

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

KEITH POWERS



April 2022 Full Board Report to Manhattan Community Board 6

Highlights

Earlier this year, a devastating fire broke out in a Bronx apartment building, killing 19 people. To prevent any future tragedies, I proudly joined Council Members Hanif and Hudson on two important bills to strengthen New York City's fire safety measures by regulating heat in apartment buildings: [Int. 106](#) prohibits the sale of electric space heaters without proper automatic shut-off features and functional thermostats, while [Int. 115](#) requires owners of residential buildings who provide heat for their tenants to maintain higher heat minimums. If passed, when the outside temperature falls below 55 degrees, apartments must be at least 70 degrees in the day, and at least 66 degrees at night. This will undoubtedly make tenants less reliant on dangerous space heaters or other unsafe warming devices in the colder months. As our city mourns the horrific Bronx Twins Park Fire, we must keep taking any and all action to prevent future tragedies.

My office continues to receive many complaints about the conditions on East 14th Street between 1st Avenue and Avenue A. The situation on this block has greatly deteriorated during the pandemic, leading to many constituents avoiding the block on weekends. Last week, I did a walk-through of 14th Street with Council Member Rivera, State Senator Hoylman, the Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village Tenants Association, and relevant city agencies to discuss the on-going issue. While the situation looks improved, we still need a steady presence of city agencies to address the continuous problems on the block. It still remains a challenging situation—and we have a lot of work to do—but I will stay involved and thoroughly engaged as we continue to make progress on the situation. After our meeting, [we sent a letter to Mayor Eric Adams asking for on-going attention to the issues](#). As a result, the Department of Homeless Services (DHS), the Sanitation Department (DSNY), and the Police Department (NYPD), are all visiting the block daily to address issues.

Too often, New Yorkers face burdensome credit card minimums that force them to buy more items than they're prepared to purchase, or shop elsewhere—which generally is a larger retailer. My new legislation, [Int. 83](#), prohibits businesses from setting a minimum purchase requirement greater than \$10 dollars for credit card transactions. It also provides New Yorkers with clear disclosure of credit card transaction minimums at cash registers, a transparent, publicly-accessible reporting mechanism, and a functioning local enforcement structure to ensure businesses are in compliance. As our city only becomes more reliant on credit cards, it's important that we're strengthening consumer protections and making it easier to use credit cards across the city.