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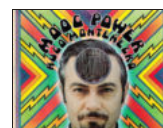


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Congestion in Heart of Hell's Kitchen Burns Residents

Added by **Scott Stiffler** on June 10, 2015.
Saved under **News**

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Delivery bikes, motorized and otherwise, are proving to be a problem for pedestrians along Ninth Ave.
Photo by Alicia Green.

BY WINNIE McCROY | As Hell's Kitchen becomes a boomtown, local residents are saying enough is enough. Tired of the encroaching traffic, pedestrians, noise and sidewalk crowding in the corridor of Ninth Avenue between 40th and 50th Streets, members of the HK 50-51 Block Association testified before Community Board 4 (CB4) on the evening of June 3 at Roosevelt Hospital. Their message to business owners was simple: clear the sidewalks and tone down your loud music.

"These sidewalks are full of pedestrians, dogs, bikes, sidewalk cafes and an unabated growth of

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sandwich boards, signs and whiskey barrels," said 40-year Hell's Kitchen resident Sherri Hotes. "Sidewalks are for pedestrian travel, not for billboard ads."

FROM OUR SISTER NEWSPAPERS

Hotes explained that the group had spoken to business owners, asking them to move A-frame sandwich boards out of the thoroughfare. They tried unsuccessfully to report the situation to 311.

THE VILLAGER

but were stymied when the non-emergency hotline refused to accept photo evidence. Efforts to have the Department of Sanitation address the issue came to naught. It rained on their parade, but they danced on.

"We are asking the community board to get an officer from the city to talk to us. We got the ball rolling; How Pr. 40 fight brought us Hudson River Park.

BOB MINOR, HEAD OF HK 50-51, ASKED BOARD MEMBERS TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION. From splintered piers to fancy park of today, we've come a long way, and we're looking forward to the future. We understand that they can be t.

Keeping cool on the West Side, 1940s style

St. Fish, forests and fields coming to Tribeca pier

When a representative from Councilmember Corey Johnson's office let residents know that these sidewalk advertisements and sandwich boards were not permitted, Miriam said that case, we'd like to ask CB4 to send a letter to the commissioner of Sanitation to get the law enforced, and how we can enforce it."

DOWNTOWN EXPRESS

Police Blotter: Week of May 24

Aracely Caldeira, a 34-year resident of Hell's Kitchen, echoes this sentiment. "A cacophony of colors brings harmony at Governors Island Holi Hai celebration."

Hudson River Park's second official day. South Beach (200 North Ave. Etc. 2015). Wave vs. glacier: Slow pace of resiliency plans will leave Downtown at risk for many years to come.

Once upon a moral panic...

re All booked up: CB1 worries zoning change will push more hotels into crowded Downtown. loud bars and crowded Downtown, but they've got night. It's one thing for crowded for it with a sidewalk cafe."

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ce. At least that's what

EAST VILLAGER NEWS

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De Blasio seems on same page with evicted news vendor

ger or scary wag's and

THE NEWS BOARD CONSIDERS A LETTER BY CB4 MEMBERS, WHO WERE CONCERNED THAT ANNABEL HAD JUMPED THE GUN ON THEIR REQUEST TO HAVE A SIDEWALK CAFE BY INSTALLING THE CHAIRS AND TABLES BEFORE BEING GRANTED PERMISSION. THE BOARD RETHOUGHT THEIR LETTER TO THE NYC DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, AGREEING THAT ANNABEL MANAGEMENT HAD TWO DAYS TO SUBMIT THE NEW DRAWINGS THE DCA

requires for their outdoor cafe. The business provided the necessary paperwork the following day. and links may be used, provided that full and clear credit is given to Chelseanow.com with appropriate and specific direction to the original content.

"We are just trying to see what the neighborhood wants. People are looking for outdoor seating, and we're trying to follow the rules and see how we can meet the demand for this seating while making everyone in the neighborhood happy," said Annabel Assistant Manager Dan Kleinmann.



Pedestrians compete against Ariba Ariba's (762 Ninth Ave. at 51st St.) sidewalk cafe, a motorized bicycle and trash cans. Photo by Alicia Green.

A third HK 50-51 member, Holly Raner, spoke against bikes, motorized and otherwise, that

block sidewalks, and suggested that Manhattan be treated differently from other areas regarding legislating bicycle use.

"We want to know if there's limits on how many bikes a delivery place can have, because there's like 40-86 bikes chained along this stretch of Ninth Avenue," said Raner. "We want legislation that makes them keep them in bike corrals."

Raner also testified about noise complaints at Annabel, saying, "open doors and windows must be closed. We get about 600 emails a month about this at the Block Association."

"It is so noisy that if there is any amplified sound you need to keep your windows closed — it's the rule," said Raner. "We'd like to see something done on a more proactive basis. There seems to be no consequences for these bad actions."

General quality of life disturbances also brought community member Raoul Lavios to speak at the public session of CB4's June 3 full board meeting. A resident of the Hudson hotel (356 W. 58th St. btw. Eighth & Ninth Aves.), he spoke on Agenda Item 1 — a letter to the hotel regarding violations of their state liquor license stipulations.

"Three years ago, they asked you to support their bid for a liquor license in exchange for a series of written promises made to then-Chair Corey Johnson," said Lavios. "These stipulations were never met. They call it a 'misunderstanding.' They were supposed to put sound attenuation materials on the twenty-fourth floor, but they say they read it as being for the 'floor,' not on the literal floor, which is what we wanted."

Lavios noted that they had asked the venue to not permit live bands and dancing, as the venue has no cabaret license. But as he noted, "every one of their parties has dancing." He asked CB4 to take them to task for these violations.

When the board discussed this issue, member Tina DeFelicantonio said that they had written to the new manager of the Hudson to inform them of the violation of stipulations, saying, "They might not know, so we are documenting the background and giving them a short time limit to respond." CB4 is expecting a response by July 3.

"They are taking this extremely seriously, so our feeling is that we want to see how they will respond," said DeFelicantonio.

Several board members called for a harsher response, including cc'ing the Social Club Task Force on the letter, but leadership maintained that this was only the first salvo.

"We are walking a careful line between slamming them and putting up an ultimatum. We want them to fix it," said CB4 Chair Christine Berthet. "They have already stopped some of their most egregious practices, but we have to be delicate about some issues, because a portion of their space is licensed for music but another portion isn't. It makes no sense, but we must navigate this carefully."

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Kim Heinlein ·
New York, New York

I recently moved out of HK after living there for 35 years. It has gotten so congested it is unbearable. Restaurants with sidewalk cafes take up too much of the sidewalk and pLaces like 44 X they not only take up half the sidewalk, the servers are serving customers from outside their own barrier in addition to people waiting for tables block the sidewalk for pedestrians. Bike deliveries are on the sidewalk not in the street racing between pedestrians. The noise is unbearable between the the construction, traffic and sirens of emergency vehicles that cannot get through. With all the developement int HK there are not enough grocery stores. The area is a slave to the thieves of Food Emporium. The postoffice in 42nd Street is inadequate. Noisy bars and noisy patrons from the night clubs at 4:00 am that think jumping on the steel sidewalk doors is fun. HK is hell. I loved HK for many years, it was one of NYC's best kept secrets.

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