



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

THOMAS DUANE
SENATOR, 29TH DISTRICT

ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER
FOR POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

COMMITTEES:
CODES
CIVIL SERVICE & PENSIONS
ELECTIONS
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RULES

PLEASE RESPOND TO:
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NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001
PHONE: (212) 633-8052
FAX: (212) 633-8096

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LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
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DUANE@SENATE.STATE.NY.US

February 15, 2007

Elon Kenchington
Chief Executive Officer
Gansevoort Hotel Group
100 Ring Road West, Suite 101
Garden City, NY 11530

Dear Mr. Kenchington:

I appreciated the collaborative relationship that you established with me, other area elected officials and community residents during your tenure as Managing Director of the Hotel Gansevoort in the Meatpacking District. Your willingness to meet with us and to take effective steps to address persistent noise complaints spoke volumes about the hotel's desire to be a good neighbor. I was also impressed with the hotel's interest in contributing to the character of the Meatpacking District, as evidenced by your restoration of the cobblestones in the street in front of your building.

Given your concern about the neighborhood, I was surprised and disappointed to see the two, large, freestanding billboards that are currently being erected on the hotel's property at the corner of Gansevoort and Hudson Streets. I appeal to you as the Chief Executive Officer of the Gansevoort Hotel Group to overrule the decision to install these contextually inappropriate and unsightly advertising structures, which would seriously compromise the character of our neighborhood. Indeed, the enormous post and frame that have already been constructed are a tremendous eyesore at the gateway between Greenwich Village and the Meatpacking District.

While I recognize that the Hotel Gansevoort sought and was initially given permits for these signs and their support pole from the New York City Department of Buildings (DOB), I and many of my constituents disagree with your decision regarding the signs and strongly believe that they are not appropriate for our distinctive, historic, hard fought for district. The larger sign is permitted for a height of 75 feet with a total surface area of 1,200 square feet. The smaller

sign is permitted for a height of 52 feet with a total surface area of 672 square feet, and will be indirectly illuminated. Both will loom over the Meatpacking District and the residential, Greenwich Village neighborhood directly to the south. Both are terrible.

I understand that DOB is reconsidering the permits it has issued and has sought additional information from your architect to determine if your signs will, in fact, conform to regulations for signage at this location. Recently, DOB has found several other billboards that have sprung up in the Meatpacking District to be illegal, and it has committed to take action against them. Regardless of DOB's findings with respect to the legality of your signs, I appeal to you and am hopeful that in the interests of neighborhood preservation, you will choose to abandon this ill conceived billboard project. While I recognize that you have contractual obligations to the billboard company, Van Wagoner, I pledge to join other community leaders in seeking to have Van Wagoner release you from them.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your response and to your continued cooperation in preserving the beautiful, historic area that has made your establishment a destination for New Yorkers and other people from around the U.S. and the world. Please don't go ahead with your plans to destroy that.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Duane". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Thomas K. Duane
New York State Senate
29th District.