



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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CHRISTINE BERTHET
Chair

JESSE BODINE
District Manager

December 9, 2014

Email : SantaCon

To Whom It May Concern:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (“CB4”) is writing to express our concerns regarding SantaCon and the effects it has on the communities it visits. CB4 has hosted SantaCon once already and opposes that the event take place in CB4 again.

CB4 recognizes that at any large event, a few bad actors may disrupt an otherwise orderly affair, but at previous SantaCons bad actors have been less of the exception and more the rule. In the past when SantaCon took place in our community the board office and committee meetings were besieged by complaints.

In any event CB4 insists that you work cooperatively with the New York City Police Department and the local elected officials in order to come up with a more effective plan to combat public intoxication and to ensure all participants are respectful of the neighborhoods they visit, as well as handling the overwhelming crowds associated with an event this size.

The reason for this is that SantaCon is known mostly as an epic pub crawl with thousands of participants with very little supervision. While SantaCon may be a short-term boon to a select group of local businesses, the event has become known for the negative impact it has on the community and the unwanted behavior of its participants such as vomiting in the streets, public urination, vandalism and littering. The event has grown large enough to completely overwhelm sidewalks and public spaces of CB4, creating a public safety hazard.

Sincerely,

Christine Berthet
Chair

[Signed 12/9/14]

Tina DiFelicianantonio
Co-Chair
Quality of Life Committee

[Signed 12/9/14]

David Pincus
Co-Chair
Quality of Life Committee

CC: Brad Hoylman, NYS Senator
Richard Gottfried, NYS Assemblymember
Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Corey Johnson, NYC Councilmember
Dennis Rosen, Chair, New York State Liquor Authority
Deputy Inspector Michele Irizarry, Commanding Officer, 10 Precinct
Deputy Inspector David Ehrenberg, Commanding Officer, 13 Precinct
Inspector Edward J. Winski, Commanding Officer, Midtown South Precinct
Deputy Inspector John B. Hart, Commanding Officer, Midtown North Precinct