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Antony Wong, *Treasurer*  
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## COMMUNITY BOARD No. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE

NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

[www.cb2manhattan.org](http://www.cb2manhattan.org)

P: 212-979-2272 F: 212-254-5102 E: [info@cb2manhattan.org](mailto:info@cb2manhattan.org)

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November 7, 2011

Hon. James Vacca  
NYC Council Member  
Chair; NYC Council Transportation Committee  
250 Broadway, Suite 1749  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Council Member Vacca,

Community Board 2 Manhattan strongly supports the efforts being made by Civitas, among other community organizations, to address the proliferation of ill-maintained and poorly located newsracks cluttering New York City sidewalks. These newsracks are an issue throughout the city and as in so many other areas, CB2 Manhattan is struggling to control the numerous demands we see for very limited sidewalk space. We support the oversight hearing on the newsracks law that Councilmember Daniel R. Garodnick has requested, and we ask that it be scheduled as soon as possible by the NYC Council Transportation Committee. We look to you, as committee chair, to help work toward the solution.

The appearance of newsracks has further deteriorated largely due to the Newsrack Law amendment of 2004, which removed the requirement to maintain newsracks free of dirt, graffiti or stickers. Furthermore, the New York City Department of Transportation, which regulates street furniture, has not effectively enforced newsrack regulations because of deficiencies in the current law and a lack of personnel.

CB 2 Manhattan feels there is strong support throughout our district as well as across the city for improved policies to maintain newsracks and regulate their placement. We request that you make this a priority for the Transportation Committee.

Sincerely,

Brad Hoylman  
Chair; Community Board 2 Manhattan

Maury Schott  
Chair; Sidewalks, Public Facilities  
& Public Access Committee

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Cc.:

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Hon. Christine C. Quinn, New York City Council Speaker  
Hon. Margaret Chin, New York City Council Member  
Hon. Rosie Mendez, New York City Council Member  
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Manhattan Borough President