



2024 Annual Letter to Organization Membership

Dear Neighbors,

I am pleased to provide you with the first Annual Report for the West 57th Street Neighborhood Association.

The association was formed in January 2024 and has grown to **110** members to date. Members include renters, owners and businesses. To start, we formed an executive committee and several key committees, all of which have functioned well and continue to meet their goals.

We have done the following over the past year:

- worked closely with the NYPD to enforce quality of life concerns like loitering, screaming children during NYC quiet hours, illegal vending and other activity on West 57th street, creating more peace and safety in the street.
- worked with the NYPD on towing both cars and mopeds with ghost/illicit license plates. The towing of mopeds has reduced aesthetic clutter, trash build up and noise caused by moped alarms. The installation of a bicycle rack within the property lines of the Watson Hotel - set back from the sidewalk - has also helped eliminate sidewalk clutter and crowding.
- pursued removal of the Watson Hotel scaffolding. We utilized a strategy employed by the city in forcing the owners of the Windermere property to remove its unused scaffolding (corner of W. 57th St. and Ninth Ave.). Work has recommenced on the Watson Hotel facade, and we will monitor it to completion and subsequent removal of the scaffolding.
- worked with our local Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) Manhattan Borough Commissioner to pursue removal of the bicycle corral in front of the Watson Hotel to abide by NYC parking and DOT regulations.
- conducted beautification events including several litter pickups in the neighborhood streets and at Balsley Park.
- expanded the initial boundaries of our neighborhood organization to serve more streets, bring more neighbors together and engage in more initiatives to better our community.
- received positive publicity showcasing our organization and increasing neighborhood awareness on issues (<https://w42st.com/post/w57th-street-residents-unite-to-form-block-association/>).
- attended and presented at various meetings with members of MCB4, and its committees, Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Coalition (HKNC); met with NYC council people and city officials including DSNY, DOT, and Parks Dept. helping to build relationships for our group.
- presented our association to several business owners, operators and building boards to gain participation and membership; conducted quarterly Zoom meetings with members to keep you all up to date.

Attached is an unaudited financial statement that accounts for the donations made since inception.

One of the advantages of our group is that you can come to a quarterly meeting, voice a concern about the neighborhood, and find someone else in our group who may share your concern. Together, you can work on that issue utilizing our knowledge and relationships that we have formed with government employees, elected and appointed officials, and members of the media.

We look forward to serving our community in 2025 and ask that you participate through donations, participation on committees, Zoom quarterly meetings, and bringing in new members. Please look at our website: www.w57st.org for details on committees, leave-with materials for potential members and updates on our work.

Thank you for being a part of this organization to better serve our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

The W. 57th Street Neighborhood Association Executive Committee

Michael Gibraltar

Ted Federici

George Fox

Deb Hughes