



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**Manhattan Community Board 4 Newsstand Policy**

Manhattan Community Board 4 requests that applicants for newsstands in this area take into consideration neighborhood standards.

CB4 has a history of being supportive of newsstand operators and feels they have a place as entrepreneurs in our neighborhoods. At the same time we are concerned about the on-going loss of pedestrian space on our sidewalks and by the loss of smaller rent-paying businesses in our community.

We believe that the rules adopted by the city effective March 30, 2008 (subchapter G of Chapter 2 of Title 6 of the Rules of New York City) go a long way in addressing many of our concerns. These include the requirements for 9 feet 6 inches pedestrian-way both in front of and 15 feet in either direction of a newsstand and a minimum of 15 feet from a newsstand to curb cuts, public toilets, construction sites, driveways, parking lots, entrances to large buildings, hotel lobbies, houses of worship, government buildings, truck service areas, or banks. It also includes a minimum of 20 feet from a subway entrance, bus shelters and sidewalk cafes and permits newsstands only where a minimum level of service for pedestrian access during peak hours can be achieved.

However, these regulations leave out some important priorities both for pedestrian access and for surrounding small businesses. These include:

1. A minimum of 15 feet from a newsstand to a school entrance, since most schools are high pedestrian volume locations;
2. Trees and bicycle racks already requested by the board, but not yet installed, should be considered as obstructions (we believe this is consistent with Chapter 2-64c(4), which permits denial of renewals for condition changes that “render or will render the newsstand a hazard...”);
3. A newsstand cannot be installed on a block where less than 50% of the sidewalk length is entirely free of obstructions;
4. There should be no more than one newsstand within three “between street” blocks – or 750 feet (instead of the 15 feet requirement in the regulations);
5. There shall be no new newsstand within 200 feet of any store where at least 50% of the shelf space of that store is occupied with the same items as sold in a newsstand.

In addition, as a condition for approval, we will require that the newsstand owners accept the responsibility for stowing all storage containers (even if owned by press companies) inside the stand during the day so that no press storage boxes will obstruct the sidewalk in the vicinity of the stand.

We appreciate that the above requirements present an extra burden to proposed newsstand operators. However, we also believe they are fair and appropriate and that, ultimately, newsstands succeed where they are seen as a positive addition and thus welcomed by the surrounding residents and workers.

As adopted by the Full Board January 7, 2009.