

COMMUNITY BOARD 7  Manhattan

September 8, 2011

Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
New York City Department of
Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor
New York, NY 10038

New York City Department of
Transportation
Highway Inspection and Quality Assurance
Newsrack Unit
55 Water Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10041

Re: Newsracks/ Newsboxes

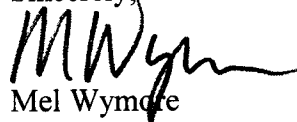
Dear Honorable Forgione:

The enclosed resolution was adopted by the Full Board of Community Board 7 on September 6, 2011.

Please let us know of any action taken by your agency pertaining to this matter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mel Wymore
Chair

Enclosure

Cc: Tali Cantor, CIVITAS Associate Director

RESOLUTION

Date: September 6, 2011

Committees of Origin: Transportation

Re: Newsracks/newsboxes.

Full Board Vote: 39 In favor 0 Against 0 Abstentions 0 Present

The following facts and concerns were taken into account in arriving at our conclusion:

The proliferation of newsracks has created cluttered, dangerous, and unsightly conditions on the streets of New York City.

The owners of the various publications distributed by the newsracks have largely failed to maintain their newsracks according to applicable regulations.

The Department of Transportation has not effectively enforced newsrack regulations because of deficiencies in the current law and lack of personnel.

Many of these newsboxes are not publications, but rather advertisements for various services, and use of the 311 system for complaints about unlawfully placed or improperly maintained newsracks has not produced meaningful results.

Many of these newsboxes have become a repository for garbage and other unsanitary deposits, and

In this era of security-awareness, these newsboxes may become a repository for the stashing of weapons or other illegal substances.

Other cities have enacted legislation limiting the number of newsracks on each corner, mandating size, appearance, maintenance, and other requirements and have imposed fair licensing fees to fund enforcement activities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan requests that:

- The City Council study newsrack legislation in other municipalities and enact a newsrack law, which will curb the current abuses and unsafe conditions on our sidewalks.
- The Department of Transportation provide sufficient administrative and personnel resources to satisfactorily enforce the newsrack regulations.
- The Office of the Mayor take necessary action to encourage and enable the Department of Transportation to more promptly and effectively respond to 3-1-1 newsrack complaints; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7 supports Councilman Vacca's oversight hearings on newsboxes.

Committee: 7-0-0-0. Board Member: 1-0-0-0.

April 2006 Resolutions *CB7*

Committee of Origin: Transportation

Re: Newsracks: "Recapturing Our Streets - Fighting Newsrack Clutter."

Full Board Vote: 35 In favor 0 Against 1 Abstention 0 Present

WHEREAS, the proliferation of newsracks has created cluttered, dangerous, unsanitary and unsightly conditions on the streets of New York City; and

WHEREAS, the owners of the various publications distributed by the newsracks have largely failed to maintain their newsracks according to applicable regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has not effectively enforced newsrack regulations because of deficiencies in the current law and lack of personnel; and

WHEREAS, use of the 311 system for complaints about unlawfully placed or improperly maintained newsracks has not been producing meaningful results; and

WHEREAS, other cities have enacted legislation limiting the number of newsracks on each corner, mandating size, appearance, maintenance and other requirements and have imposed fair licensing fees to fund enforcement activities;

Community Board 7/Manhattan requests that:

1. The City Council study newsrack legislation in other municipalities and enact a newsrack law which will curb the current abuses and unsafe conditions on our sidewalks.
2. The Department of Transportation devote sufficient administrative and personnel resources to satisfactorily enforce the newsrack regulations.
3. The Office of the Mayor take necessary action to encourage and enable the Department of Transportation to more promptly and effectively respond to 311 newsracks complaints.

Committee: 6-0-0-1.

Committee of Origin: Transportation

Re: 434 Amsterdam Avenue (West 81st Street.)

Full Board Vote: 35 In favor 1 Against 0 Abstentions 0 Present

WHEREAS, the applicant presented the café site plan before the April 4, 2006 Full Board meeting;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** renewal application DCA#1002039 to the Department of Consumers Affairs by Pensu Corp., d/b/a Roppongi, for a two-year consent to operate an unenclosed sidewalk café with 10 tables and 25 seats.

Committee: 4-1-0-0.

Committee of Origin: Transportation

Re: 2452 Broadway (West 90th-91st Streets.)

Full Board Vote: 35 In favor 1 Against 0 Abstentions 0 Present

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Community Board 7/Manhattan **approves** renewal