

CHEKPEDS

Clinton/Hell's
Kitchen Coalition
for Pedestrian Safety



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OUR MEMBERS • 9th Avenue Association • 43rd Street Block Association • 44SW • 44th Street Block Association • 45th Street Block Association • 46th Street Block Association • 47/48th Street Block Association • 55th Street Block Association • 344-348 West 38th Street Tenants Corp. • Actors Temple Theater • American Home Hardware & More • Baryshnikov Arts Center • Basilica • Brazil Brazil • Central Fish Market • Chimichurri Grill • Clinton Housing Development Corp • Costa del Sol • Cupcake Café • Delphinium Home • Domus • Econolodge • Empire Tailors & Cleaners • Times Square • Galaxy Diner • Hartley House • Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Association • Housing Conservation Coordinators • Hudson Crossing Tenants Association • International Foods • Jezebel • J. Seffens Studio • L'Allegria • Larissa Designs • Le Madeleine • Manganaro's Food • Manhattan Plaza • Metro Bicycle Stores • New Dramatists • Nice N Natural • Orion Condominium • OsteriaGelsi • PetsNYC.com • Poseidon Bakery • Project FIND • R/GA • Revolution Rickshaws • Rockrose Development • Sea Breeze • Saint Vincent Midtown Hospital • Sunnyside Records • Smiley's • Sonja Wagner Gallery • Costa del Sol • St. Lukes Theater • Studio LLC • Tagine • Tartare • The Ritz • The Door Lounge • Thrift & New Shoppe • Trattoria Pesce Pasta • Urban Affiliates • Vintner Wine Market • Zipper Theater

The Honorable Ray Kelly
One Police Plaza
New York, NY 10038

September 14, 2009

RE: Traffic Summonses

Dear Commissioner Kelly,

Our coalition of 800 members, including businesses, institutions and residents, would like to congratulate you and Transportation Chief Tuller, on stepping up the enforcement of gridlock laws in Hell's Kitchen/Clinton.

In recent weeks, traffic agents have been posted weekday mornings at key intersections where drivers routinely block intersections. These agents do a terrific job at the intersections of 36th, 40th and 43rd Streets and 9th Avenue. We can attest that the honking has decreased and pedestrians can more safely use the crossings. This is just wonderful.

Ninth Avenue is a major gateway to New Jersey with seven times more entrances than any other avenue leading to the Lincoln Tunnel, without matching resources. As such, we wonder if this effort could be expanded to cover additional critical locations and times. Specifically in the peak evening hours, on 9th Avenue, the Manhattan Borough President has identified the 38th Street intersection as one of the most gridlocked in Manhattan. The fire engines coming from 38th Street cannot get through the queues on Ninth Avenue.

On Saturday and Sunday, from 4 to 8 p.m., 9th Avenue is typically gridlocked without any traffic agents at 37th, 38th, 39th and 42nd Streets. This is also true of 34th Street at Dyer Avenue.

At the 42nd Street intersection with 9th Avenue, traffic agents are posted on weekdays, but do not give summonses. We wish they did.

Finally, we wish you would also initiate an effort to give summons to drivers who do not yield to pedestrians. This behavior has produced tragic results here: two pedestrians were killed at 45th Street and 9th Avenue, a 23 year-old woman, seven month pregnant, was killed at 38th Street and 9th Avenue and a young woman died after six months in a coma, having been hit at 37th Street and 9th Avenue. All were in the pedestrian crossing, with the walk sign - but drivers - while turning - did not yield.

Please share our congratulations with the agents who do the work on the ground. We genuinely appreciate everything your department can do to enforce vehicular law, bring order to our streets and protect pedestrians.

Respectfully,

Christine Berthet & Martin Treat, Co-Founders