

Valerie S. Mason
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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

July 17, 2024

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Assembly Member Carl E. Heastie
Head of New York State Assembly
LOB 932
Albany, NY 12248

Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Majority Leader of the New York State Senate
172 State Street, Capitol Building, Room 330
Albany, NY 12247

RE: Excited Delirium

Dear Honorable Kathy Hochul, Assembly Member Carl E. Heastie, and Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins,

At the Full Board Meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on July 17, 2024, the board approved the following resolution by a vote of 35 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 0 not voting for cause:

WHEREAS, the term "excited delirium" lacks scientific and medical validity, and is not recognized as a valid medical condition by major medical associations (including the American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, American Academy of Neurology, College of American Pathologists, American College of Medical Toxicology, American Academy of Emergency Medicine, American College of Emergency Medicine, and National Association of Medical Examiners) nor their diagnostic references (ICD-10 and DSM 5); and

WHEREAS, the use of "excited delirium" as a diagnosis, label, or cause of death often obscures accountability in cases of excessive force or improper restraint, particularly in interactions between law enforcement and individuals experiencing a mental health crises; and

WHEREAS, the term "excited delirium" has been disproportionately applied to Black and Latinx individuals and is used to advance erroneous stereotypes that they are "immune to pain" or possess "superhuman strength"; these stereotypes jeopardize these communities because they are used to justify the use of excessive force against them and promote harmful racially biased generalizations; and

WHEREAS, New York State legislature bill A9414/S9039A introduced in the 2024 legislative session prohibited the use of "excited delirium" as a diagnosis, label, or cause of death in the state of New York; supported more accurate and scientifically valid medical diagnoses and cause of death determinations; enhanced accountability and transparency in cases involving the use of force or restraint; and addressed racial disparities in the application of medical terminology;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan urges New York State legislators to pass the aforementioned reforms in the new legislative session beginning January 2025.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Valerie S. Mason

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Chair

Sarah Chu and Saundrea I. Coleman

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

cc: Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York State
Honorable Eric Adams, Mayor of the City 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