

Community Board 8 Manhattan

Resolution Project 2012-2018

Michele Birnbaum of Community Board 8 suggested this project and supervised the initiative with the approval of the then Board Chair Alida Camp.

Intern and Consultant, Peter Jovishoff was the head researcher, compiler of data, and creator of this presentation in collaboration.

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Thanks to Will Brightbill, District Manager of CB8, for his input.

Purpose of the Project

- The mission for this project was to determine what percentage and which of CB8M resolutions, or any part thereof, have been incorporated into any city action.
- Community Board 8 has many Committees which devote time to dealing with the concerns that face residents and businesses within the district. Some of these are: the Landmarks Committee, Transportation Committee, Parks Committee, Street Life Committee, Street Fairs Committee, and Vendor Committee to name a few.
- When the Committee passes a resolution, it goes to the Full Board for a vote, and that vote is sent to the elected official or agency that could implement the suggestion or incorporate it into legislation.

How Data Collection Was Done

- Many interns contributed to the gathering of data over the course of three years. Interns from Hunter College, some of whom worked on the project for as little as one semester and as much as three semesters, performed data collection.
- The research was conducted by using the Community Board 8 office archives and by compiling information gathered from email correspondence and phone calls to individual City agencies and research on the NYC Open Data portal.
- Because we had to depend on city agencies, their representatives and/or their websites in order to gather the information on how they adjudicated resolutions, and because these resources were either unavailable, unresponsive, or lacking in information, there might be some discrepancies in the raw numbers of this presentation, but that does not discredit the trends indicated.

How the Data is Presented

- The agencies' actions and the number of resolutions are represented in bar graphs by committee.
- Explanation of the bars in the slides to follow are in this format:
 - (**Green** = Agency Concurred, **Red** = Agency did not Concur, **Yellow** = No agency response or No agency consideration)
 - On the graphs where there is no data, either there was no resolution, or the agency never responded, or the committee had not been formed.
- All final counts and percentages are based on a total number of decisions over a 6-year span.
- Backup and additional data that was collected but not represented in the graphs, so as not to interfere with clarity and simplicity, will be available at the board office.

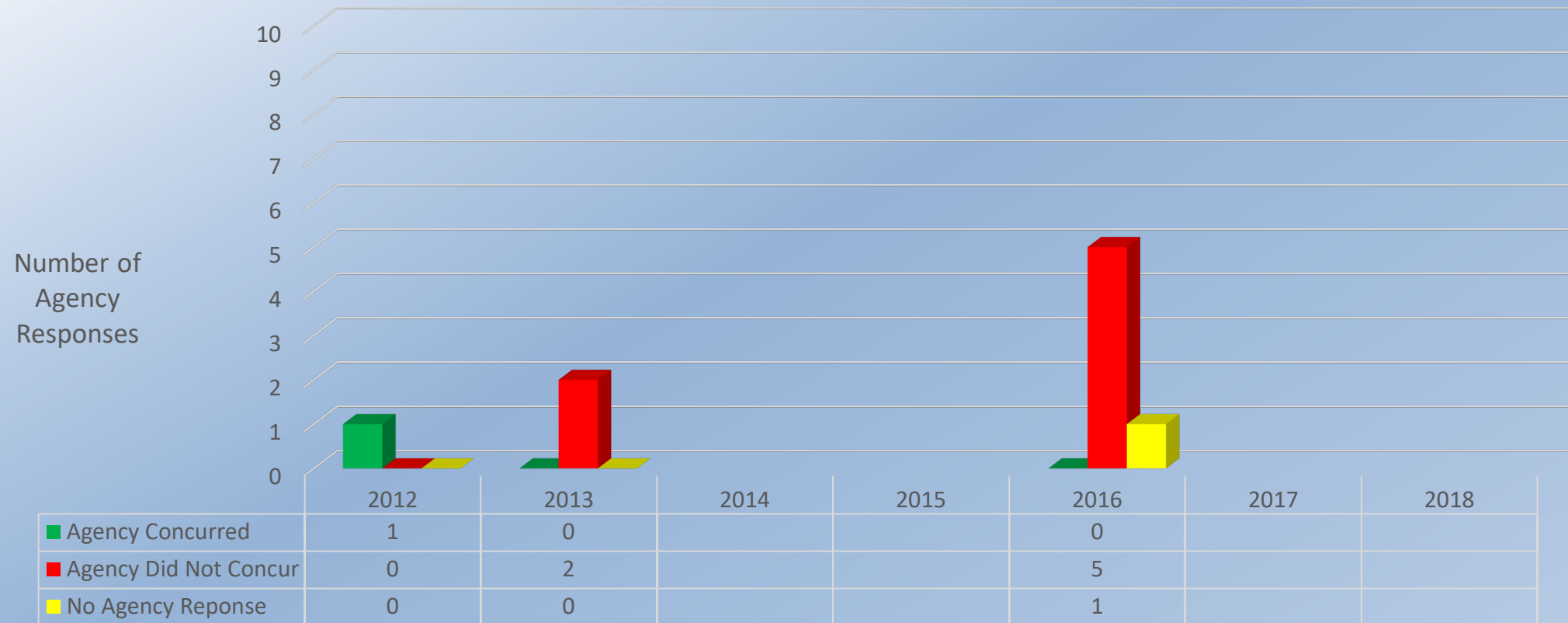
List of Committees

- Budget Committee *
- Communications Committee *
- Environment and Sanitation Committee
- Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee
- Housing Committee
- Landmarks Committee
- Land Use Committee
- Parks and Waterfront Committee
- Public Safety Committee*
- Roosevelt Island Committee
- Rules & By-Laws Committee *
- Small Business Committee
- Street Fairs Committee
- Street Life Committee
- Technology Committee *
- Transportation Committee
- Vendor Committee
- Veterans Committee*
- Voting Reform Taskforce*
- Youth, Education and Libraries Committee
- Zoning and Development Committee

* Results do not lend themselves to representation in graphs

Environment and Sanitation Committee

Total Community Board Approvals - 9
Total Community Board Disapprovals - 0



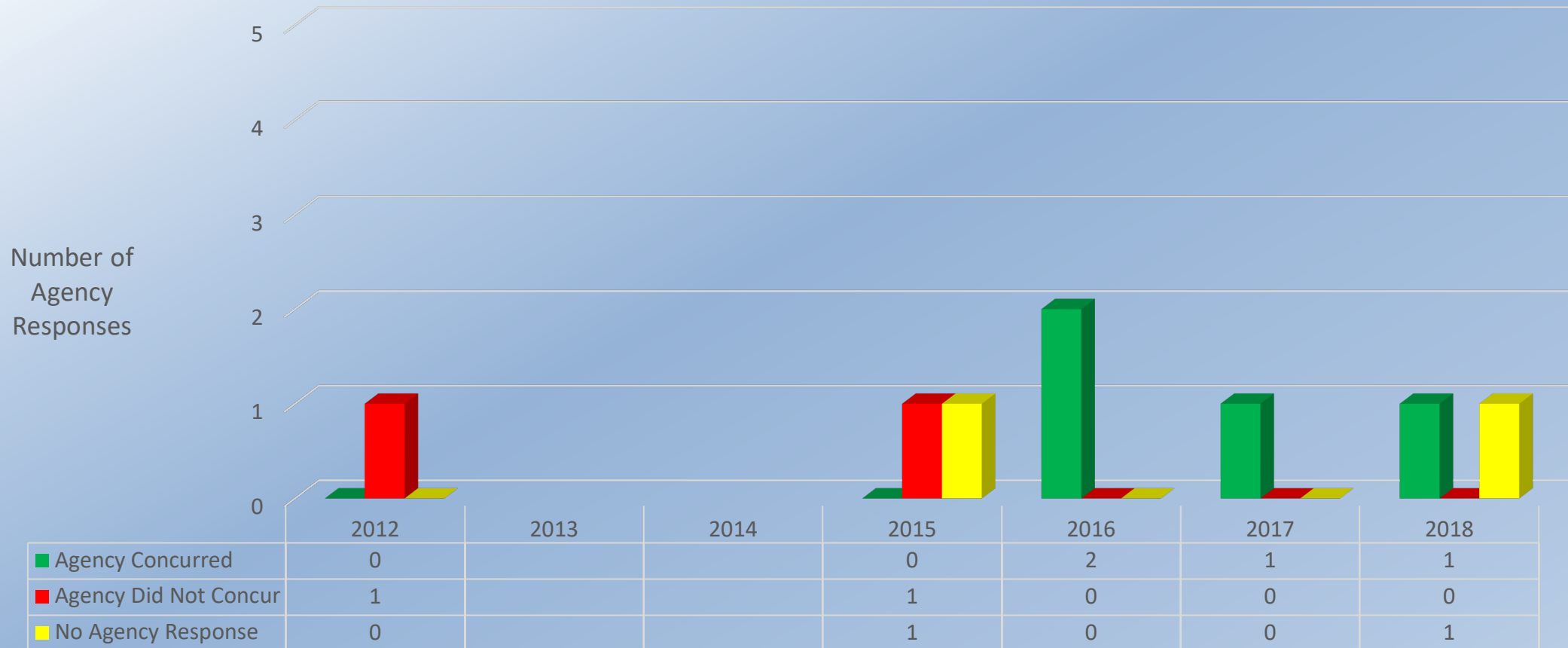
The agencies agreed with our decisions 1 time out of the 9 presented to them.

The Community Board's decision was supported **11.1%** of the time.

Health, Seniors and Social Services Committee

Total Community Board Approvals - 8

Total Community Board Disapprovals - 0



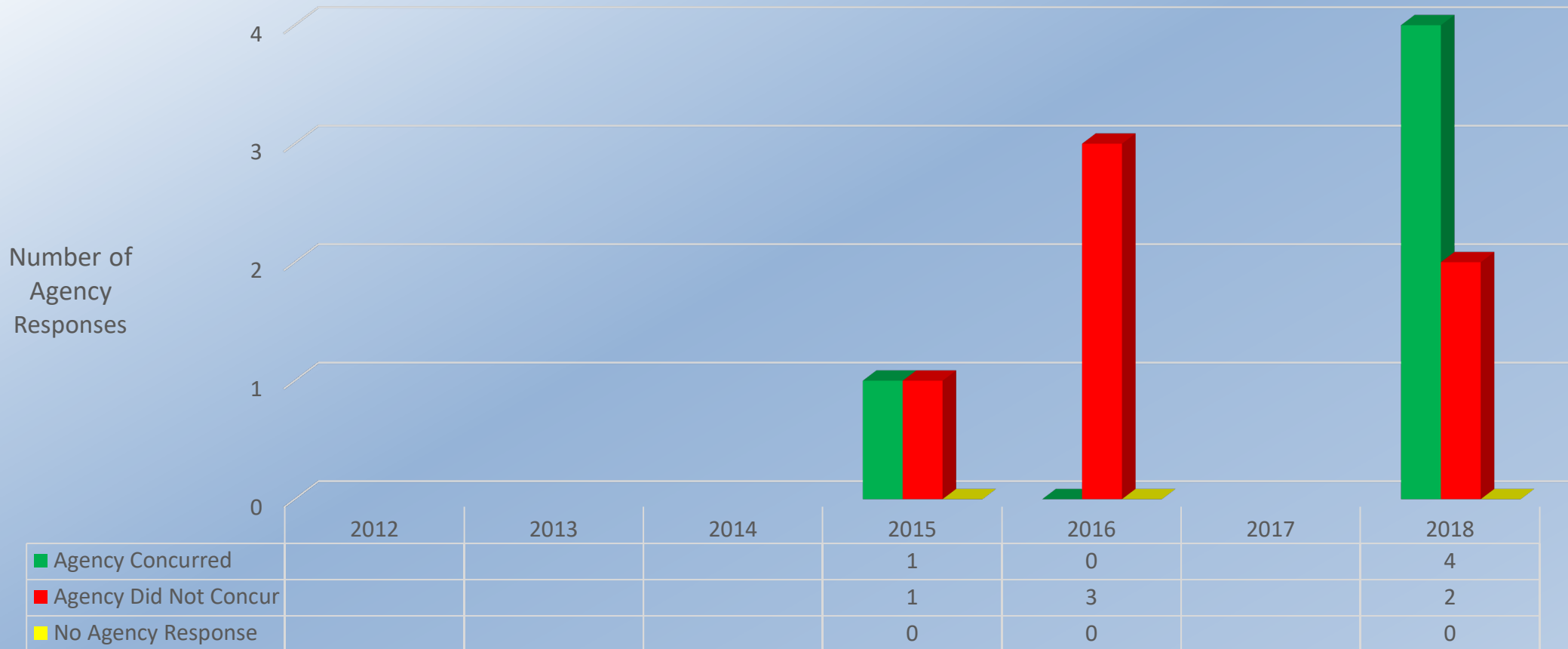
The agencies agreed with our decisions 4 times out of the 8 presented to them.

The Community Board's decision was supported **50%** of the time.

Housing Committee

Total Community Board Approvals - 7

Total Community Board Disapprovals - 4

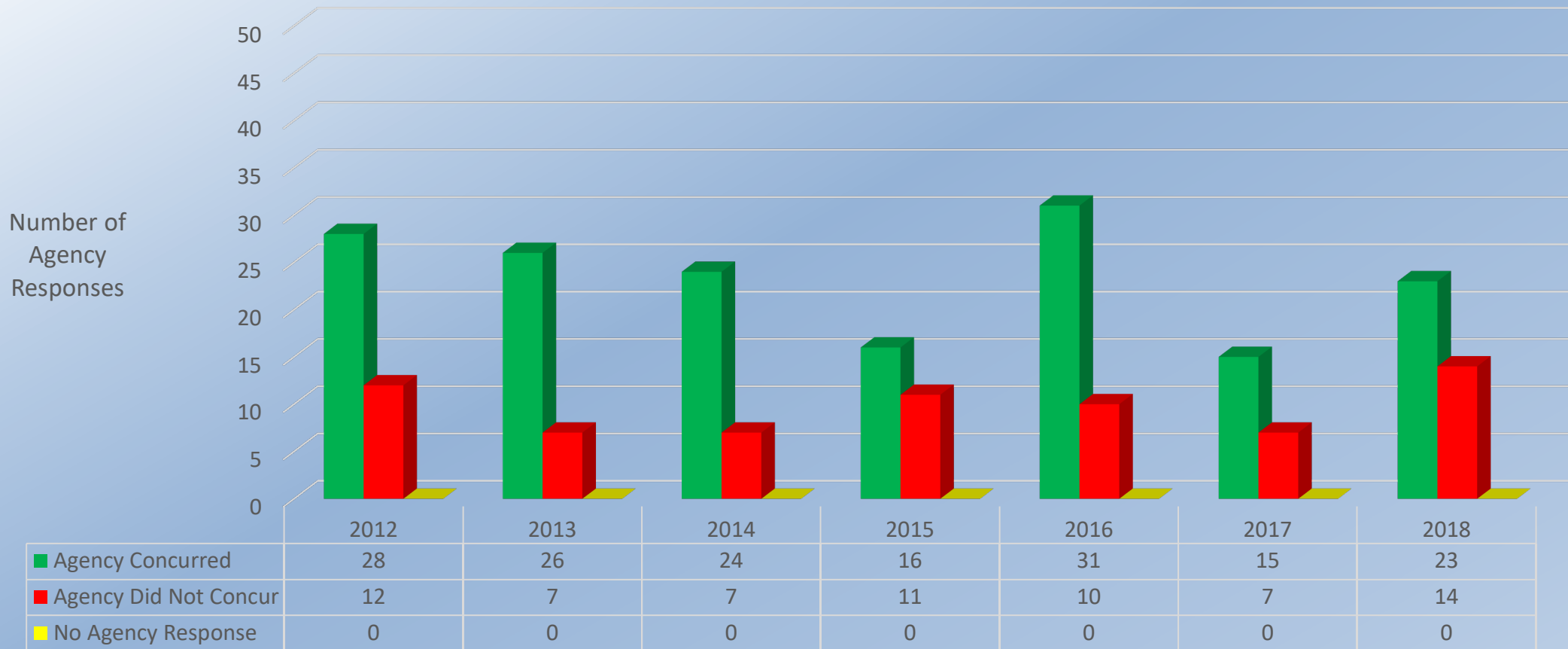


The agencies agreed with our decisions 5 times out of the 11 presented to them.

The Community Board's decision was supported **45.4%** of the time.

Landmarks Committee

Total Community Board Approvals - 163
Total Community Board Disapprovals - 68

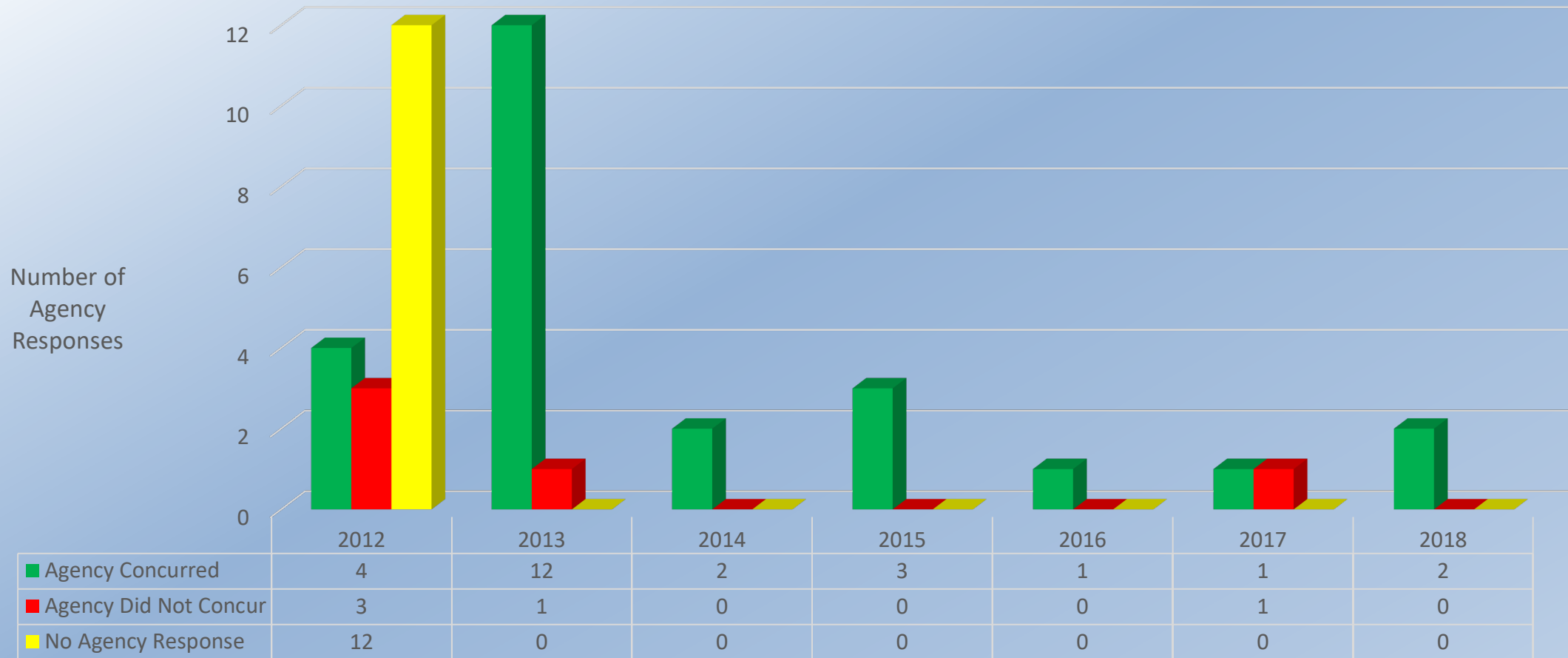


The agencies agreed with our decisions 163 times out of the 231 presented to them.

The agency supported the Community Board's decision **70.56%** of the time.

Land Use Committee

Total Community Board Approvals - 34
 Total Community Board Disapprovals - 8

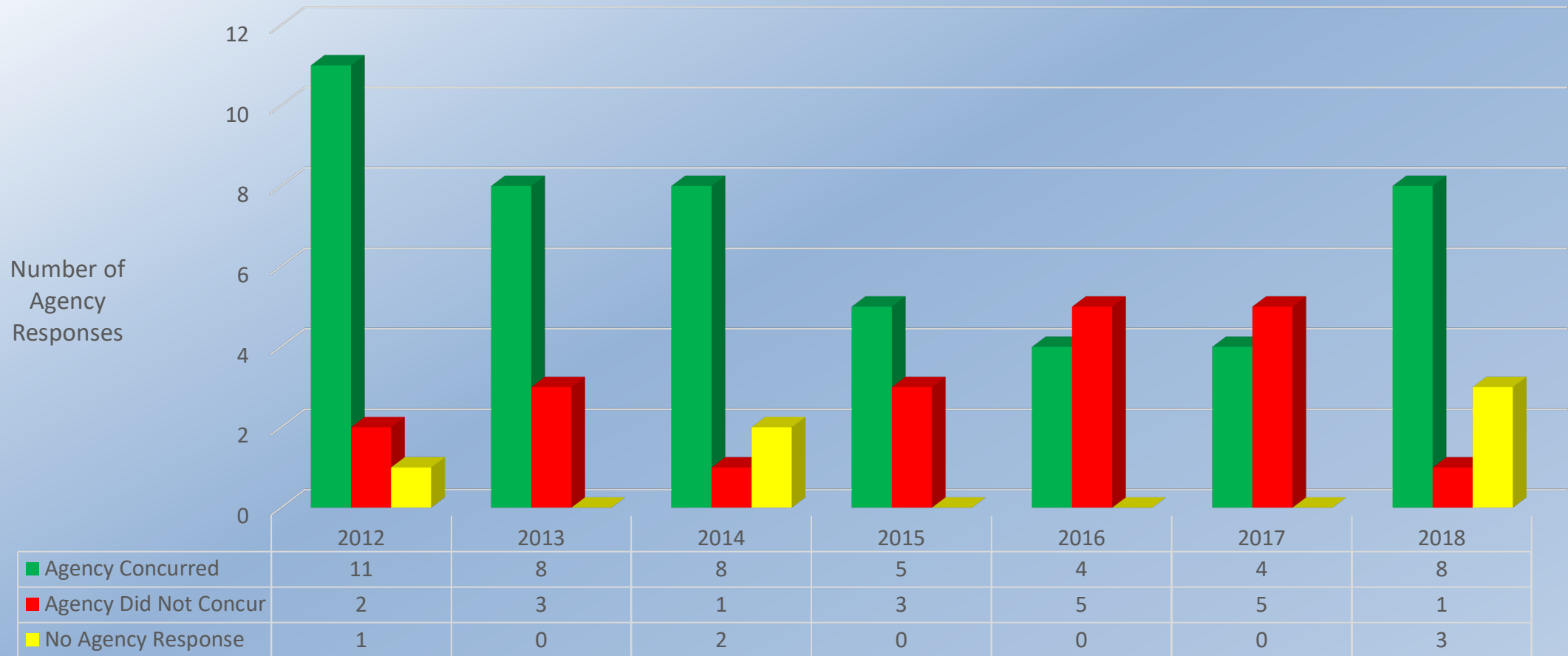


The agencies agreed with our decisions 25 times out of the 42 presented to them.

The agency supported the Community Board's decision **59.5%** of the time.

Parks and Waterfront Committee

Total Community Board Approvals - 74
Total Community Board Disapprovals - 0

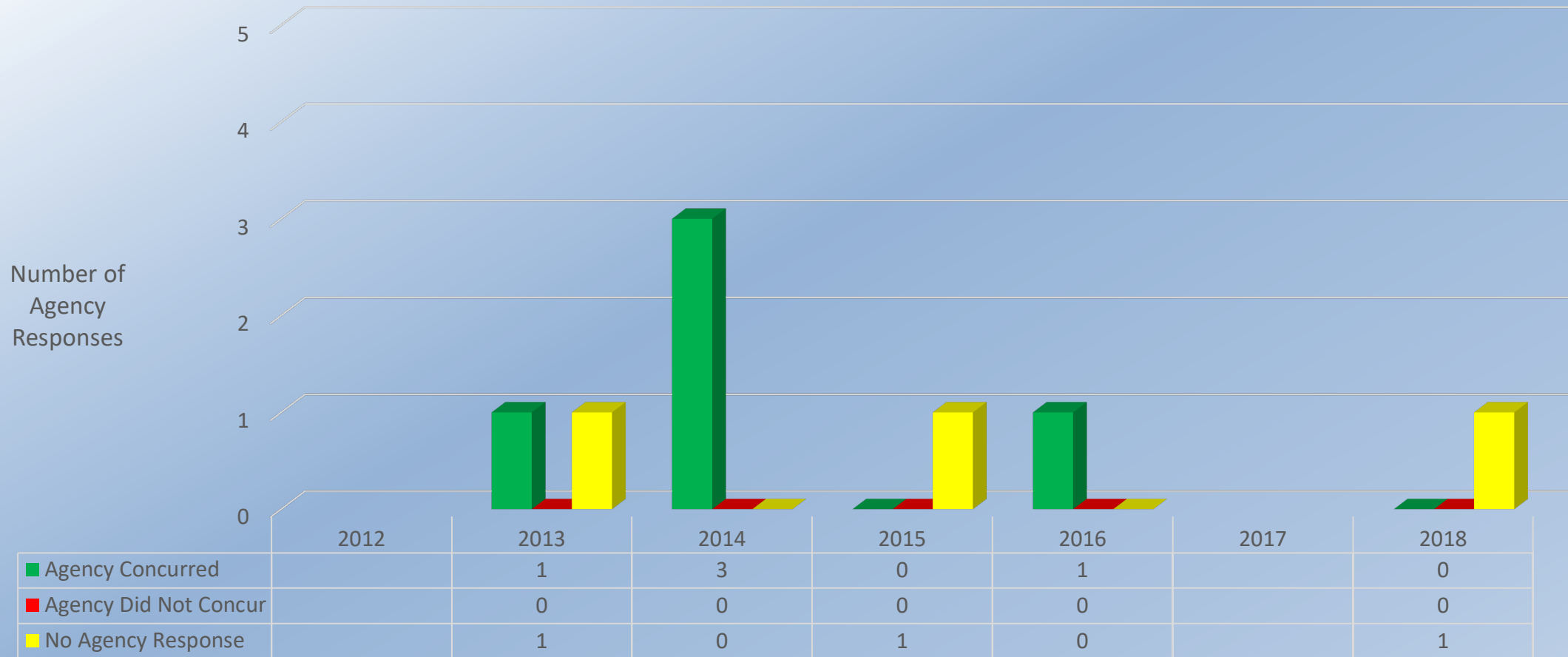


The agencies agreed with our decisions 48 times out of the 74 presented to them.

The agency supported the Community Board's decision **64.8%** of the time.

Roosevelt Island Committee

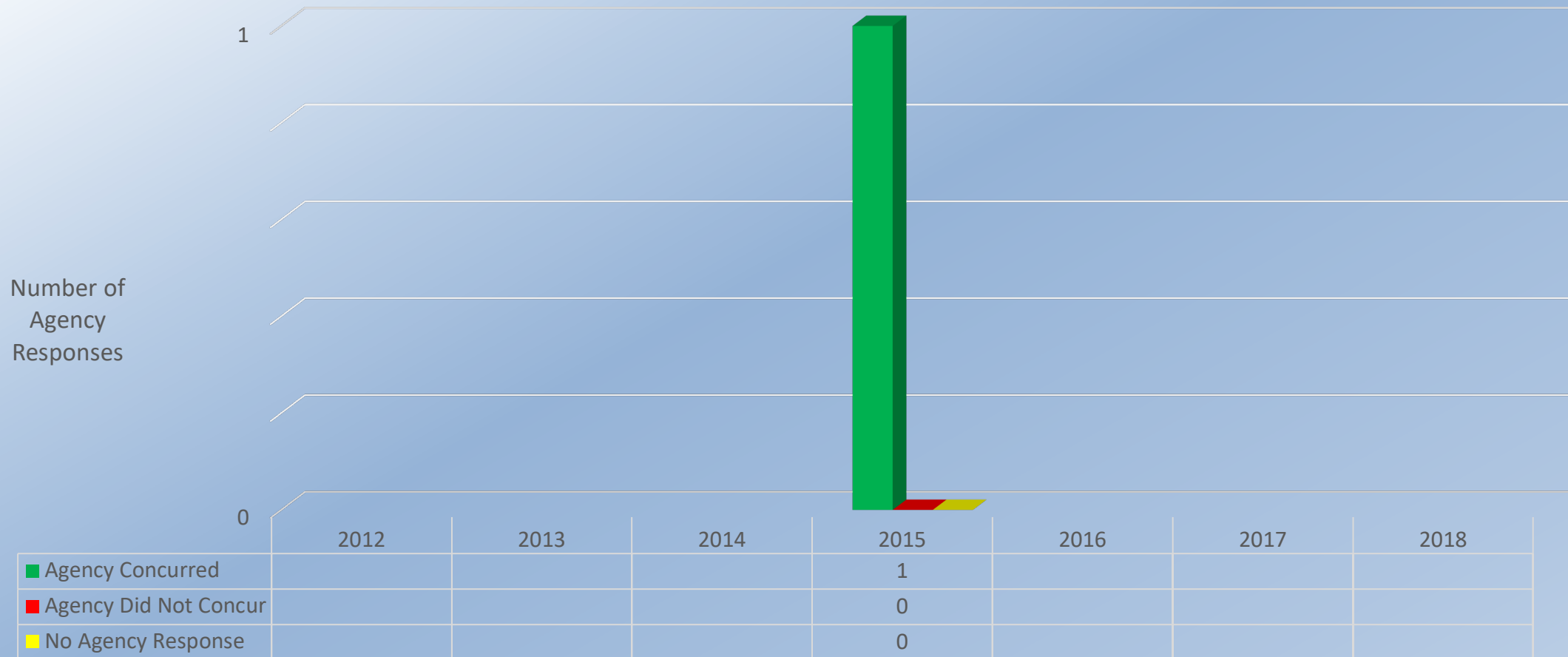
Total Community Board Approvals - 8
 Total Community Board Disapprovals - 0



The agencies agreed with our decisions 5 times out of the 8 presented to them.
 The agency supported the Community Board’s decision **62.5%** of the time.

Small Business Committee

Total Community Board Approvals - 1
Total Community Board Disapprovals - 0



The agency agreed with the decision sent to them.

The agency supported the Community Board's decision **100%** of the time.

Street Fairs Committee

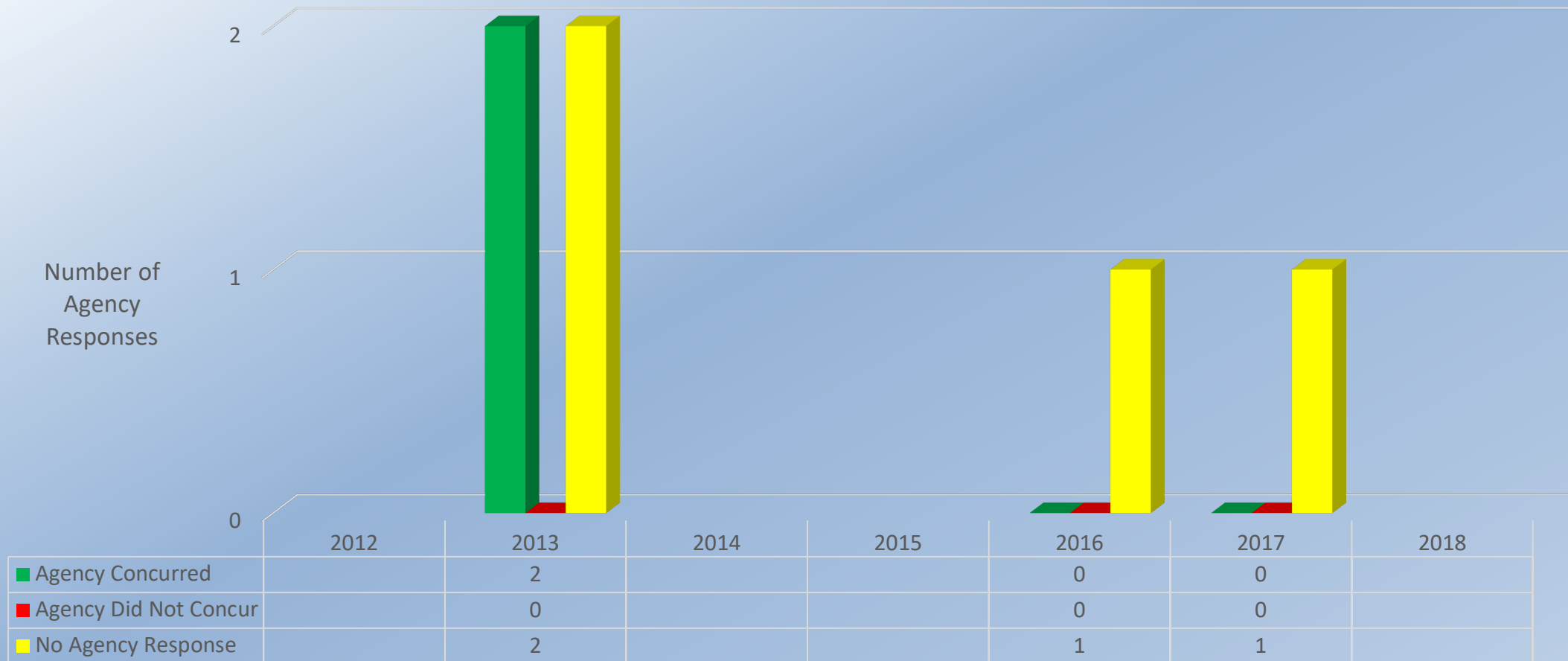
Total # of Board Approved Resolutions	Total # of Board Disapproved Resolutions	Total # of Resolutions Sent To SAPO (2012 - 2018)	Total # of SAPO Agreements With Board	Total # of SAPO Disagreements With Board
349 (93%)	26 (6.93%)	375	298 (79.46%)	77(20.53%)

Note: Because of limited access to agency representatives, some of whom were more responsive than others, our inquiries were stymied as the Open Data NYC portal only reflects approvals of applications. Therefore, we were only able to ascertain an aggregate of the resolutions that we presented to SAPO between the years 2012 – 2018.

Note: While there may be discrepancies in the final count, that does not change the overall trend of agency support.

Vendor Committee

Total Community Board Approvals - 6
Total Community Board Disapprovals - 0



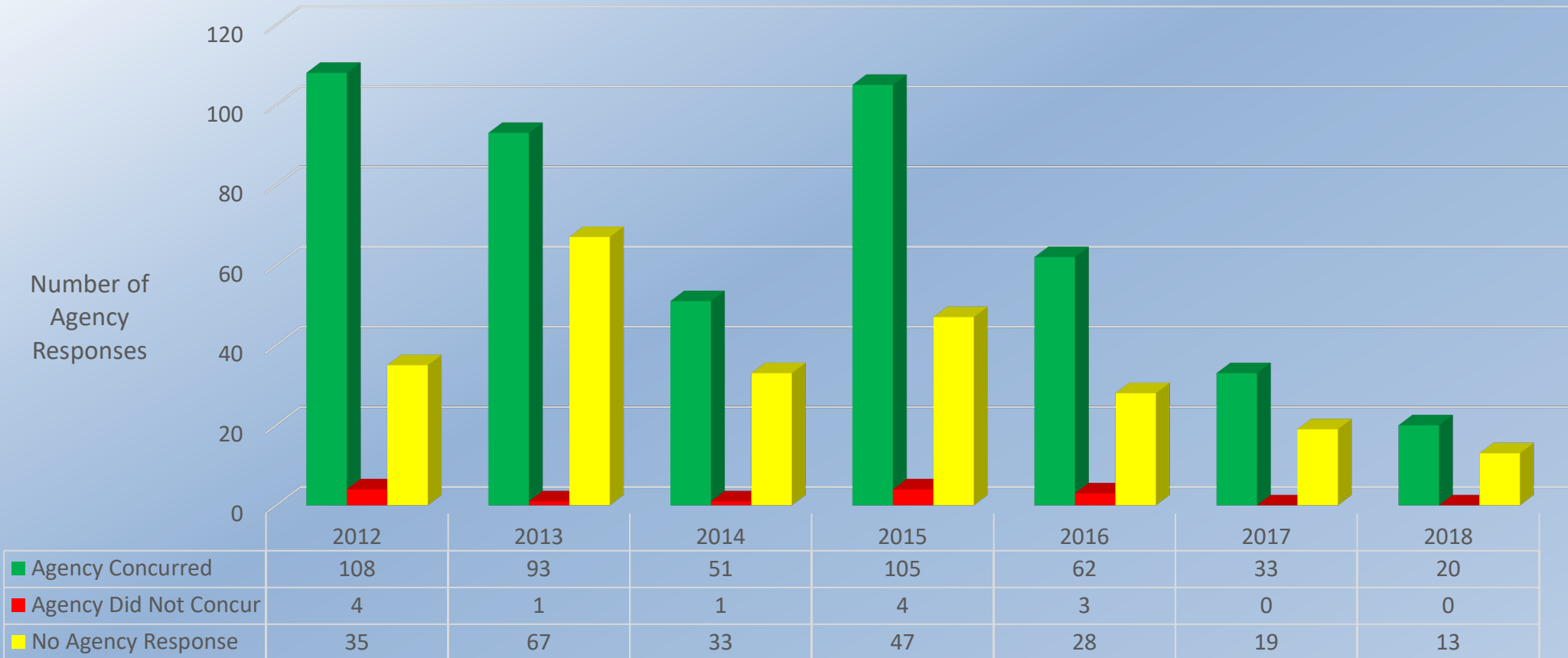
The agencies agreed with our decisions 2 times out of the 6 presented to them.

The agency supported the Community Board's decision **33.33%** of the time.

Street Life Committee

Total Community Board Approvals - 693

Total Community Board Disapprovals - 34



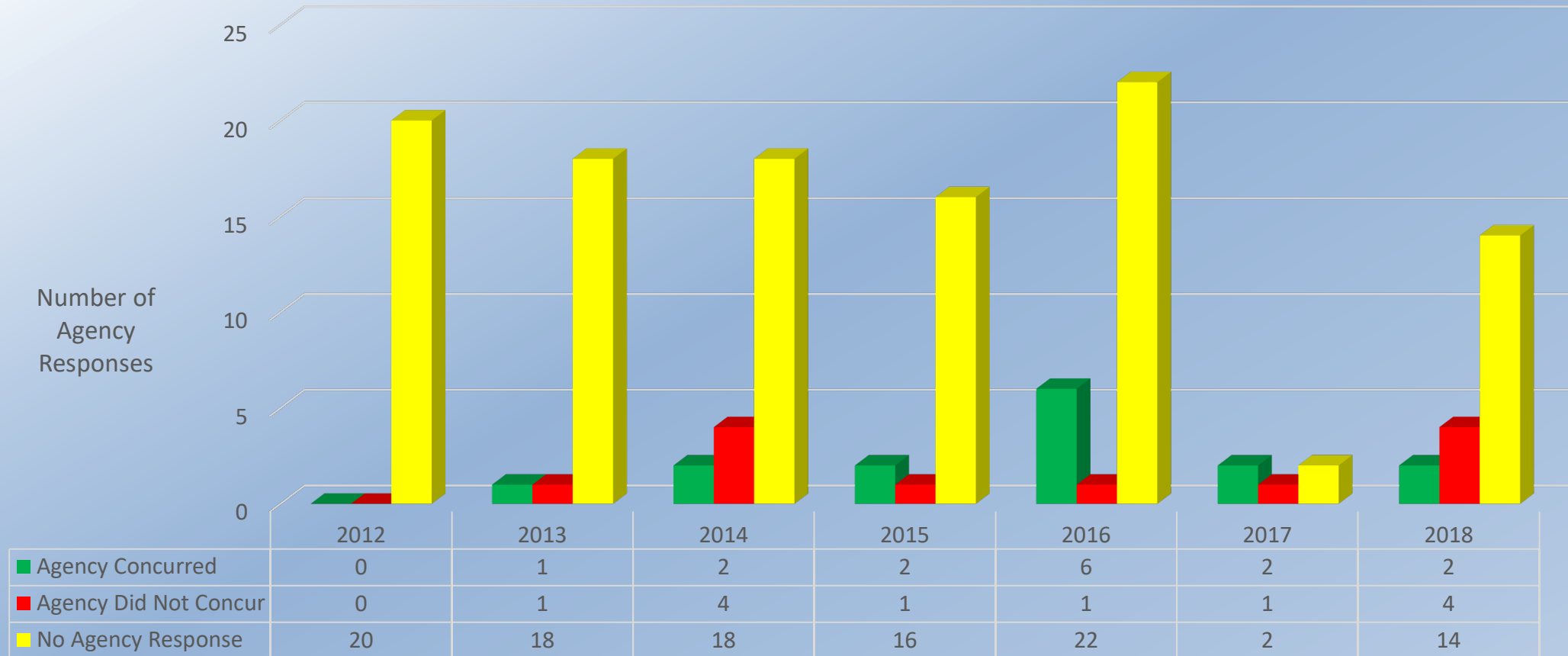
The agencies agreed with our decisions 472 times out of the 727 presented to them. The remainder is accounted for in the “No Agency Response” column.

The agency supported the Community Board’s decision **64.9%** of the time.

Transportation Committee

Total Community Board Approvals - 131

Total Community Board Disapprovals - 6

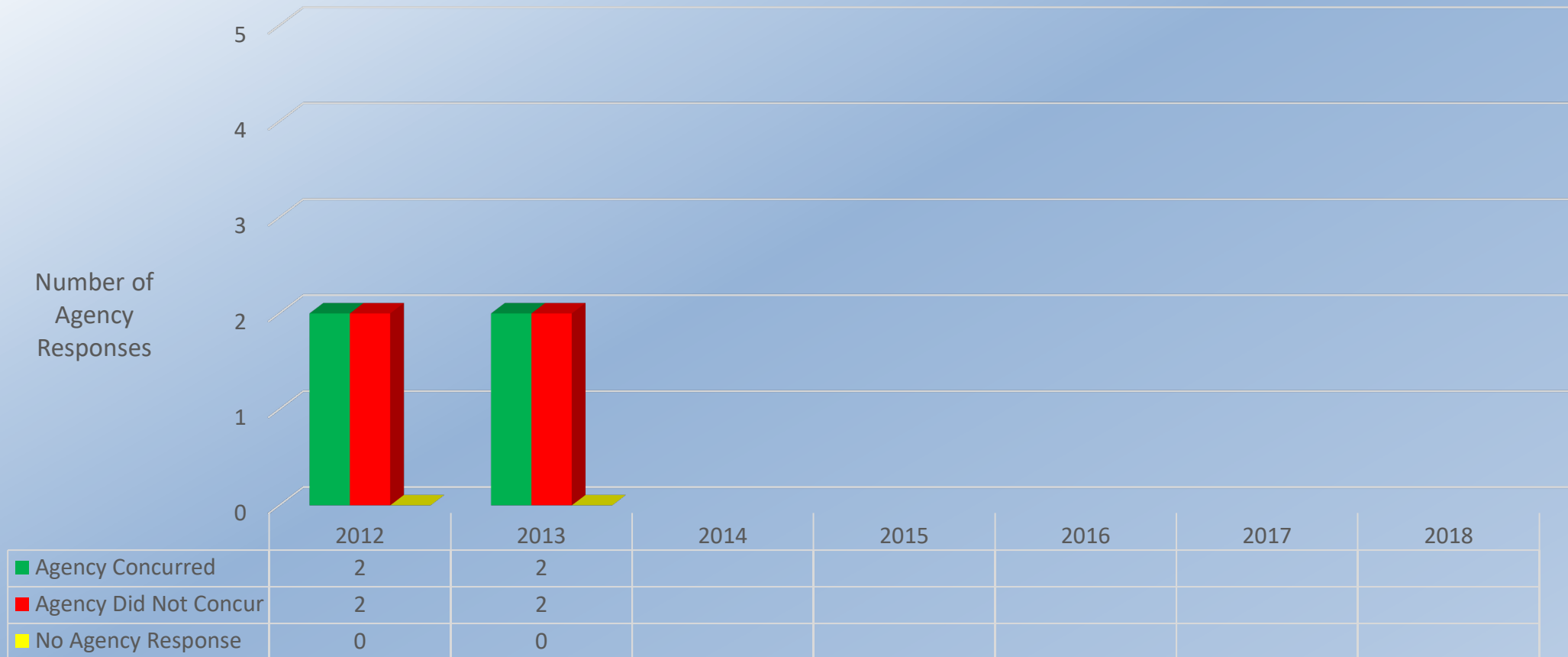


The agencies agreed with our decisions 15 times out of the 137 presented to them.

The agency supported the Community Board's decision **1.45%** of the time.

Youth, Education and Libraries Committee

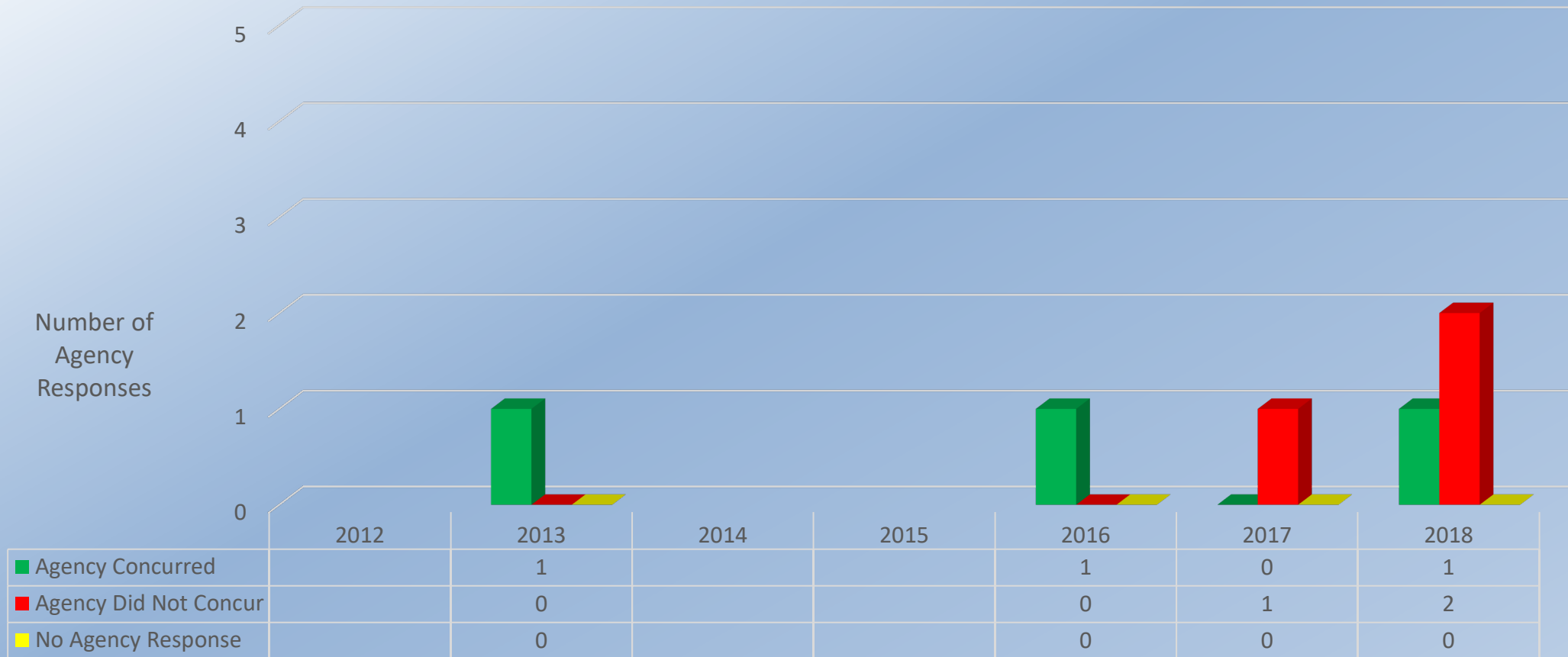
Total Community Board Approvals - 8
Total Community Board Disapprovals – 0



The agencies agreed with our decisions 4 times out of the 8 presented to them.
The agency supported the Community Board’s decision **50%** of the time.

Zoning and Development Committee

Total Community Board Approvals - 6
Total Community Board Disapprovals – 0



The agencies agreed with our decisions 3 times out of the 6 presented to them.
The agency supported the Community Board’s decision **50%** of the time.

The following are the kinds of data collected:

- Meeting date of committees
- Name/address of each applicant or resolution
- Board's resolution
- Agenda item/ Case number
- Agency decision
- Website link to each board resolution
- Additional notes (who was contacted, license status, etc.)

Difficulties Faced during Data Collection

- Some agencies stated that they did not have access to older Board resolutions or their agency decisions.
- Some agencies were not responsive.
- Some agencies were changing personnel.
- Not all the data are uploaded to the websites.
- Having the resolutions as scanned files and not as a PDF files presented difficulties in formatting.
- Having 7 interns over the span of time led to a lack of continuity of research, lack of continuity in format and significant workflow differences resulting from interns' school and work schedules.

Summary

- Our effort to determine the extent of our Community Board's influence on the policies of city agencies and elected officials and the laws that were passed, was challenging.
- Continuity of research as the project passed from intern to intern was difficult to maintain, as supervision and fact-checking were sometimes disparate.
- Direct source data was not always available.
- It is also important to note that, while we might see changes being made to government policy, we could not determine whether these changes were a direct result of our recommendations.
- However, we have gleaned as best we could, that of the 1,708 decisions and resolutions sent to government by CB8, 1,019 (59.6%) were adjudicated in our favor.
- While 59.6% of favorable adjudications is somewhat satisfactory, we must remember that many of those favorable concurrences are as a result of policies already approved by the agencies and then forwarded to the Board for its approval. Furthermore, there are agency responses that we were never able to obtain.

