

Alida Camp
Chair

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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan

February 20, 2020

Corey Johnson
New York City Council Speaker
New York City Councilmember, The New York City Council
250 Broadway
New York, New York 10007

RE: Opposition to City Council Intro #1116

Dear Speaker Johnson,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on February 19, 2020, the board **approved** the following resolution by a vote of 32 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

Whereas: City Council Intro # 1116 must comply with the standards, rules and regulations that will be required of all local legislative bodies as set forth in State Bill 6817; and

Whereas: City Intro #1116 seeks to issue a new "supervisory license" and allow supervisory licensees to vend food from any vehicle or pushcart that has a decal; and

Whereas: beginning on June 1, 2020, Department of Mental Health and Hygiene (DOMHM) will issue up to 445 new supervisory licenses per year for ten years; and

Whereas: only 45 licenses would be issued annually to veterans; and

Whereas: the Advisory Board would be in charge of deciding whether or not this number of licenses should be decreased or increased, leading to the possibility that this bill could ultimately eliminate the cap on the number of street vendors; and

Whereas: there will be no environmental impact study prior to passing bills or making decisions that increase or eliminate the number of street vendors; and

Whereas: there will be no location restrictions on street vending except if the location is directly related to objective health, safety or welfare concerns; and

Whereas: roaming street vendors will not be prohibited from selling food or merchandise in a park owned or operated by the city; and

Whereas: there are no location assignments for street vending; and

Whereas: the tracking devices to be placed on all vending carts when the license comes up for renewal, will not be used to track vendor locations; and

Whereas: no tracking system has been put in place to track vendors' compliance with commissary use; and

Whereas: the bill calls for an Advisory Board that consists of Commissioners from Department of Consumer Affairs, Department of Mental Health and Hygiene, Small Business Services, Department of Transportation, and New York Police Department, and five appointees from the Speaker, only one of which would be a representative of a community group; and

Whereas: food vendors will now be permitted to sell “healthy” food and drink in addition to what they now sell; and

Whereas: “healthy” is too broad a term and will lead to a large product base that will essentially create a grocery on the street; and

Whereas: the requested vendor enforcement agents will only operate in the pilot zone; and

Whereas: the bill has no dedicated funding stream for enforcement; and

Whereas: there is no agency assigned jurisdiction; and

Whereas: this bill is sorely lacking in offering remedies for the quality of life concerns of the community; and

Whereas: this bill is contradictory to Community Board’s passed resolutions;

Therefore be It Resolved that Community Board 8 is strongly opposed to the passing of City Council Intro #1116 as it is currently written; and

Further Be It Resolved that Community Board 8 strongly requests that city lawmakers seek input from residential and business communities for improvements and revisions to this bill that would take all stakeholders in to consideration.

Sincerely,


Alida Camp
Chair


Michele Birnbaum and Marco Tamayo
Co-Chairs, Vendors Committee

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