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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Sanitation and Environment Committee
Thursday, May 15, 2025 – 6:30 pm
This meeting was conducted via 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: Calling on local congressional leaders to reinstate any funding cuts by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to continue funding lifesaving DEP projects.

Minutes

CB8 Attendance: Bradley Hershenson, Sahar Husain, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Ellen Sills Levy*, Judy Schneider

**Public Member*

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 16

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

Item 1: Discussion about New York City's work on climate change during these turbulent times and how the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's recent policy change could impact New York City's environmental efforts.

Starting the discussion was Martin Fatooh, the Manhattan Borough Commissioner for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). He discussed what the agency is doing and how changes to federal funding may impact DEP's work to combat climate change. The agency creates green infrastructure, monitors and enforces the commercial noise code, and is the nation's largest municipal water utility at the local level. Through its water utility operations, the agency can provide over a billion gallons of clean water every day from its dozens of watersheds, mostly from upstate New York. The water feed system that delivers this water goes through pipelines built over a hundred years ago, to give us the plumbing system that New York City depends upon today. The agency also oversees sewer operations, water mains, can assist in the water bill process, and works with local private plumbers to help maintain the water distribution system of city buildings. The DEP is also trying to address the problem of ponding in New York City with the Department of Transportation. There are several resiliency projects the DEP is taking on in CB8, including the York Avenue water main and sewer replacement project from East 60th Street up to almost East 64th Street on York Avenue. The DEP Commissioner and Chief Climate Officer Rohit T. Aggarwala is working with the mayor's office, private and academic partners on climate mitigation, adaptation, resiliency, and environmental justice, which is behind much of the DEP's

projects.

Commissioner Fatooh stressed that federal funding is very crucial to DEP's project implementation and that they will have to prioritize certain projects, like their water infrastructure projects in Lower Manhattan. If federal funding is cut, the DEP will have to depend on city and state funding to keep such projects going.

After this discussion, representatives from the invited local elected offices spoke to offer their input on the topic of discussion. Those representatives included Community Liaison Carolyn Ruvkun from the Office of City Council Member Keith Powers, Legislative Aide Dylan J. Klein from the Office of New York State Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright, and Policy Director Steven Morales from the Office of Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine. They presented the legislation and work their offices are doing to promote environmental benefits, and to help fill the gap potentially created by the lack of federal funding.

The following resolution was then put forward by the Committee:

WHEREAS climate extremes have become much more prevalent and dangerous; and

WHEREAS the Department of Environmental Protection is in charge of water control and green infrastructure; and

WHEREAS the Department of Environmental Protection is dependent upon federal as well as state and city funding, then;

BE IT RESOLVED that CB8 urges our congressional leaders to reinstate any funding cuts by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and to continue funding lifesaving DEP projects.

Approved: 6-0-0

For: Bradley Hershenson, Sahar Husain, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Ellen Sills Levy*, Judy Schneider

Item 2: Old Business - None discussed.

Item 3: New Business - None discussed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 pm.

Sahar Husain, Addeson Lehy, and Barbara Rudder, Co-Chairs