on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, turned onto West 44<sup>th</sup> Street for one block and then went South on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Several of the buses doubled parked and idled for a portion of these two hours.

In addition to it being illegal and harming the quality of life on West 44<sup>th</sup> Street, this traffic also causes increased back up on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue as buses turning from West 44<sup>th</sup> Street onto 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue often block the avenue and pedestrian crosswalk, since their turning radius tends to take up all traffic lanes on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and back-up traffic prevents them from completing the turn.

The above traffic signs, combined with requested increased enforcement and the involvement of the Port Authority, we hope will lead to improvements of this situation.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

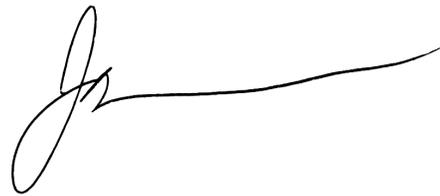
Sincerely,



Corey Johnson  
Chair



Christine Berthet, Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee



Jay Marcus, Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee