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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee
Monday, September 16, 2019 - 6:30 PM
Marymount Manhattan College
221 East 71st Street (Between 2nd and 3rd Avenue)**

Resolutions for Approval:

Item 1: Non-Unanimous

Item 2: Unanimous

Minutes

Board Members Present: Lori A Bores, Barbara Rudder, Peggy Price, Rebecca Dangoor

Item 1

Julia Camagong and Nurse Robin Krinsky presented the NYC Council Resolution No. 396 to endorse state enactment of the “Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act.”

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

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.

VOTE: 3 in favor, 1 against 3-2-0 (Yes: Bores, Dangoor, Rudder; No: Price)

Item 2

NYC Councilman Mark Levine presented NYC Council Intro. 1345, which bans all flavored e-cigarettes except tobacco.

The Committee voted to support this bill, using language similar to a resolution passed by Community Board 1 Manhattan on April 23, 2019 supporting this legislation.

Whereas, The New York City Council have before them, a proposed bill, Int. No. 1362, sponsored by New York City Council members Mark Levine, Andrew Cohen, Keith Powers, Brad S. Lander, Helen K. Rosenthal, Carlina Rivera, Diana Ayala, Margaret S. Chin, Fernando Cabrera, Vanessa L. Gibson, Antonio Reynoso, Robert E. Cornegy, Jr., and Andy L. King titled “Prohibiting the sale of flavored electronic cigarettes”; and

Whereas, the purpose of this bill is to “[this bill would] ban the sale of flavored electronic cigarettes, and creates an assumption that any retail dealer in possession of four or more flavored electronic cigarettes intends to sell or offer for sale flavored electronic cigarettes”; and

Whereas, the community board supports this bill to address the epidemic levels of teen vaping in New York City schools; and

Whereas, the community board supports this bill to shift some of the enforcement burden from New York City Schools to e-cigarette retail dealers; and

Whereas, current enforcement and mitigating strategies to reduce teen vaping in schools, such as reinstating hall passes, creating and maintaining bathroom logs, and alleged “bathroom raids” have created a disruptive learning environment and in one alleged case, led to a student soiling themselves in the classroom and filing a lawsuit against the school; and

Whereas, the community board requests additional resources to be set aside for the increased enforcement of e-cigarette sales; now

Therefore Be it Resolved, that Community Board 8 Manhattan supports New York City Council bill Int. No. 1362 and urges the Committee on Health to vote in favor of this bill; and

Be it further Resolved, that Community Board 8 Manhattan urges the New York City Council to pass this bill into law.

VOTE: 4 in favor 4-0-0 (Yes: Bores, Dangoor, Price, Rudder)

Barbara Rudder and Lori Bores, Co-Chairs