



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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CHRISTINE BERTHET
Chair

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

January 13, 2014

Captain David Miller
Manhattan 10th Precinct
NYC Police Department
230 West 20th Street
New York, NY 10011

Deputy Inspector David Ehrenberg
Manhattan NYPD 13th Precinct
230 East 21st Street
New York, NY 10010

Re: Increased enforcement of illegal truck use West 15th Street between Sixth and Seventh Avenues

Dear Captain Miller and Deputy Inspector Ehrenberg:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) requests that the assistance of the NPYPD Transportation Bureau, Traffic Enforcement Division, in addressing the illegal use of residential blocks in Chelsea – and particularly West 15th Street between Sixth and 8th Avenues - by trucks. We request increased enforcement related to these trucks' use of a non-truck route.

Local trucks, through trucks and cars routinely use West 15th Street between Sixth and Eighth Avenues as an alternate route to West 14th Street (which is the official Truck Route, to reach the West side highway). It is a very residential street with a faculty residence at 120 West 15th (NYU), a church at 144 West 15th Street (Church of the Latter Day Saints), a school at 145 West 15th Street (the Puerto Rican Family Institute), and a church/school at 216 West 15th Street (The Nazareth Nursery). Trucks are using West 15th Street, and other residential blocks in Chelsea, illegally.

In 2007 and 2008, both DOT and the Police Department worked with the Community Board to address complaints from several block associations and the Chelsea Council of Block Associations. The high volume of truck traffic led to street noise on these streets with low-rise historical residences and higher levels of street deterioration, including busted water pipes on West 15th Street and frequent street repaving. Based on Block Association and Community Board requests, several "Local Truck Only" and "No Thru Truck" signs were installed and police ticketing increased. Both the block association and residents reported reduced truck usage during that time.

In the last couple of years, particularly with the increase of construction activity, residents are reporting a substantial increase in non-local truck and construction trucks using local streets to the avenues, rather than truck routes (West 14th Street). They also reported that signs in several locations were removed for construction projects and not reinstalled on Sixth and Seventh Avenues.

CB4's DOT representative has agreed to review the area and ensure signs are reinstalled after construction projects. We thus request that, similar to 2007 and 2008, NYPD increases enforcement on trucks illegally using West 15th Street.

Additionally, CB4 would like to invite the NYPD Transportation Bureau, Traffic Enforcement Division, and other senior Precinct officials to an upcoming committee meeting. We believe an open discussion with the various stakeholders and agencies might yield creative ideas for reducing illegal Truck usage of non-Truck routes.

Sincerely,



Christine Berthet,
Chair



Jay Marcus, Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

[signed 1/10/14]

Ernest Modarelli, Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee