October 31, 2013

Matthew Washington, Chair
Manhattan Community Board #11
1664 Park Avenue, Ground Floor
New York, NY 10029

Dear Mr. Washington:

In the coming weeks, the Department of Transportation will make modifications to the street layout along Mount Morris Park West. This updated design is in response to concerns expressed by some neighborhood residents that the roadway space is too narrow, and the painted sidewalk extensions too large. As a result of these concerns, DOT will narrow the width of the sidewalk extension adjacent to Marcus Garvey Park by five feet. This will allow us to create wider parking lanes and new three-foot buffer zones between the travel lane and the parking lanes on both sides of the street. The wider profile will provide a larger area for motorists who wish to double-park in order to drop-off and pick-up passengers, while still allowing sufficient room for unimpeded traffic movement.

We will continue to monitor the new traffic pattern adjacent to Marcus Garvey Park and to have further discussions with the community on these changes. Additionally, we continue to improve and explore further safety measures, including the upcoming installation of a traffic signal at 5th Avenue and 124th Street and the study for the feasibility of new traffic controls at 121st Street and 123rd Street (on Mount Morris Park West). Note that this current modification does not preclude further changes – it is being done to address some concerns before the winter season prevents modifications from taking place. These changes will address the immediate concerns about emergency access and traffic while laying the groundwork for potential future modifications.

Thank you for the continued input and concern for your community, and please contact me or Josh Orzech if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Margaret Forgione
Borough Commissioner

c: S. Quinn, J. Orzech

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