

***Resolution: Combatting the Critical Threat of Rechargeable
Battery Fires to Protect Our Community***

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of our community members are of paramount importance and should rechargeable lithium-ion batteries prioritize above all interests;

WHEREAS, there has been a noticeable increase in fires within our community, many of which have been attributed to the improper storage and handling of rechargeable batteries;

WHEREAS, such fires have led to the displacement of numerous families, inflicted injuries, and, tragically, resulted in loss of life, with all such consequences because rechargeable lithium-ion batteries are not federally regulated and there is a need for an establish standards for all such batteries;

WHEREAS, in 2023, the batteries caused 268 fires that killed 18 people and injured 150 others. In frequency of these fires is disproportionately higher in communities of color, notably within Community Board 9, highlighting the lack of such regulation;

WHEREAS, the lack of industry standard for rechargeable lithium-ion batteries used in personal mobility devices, including electric bicycles and electric scooters, to protect against the rise of fires caused by such batteries puts everyone in jeopardy;

WHEREAS, there exists legislation in The United States House of Representatives calling for the establishment of standards to establish promulgated to provide clear guidelines and sufficient authority to prevent the use of unsafe and unregulated rechargeable batteries;

WHEREAS, the rise of battery-operated bikes, predominantly used by delivery workers, has further exacerbated the risks associated with rechargeable batteries, necessitating immediate attention and action;

WHEREAS, there is also an initiative by the New York City Department of Transportation to bring charging stations to the street to so as to prevent fires in apartment buildings and homes;

WHEREAS, community awareness and education on the proper use and storage of rechargeable batteries are crucial in preventing future incidents;

WHEREAS, the collaboration between City officials, community leaders, and stakeholders is essential in developing and implementing effective solutions;

WHEREAS, the adoption of technological and safety innovations should be encouraged to reduce the reliance on potentially hazardous rechargeable batteries;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to provide support and resources to those affected by fires caused by rechargeable batteries, ensuring their swift and compassionate recovery;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the members of Manhattan Community Board 9, call upon the City authorities to take immediate and stronger action to address the issue of rechargeable battery safety;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to relevant City officials, community boards, and stakeholders to galvanize action and support for these crucial measures.

Resolution: Combatting the Critical Threat of Rechargeable Battery Fires to Protect Our Community

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of our community members are of paramount importance and should be prioritized above all interests;

WHEREAS, there has been a noticeable increase in fires within our community, many of which have been attributed to the improper storage and handling of rechargeable batteries;

WHEREAS, such fires have led to the displacement of numerous families, inflicted injuries, and, tragically, resulted in loss of life, with all such consequences being entirely preventable;

WHEREAS, the frequency of these fires is disproportionately higher in communities of color, notably within Community Board 9, highlighting a grave concern for social and environmental justice;

WHEREAS, the lack of strict enforcement and clear guidelines regarding the storage and use of rechargeable batteries in residential buildings has contributed to this pressing issue;

WHEREAS, there exists an urgent need for a dedicated task force equipped with clear guidelines and sufficient authority to prevent the use of unsafe rechargeable batteries in residential settings;

WHEREAS, landlords bear a critical responsibility in ensuring the safety of their properties and must be held accountable for preventing the presence of hazardous rechargeable batteries within their buildings;

WHEREAS, the rise of battery-operated bikes, predominantly used by gig workers, has further exacerbated the risks associated with rechargeable batteries, necessitating immediate attention and action;

WHEREAS, businesses and applications employing gig workers who utilize battery-operated bikes must also assume responsibility for ensuring that their workers comply with safety standards and regulations;

WHEREAS, the establishment of a comprehensive inspection system by the City could significantly mitigate the risks associated with rechargeable batteries and enhance overall community safety;

WHEREAS, community awareness and education on the proper use and storage of rechargeable batteries are crucial in preventing future incidents;

WHEREAS, the collaboration between City officials, community leaders, and stakeholders is essential in developing and implementing effective solutions;

WHEREAS, the adoption of technological and safety innovations should be encouraged to reduce the reliance on potentially hazardous rechargeable batteries;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to provide support and resources to those affected by fires caused by rechargeable batteries, ensuring their swift and compassionate recovery;

WHEREAS, the enforcement of existing regulations and the introduction of stricter guidelines are necessary to address this critical issue effectively;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that we, the members of Manhattan Community Board 9, call upon the City authorities to take immediate and stronger action to address the issue of rechargeable battery safety;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a specialized task force be established to formulate and enforce clear guidelines aimed at preventing the use of unsafe rechargeable batteries in residential buildings and ensuring the compliance of all stakeholders, including landlords and businesses;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City develops and implements an inspection system to oversee and ensure compliance with safety regulations, particularly among gig workers using battery-operated bikes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution supports the United States House of Representatives legislation, H.R. 1797, passed on May 15, 2024 introduced by Congressman Ritchie Torres – “Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act by a 378-34 vote. Introduced in March 2023, the bill would require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a final consumer product safety standard for rechargeable lithium-ion batteries used in micro mobility devices, such as electric scooters and bikes ...”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to relevant City officials, community boards, and stakeholders to galvanize action and support for these crucial measures.

Resolution to Promote the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifelines in Underserved Areas

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;

WHEREAS, peer support available through 988 utilizes trained specialists who use their own experiences with mental illness and behavioral health care to support others, enhancing the effectiveness and empathy of the support provided;

WHEREAS, 988 provides essential services such as short-term counseling to offer immediate support, coping strategies, and techniques for maintaining healthy living while waiting for more long-term care;

WHEREAS, one in five New Yorkers suffers from a mental health problem or substance use disorder, highlighting the critical need for easily accessible mental health and substance use resources like 988;

WHEREAS, Community Board 9 (CB9) encompasses a diverse population that may face barriers to accessing these mental health services, including language barriers, cultural stigmatization, and a lack of awareness about available resources;

WHEREAS, historical and ongoing disparities in mental health service delivery have particularly affected communities of color, making it imperative to ensure that crisis intervention services like 988 are accessible and effectively promoted in these communities;

WHEREAS, law enforcement personnel often lack the specialized training required to appropriately handle mental health crises, which can lead to ineffective or harmful responses during such critical incidents;

WHEREAS, systemic prejudice in communities of color has frequently led to an increased use of force in responding to mental health crises, further highlighting the need for alternatives to police intervention;

WHEREAS, in light of national movements towards more equitable emergency response mechanisms, promoting the use of non-police interventions for mental health crises, such as the 988 Lifelines, is crucial in reducing the potential for detrimental outcomes when law enforcement is involved;

BE IT RESOLVED, that CB9 calls upon New York City and State authorities to increase efforts to promote the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifelines across our district, especially targeting outreach and education efforts in underserved and minority communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CB9 advocates for the inclusion of community-specific marketing strategies, utilizing local media, social services, and community organizations to ensure that information about the 988 Lifelines and other mental health resources reaches all residents, particularly those in underserved areas;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CB9 urges local law enforcement agencies to receive ongoing training on mental health crisis intervention that emphasizes de-escalation techniques and the utilization of non-police resources like the 988 Lifelines to ensure a compassionate and appropriate response;

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 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.

Resolution in Support of the Sickle Cell Disease Detection and Education bill into law (S.1839-A/SANDERS Same as A.2609-A/Hyndman), Promoting Enhanced Measures for Sickle Cell Disease Management

and

Resolution in Support of the Introduction 0968-A/ CM Narcisse to Educate Medical Professionals and the Public on Detection Through Pre- and Post-Conception Genetic Screening, Management and Treatment of Sickle Cell Disease

WHEREAS, Sickle Cell disease, a genetic blood disorder predominantly affecting Black or African-American and Hispanic-American populations, continues to pose significant health challenges, impacting approximately 100,000 Americans; and

WHEREAS, despite its prevalence, Sickle Cell disease has faced diminishing public awareness, leading to misunderstandings and insufficient support, particularly within minority communities; and

WHEREAS, previous legislative efforts, including S1839/A2609 and S1890/A2661, have sought to enhance awareness, testing, treatment, and the establishment of specialized treatment centers across New York State, laying a foundation for further action; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 0771 and Intro 968-A, proposed by the New York City Council, aim to address critical issues surrounding Sickle Cell disease by establishing educational programs, genetic screening initiatives, and comprehensive public outreach campaigns in collaboration with the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Resolution 0771 and Intro 968-A represents a crucial step towards improving outcomes for individuals affected by Sickle Cell disease and demonstrating a commitment to addressing this pressing public health concern;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Manhattan Board District 9 Health and Environment Committee expresses its full support for the passage of Resolution 0771 and Intro 968-A by the New York City Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Manhattan Board District 9 Health and Environment Committee urges the swift passage and enactment of Resolution 0771 and Intro 968-A to address the critical issues surrounding Sickle Cell disease and to improve the health and well-being of all New Yorkers affected by this condition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New York, the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, the Majority Leader of the New York State Senate, and the Mayor of New York City.

2023-S8924 (ACTIVE) - DETAILS

Current Committee:

[Senate Health](#)

Law Section:

Public Health Law

Laws Affected:

Amd §§243 & 206, Pub Health L

2023-S8924 (ACTIVE) - SUMMARY

Requires the health equity council to issue mandates related to the treatment of sickle cell disease; requires the commissioner of health to adhere to and act upon the recommendations and mandates of the health equity council.

2023-S8924 (ACTIVE) - SPONSOR MEMO

BILL NUMBER: S8924

SPONSOR: PARKER

TITLE OF BILL:

An act to amend the public health law, in relation to requiring the health equity council to issue mandates related to the treatment of sickle cell disease

PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL:

This bill requires the health equity council to issue mandates to the commissioner of the health department for the establishment of regional sickle cell centers; the implementation of workforce development in primary and specialty care with a focus on sickle cell disease; and the support of long-term surveillance of sickle cell disease complications, mortality, health services utilization, and cost throughout the lifespan of sickle cell disease patients.

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS:

Section 1 amends paragraph c of subdivision 6 of section 243 of the

- [VIEW MORE \(48 LINES\)](#)

2023-S8924 (ACTIVE) - BILL TEXT [DOWNLOAD PDF](#)

S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

8924

I N S E N A T E

March 28, 2024

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when

printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to requiring the health equity council to issue mandates related to the treatment of sickle cell disease

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Paragraph c of subdivision 6 of section 243 of the public health law, as added by chapter 684 of the laws of 2023, is amended to

read as follows:

c. The council shall consider the feasibility of the following, AND

NOTWITHSTANDING THE FINDINGS, SHALL ISSUE MANDATES TO THE COMMISSIONER

FOR:

(i) the establishment of a statewide public education and outreach

campaign to publicize evidence based sickle cell disease screening,

detection and education services. The campaign shall include: general

community education, outreach to specific underserved populations,

evidence based clinical sickle cell disease screening services, and an

informational summary that shall include an explanation of the impor-

tance of clinical examinations and what to expect during clinical exam-

inations and sickle cell disease screening services;

(ii) the provision of grants to approved organizations;

(iii) the compilation of data concerning sickle cell disease and

dissemination of such data to the public; [and]

(iv) the development of health care professional education programs

including the benefits of early detection of sickle cell disease and

clinical examinations, the recommended frequency of clinical examina-

tions and sickle cell disease screening services, and professionally

recognized best practices guidelines;

(V) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL SICKLE CELL CENTERS TO PROVIDE TEAM-

BASED, INTEGRATED CARE INCLUDING PAIN MANAGEMENT, MENTAL HEALTH, TRAIT

TESTING, AND GENETIC COUNSELING;

(VI) THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN PRIMARY AND

SPECIALTY CARE WITH A FOCUS ON SICKLE CELL DISEASE; AND

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets] is old law to be omitted.

(VII) THE SUPPORT OF LONG-TERM SURVEILLANCE OF SICKLE CELL DISEASE COMPLICATIONS, MORTALITY, HEALTH SERVICES UTILIZATION, AND COST THROUGH-
OUT THE LIFESPAN OF SICKLE CELL DISEASE PATIENTS TO UNDERSTAND WHICH POPULATIONS ARE MOST VULNERABLE AND IDENTIFY EMERGING TRENDS FOR ACTION.

§ 2. Subdivision 1 of section 206 of the public health law is amended

by adding a new paragraph (w) to read as follows:

(W) CONSIDER, ADHERE TO, AND ACT UPON ALL ADVICE, RECOMMENDATIONS AND MANDATES PROVIDED BY THE HEALTH EQUITY COUNCIL PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION SIX OF SECTION TWO HUNDRED FORTY-THREE OF THIS CHAPTER.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

New York City Council Votes on Legislation to Confront Historic Racial Disparities in Treatment of Sickle Cell Disease, and Require that Chain Restaurants Post Added Sugar Levels on Menus

November 2, 2023

The Council also voted to educate and inform immigrant New Yorkers of their workplace rights

City Hall, NY – Today, the New York City Council voted to require the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with New York City Health and Hospitals, to create guidance to educate medical professionals and the public on the detection of the sickle cell trait through pre- and post-conception genetic screening and on the management and treatment of sickle cell disease. Screening for the disease helps those affected make informed decisions about their and their children’s health. Sickle cell disease affects approximately 100,000 people in the U.S. and is most common in people of African descent. Racial disparities in medical treatment and access to health care, along with a lack of investments into medical research, have exacerbated the negative impacts of the disease on individuals diagnosed and their families.

The council also voted on legislation that would require chain restaurants with 15 or more locations to post added sugar icons and factual warning statements on menus or menu boards next to menu items and on or near food items on display that exceed a specified level of added sugars. Eating or drinking too much sugar has several negative health implications, including elevated risk of Type 2 Diabetes, liver disease, and dental issues. This new legislation builds on the [“Sweet Truth Act,”](#) passed by the Council in 2021 that requires the same labels indicating added sugars above a certain level on all packaged foods at this subset of restaurants.

Additionally, The Council also voted to require the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP), in coordination with the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA), the New York City Commission on Human Rights, and community and labor organizations, to create and publish a workers’ bill of rights which would contain information on the rights and protections under federal, state, and local laws that apply to all workers in the City, regardless of immigration status.

“Today, the Council passed critical legislation to confront the racial disparities in the treatment of Sickle Cell Disease, which has for too long disproportionately devastated Black communities,” **said Speaker Adrienne Adams.** “By educating and guiding medical professionals and the public on how to detect the sickle cell trait, we are making necessary investments into life-saving preventative care. Together, with the passage of the Council’s bill to require chain restaurants to share added sugar levels in food, we can help New Yorkers make informed decisions that prioritize their health. The Council is also proud to enact legislation to publish an Immigrant Workers Bill of Rights and mandate outreach on resources available to employees, which will help our immigrant New Yorkers take advantage of public resources. I

thank my colleagues for their leadership in advancing New Yorkers' health and well-being and look forward to our continued work to empower our communities.”

Improving Health Outcomes for those Affected by Sickle Cell Disease

Introduction 0968-A, sponsored by **Council Member Mercedes Narcisse**, would require the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with New York City Health and Hospitals, to create guidance to educate medical professionals and the public on the detection of the sickle cell trait through pre- and post-conception genetic screening and on the management and treatment of sickle cell disease. Guidance for medical professionals is required to include education on the benefits of recommending screenings during the family planning process and on nondiscriminatory approaches to assess patient pain, including instruction on implicit bias in the provision of pain management. The bill would also require that pre- and post- conception genetic screening for sickle cell trait be offered to those who fall into an at-risk population or for whom such screening is otherwise medically recommended. Sickle cell disease affects approximately 100,000 people in the U.S. and is most common in people of African descent. Due to racial disparities in medical treatment and access to healthcare, the impact of this disease on individuals diagnosed and their families has remained a major issue of structural racism. Screening for the disease helps those affected make informed decisions about their and their children's health.

“Sickle cell disease affects thousands of New Yorkers, and Int. 968B represents our commitment to ensuring that every individual has access to the best possible care,” said **Council Member Mercedes Narcisse**. “By providing our medical professionals with the tools and education they need, and by raising awareness in our communities about the importance of early detection, we are forging a path towards better health outcomes. Every New Yorker, regardless of their background, deserves unbiased and informed medical care, and passage of this bill is a significant step towards that goal.”

Governor Hochul Signs Sanders' Sickle Cell Bill.

OLALEKAN OMODUNBI

December 13, 2023

ISSUE:

- [SICKLE CELL](#)



Governor Kathy Hochul Signs Senator James Sanders Jr.'s Sickle Cell Disease Detection and Education Bill into Law

Queens, New York - December 13th, 2023 - New York Governor Kathy Hochul signed the Sickle Cell Disease Detection and Education bill into law (S.1839-A/SANDERS Same as A.2609-A/Hyndman).

This new law requires the Minority Health Council, within the Office of Health Equity of the New York State Department of Health, to consider and advise the NYS Commissioner of Health on sickle cell disease. This includes

the promotion of screening and detection of sickle cell disease, especially among underserved populations, educating the public on sickle cell, and providing counseling services. The Council is also tasked with considering the feasibility of establishing a statewide public education and outreach campaign, the provision of grants to approved organizations, and a healthcare professional education program.

The new law also provides additional requirements for the sickle cell health care and wellness education and outreach program by requiring the NYS Department of Health to consult with patients with sickle cell disease in the production of information.

Senator James Sanders Jr. said, "While there is no cure for sickle cell disease, early detection and education are essential to improving the lives of those affected by this devastating condition. This bill will help to ensure that all Americans, regardless of their race or ethnicity, have access to the information and resources they need to make informed decisions about their health."

Sickle Cell Awareness Foundation Corp International applauds Governor Kathy Hochul for signing Senator Sanders and Assemblywoman Hyndman bill requiring the Health Equity Council to advise the New York State Health Commissioner regarding Sickle Cell disease. "Education and screening for Sickle Cell disease in underserved communities is necessary to protect those

communities,” stated Merlene Smith-Sotillo, President of Sickle Cell Awareness Foundation Corp International, “this law will go a long way to assist the Department of Health’s understanding of Sickle Cell and better its efforts to promote awareness in those underserved communities.”

About 1 in 13 Black or African American babies are born with the sickle cell trait, and about 1 in 365 Black or African American babies are born with sickle cell disease. There are also many people who come from Hispanic, Southern European, Middle Eastern, or Asian Indian backgrounds that have the disease. A sickle cell disease detection and education program is crucial to protecting parents and children who are carriers of the trait. Hospitals only began screening for the gene in 2006, that means that there are generations of people who are not aware that they are carriers and could pass it on to their children. Education and screening to underserved populations is necessary to protect future generations of children in the United States.

Resolution to Protect and Respect the Rights of Protesters in Community Board 9

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;

Whereas, the leadership of New York City, including Mayor Adams and Police Commissioner Caban, have been called upon by concerned citizens to moderate the approach taken towards peaceful assemblies, to prevent unnecessary escalation and to foster a climate of dialogue and understanding;

Be it resolved, that Community Board 9 hereby:

1. **Calls upon** the Mayor's Office and the NYPD to ensure that their tactics and strategies respect the rights of individuals to peacefully assemble and express their grievances without fear of intimidation or excessive force.
2. **Urges** the NYPD to adopt de-escalation techniques and engage in open and constructive dialogue with community leaders and protesters to address concerns and grievances in a manner that promotes peace and trust.
3. **Requests** immediate and ongoing transparency in the NYPD's operational plans during protests, ensuring that community members are informed and aware of law enforcement activities that may affect them.
4. **Advocates** for the establishment of a community oversight committee at CB9 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. **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.

Be it further resolved, that this resolution be forwarded to the Mayor's Office, the Office of the Police Commissioner, and other relevant governmental bodies to express the concerns of

Community Board 9 and its commitment to upholding the rights of all citizens to peaceful protest and assembly.

This resolution is intended to assert the community's stance on peaceful protests and call for accountability and respect from law enforcement and city leaders. It encourages constructive dialogue and effective, humane strategies in managing public assemblies.

Resolution of Community Board 9 Objecting to the Proposed Budget Cuts to the Emergency Food Funds

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;

Whereas, the proposed cuts would severely impact the most vulnerable members of CB9 and the wider city, including seniors, children, and low-income families who already face significant challenges such as high rates of unemployment and limited access to nutritious food;

Whereas, the ongoing inflation has significantly increased the cost of food, placing additional strain on the budgets of many residents who are forced to make difficult choices between meeting basic nutritional needs and other critical expenses such as paying for housing and utilities;

Resolved, that Community Board 9 hereby expresses its strong opposition to the proposed budget cuts to the Community Food Connection program and urges Mayor Eric Adams and the New York City Council to maintain, if not increase, the funding for emergency food services to ensure no New Yorker is left hungry;

Resolved, that Community Board 9 calls on the city to consider the dire economic realities faced by its residents and to ensure that emergency food programs are fully equipped to help those who are most at risk of food insecurity due to inflation and rising living costs;

Resolved, that this resolution be sent to Mayor Eric Adams, the members of the New York City Council, and other relevant stakeholders to reflect the urgent plea of our community for sustained support in these challenging times.