

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

KEITH POWERS



September 2023 Full Board Report to Manhattan Community Board 6

Highlights

- In March, I introduced [Int 0949-2023](#), which would establish a trade-in program for the lithium-ion batteries used in e-bikes and other powered mobility devices. As we all know, fires sparked by unsafe and unregulated batteries have been increasing at an alarming rate, from 104 in 2021 to over 220 last year. So far this year there have been 175, meaning we will exceed last year's record. Tragically, 14 people have died this year in these fires - more than double last year's total of 6. In other words, fires are happening more often, and more people are dying because of them.

The trade-in program will allow individuals (especially delivery workers) to obtain a regulated battery at reduced cost or no cost in exchange for turning in their unsafe one. Additionally, the established office or agency would be required to conduct and engage in an outreach campaign regarding the trade-in program.

Tomorrow, the Council is expected to pass this bill with a swath of bipartisan support. I am also hosting a press ahead of the vote at 11:30 am to promote the passing of this much needed legislation.

- Soak up the very tail end of summer with an outdoor movie! My office has partnered with the Parks Department and with the Mayor's Office for Media & Entertainment for our summer movie series. The last movie in our summer series will be held on Friday, September 30 at St. Vartan Park . Our final movie will be a romp through the multiverse with Dr. Strange and is a fun-filled adventure for all ages. The movie will begin at dusk, but the estimated start time is 7:30pm. Please stop by!
- Few things unite New Yorkers like their aversion to rats. As part of the city's ongoing efforts to curb the rat population, the Sanitation Department has rolled out new rules requiring all chain businesses (regardless of what is sold) in the city with more than 5 locations to use rigid, secured containers when setting out trash, instead of the current

approach of putting plastic bags on the curb. This is a small but important step that will greatly diminish the available food supply that rats can feast on. The new rule goes into effect on September 5.

If you would like more information on the new rules, DSNY will be hosting a series of info sessions throughout the month on Microsoft Teams. Register for a time that works for you by using the below links:

- [September 14 at 2:00 pm](#)
- [September 18 at 6:00 pm](#)
- [September 27 at 3:00 pm](#)