

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

February 18, 2021

Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Senate Majority Leader
188 State Street Room 907, LOB
Albany, NY 11247

Honorable Carl Heastie
Speaker of the Assembly
LOB 932
Albany, NY 12248

Howard A. Zucker
Commissioner of Health, New York State
Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

RE: Support for S614B/A1052B

Dear Governor Cuomo, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, Speaker Heastie, and Commissioner Zucker,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on February 17, 2021, the board **APPROVED** the following resolution by a vote of # in favor, # opposed, # abstention, and # not voting for cause.

WHEREAS, New York State Department of Health (“DOH”) rules do not allow for in-person visitation at a nursing home in New York State within 14 days of anyone at the nursing home —resident or staff— having Covid-19 or testing positive for Covid-19; and

WHEREAS, in-person visitation is essential to the health, happiness, and well-being of nursing home residents, including the residents of Coler; and

WHEREAS, phone and video calls and window visitation cannot fully substitute for in-person visitation; and

WHEREAS, in-person visitation was suspended for residents of NYC Health + Hospitals/Coler (“Coler”) shortly after the Covid-19 lockdown began in March 2020; and

WHEREAS, in-person visitation has yet to resume at Coler; and

WHEREAS, in-person visitation is not scheduled to resume until February 27 and may be postponed even further; and

WHEREAS, if in-person visitation does resume at Coler, it would be suspended again in the event of a positive Covid-19 test or new Covid-19 case at Coler; and

WHEREAS, S614B/A1052B, a bill currently pending in the New York State Legislature, would authorize DOH to develop regulations to allow for in-person visitation by designated visitors for nursing home residents so that a nursing home would no longer need to be entirely Covid-free for fourteen days before in-person visitation can resume; and

WHEREAS, residents of Coler and the Coler Task Force have asked Community Board 8 Manhattan (“CB8M”) to support the passage of S614B/A1052B and the enactment of rules that will allow for the resumption of in-person visitation at nursing homes in New York;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that CB8M supports the passage and signing of S614B/A1052B; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CB8M calls for DOH to enact regulations to allow for in-person visitation consistent with S614B/A1052B.

Sincerely,

Russell Squire

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Chair

cc: Mitchell Katz, President & CEO, NYC Health + Hospitals
Robert Hughes, CEO, NYC Health + Hospitals/Coler
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 José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Robert J. Rodriguez, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District
Honorable Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District