



NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER  
**JULIE MENIN**



## January 2023 Full Board Report to Manhattan Community Board 6

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**1. Anti-Idling Bill:** Our office frequently receives complaints from constituents regarding idling trucks polluting our neighborhood. In addition to the detrimental effect on air quality, these trucks also often create issues of traffic safety. It is unacceptable that New York City has much weaker anti-idling legislation than other major U.S. cities. To address this, Julie introduced Intro 0684, a bill that will significantly increase idling penalties for repeat offenders. [As Gothamist reported](#), last month, the Environmental Protection Committee hosted a hearing on the bill where many Council Members and advocates expressed support for these critical changes. Currently, large corporations like Amazon continuously commit idling violations and regard the small \$350 fine per violation fine as a cost of doing business while New Yorkers suffer from air pollution. We will keep you informed as this bill moves forward.

**2. Enforcement for Unlicensed Cannabis and Tobacco:** When the New York State Legislature legalized marijuana in 2021, the legislation emphasized the importance of establishing an equitable system for distributing marijuana licenses in a robust and well-regulated legal market. However, as the legal market slowly rolls out, many businesses have blatantly violated the state's statutes and have begun selling cannabis without a license and to minors. Our office has received complaints about many of these locations in our District and advocated for the Administration to work with state authorities on enforcement. Julie was proud to join the Mayor to announce initial results of an interagency task force to investigate and, in some cases, even shut down unlicensed cannabis sales. The Sheriff's Office and NYPD have been working with state authorities to conduct seizures of these bad actors and this is critical as we work to establish a successful legal market. You can [read more about this initiative here](#) or watch Julie's remarks at the [Mayor's press conference](#).

**3. Rat Mitigation:** One of the top complaints we receive from constituents is the proliferation of rodents across the city. While the Council passed recent legislation to take on this issue and Julie funded new rodent-proof bins in CB6, she is also ramping up direct mitigation efforts. As we've mentioned, our office has utilized discretionary funding to allocate money to an extermination service and target rat burrows in tree pits and planters throughout the District. [The Daily News reported this week](#) that the extermination efforts have seen robust initial success with a 90% reduction in burrows in a pilot on 86th Street. Constituents have flagged many other blocks throughout the whole District to now target and our office is expanding this work. Please reach out to our office if you know of any potential rat burrows in tree pits or planters in district 5, and we will send out our extermination team to inspect.

**4. Participatory Budgeting:** Our office is very pleased to have received a high volume of participatory budgeting proposals over the last few months. [You can view those submissions here](#). The deadline for submitting capital improvement suggestions for Participatory Budgeting is Friday, January 13th. If you have an idea for a capital project that would benefit our community, we encourage you to submit it ahead of the deadline. [Submit projects here](#). Our office will keep you informed in the coming months as we release details about the finalized ballot and voting sites.