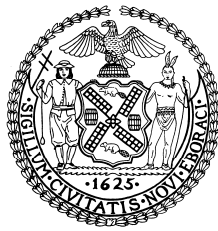


Jacqueline Ludorf
Chair

Latha Thompson
District Manager



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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

June 16, 2011

Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 35th Flr.
New York, NY 10038

Re: Discussion of Community Board 7's proposal for a Trial Period of Motor Vehicle-Free Central Park

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

At the June 15, 2011 Full Board meeting, Community Board 8M adopted the following resolution by a vote of 35 in favor, 8 opposed and 2 Abstentions:

WHEREAS, Central Park was designed as a refuge within the city; its loop drive was intended for uses that integrate seamlessly into the pastoral ambiance of the park (by contrast, the East-West transverses, located several feet below grade, were designed to accommodate vehicular traffic with minimum impact on park users); and

WHEREAS, private motor vehicles on the loop drive impede the healthy environment, peaceful enjoyment, and use patterns of pedestrians, runners, cyclists, carriages, and pedicabs; and

WHEREAS, the presence of private motor vehicles necessitates traffic management tools that do not necessarily provide for safe, shared use of the loop drive by pedestrians, cyclists, runners, carriages, and pedicabs; and

WHEREAS, recent measures that restrict the use of private motor vehicles on the loop drive have not resulted in noticeable negative impacts on surrounding streets; and

WHEREAS, private motor vehicles are still permitted on the loop drive during weekday periods when, outside of weekends, visitors and local residents most use the park (early mornings and early evenings, before and after business hours); and

WHEREAS, more than 100,000 people have signed petitions asking for a car-free Central Park; and

WHEREAS, serious consideration of any proposal to prohibit private motor vehicle traffic warrants an objective study of duration sufficient to observe adaptive shifts in traffic behavior and their impacts during both low- and high-volume periods of traffic;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New York City Department of Transportation, in conjunction with the Department of Parks and Recreation, prohibit the use of private motor vehicles on the loop drive of Central Park (including taxis, but excepting vehicles necessary for park

maintenance, concessions, and emergencies) in order to allow for car-free enjoyment of the park during the summer months through Labor Day 2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that while the loop drive of Central Park is free of private motor vehicles, the New York City Department of Transportation study traffic impacts and, if necessary, extend the prohibition beyond Labor Day 2011 no later than the day after the 2011 New York City Marathon to accurately measure and assess the potential impact of permanent prohibition of private motor vehicles on the loop drive of Central Park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that while the loop drive of Central Park is free of private motor vehicles, the Central Park Conservancy and the Department of Parks and Recreation study and begin to implement measures that enhance safety and optimize shared use of the loop drive by pedestrians, runners, cyclists, horse-drawn carriages and pedicabs in the absence of private motor vehicles.

Please advise this office of any action taken regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Ludorf
Chair

Jonathan Horn and Charles Warren
Co-Chairs, Transportation Committee

cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Rose Pierre-Louis, Deputy Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Carolyn Maloney, United States Congress Member
Hon. Liz Krueger, New York State Senator
Hon. Jonathan Bing, New York State Assembly Member
Hon. Micah Kellner, New York State Assembly Member
Hon. Daniel Garodnick, New York City Council Member
Hon. Jessica Lappin, New York City Council Member