



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COMMUNITY BOARD 9
MANHATTAN

Morningside Heights
Manhattanville
Hamilton Heights
Sugar Hill

3291/3295 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Phone: (212)864-6200 Email:
info@cb9m.org

May 22nd, 2024

Hon. Eric Adams
Mayor
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Hon. Adrienne E. Adams
NYC Council Speaker
165-38A Baisley Blvd., 2nd Floor
Jamaica, NY 11434

Dear Hon. Mayor Adams and Hon. Council Speaker Adams,

At its regularly scheduled General Board Meeting held in hybrid, on Thursday, May, 16th, 2024, Manhattan Community Board No. 9 passed the following Reso re: **Resolution of Community Board 9 Objecting to the Proposed Budget Cuts to the Emergency Food Funds** by unanimous consent with 34 members present.

Whereas, Community Board 9 (CB9) is committed to supporting and safeguarding the well-being and security of all residents, especially the most vulnerable populations in our community, including children, families, and older adults;

Whereas, the Mayor's administration has proposed a reduction in funding for the Community Food Connection, a vital program that has been crucial in addressing food insecurity among New York City's residents by providing fresh produce and quality food to hundreds of organizations;

Whereas, according to new data shared by the food rescue group City Harvest, visits to food pantries have nearly doubled from pre-pandemic levels, with City Harvest's partner sites experiencing an average increase of 1 million visits a month in 2024 compared to 2019, indicating a continuing high demand for emergency food services;

Whereas, the proposed budget cuts amount to a 56% reduction, slashing the program's funding from approximately \$57 million in the current fiscal year to \$25 million next fiscal year and \$21 million the following year, despite the ongoing and exacerbated needs due to economic challenges and the arrival of new migrants;

Whereas, food providers, including Neighbors Together and other mutual aid groups, rely heavily on the Community Food Connection, with 35% of in-kind food donations sourced from this program, underscoring its role as the backbone of the city's charitable food supply;



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Hon. Eric Adams
Mayor
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Hon. Edward A. Cadan
Police Commissioner
New York City Police Department
One Police Plaza
New York, New York 10007

Dear Hon. Mayor Adams and Hon. Police Commissioner Cadan,

At its regularly scheduled General Board Meeting held in hybrid, on Thursday, May, 16th, 2024, Manhattan Community Board No. 9 passed the following Reso re: **Protect and Respect the Rights of Protesters and Residents in Community Board 9** by a vote of 32 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention with 34 members present.

Whereas, the fundamental right to peaceful assembly and protest is enshrined in the United States Constitution, underscoring the importance of civil liberties in a democratic society;

Whereas, recent events within Community Board 9 have evidenced an undue presence and intervention by the New York Police Department (NYPD), leading to a perception of intimidation and harassment among peaceful protesters;

Whereas, such actions by law enforcement have resulted in restricted access and mobility for residents within the neighborhood, affecting their daily lives and right to occupy public spaces without undue interference;

Whereas, these actions occur in a context where high tensions and potential misunderstandings could escalate into more severe conflicts, reminiscent of historical events where excessive force led to tragic outcomes;



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4. **Advocates**-for the establishment of a community oversight committee that includes diverse stakeholders—such as local residents, community leaders, legal experts, and civil rights advocates—to oversee and review NYPD practices related to protest management.
 5. **Encourages**-the development of training programs for NYPD officers that focus on cultural competency, nonviolent conflict resolution, and civil rights education to better equip them in handling situations involving civil unrest with the utmost respect for democratic values.
 6. **Insists**-on accountability measures for any violations of civil liberties, ensuring that any officer found to be engaging in misconduct during peaceful protests is subject to appropriate disciplinary actions.
 7. **Demands**-that the NYPD refrain from using tactics that effectively place residential areas under siege, thereby preventing residents from entering or exiting their homes freely and without harassment.
 8. **Calls for**-an immediate review of NYPD policies regarding access to private properties and the imposition of arbitrary restrictions on resident movement, ensuring that such practices are not only justified but also transparent and respectful of residents' rights and privacy.
 9. **Seeks**-assurance from the NYPD and city officials that residents of Community Board 9 will not be subjected to unwarranted or non-consensual searches or entries into their homes, and that any such actions in the future will be carried out only with clear legal warrants and communicated appropriately to the affected residents.
 10. **Requests**-the establishment of a hotline or a dedicated communication channel for residents to report real-time concerns and incidents involving NYPD activities in their area, facilitating immediate and effective responses from the authorities.
 11. **Advocates**-for collaboration between NYPD and Community Board 9 in organizing community meetings that address residents' concerns and police conduct in the neighborhood, fostering an environment of mutual respect and understanding.
- Resolved**, that Community Board 9 advocates for an expansion of the current collaboration framework to include the entire NYPD force and all precinct commanders. This expansion will ensure that the community meetings address concerns and police conduct across all affected areas, fostering an environment of mutual respect and understanding;



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May 22nd, 2024

Hon. Dr. James V. McDonald
Commissioner
New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York, 12237

At its regularly scheduled General Board Meeting held in hybrid, on Thursday, May, 16th, 2024, Manhattan Community Board No. 9 passed the following Reso re: **TO PROMOTE THE 988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINES IN UNDERSERVED AREAS** by unanimous consent with 34 members present.

WHEREAS, the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifelines provide crucial, confidential, and free mental health support in more than 200 languages, accessible by call, text, or online chat, as outlined in the provided 998-Brochure;

WHEREAS, mental health plays a key role in overall health, which includes managing stress, developing strong coping skills, and accessing necessary services to support mental well-being;

WHEREAS, the New York City Health Department offers a range of free and low-cost services and information for all New Yorkers, addressing mental health, substance use, alcohol and drug use, and their impact on individuals' lives;

WHEREAS, children and adolescents face unique mental health challenges, necessitating tailored referral, outpatient, inpatient, community support, and crisis and emergency services;

WHEREAS, adults, including essential workers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, require comprehensive mental health services that include crisis intervention, treatment, housing, and support to ease the effects of stress, burnout, and anxiety;

WHEREAS, 988 acts as a critical starting point for New Yorkers to access mental health and substance use support, offering free, confidential crisis counseling and information and referrals regardless of health insurance status;

WHEREAS, behavioral health professionals available through 988 provide linkage to services needed, offering short-term counseling, suicide prevention, and crisis intervention, and are equipped to conduct risk assessments to determine appropriate crisis intervention services;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CB9 calls for comprehensive review and reform of policies regarding police responses to mental health crises, advocating for models that prioritize mental health professionals' involvement over police intervention wherever feasible;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CB9 supports enhanced awareness and accessibility of mental health and substance use services for all demographic groups, including tailored services for children, adolescents, and adults affected by the COVID-19 pandemic;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CB9 urges more funding for additional staffing of professionals and first responders to ensure the mental health services and substance abuse services as needed and espoused in the 988# statement of purpose;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that CB9 will collaborate with city and state officials, as well as local organizations, to monitor the effectiveness of these promotional efforts and to continuously seek improvements based on CB9 community feedback and evolving needs.

If you have any questions and/or further information is needed, please do not hesitate contacting me or District Manager, Eutha Prince, at the board office (212) 864-6200.

Sincerely,

Victor Edwards



Chair

cc: Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor

Hon. Brad Lander, New York City Comptroller

Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President

Hon. Cordell Cleare, New York State Senator

Hon. Daniel J. O'Donnell, Assembly Member

Hon. Inez Dickens, Assembly Member

Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member

Hon. Shaun Abreu, City Council Member

Hon. Yusef Salaam, City Council Member

Mr. Zead Ramadan, Executive Director, West Harlem Development Corporation