

**Alida Camp**  
**Chair**

**Will Brightbill**  
**District Manager**



**The City of New York**  
**Community Board 8 Manhattan**

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September 20, 2019

Honorable Corey Jonson  
New York City Council Speaker  
City Hall Office  
New York, New York 10007

**RE: NYC Council Resolution No. 396 to endorse state enactment of the "Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act."**

Dear Speaker Johnson,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on September 18, 2019, the board **approved** the following resolution by a vote of 32 in favor, 7 opposed, 2 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

**Whereas**, according to the United States Department of Health and Human Services(HHS), the inadequacy of nurse and other direct care staffing levels leads to poor patient outcomes; and

**Whereas**, research funded by the federal Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ) has found that hospitals with lower nurse staffing levels have higher rates of pneumonia, shock, cardiac arrests, urinary tract infections and upper gastrointestinal bleeds leading to higher costs and mortality from hospital acquired complications; and

**Whereas**, the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) published research that estimated five additional deaths per one thousand patients occurred in hospitals that routinely staff with a 1:8 nurse to patient ratio compared to those staffing with a 1:4 nurse to patient ratio and that the odds of patient death increased by 7% for each additional patient the nurse must care for at one time; and

**Whereas**, in 2004 California passed a measure which required hospitals to institute minimum nurse to patient ratios where studies have shown that nurses in California have reported improved patient care outcomes and lower workplace injury rates; and

**Whereas**, the Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act would require all acute care hospitals and nursing homes in New York State with specific minimum nurse-to-patient ratios and staffing requirements, submit a facility staffing plan to the State Department of Health, and require public disclosure of actual hospitals and nursing home staffing levels; and

**Whereas**, ensuring adequate nursing coverage for all patients is an important public health goal that will improve the quality of care in acute hospitals and nursing homes; now,

**Therefore Be it Resolved**, that Community Board 8 of Manhattan calls upon the legislature to pass and the governor to enact the "Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act," to ensure that acute care facilities and nursing homes meet appropriate minimum staffing ratios for nurses and direct care staff, and

**Be it Further Resolved**, Community Board 8 of Manhattan commits to pursuing the implementation of minimum safe staffing ratios and standards in the NYC Health & Hospitals system and in all other acute care hospitals and nursing homes that receive funding from or contract to provide patient care services for the City of New York.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Alida Camp  
Chair

  
Barbara Rudder and Lori Bores  
Co-Chairs, Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee

cc: Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York  
Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Representative  
Honorable Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District  
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District  
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Honorable Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5<sup>th</sup> Council District  
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4<sup>th</sup> Council District