

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

June 21, 2021

Carl E. Heastie
Speaker
New York State Assembly
LOB 932
Albany, New York 12248

Andrea Stewart-Cousins
President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader
New York State Senate
250 Broadway, Room 1930
New York, NY 10007

RE: Recognizing Coercive Control as a Crime

Dear Speaker Heastie and President Stewart-Cousins,

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 40 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS, statistics show that nationally, one in three women and one in four men have experienced some form of physical domestic violence; and,

WHEREAS, domestic violence also involves coercive control, which is oppressive behavior aimed at stifling a person's freedoms and/or forcing them to engage in unwanted actions through a process of on-going intimidation, humiliation, isolation, and other means; and,

WHEREAS, coercive control is a more pervasive problem than even physical domestic violence but has no legal status in most U.S. jurisdictions; and,

WHEREAS, coercive control affects women much more so than men due to lingering perceptions by some men that they should wield the power in a household; and,

WHEREAS, bills in the New York State legislature—including as part of the proposed New York State Phoenix Act—would make coercive control a crime in New York State; and,

WHEREAS, the Phoenix Act passed in the state's Senate during the 2021 legislative session but failed to pass in the state's Assembly; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan strongly urges the New York State Senate and Assembly in its next 2022 session to pass legislation that would make coercive control a felony in New York State, which would help protect women from this pernicious form of domestic abuse.

Please advise us on any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Russell Squire

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Gayle Baron and Peggy Price

P. Gayle Baron and Margaret Price
Co-Chairs, Women & Families Committee

cc: Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable Jose 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 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