



CHEKPEDS

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April 2, 2012

James Vacca
Chairman Committee of Transportation
New York City Council
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10001

Dear Chairman Vacca,

Every day, there are 495 departures-arrivals of discount long distance buses in Chelsea/Hell's Kitchen, on the West Side of Manhattan. They affect a very large population of residents and travelers. For months residents near the Department of Transportation-designated stop on 33rd street and 9th Avenue complained about quality of life concerns caused by the Megabus operation. Megabus did little to improve the situation. At the beginning of March the Megabus operation was moved to 41st Street between 8th and 9th Ave outside of the Port Authority Bus Terminal, and given an additional stop on 10th Avenue between 40th and 41st Streets. While this move slightly improved the residents' concerns with the operation, many safety issues still exist.

Other discount long distance bus carriers operating in the Chelsea/Hell's Kitchen neighborhood are just as much of nuisance to residents as Megabus, but nothing has been done to improve this situation. As a pedestrian and neighborhood advocacy group for Clinton /Hell's Kitchen, CHEKPEDS would like to urge the City Council to hold a hearing on the permitting process and operation of these discount long distance bus carriers in Manhattan.

Some of these long-distance bus operations are not safe: double decker buses exceed the legal weight limit and the use of subcontractors lets unfit drivers on the road. Recently a double decker bus exceeding the permitted weight was forced to return to its stop to unload passengers. In a different incident the driver of a subcontracted company was arrested because he was found to have a suspended license and an outstanding criminal warrant. Toronto has already refused to renew this bus operator's license. However, New York has done little to regulate these unsafe operations.

The demand for this form of transportation is growing rapidly and more and more long distance bus carriers are operating in New York City. Megabus recently reached 16 million riders; Greyhound has plans to expand a similar service. The need for regulation on these operations is urgent, the safety and quality of life for New York City residents depends on it. Two pieces of legislation that would regulate these bus operations have been proposed in Albany (A4578- Silver, S4313- Golden), but more support for the bills is necessary to get them through the legislature.

CHEKPEDS is a coalition of over 1,500 businesses, individuals, and institutions dedicated to pedestrian safety in Clinton and Hell's Kitchen, on the West side of Manhattan and the sponsor of the 9th Avenue Renaissance project.

excom@chekped.com

Clinton/Hell's Kitchen Coalition for Pedestrian Safety | 348 west 38th Street, New York, NY 10018 | (646) 623 2689 |

Given the number of safety and quality of life concerns our neighborhoods faces due to these discount long-distance bus operations, we request the City Council Transportation committee to hold a hearing to address these concerns.

Sincerely Yours,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'C. Berthet' and the signature on the right is 'M. Treat'.

C. Berthet, co-founder, M. Treat, co founder.

Cc: Council Member Christine C. Quinn
US Senator Charles Schumer
State Assembly Member Richard Gottfried
State Senator Tom Duane
State Assembly Member Squadron
State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver
State Senator Martin Golden
Governor Andrew Cuomo
Tri-State Transportation Campaign
Transportation Alternatives

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