



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

SHELDON SILVER
Speaker of the Assembly

March 22, 2012

Janette Sadik-Khan
Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th floor
New York, NY 10041

Robert LiMandri
Commissioner
NYC Department of Buildings
280 Broadway, 7th floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioner Sadik-Khan and Commissioner LiMandri:

I am writing to express my concerns about the noisy, off-hours construction that has become an increasing problem in the Financial District and Seaport areas of Lower Manhattan, particularly on John Street and at the Brooklyn Bridge. My office has received a constant stream of calls and emails from angry residents - many of them new to the area - complaining about loud construction overnight and on weekends, keeping them awake. I strongly urge the city and your agencies to reassess the policy of issuing variances to permit this type of after-hours construction in these neighborhoods.

As you may know, this is one of our city's fastest-growing communities, with residential buildings on every block. I believe we should all be doing everything we can to make sure we are creating and supporting a world-class 24/7 mixed-use community. I understand that in the days before our residential population boom, granting lots of after-hours permits made some sense and did not cause too many problems. Today, however, it is simply too disruptive to our residents' quality of life.

Just this month, we have had large community meetings during which residents demanded a break from the unbearable noise from off-hours construction on John Street and the Brooklyn Bridge. It is also clear that additional noise mitigation measures required for after-hours work have not been effective in sufficiently reducing the noise levels.

I therefore again call on the city and your agencies to stop issuing variances to allow noisy construction work outside the permitted hours of Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. in these residential areas.

Sincerely,

SHELDON SILVER
Member of Assembly