



THE OFFICE OF  
MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**MARK LEVINE**

Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine's  
February 9, 2022 Full Board Report to Manhattan Community Board 6

1) 2022 Manhattan Community Board Application and Reapplication:

The 2022 Manhattan Community Board Application and Reapplication is open through Tuesday, March 1st at 5 pm. Please apply or reapply online [here](#).

2) COVID-19 Updates:

NYC is now offering free, same-day home delivery of new antiviral pills for treating covid. If you have symptoms and test positive, especially if you are high-risk (those age 65 and over and those who are immunocompromised), please speak to your doctor about these treatments or call 212-COVID19.

We have announced the members of our Covid taskforce, and have begun meeting and working to recover from the pandemic. This team includes Huge Ma, creator of TurboVax, a website to find and schedule COVID-19 vaccination appointments, Dr. Jay Varma, a physician and epidemiologist who previously served as a senior advisor for public health and COVID-19 to former Mayor Bill de Blasio, as well as Ebone Carrington, Dr Tsion Firew, Dr. Wafaa Al-Sadr, Melva Miller, Andrew Rigie, and Saskia Traill. The COVID Recovery Task Force, is led by former Deputy Manhattan Borough President Aldrin Bonilla.

3) Subway Platform Barriers:

On January 21, Borough President Levine and all 10 members of the Manhattan Delegation of the New York City Council wrote to MTA Chair Lieber to immediately begin a pilot of platform barriers at subway stations that have been

experiencing high levels of platform-related incidents. On January 27th, Borough President Levine was joined at Father Duffy Square by Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, State Senator Brad Hoylman, and Council Members Julie Menin, Erik Bottcher, Chris Marte, Keith Powers, and Shaun Abreu at a press conference reiterating this call.

Recent incidents, including the tragic murder of Michelle Go, have renewed the urgency for platform barriers, a widely-used technology that protects straphangers against pushes or falls. Platform barriers also prevent trespassing, and the dropping of items and trash on tracks. Consequently, subway platform barriers can also help to prevent subway system fires and control their spread. In 2021, according to the MTA, subway system fires increased 40% over 2019 levels to 1,006 fires. 581 of these fires occurred along subway tracks. 280 fires occurred in stations and 142 fires occurred on trains. Borough President Levine is pleased that both the Regional Plan Association and Mayor Eric Adams are supportive of subway platform barriers.

#### 4) Snow Removal at Intersections, Pedestrian Ramps and Bus Stops:

On February 1st, Borough President Levine wrote to New York City Department of Sanitation Commissioner Ed Grayson and New York City Department of Transportation Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez to “request that the Department of Sanitation and the Department of Transportation develop and launch a new plan for snow removal at intersections, pedestrian ramps and bus stops following snowstorms, and that the City make clear its responsibility at these important and often neglected locations...The City currently requires landowners, lessees, tenants, occupants and other persons with the charge of a lot or building to clean snow and ice from the sidewalk adjacent to their properties. The current policy tends to leave borderline areas between the sidewalk and the street unattended to, particularly at intersections and the curbs in front of bus stops. This is a serious challenge for disabled and elderly New Yorkers, as well as their caregivers.”