

Valerie S. Mason
Chair

Will Brightbill
District Manager



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

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

January 21, 2025

Hon. Eric Adams
Mayor of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

RE: The creation of a unit within the Department of Small Business Services (SBS) or another agency to enforce rules and laws pertaining to commercial tenant harassment

Dear Mayor Adams,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on January 15, 2025, the board approved the following resolution by a vote of 33 in favor, 3 opposed, 2 abstentions and 0 not voting for cause:

WHEREAS there are instances of commercial tenant harassment; and

WHEREAS there are specific rules and laws that prohibit tenant harassment; and

WHEREAS the City has no mechanism to enforce compliance with the anti-commercial tenant harassment; and

WHEREAS the City provides other types of support and resources for small businesses; and

WHEREAS the SBS has no power to enforce; and

WHEREAS without enforcement, there is no remedy for small businesses that have been subject to landlord harassment other than going to court; and

WHEREAS going through litigation to pursue a remedy against a harassing landlord could take years and cost upwards of \$100,000;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Community Board 8 calls on the City to create a unit within the SBS or another agency to enforce rules and laws pertaining to tenant harassment.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Valerie S. Mason *Bill Angelos and Alida Camp*

Valerie S. Mason
Chair

Bill Angelos and Alida Camp
Co-Chairs, Small Business Committee

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
Honorable Diana Ayala, NYC Council Member, 8th Council District
Honorable Oswald Feliz, NYC Council Member, 15th Council District
Honorable Erik Bottcher, NYC Council Member, 3rd Council District
Honorable Vickie Paladino, NYC Council Member, 19th Council District
Honorable Sandra Ung, NYC Council Member, 20th Council District
Honorable Shekar Krishnan, NYC Council Member, 25th Council District
Honorable Selvena N. Brooks-Powers, NYC Council Member, 31st Council District
Honorable Susan Zhuang, NYC Council Member, 43rd Council District
Honorable Dynishal Gross, Commissioner, Department of Small Business Services
Natasha D. Joseph, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Small Business Services
Balanda Joachin, Campaign Organizer, Association for Neighborhood & Housing Development
Abigail Ellman, Director of Planning and Development, Cooper Square Committee