

Russell Squire  
Chair

Will Brightbill  
District Manager



505 Park Avenue, Suite 620  
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106  
(212) 758-4340  
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)  
www.cb8m.com – Website  
info@cb8m.com – E-Mail

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

May 18, 2023

Honorable Mayor Eric Adams  
Mayor of New York City  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Honorable Adrienne E. Adams  
Speaker of the New York City Council  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

**RE: Disbanding of New York Police Department's Strategic Response Group**

Dear Mayor Adams and Speaker Adams,

At the Full Board Meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on May 17, 2023, the board approved the following resolution by a vote of 26 in favor, 10 opposed, 3 abstentions and 0 not voting for cause:

**WHEREAS**, we have been alarmed by the dangerous conduct and practice of the NYPD's Strategic Response Group (SRG) unit; it is wholly different from our experience with the 19th Precinct and the antithesis of what we believe community policing should be,

**WHEREAS**, the SRG has proven itself to be an escalating force that causes harm and because we find it disturbing that a militarized counterterrorism unit is dedicated to policing First Amendment activities protected by the constitution, we take the position that it has no place in our community or any other community,

**WHEREAS**, the over 200 New Yorkers gathered at a NYC Council hearing in March 2023, NYPD did not appear and has not responded to requests for basic questions of accountability about the SRG, which we find unacceptable as government agencies must be fully transparent to the people they serve and must respond to democratic oversight,

**WHEREAS**, New Yorkers want to feel safe, for the police to protect us all equally and without bias; we have found the SRG to have overstepped its peacekeeping responsibilities and to have jeopardized free speech, racial justice, women's health, and reproductive health,

**WHEREAS**, should the SRG be disbanded, SRG officers should not evade accountability for their actions as members of the unit and should be retrained before they are reintegrated into their precincts,

**WHEREAS**, the NYC Council will be engaging in budget negotiations soon and we believe that our budget should represent our values and the future we aspire to for the City of New York,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, Community Board 8 Manhattan calls for the NYPD SRG to be disbanded and for the City of New York to divest from any form of militarized policing and reinvest in programs that strengthen communities and support equity,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** Community Board 8 Manhattan encourages our elected officials to support community safety and First Amendment activities by disbanding the SRG.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

*Russell Squire*

*Sarah Chu and Saundrea I. Coleman*

Russell Squire  
Chair

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

cc: Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President  
Honorable Jerry Nadler, 12th Congressional District Representative  
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District  
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District  
Honorable Edward Gibbs, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District  
Honorable Alex Bores, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District  
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District  
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District  
Honorable Julie Menin, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District