

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

KEITH POWERS



October 2022 Full Board Report to Manhattan Community Board 6

Highlights

- One of the issues my office hears most frequently about is noise. Whether it be noise from construction, from helicopters flying overhead, or from loud vehicles, we understand it can be burdensome and frustrating to deal with. That is why today I introduced the “Stop Spreading the Noise Act”, a package of bills aimed at addressing the issue of noise in our city.

The “Stop Spreading the Noise Act” will include:

- Establish a noise camera program that would detect motor vehicles exceeding the noise limits under city law.
- Prohibit chartered helicopters from taking off and landing at heliports owned by the city if those helicopters do not meet the stage 3 noise levels for helicopters as determined by the Federal Airport Noise and Capacity Act of 1990.
- A local law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring an after hours variance for the removal of construction debris.
- Mandate that the Department of Environmental Protection publish the results of their noise inspections online within 24 hours after they have been completed.
- Require the Department of Environmental Protection and the Police Department to give a copy of the noise inspection report created after a 311 noise complaint to anyone who requests the report and provides the 311 tracking number.
- Require the Department of Environmental Protection upon the request of an owner, lessor or occupant of a dwelling unit within a building located within a half-mile radius of a construction site, to measure sound levels within such units in relation to certain DEP inspections.

Long term exposure to noise not only can lead to hearing loss, stress aggravation, and sleep disruption, but also high blood pressure and heart disease. But these chronic illnesses can be prevented with the “Stop Spreading the Noise Act,” which will provide much-needed regulation over excessive noise.

- This month, I’m also proud to dedicate \$20,000 to the Keep Murray Hill Green and Clean Program. This funding will go towards new trees in empty tree pits, stump removal, expand tree pits, and provide more protective tree guards. I’m excited to support this important program: trees not only make our neighborhoods greener, cleaner, and more beautiful, but provide shade, remove dust from the air, muffle winds, and provide a habitat for local wildlife.

- I'm thrilled to announce the new temporary dog run at New Wave Pier is launching in November! My office worked closely with Steve Oh and Molly Hollister from the Alliance for Kips Bay, who brought the idea to our office, and spearheaded the discussions we had with the Parks Department on this project. This new space will fill the gap by giving more options to residents living in Kips Bay and Murray Hill, while preventing overcrowding at the other local dog runs. To support the project, I've allocated \$15,000 to the Parks Department to help establish the new dog run. I'm very excited to see this project come to fruition, and will keep you updated as construction begins. Here's to some very happy dogs on the East Side!
- Two weeks ago, I joined Council Member Rivera and the Sierra Club at the CUNY Graduate Center to discuss my bill, Int. 267, which would accelerate the city's goal of electrifying its municipal fleet. The legislation requires the city to only purchase zero emission vehicles starting in 2025, and transition its entire vehicle fleet by 2035. Right now, car and motor vehicles emissions are not only helping drive climate change, but negatively impacting public health by severely polluting our air. Motor vehicle emissions lead to elevated levels of particulate matter, which leads to problems like lung cancer and heart attacks. In April 2022, there were just over 1,400 all-electric vehicles in the city—that's only about 5 percent of the city's municipal fleet. And out of 5,900 New York City school buses, only 15 are electric. Clearly, we need to push up our timeline so our fleet is electrified as soon as possible. I'm proud to be spearheading this important legislation, and will keep you updated as the bill moves through committee.