



SantaCon
Delivered via Electronic Mail
blitzen@nycsantacon.com

November 26, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

We write to urge SantaCon to heed the request made last month by Senator Hoylman to work with local Community Boards and the New York City Police Department (NYPD) to identify ways the event can significantly mitigate its impact on the communities it visits.

It is widely recognized that SantaCon, with its growing number of rowdy, intoxicated participants dressed in Santa costumes, disrupts and damages neighborhoods as it passes through. Year-after-year, elected officials, Community Boards and local precincts are besieged by complaints from residents regarding this event. SantaCon can, and must, do more to ensure that its event is positive, frivolous and safe, instead of the massive bar-crawl of lawlessness it has become.

While the NYPD will certainly play a role in protecting participants, residents and community members alike, it is unreasonable for SantaCon to rely on the Department's efforts alone. Public resources are designed to protect and serve the public as a whole, not marshal a private event. To that end, we request SantaCon adhere to the following three principles:

- 1) **Follow defined routes that are publicly-available** – SantaCon must make its routes and stops publicly available in advance, along with estimated times of arrival, to give community members, the NYPD and local businesses time to plan.
- 2) **Ensure respectful participants** – While SantaCon is an open event, the organization still bears ultimate responsibility for its participants. Every organized event must ensure it is not encouraging lawbreaking, which in this instance includes public consumption of alcohol, public intoxication, public urination, as well as disorderly and overly aggressive behavior. The organizers

must undertake efforts to self-police the event, including ejecting intoxicated and badly-behaving participants.

- 3) **Implement a comprehensive safety plan** – Given SantaCon’s enormous size – a testament to its popularity – it overwhelms sidewalks that were designed for a smaller number of pedestrians, posing serious safety risks to both participants and other sidewalk users. SantaCon must identify ways to mitigate these risks, including by having staff members or trained volunteers act as marshals to ensure the free-flow of pedestrian traffic.

With the date of the event rapidly approaching, we are disappointed that, thus far, SantaCon has not come forward with a public plan. Unless the organizers are able to tame the event, we must request that the NYPD, State Liquor Authority and individual establishments do so.

If you have questions, or to follow up, please contact Robert Atterbury in Senator Brad Hoylman’s office at (212) 633-8052 or robert@bradhoylman.com.

Sincerely,

Brad Hoylman
State Senator

Liz Krueger
State Senator



Daniel Squadron
State Senator



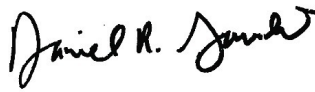
Richard Gottfried
Assembly Member



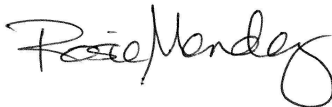
Deborah J. Glick
Assembly Member



Brian Kavanagh
Assembly Member



Daniel Garodnick
City Council Member



Rosie Mendez
City Council Member



Margaret S. Chin
City Council Member