

February 13, 2009

City Council Member Melinda R. Katz
104-01 Metropolitan Avenue
Forest Hills, NY 11375

Re: Opposition to Intro. 623
Advertising on Sidewalk Sheds

Dear Council Member Katz:



Chelsea, Madison Sq., Flatiron, Rosehill

PO Box 1120, Old Chelsea Station
New York, NY 10113-1120

p 212-929-9188

w www.crdcnyc.org

e info@crdcnyc.org

The Chelsea Reform Democratic Club is a progressive Democratic club in the 75th Assembly District, Part A, Manhattan, covering the neighborhoods of Chelsea, Flatiron, Madison Square, and Rosehill. The neighborhoods we represent have large residential populations, and yet large areas of them are zoned Commercial or Manufacturing, and most of these areas are not in designated historic districts. These neighborhoods would therefore be greatly impacted by Intro. 623, and we believe that impact would be vastly negative. We therefore urge you to drop your support for Intro. 623.

Intro. 623 would not only expand the presence of advertising billboards on the streets of our neighborhoods, it would also exacerbate the problem of sidewalk sheds remaining up longer than necessary, with all the blight such structures can bring.

Our streets are already cluttered with a barrage of advertising signage, both legal and illegal. Because of the profitability of such signage and the limited resources of the Department of Buildings, it is extremely difficult to get the City to respond to complaints about illegal billboards, much less to get them removed. This bill would only make that problem worse. It would, for the first time ever, legalize large billboards on sidewalk sheds in extensive areas of our neighborhoods as well as surrounding neighborhoods.

While the bill limits the legal time these billboards can stay up to one year, given how much money is made from these signs, many will no doubt stay up much longer. Since there already being such difficulty getting the City to remove billboards that are entirely illegal, one can only imagine that it will be that much harder to force the removal of billboards that were originally legal but may have surpassed the allowable year. This will then encourage an unscrupulous building owner to keep their sidewalk shed up for as long as possible, in order to continue to derive income from the advertisements.

In the best of circumstances, sidewalk sheds shadow streets and block pedestrian traffic; poorly maintained sidewalk sheds can be health and safety hazards and can blight neighborhoods and hurt businesses. Any sidewalk shed should remain up no longer than necessary for public safety. Unfortunately, this bill would make the problem of sheds remaining up longer than needed and blighting neighborhoods much worse.

The Chelsea Reform Democratic Club strongly urges you to reconsider your support for Intro. 623.

Sincerely,

FOR THE CHELSEA REFORM DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Lynn Kotler (ll)

Lynn Kotler, President

February 13, 2009

City Council Member Erik Martin Dilan
Chair, Housing and Buildings Committee
387 Arlington Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11208

Re: Opposition to Intro. 623
Advertising on Sidewalk Sheds

Dear Council Member Dilan:



The Chelsea Reform Democratic Club is a progressive Democratic club in the 75th Assembly District, Part A, Manhattan, covering the neighborhoods of Chelsea, Flatiron, Madison Square, and Rosehill. The neighborhoods we represent have large residential populations, and yet large areas of them are zoned Commercial or Manufacturing, and most of these areas are not in designated historic districts. These neighborhoods would therefore be greatly impacted by Intro. 623, and we believe that impact would be vastly negative. We therefore urge you to drop your support for Intro. 623.

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The Chelsea Reform Democratic Club strongly urges you to reconsider your support for Intro. 623.

Sincerely,

FOR THE CHELSEA REFORM DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Lynn Kotler (II)

Lynn Kotler, President

February 13, 2009

City Council Member Rosie Mendez
237 First Avenue, Suite 504
New York, NY 10003

Re: Opposition to Intro. 623
Advertising on Sidewalk Sheds



Dear Council Member Mendez:

The Chelsea Reform Democratic Club is a progressive Democratic club in the 75th Assembly District, Part A, Manhattan, covering the neighborhoods of Chelsea, Flatiron, Madison Square, and Rosehill. The neighborhoods we represent have large residential populations, and yet large areas of them are zoned Commercial or Manufacturing, and most of these areas are not in designated historic districts. These neighborhoods would therefore be greatly impacted by Intro. 623, and we believe that impact would be vastly negative. We therefore urge you to drop your support for Intro. 623.

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The Chelsea Reform Democratic Club strongly urges you to reconsider your support for Intro. 623.

Sincerely,

FOR THE CHELSEA REFORM DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Lynn Kotler (II)
Lynn Kotler, President

Home club of: City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn, State Senator Tom Duane and Assembly Member Richard Gottfried
State Committeewoman: Doris Corrigan; District Leaders: Mary Dorman and Tom Schuler
Club President: Lynn Kotler; Treasurer: Paul J. Groncki
First VP: Judith Richheimer; Second VP: Luke McAuliffe; Secretary: Linda Longstreet

February 13, 2009

City Council Speaker Christine Quinn
224 West 30th Street, Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001

Re: Opposition to Intro. 623
Advertising on Sidewalk Sheds

Dear Council Speaker Quinn:



Chesea, Madison Sq., Flatiron, Rosehill
PO Box 1120, Old Chelsea Station
New York, NY 10113-1120
p 212-929-9188
w www.crdcnyc.org
e info@crdcnyc.org

The Chelsea Reform Democratic Club is greatly concerned about Intro. 623. Our club covers neighborhoods with large residential populations, and yet large areas of them are zoned Commercial or Manufacturing, and most of these areas are not in designated historic districts. These neighborhoods would therefore be greatly impacted by Intro. 623.

Intro. 623 would not only expand the presence of advertising billboards on the streets of our neighborhoods, it would also exacerbate the problem of sidewalk sheds remaining up longer than necessary, with all the blight such structures can bring.

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The Chelsea Reform Democratic Club strongly urges you to oppose intro. 623.

Sincerely,

FOR THE CHELSEA REFORM DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Lynn Kotler (II)

Lynn Kotler, President

Home club of: City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn, State Senator Tom Duane and Assembly Member Richard Gottfried
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