Russell Squire
Chair

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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan

June 24, 2021

Bill de Blasio
Mayor
The City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Corey Johnson
Speaker
New York City Council
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

RE: Surveillance Technology

Dear Mayor de Blasio and Speaker Johnson:

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on June 16, 2021, the board **APPROVED** the following resolution by a vote of 41 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions and 0 not voting for cause:

> **WHEREAS**, we live in a technology infused society where the collection of data is inescapable,
>
> **WHEREAS**, this technology includes and is not limited to AI and algorithmic technology which discriminate against people of color, women, LGBTQ communities, those with disabilities, and other protected classes of people,
>
> **WHEREAS**, research has revealed this technology to be inaccurate and the root cause is structural and not easily cured,
>
> **WHEREAS**, even if this technology was more accurate, it would not remedy its violation of privacy, human rights conventions, and exacerbate disparities in many reaches of society,
>
> **WHEREAS**, there is an asymmetry between procurement processes that blur the lines of government and put power in the hands of commercial entities that are not prioritizing the community good,
>
> **WHEREAS**, S79 and the federal Algorithmic Accountability Act introduced by Congress Members Clarke and Pressley raise the needs for algorithmic justice and are important starts,
>
> **WHEREAS**, before being fully proven, surveillance technology is field tested in society for law enforcement, social service, and other purposes which has serious justice consequences,
>
> **BE IT RESOLVED**, CB8 calls for our city and state legislators to take action to regulate algorithmic and AI technologies such that:

1. We can reimagine, reappropriate, and recreate how we use technology in our city and state government,
2. Any bills implement community-based regulation as the checks and balances to ensure that the government application of technology - which interacts with us and extracts data from us - are functioning in accordance with our values,
3. The practice of examining algorithms and AI systems for bias must be operationalized through justice and equity impact assessment PRIOR to implementation,
4. Technologies that exacerbate disparities for the members of protected classes under Title 7 of Civil Rights act of 1964, and biometric surveillance technologies such as FRT, gait, etc., should be banned.
5. Regulate the afterlife of the technology such that continuous efforts are made to regulate data collection so that only minimal and necessary data is collected; that it is secured when in use, destroyed after use, and the public notified when data is shared across City and State agencies.
6. Establish regulations and enumerate the principles we hold dear and hold vendors and companies to these values.
7. Vigilantly guard the commercialization of our personal data and establish mechanisms to redress harm when data is misused.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Russell Squire   *Sarah Chu and Saundrea I. Coleman*

Russell Squire   Sarah Chu and Saundrea I. Coleman
Chair   Co-Chairs, Social Justice Committee

cc: 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