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CITY OF NEW YORK  
PLANNING BOARD

Mr. Alex Lehmann-Haupt  
Environmental Protection Administration  
Department of Air Resources  
Bureau of Noise Abatement  
51 Astor Place  
New York, New York 10003

Re: Broome Street (Between Center Street and Holland Tunnel Entrance)  
Excessive Vehicular Noise Problems

This letter is to confirm and summarize our telephone discussion of the need for noise abatement studies and enforcement on the Broome Street Route to the Holland Tunnel.

Many businessmen and artists working in SOHO would like to make some immediate progress in noise reduction, particularly truck noise. We are specifically concerned with "thru trucks" which come from Long Island and Brooklyn to the Holland Tunnel for points South and West. These non local trucks pass thru the SOHO area with no concern for the shattering noise they generate. The excessive noise is largely due to the following conditions:

- (a) Non-existent or inadequate muffler systems.
- (b) Cargo which is not fastened to the truck frame properly.
- (c) Excessive acceleration in very low gears.

The loudest noise is usually generated between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. when the lack of heavy traffic permits excessive acceleration to be combined with inadequate mufflers. However, field work with sound level meters will also confirm that 90-105 db levels occur between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

We request that you study the noise levels on Broome Street as soon as possible. The SOHO Community will be glad to furnish volunteer help if required.

Your findings should be coordinated with:

- (1) The City Department of Highways (request has already been made for more evenly graded new paving to reduce impact noises of loaded trucks).
- (2) Department of Traffic (Request has already been made to review and retime traffic lights to discourage rapid acceleration).
- (3) Police Department -- We suggest that after "A" scale decibel levels are found to be over 88 db at 50 feet from source at less than 35 mph. (They are), the city be notified that they are required by law to enforce

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section 381-1 and 375-6 of the New York State motor vehicle code.  
If the city fails to enforce this code they are subject to legal action  
for non performance.

Further, a study of the Broome Street Noise conditions noted will  
also assist and guide you in drafting effective future legislation.

We look forward to your immediate review and action on the situations  
noted above.



Edward Chaplin  
15 July 1971

450 Broome Street  
New York, New York 10013  
Telephone: 226-0398