

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

**KEITH POWERS**



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**May 2022 Full Board Report to Manhattan Community Board 6**

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**Highlights**

I hosted a press conference on City Hall Steps in April to introduce an extensive environmental package in the Council. Aimed at meeting New York City's Zero Waste goals, these pieces of legislation—which include my bill, the Community Organics and Recycling Empowerment (CORE) Act—will greatly broaden environmental equity across communities, mandate the city's zero waste goals, and dramatically expand the city's composting capacity across all five boroughs. The CORE Act will specifically increase equitable access to composting and recycling by requiring easily accessible drop-off sites for organics in all community districts, open for at least 20 hours every week. It will also allow for the collection of recyclable materials like electronics, textiles, and other materials for recycling, which will divert a substantial amount of waste away from landfills.

Last month, I also proudly introduced legislation moving New York City away from burning fossil fuels by requiring the city to only purchase zero emission vehicles starting in 2025, and transition its entire vehicle fleet by 2035. While previous administrations have pledged to do this, the process has moved very slowly: currently, out of over 5,900 public New York City buses, only 15 run on electricity. This legislation, however, significantly speeds up that timeline and creates the requirement to make the transition to electric vehicles a reality.

Earlier in the month, my office coordinated a site visit with the Department of Transportation (DOT) and representatives from Hunter College to assess the deteriorating sidewalk conditions outside of the Brookdale Campus at 25th Street and 1st Avenue. On the visit, we discussed the best ways to make sure our sidewalks get repaired, stay maintained, and are truly safe and accessible for everyone on our streets. I will continue updating the community as we implement these strategies and make our neighborhoods better for our community.

Last week, the Rent Guidelines Board cast a preliminary vote to increase New York's rents. This month, I went on NY1 to discuss the proposal being considered by the city's Rent Guidelines Board, which if approved would raise rents on rent-regulated apartments by as much as 6%. The proposed increases would raise rents between 2% and 4% for one-year leases, and between 4% and 6% for two-year leases—impacting more than 40% of the city's rental units. In response, the New York City Council Progressive Caucus sent a letter to the Rent Guidelines Board calling for an immediate rollback of the proposed increases, to help the city's tenants who may be struggling financially. As I said to NY1, increasing rents by such a dramatic margin would hurt so many New Yorkers and lead to high eviction rates. This is already a tremendously difficult time in our city, and as this proposal stands, it would only make it harder for tenants to pay rent, while simultaneously amplifying our city's already dire housing and homelessness crisis.