Valerie S. Mason
Chair

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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan

July 24, 2026

Danielle Zuckerman
Borough Commissioner
Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor
New York, NY 10038

RE: Birch Wathen Lenox School Open Street

Dear Borough Commissioner Zuckerman,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on July 15, 2026, the board unanimously approved the following resolution by a vote of 44 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

> **WHEREAS,** Birch Wathen Lenox School is requesting an Open Street – school closure on East 77th Street between Second and Third Avenues on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 11AM and 1PM; and
>
> **WHEREAS,** the school successfully operated an Open Street program during the 2025- 2026 school year without complaints from neighbors and in good faith with the community, maintaining access for deliveries and resident needs; and
>
> **WHEREAS,** Birch Wathen Lenox Lower School students have benefited significantly from access to outdoor play space and movement opportunities during school hours; and
>
> **WHEREAS,** the school has demonstrated responsible stewardship of the Open Street authorization and has committed to continuing the same operating practices;
>
> **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that Community Board 8 Manhattan approves the renewal of the Open Street application for Birch Wathen Lenox School on East 77th Street between Second and Third Avenues for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM from September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2027.

Please advise our office of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Valerie S. Mason *Craig Lader and Charles Warren*

Valerie S. Mason
Chair

Craig Lader and Charles Warren
Co-Chairs, Transportation Committee

cc: Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York
Honorable Zohran Mamdani, Mayor of the City of New York

Honorable Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Jerrold Nadler, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Edward Gibbs, NYS Assembly Member, 68th Assembly District
Honorable Alex Bores, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member, 76th Assembly District
Honorable Julie Menin, Speaker, NYC Council, 5th Council District
Honorable Virginia Maloney, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District
Honorable Elsie Encarnacion, NYC Council Member, 8th Council District