Russell Squire Chair

Will Brightbill District Manager



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The City of New York Community Board 8 Manhattan

July 26, 2023

Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins Senate Majority Leader 172 State Street, Room 330 Albany, NY 12247

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

Edward F. Pincar Manhattan Borough Commissioner Department of Transportation 59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor New York, NY 10038 Honorable Carl E. Heastie Speaker of the Assembly LOB 932 Albany, NY 12248

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

Susan M. Donoghue Commissioner Department of Parks & Recreation 830 Fifth Ave New York, NY, 10065

RE: E-Bike and Moped Licensing, Registration, and Use in Parks

Dear Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, Speaker Heastie, Mayor Adams, Speaker Adams, Commissioner Pincar, and Commissioner Donoghue:

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on July 19, 2023, the board approved the following resolution by a vote of 32 in favor, 8 opposed, 2 abstentions and 0 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS; the use of E-Bikes and Mopeds in New York City has grown significantly in recent years; and

WHEREAS; pedestrians in Community District 8 are feeling increasingly threatened by e-bikes and mopeds that operate at high speeds; and

WHEREAS; e-bikes and mopeds are also frequently witnessed operating in unsafe and illegal manners, including being driven on sidewalks, in the wrong directions on roads, and mopeds using bike lanes they are prohibited from ; and

WHEREAS; enforcement by police of e-bike and moped use is insufficient and unable to discourage bad behaviors; and

WHEREAS; the lack of license plates and registration of e-bikes is seen as a barrier to proper enforcement; and

WHEREAS; the lack of insurance requirements for e-bikes and mopeds is seen as problematic when injuries are caused by them without any responsibility being borne by the operator/owner; and

WHEREAS; e-bike and moped use is largely driven by e-commerce and restaurant deliveries, and the business owners and delivery services should bear responsibility for employees working under their direction who use e-bikes and mopeds; and

WHEREAS; the recent pilot program that allows e-bikes to be used in NYC Parks such as Central Park has adversely impacted the experience of parkgoers who feel threatened by bikes operating at fast speeds;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 calls for license plate, registration and insurance requirements for e-bikes and mopeds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 requests laws requiring that all e-bikes and mopeds be registered before they are allowed to leave stores at which they are sold; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that where violators of safety rules are in the course of their employment by a restaurant or delivery service, Community Board 8 calls for the penalty to be enforced against the business/service and not the operator; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 calls for the immediate suspension of the pilot program that now allows e-bikes to be operated within Central Park.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Russell Squire

Russell Squire Chair

Craig Lader and Charles Warren Co-Chairs, Transportation Committee

Craig Lader and Charles Warren

cc: Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York 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