

Resolution on Critical Mass Bike Activity Approved by Community Board No. 2

Manhattan, April 21, 2005

WHEREAS, the City of New York has apparently decided to make bicyclists a persistent target of overzealous police enforcement, using tactics which interfere with civil liberties of New Yorkers, as exemplified by their attack on cyclists gathered at Union Square Park on the last Friday of March for a peaceful ride through Lower Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, 37 men and women assembled in Union Square Park were handcuffed and imprisoned and charged with violating a range of laws involving plans to bicycle, and locks on 50 bicycles destroyed and the bicycles confiscated; and

WHEREAS, several defendants were charged with violating a city ordinance which prohibits "advertising the time or location of a meeting or group activity in a City park;" and

WHEREAS, several of the defendants were out-of-town visitors who simply chanced to be in a New York City public park; and

WHEREAS, summonses were issued under the name of the Environmental Control Board, ironic because cyclists assert that their vehicles emit no fumes and are environmentally friendly.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Community Board No. 2, Manhattan, expresses its profound concern at the City Administration's decision to violate many of the most sacred provisions of the Constitution as enumerated in the Bill of Rights; notably, freedom of speech; freedom of the press, and freedom to assemble; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Community Board 2 insists that the City Administration halt its unconstitutional attacks on our fellow citizens as they assemble peaceably and respect the rights of all our citizens to exercise the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and Bill of Rights.