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## December 2022 Full Board Report to Manhattan Community Board 6

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### Highlights

- 1. Lithium-Iron Battery Safety:** Last month I introduced two new bills (S.9597 and S.9596) designed to address the proliferation of fires caused by malfunctioning lithium-ion batteries used to power e-bikes, e-scooters, and other micromobility devices. The bills would prohibit the sale of such batteries unless they are tested by a nationally recognized testing laboratory (such as Underwriters Laboratories), and would also prohibit the sale of reconditioned or second-use lithium-ion batteries. The New York City Council is also considering legislation to address the risks these batteries pose. More information is available here:  
<https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/liz-krueger/krueger-introduces-bills-address-rapid-increase-fires-caused>
- 2. Governor Hochul Signs Attendance Policy Legislation:** I am happy to report that last month the Governor Hochul signed my legislation banning employers from retaliating against employees for taking legally-protected time off (S.1958A/A.8092B). Employees have the right to take legally-protected time off from their jobs to address certain medical, caregiving, and religious needs without penalty. Too often, however, absence control or "no-fault" attendance policies violate workers' rights in New York State and discourage them from taking job-protected leave or time off to which they are entitled by law. Under such policies, employees are assessed points (also referred to as "demerits" or "occurrences") for each absence regardless of the reason. Those points subject workers to discipline, often including termination. Such policies may force employees to choose between taking care of their health and keeping their job. More information on this legislation is available here: <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/s1958>
- 3. Virtual Town Hall on Local Law 97 Implementation:** Last week I hosted a Town hall for Co-Op and Condo Boards and Building managers entitled: "Local Law 97: Technical and Financial Resources to Assist with Compliance and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions." A video and materials from the event are available at [krueger.nysenate.gov](http://krueger.nysenate.gov).
- 4. Op-Ed On Climate Justice:** Last month, the Daily News published an Op-Ed I wrote regarding the need for New York State to make the investments necessary to protect our state from the impacts of climate change and to transition our economy away from fossil fuels and toward safe, clean, reliable and affordable energy. You can read the Op-Ed [here](#).
- 5. Legislation to Address Unlicensed Cannabis Stores:** Last year, the Senate passed my legislation to make it easier for the Office of Cannabis management, the police, and other agencies to take action against unlicensed cannabis stores. Unfortunately, the bill did not pass the Assembly at the time, but I am optimistic that both houses will act on similar legislation when we return to Albany in January.