Essential Guide to Beating Blocking the Box Parking Tickets

Blocking the Box

The Rule:

Obstructing traffic at intersection.

"When vehicular traffic is stopped on the opposite side of an intersection, no person shall drive a vehicle into such intersection, except when making a turn, unless there is adequate space on the opposite side of the intersection to accommodate the vehicle the person is driving, notwithstanding the indication of a traffic control signal which would permit the person to proceed."

The Elements

- You are not permitted to drive a vehicle into an intersection
- When traffic is stopped on the opposite side of an intersection
- Except when making a turn
- Unless, there is adequate space on the opposite side of the intersection to accommodate the vehicle the person is driving

- BONUS: Your proof should consist of facts and images persuading a judge that there was sufficient space to accommodate your vehicle on the opposite side of the box at the moment you entered the intersection, but something totally unexpected and unpreventable occurred during your ride through the intersection making it impossible to exit the box before the light turned red.

Customer Success Story

Challenge:

Joe was issued a parking ticket for blocking the box. The reason he wasn't able to make it through the intersection before the light turned red was because the warriors were:

- Stopping cars in the box
- Directing the cars to pull to each side of the roadway immediately past the opposite crosswalk
- And parking illegally in the travel lanes, effectively turning 3 travel lanes into one

The Defense:

Joe entered the box when there was sufficient space on the opposite side of the box for his car car to fit in his lane of travel, and would have made it through the intersection but for the parking ticket warriors creating an unexpected blockade of the right and left travel lanes.

IDENCE

Defense Certification

New York City Department of Finance
Hearing by Mail Unit
PO Box 29021
Brooklyn, New York 11202-9021

- This is the address to mail your defense certification and exhibits.
- Send your defense package by certified mail, return receipt requested to prove delivery
- Do not fight this parking ticket on-line. It's an ambush

Re: VC 9
Blocking the Box

- Insert Violation Code
- Name of Violation

Dear Judge:

I hereby certify:

- This is how you begin a certification

I plead not guilty to this parking violation because:

- Don't forget to plead "not guilty"
- "Because" is a very persuasive word

- My car did not block the intersection by preventing traffic on 3rd Avenue from proceeding through the intersection with 37th Street
- Vehicles were stopped by TEA's and directed to park at illegal parking spaces on the opposite side of the intersection of 37th Street and 3rd Avenue. These vehicles indiscriminately pulled back into traffic after being issued parking tickets. This unexpected activity prevented me from traveling safely through the intersection

- You may wish to summarize your defenses before beginning your story

Defense Certification

Here's where you tell your story. Just facts, no whining, no adjectives, no conclusions.

On June 19, 2013 at approximately 12:18 pm, I was driving on East 37th Street, heading towards the intersection of 3rd Avenue. Traffic was heavy. As I approached the intersection of 37th Street and 3rd Avenue, the traffic light was green for 37th Street; however, I stopped because it wasn't safe for me to drive through the intersection.

When the light turned green, space opened up past the opposite crosswalk for me to drive through the intersection.

I noticed up ahead there were vehicles parked on both sides of the roadway on 37th street after the crosswalk. Without prior warning, these vehicles started pulling into the travel lane on 37th Street.

This unexpected flurry of vehicles forced the car ahead of me to stop suddenly just past the intersection, thus causing me to stop my car. My car was almost completely through the intersection. My rear bumper was extending slightly into the intersection, but did not block traffic from proceeding on 3rd Avenue through the intersection.

I was directed by a TEA to pull over to the side of the roadway and stop in an illegal parking space on 37th Street. I was issued a parking ticket, which the TEA stuck under the wiper. I had to get out of my car to grab the parking ticket. The TEA's help create the congestion, and then issued parking tickets.

Defense Certification

I prepared a series of exhibits to illustrate why I was forced to stop unexpectedly because of the activities of the TEA's. Due to these circumstances, please dismiss this parking ticket.

Always include a call-to-action by asking the judge to dismiss your parking ticket

Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

The proper way to address the judge is "Respectfully yours"

Joe Smith

I hereby certify that my testimony is the truth to the best of my knowledge. I fully understanding that if any of my testimony is willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Certify that your testimony is the truth!

I certify that the exhibits are true and accurate reproductions of images from Google Maps street view, with the exception of Exhibit #4 which I inserted images of vehicles stopped on both sides of the roadway. Exhibit #4 shows how the vehicles were stopped illegally on both sides of the roadway.

Certify that your exhibits are true and accurate reproductions of...

_____

Joe Smith

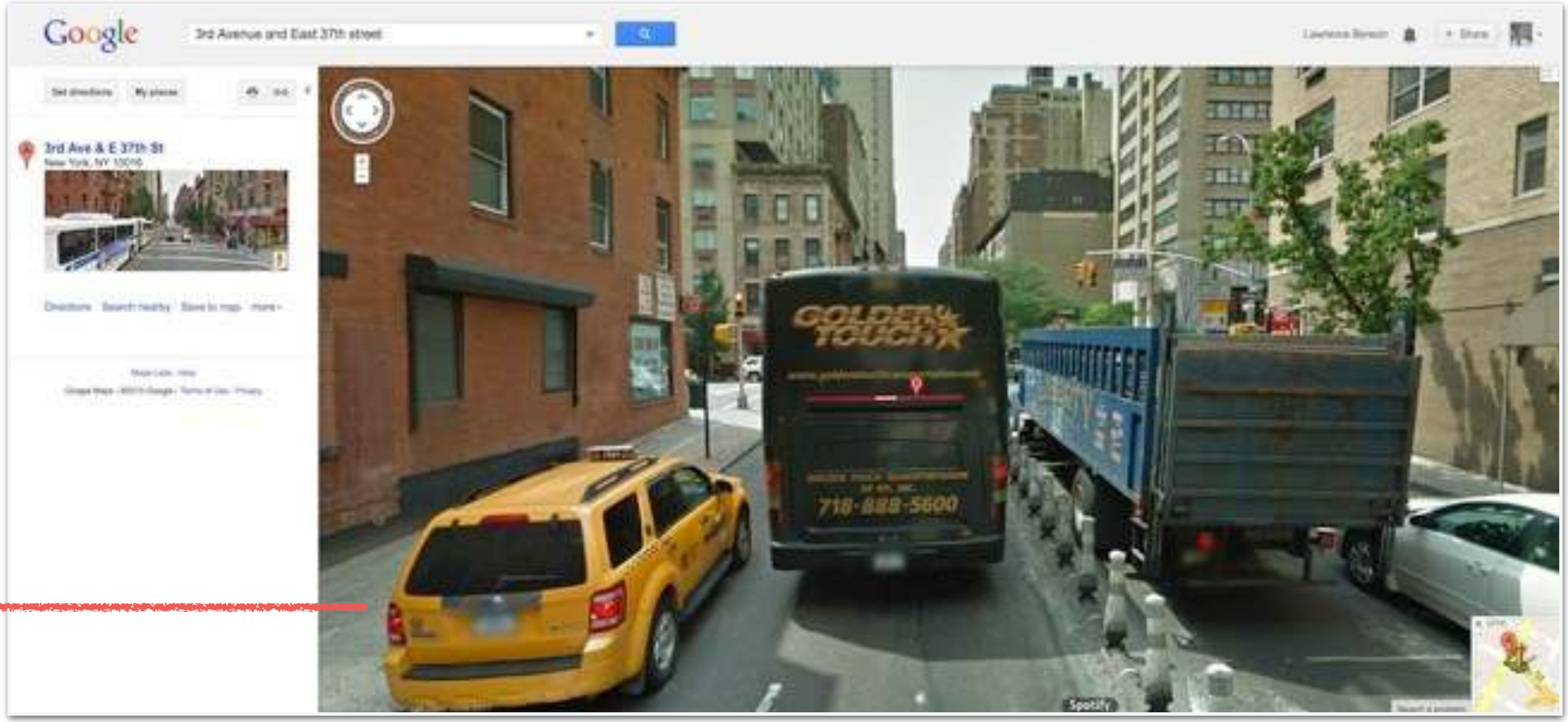

Exhibit 1

This is a Google Map image of 37th Street as it approaches the intersection of 3rd Avenue. The two travel lanes on the right are designated right turn lanes. The two travel lanes on the left are straight-ahead lanes.

My SUV was in the far left straight-ahead travel lane (same as the yellow cab). Traffic was heavy

Exhibit 2

This is a Google Map image of the intersection of 37th Street and 3rd Avenue. I stopped my SUV in the left travel lane when I reached the intersection because there was gridlock and I couldn't pass through the intersection safely. The light turned red, and when it turned green again, there was room for my SUV to fit beyond the crosswalk on the opposite side of the intersection.

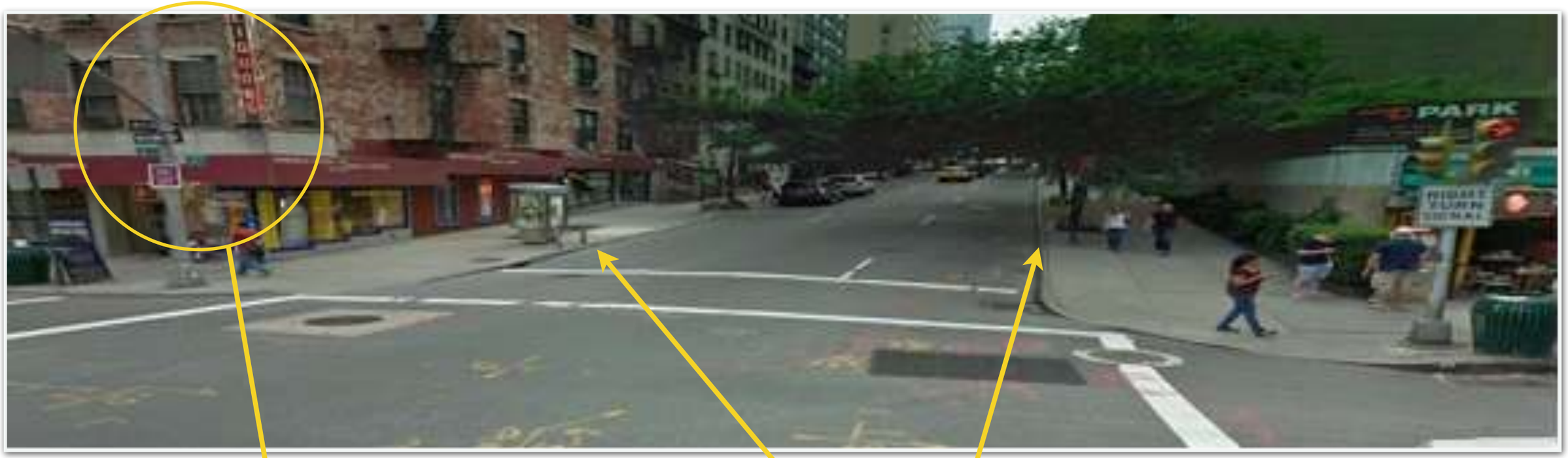

Exhibit 3

The TOP image is a Google Map view of how the opposite side of the intersection of 37th Street and 3rd Avenue looks when there are no cars parked adjacent to either curb. Parking is prohibited in those spaces at the time I was issued my ticket.

The LEFT image is a close up of the street sign showing it is the intersection of 3rd Avenue and 37th Street.

Exhibit 4

The yellow arrows point to cars that were directed by the 2 TEA's to stop in the left and right travel lanes to issue tickets. This is a Google Map image. (please note: I inserted the two yellow cabs in the right travel lane and the red SUV in the left travel lane…)

Exhibit 4 - continued

As my SUV reached the opposite side of the intersection, the vehicles previously directed to stop in the left and right travel lanes began to indiscriminately re-enter the middle travel lane. There was almost an accident as 2 out of the 3 vehicles almost collided. This created another bottleneck, and made it impossible for my SUV to travel completely through the crosswalk on the opposite side of the intersection.

When the light turned red, my rear bumper extended slightly into the box. It did not obstruct traffic on 3rd Avenue. Traffic on 3rd Avenue was able to travel through the intersection with the green light.

One of the TEA's that created this dangerous situation directed me to stop in the left travel lane and issued me a ticket for blocking the box. At no time did the TEA's direct traffic to ease the gridlock. Instead they turned 3 travel lanes into 1.

Larry's Tips

- Tell the judge a story
- Use facts to persuade the judge - not conclusions
- The more specific the facts - the more believable the story
- Paint a picture with your exhibits to show the judge exactly what happened in the intersection
- Use captions with your exhibits to bolster your story

Customer Success Story

The Challenge:

Jane was issued a parking ticket for blocking the box. The reason she didn't make it through the intersection before the light turned red was because there was a white truck traveling in the middle lane to Jane's right that swerved into her lane (the left lane), cutting her off. The truck made it completely through the intersection. The rear bumper of Jane's car extended slightly into the far crosswalk when the traffic light turned red.

The Defense:

Jane entered the intersection when there was sufficient space on the opposite side of the box for her car to fit in her travel lane, and would have made it through the intersection but for the white truck swerving into Jane's travel lane, preventing her from exiting the box before the light turned red

EVIDENCE

Defense Certification

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VC 9
“Blocking the Box”

Dear Judge:

I plead not guilty to this violation because a white delivery box truck swerved into my lane and blocked my car from exiting the box before the light turned red.

I was driving on West 40 Street at the time and date shown on the parking ticket. I was traveling in the left lane. 40th Street has two travel lanes. There was a white delivery box truck in the right lane. The traffic was heavy, but moving.

Defense Certification

The traffic light turned green, traffic was moving on the opposite side of the box, there was room on the opposite side of the box for my car to pass freely through in the left lane, and I entered the intersection. As I was driving through the intersection, the white truck in the right lane unexpectedly moved into my travel lane because the traffic in the right lane began to show to a stop.

The white truck made it completely through the intersection before the traffic light turned red.

I almost made it through the intersection behind the white truck, but my bumper was extended slightly beyond the crosswalk. My car did not block any traffic driving through the intersection of 40th Street on 8th Avenue.

Due to these circumstances, please dismiss this parking ticket.

Thank you

I certify the statements made by me are true. I fully understand that I am subject to punishment if any of my testimony is willfully false.

Respectfully yours,

Jane Doe

Exhibit 1

This is a Google Map view of the intersection of West 40th Street and 8th Avenue. My car was on West 40th Street. The black car approximates the location of my car traveling in the left lane.

Exhibit 2

This is a close-up view of the street sign at the intersection of West 40th Street and 8th Avenue

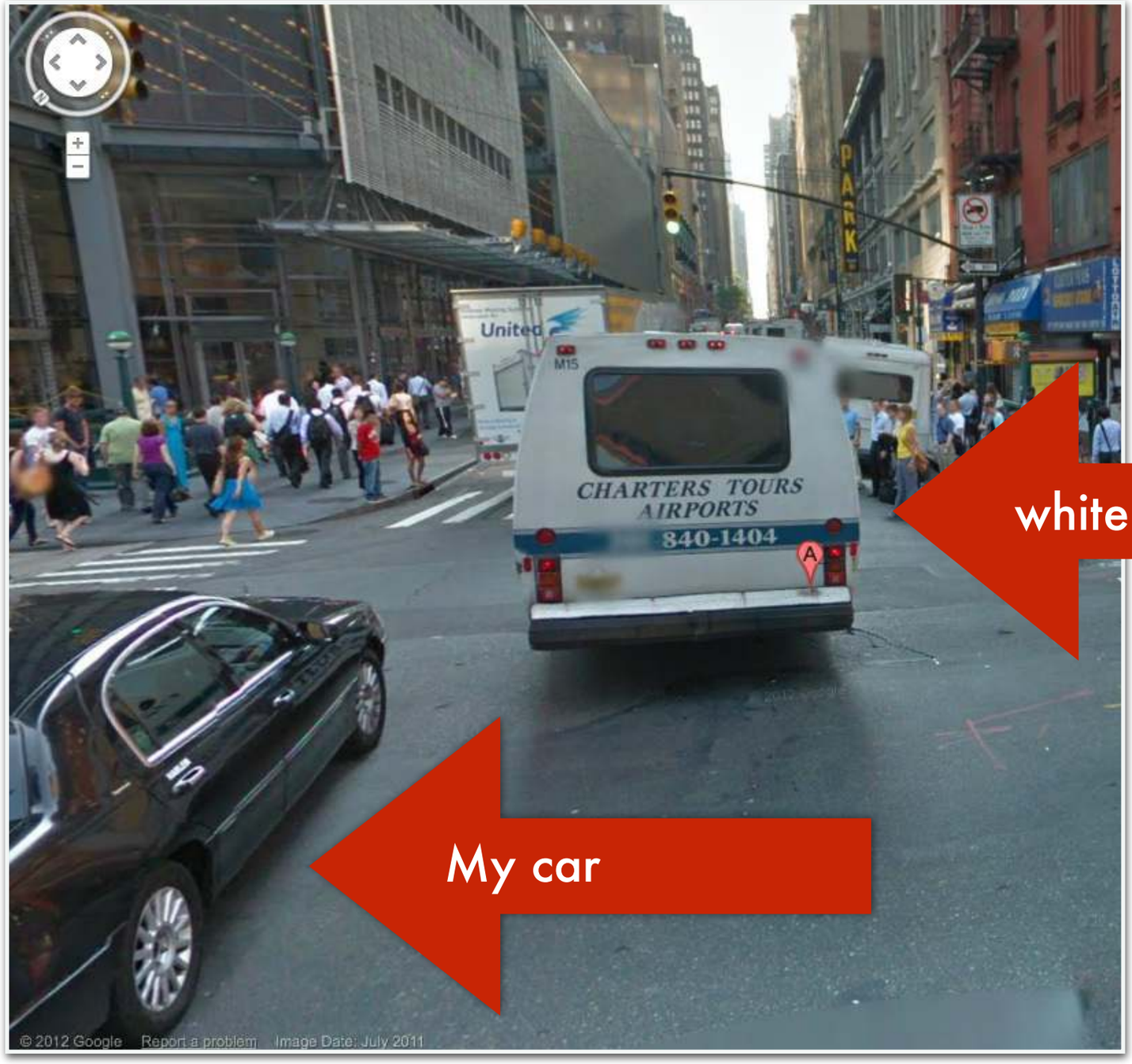

Exhibit 3

This is a Google Map view of a black car and a white Charter Tours Airports Van traveling through the intersection. Moments later, the white truck cut me off by swerving into the left travel lane

Larry's Tips

- Claiming another vehicle swerved into your travel lane is a tough defense to win
- However, the more details you include about the other vehicle and the action taken enhances your prospects of winning

Customer Success Story

The Challenge:

Suzy Q was issued a parking ticket for blocking the box. The reason she didn't make it through the intersection before the light turned red was because a massive number of pedestrians starting crossing the far crosswalk before the light turned red, while a parking ticket warrior stood by and watched...The pedestrians in the crosswalk made it impossible to exit the intersection.

The Defense:

Suzy Q entered the box when there was sufficient space on the opposite side of the intersection for her car to fit in her lane of travel, and would have made it through the intersection but for the massive number of pedestrians crossing the street against the light, while the warrior stood and watched.

EVIDENCE

Defense Certification

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Re: VC 9
Obstructing traffic at an intersection

Dear Honorable Judge,

I hereby certify to the following:

I plead not guilty to this violation because:

- I did not obstruct any traffic at the intersection of 37th Street and 7th Avenue
- I entered the intersection on a green light with room on the opposite side of the intersection for my car to pass through safely

Traffic was very heavy on June 20, 2013 at 5: 28 PM as I was traveling on 37th Avenue. When I arrived at the intersection with 7th Avenue, I observed numerous people crossing 37th street.

Defense Certification

When the traffic light turned green, there was space for my car to fit beyond the opposite crosswalk. I entered the intersection, and noticed another build up of pedestrians on both sides of 37th Street. Traffic was congested, but moving slowly.

While I was driving through the intersection, slowly but surely pedestrians became impatient and started crossing against the light. By the time I arrived at the opposite crosswalk, pedestrians filled the entire crosswalk, making it impossible for me to drive through the crosswalk without striking people.

I was able to find a little space and almost made it through. I observed one traffic enforcement agent watching the entire scene from the sidewalk.

The light turned red, but I was unable to get my car completely through the far crosswalk. The rear bumper was extended slightly into the intersection. Traffic proceeded freely on 7th Avenue through the intersection.

Due to these circumstances, please dismiss my parking ticket.

I have attached a series of exhibits in support of my defense.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Defense Certification

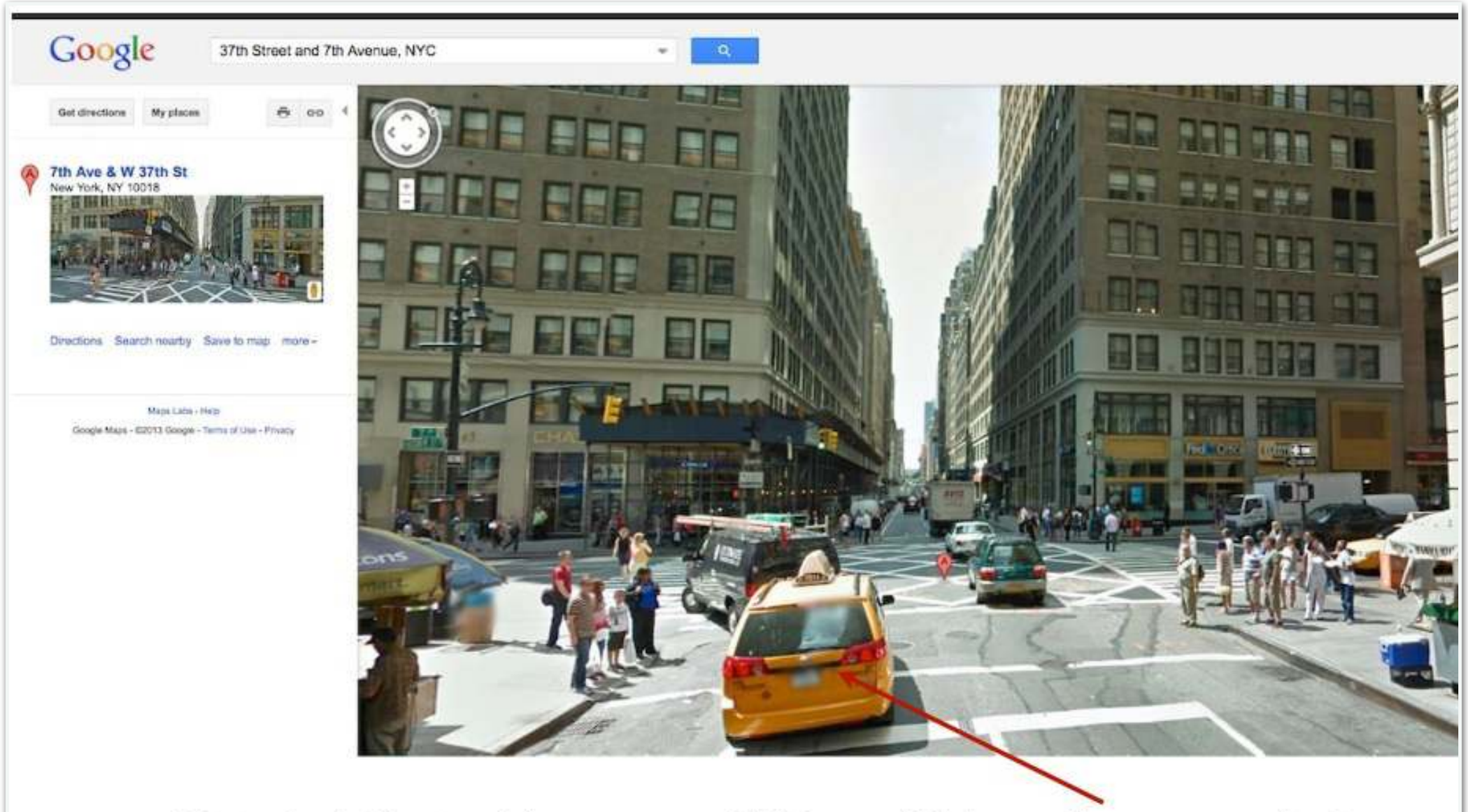
I hereby certify that my testimony is the truth to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if any of my testimony is willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Further, I certify that the exhibits display images that accurately represent what I indicate the captions, with the exception of Exhibit #4 where I inserted more pedestrians in the crosswalk to illustrate what I was confronted with trying to drive through the intersection on June 20, 2013.

I further certify that I inserted an image of a traffic officer in Exhibit #3 to illustrate that the traffic officer did not direct traffic, but observed the congested intersection from the sidewalk

_____

Your Typewritten Name



This is a Google Map view of the intersection of 37th Street and 7th Avenue. My car was stopped in the same travel lane as the yellow cab. Traffic was heavy and moving slowly. When the light turned green, there was enough space for me to safely drive through and exit the intersection.

Exhibit #1

This is a Google Map view of the intersection of 37th and 7th. As I entered the intersection, there was a huge number of pedestrians waiting to cross 37th Street. However, people began to illegally cross 37th Street while the light was green- at first slowly.

Exhibit #2

Exhibit #3

By the time I reached the opposite crosswalk, it was jammed up with people. This is a Google image showing you what I saw. I stopped my car because I could not safely pass through the pedestrian blockade.

When the light turned red, the officer on the left side came up to my car and told me to pull to the curb. His comment to me when he handed me the ticket was I should have blown my horn to get through the wall of people.

Exhibit #4

New York Parking Ticket LLC

www.newyorkparkingticket.com

by Larry Berezin