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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee
Joint Meeting with the Street Life Committee
Tuesday, January 16, 2024 – 6:30 PM
Conducted Remotely on Zoom**

Please note: The resolution contained in the committee minutes is a recommendation submitted by the committee co-chairs to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolution is discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.

Resolution for Approval:

Item 1: Approval of the amended Nuisance Abatement Bill as presented by Council Member Keith Powers.

Minutes

Board Members Present: Bill Angelos, Meryl Brodsky*, Rebecca Dangoor, Wilma Johnson, Valerie Mason, Ellen Polivy*, Barbara Rudder, Abraham Salcedo, Robin Seligson, Judith Schneider.

*Public Member

This meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Item 1: Presentation with Council Member Keith Powers to discuss legislation that makes it easier to shut down illegal cannabis shops. Link to the Legislation: [Int. 1243-2023](#)

New York State legalized marijuana use many years ago, but the establishments of legal dispensaries have been slow, thus giving way to over 1500 illegal shops in New York City. The present laws make it difficult to quickly shut down these stores.

In response to the problem, Council Member Keith Powers discussed his proposed legislation that will amend the current Nuisance Abatement Law to speed up the process to close illegal shops.

The local law was originally passed to protect the Times Square area and later amended to eliminate the sale of deadly synthetic drugs. If passed, this legislation will be amended to clarify that the distribution for wholesale or retail sale, for delivery to consumers of any cannabis product without the appropriate New York State license, is a public nuisance subject to injunctions. The process will take a short time to remove the shops. Council Member Powers welcomed the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: There are about 1500 illegal Cannabis shops in the City, and;

WHEREAS: Currently the laws make it slow and difficult to close these stores; and;

WHEREAS: These stores sell illegal products, evade current laws about selling to minors, are a blight on our streetscape, and cause crime; and;

WHEREAS: The existing New York City Nuisance Abatement Law can be amended to facilitate quickly and easily shutting illegal shops;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Community Board 8 Manhattan encourages a speedy passage of the amended Nuisance Abatement Law as outlined in Introduction 1243-2023 to:

- 1) Clarify that the distribution for sale, selling at wholesale or retail, or delivering to consumers of any cannabis, cannabis product, medical cannabis, or cannabinoid hemp or hemp extract product without the appropriate registration, license, or permit issued by New York State is a public nuisance subject to permanent and preliminary injunctions;
- 2) Create a new category of public nuisance involving the selling, delivery, or giving away of cannabis to any person under 21 years of age; and
- 3) Make the above-mentioned public nuisances subject to temporary closing orders and temporary restraining orders.

Approved: 9-0-0

For: Bill Angelos, Meryl Brodsky*, Rebecca Dangoor, Valerie Mason, Ellen Polivy*, Barbara Rudder, Abraham Salcedo, Robin Seligson, Judith Schneider.

*: Public Member

Committee members shared their concerns with Council Member Powers about oversights and loopholes in the law that have directly affected the neighborhood, such as the lack of limitations on a cannabis shop's proximity to a drug rehabilitation center and instances where mixed-use zoning has allowed prospective cannabis shop owners to apply for locations next to schools and churches that would have otherwise not been allowed under the intent of the legislation. The Health, Seniors, and Social Services and Street Life Committees agreed to continue discussing the issues of the state-wide legislative impact on NYC as opposed to more suburban and rural areas.

Item 2: Old Business

No items of Old Business were discussed.

Item 3: New Business

No items of New Business were discussed.

The committee adjourned at approximately 7:32 PM.

*Rebecca Dangoor, Wilma Johnson, and Barbara Rudder, Co-Chairs, Health, Seniors, and Social Services
Committee
Abraham Salcedo, Chair, Street Life Committee*