



**REMOTE BOROUGH HALL**

**MAY 2020**

# FOREWORD

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Dear Constituents,

During these difficult times, the YMCA of Greater New York is ensuring our young people stay connected and supported while remaining safe. The YMCA has been listening and responding to our communities' most critical social needs for 176 years and has no intention of stopping now.

Everything we do is guided by our commitment to provide supportive, fun, and educational experiences for New York City Teens. In a time where we must distance ourselves, we believe it is crucial to continue to promote and celebrate the civic work our Teens Take the City youth have spent weeks working toward with their peers, and Y Teen Advisors.

This event is only made possible because of the commitment of our youth, their families, and our talented staff. We would also like to highlight and give special acknowledgement to our 2020 Youth Elected Officials for their dedication and working tirelessly in an ever-changing world.

We're excited and proud to provide you with the first ever Teens Take the City Remote Borough Hall 2020.

Thank you for joining us.

Nicole Kourbage, LMSW  
Director, Citywide Teen Programs

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# **BRONX / STATEN ISLAND**

**THURSDAY, MAY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2020**

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Proposal No. 120SIBX – Castle Hill YMCA – APPA

Proposal No. 220SIBX – South Shore YMCA

Proposal No. 320SIBX – Bronx YMCA – EXPO

Proposal No. 420SIBX – Broadway YMCA

**Proposal No. 120SIBX – Castlehill YMCA - APPA**

By Council Members Britto, Alcantra, Dejesus, Cox, Cruz, Moore, Gullon, Diaz  
Castlehill YMCA M.S. 376

A Local Law to address the issue of bullying in New York City Schools

**Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

**Committee: Bullying Prevention**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: Bullying is negatively impacting children in all schools. The effects of bullying has been linked to low self-esteem, anxiety, depression and thoughts of suicide.

According to [stopbullying.gov](http://stopbullying.gov), bullying is unwanted or aggressive behavior among children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. Over time the bullying behavior may be repeated and have long lasting effects on the bully and the person being bullied. There are many different types of bullying such as physical, verbal, relational and damage of property. Research shows Between 1 in 4 and 1 in 3 U.S. students say they have been bullied at school and most bullying happens in middle school. In order to reduce the effects bullying has on students we propose facilitated information workshops to parents, school staff and students on the effects of bullying. As well as creating more safe places for students to feel comfortable going to speak to someone if they are being bullied. The Proposal is necessary to bring awareness of the effects bullying has on students and provide more resources to prevent long term damage.

New York City Council should support this Proposal because civilians around the city of New York are unaware of the harm and results of bullying. The 2017 School Crime Supplement (National Center for Education Statistics and Bureau of Justice) indicates that, nationwide, about 20% of student's ages 12-18 experienced bullying.

The 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) indicates that, nationwide, 19% of students in grades 9–12 report being bullied on school property in the 12 months preceding the survey. Furthermore, the increase in information, support from school staff and parents will decrease the impact bullying can have on mental health, substance use, and suicide

### **Proposal**

This Proposal suggests City Council support the development of an initiative to decrease bullying in schools. This would entail a campaign to provide the following:

- I. Increase awareness of bullying that takes place in schools including informational flyers and in class presentations.
- II. Implementing more school workshops for parents, school staff and students to learn more about the effects of bullying.
- III. Provide more safe places in schools for students to go and speak to someone when being bullied.

### **Fiscal Implications**

This Proposal will incur no cost to the City of New York.

### **Effective Date**

This local law takes effect immediately

## **References**

A federal government website managed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20201. Retrieved From:  
<https://www.stopbullying.gov/bullying/effects>



**Proposal No. 220SIBX – South Shore YMCA**

By Council Members Lombardo, Martin, Georges, Emode

South Shore - Staten Island

A Local Law to address the issue of the drug epidemic on Staten Island

**Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

**Committee: Health**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: Staten Island is infamously regarded as “Heroin Island” and suffers from one of the most entrenched and widespread drug problems in the country. According to silive, the number of opiate prescriptions dispensed on Staten Island amounted to more per capita than any other county in the region. The willingness to prescribe these drugs and the highly addictive nature of them proved to be a lethal mix and one that became increasingly profitable and exploitative.

Resulting from programs through the Richmond County District Attorney’s Office, SI HOPE and legal precedent provided resources to those addicted and began to hold those administering drugs accountable. Their office has also collected extensive research that reflects the widespread nature of the issue. They found that, despite a trend in New York State showing a decrease in these drug-related deaths, Staten Island saw a 64% increase in fatal opioid-related deaths between 2015 and 2018. In all neighborhoods and all backgrounds, overdoses have gone reported, and even more unreported. In many cases, families are either unaware of the problem altogether until it is too late, or they have no way out, save funneling more money into their family member’s addiction. Isolation and embarrassment are commonalities among these cases,

and providing accessible resources and drug testing centers will better remedy the social constraints of addiction and allow people to feel there are tangible methods to end it.

Though Staten Island has a plethora of resources available to individuals who suffer from drug abuse, such as Camelot of Staten Island and Staten Island University Hospital, the resources provided by NYC are seldom to none, and they are traditionally technological services. No service to date has the substantial funding or capabilities that these centers would provide; the current resources available either lack anonymity, have the burden of cost, are not preventative, or some combination of them, and they, therefore, do not lay the foundation for any substantive solutions for those addicted to drugs. Providing accessible, safe, and cost-effective solutions through the City Council at this juncture will amount to a real step in the right direction to end drug addiction on Staten Island.

### **Proposal**

The Proposal suggests the City Council support the establishment of drug testing and resource centers across Staten Island. This would entail:

- I. The hiring of an adequate number of professionals with proper credentials.
- II. Designated spaces to provide these services.
- III. Full amnesty to those being tested and seeking resources.
- IV. Need-based and cost-aware administering of testing and resources.
- V. A minimum of four centers installed across Staten Island based on demonstrated need.

### **Fiscal Implications**

Each center will have an annual budget between \$100,000 and \$499,000.

**Effective Date**

§2. This local law takes effect one year after passage

## References

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- Kashiwagi, S. (2019, August 26th). Staten Island opioid deaths continued to surge in 2018, data shows. Staten Island, NY: Silive. Retrieved from <https://www.silive.com/news/2019/08/staten-island-opioid-deaths-continued-to-surge-in-2018-data-shows.html>
- Health Department Announces Drug Overdose Deaths Decreased in 2018 for the First Time in Eight Years Following Historic Investments. New York, NY. Retrieved from <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/about/press/pr2019/drug-overdose-deaths-decreased-in-2018-for-first-time-in-eight-years.page>

**Proposal No. 320SIBX – Bronx YMCA - EXPO**

By Council Members Almonte, Beltran, Bolden, DeBouse, Degree, Dembele, Diallo, Gonzalez, Madrid, Musah, Ramos, Santos, Waffeu

Bronx YMCA - Explorations Academy

A Local Law to address the issue of sanitation and cleanliness in NYC DOE schools.

**Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

**Committee: Health**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: The lack of proper school sanitation is negatively impacting student health and morale. The issue of hygiene care can lead to not just health concerns, but also problems such as bullying and the creation of toxic environments. We propose to plan and implement improvements so that adequate school sanitation conditions for the long term can be achieved as soon as possible. According to research about water, sanitation, and hygiene programs, “Schools with poor water, sanitation and hygiene conditions, and intense levels of person-to-person contact, are high-risk environments for children and staff, and exacerbate children’s particular susceptibility to environmental health hazards” (Alexander, Mwaki, Adhiambo, Cheney-Coker, Muga, Freeman, 2016). One set of guidelines regarding day school sanitation standards states that “Problems faced by school children and teachers in this kind of school often include lack of basic water supplies, sanitation and hygiene-enabling facilities; inadequate or hazardous outdoor space; and overcrowded classrooms where there is noise, poor lighting, poor seating, excessive heat or cold, damp and poor indoor-air quality. Funding for improved conditions in schools may be lacking, but there may also be a strong desire and capacity for change among staff, schoolchildren and parents” (Adams, Bartram, Chartier, Sims, 2009). In order to take advantage of that desire, we propose schools form a school wide clean up committee made up of dedicated

students who can model proper sanitation skills. Students would learn about cleaning up after themselves and how to maintain a clean environment, and schools can recognize the work as community services hours. Incentives could be used as well to help encourage students to volunteer.

This Proposal is necessary because students should have a clean and healthy work space. WASH guidelines state that “Children’s ability to learn may be affected by inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene conditions in several ways. These include helminth infections (which affect hundreds of millions of school-age children), long-term exposure to chemical contaminants in water (e.g. lead and arsenic), diarrheal diseases and malaria infections, all of which force many schoolchildren to be absent from school. Poor environmental conditions in the classroom can also make both teaching and learning very difficult.” (Alexander et al., 2016) According to research done by Anjali Adukia, “In considering the reasons for high dropout rates, particularly among pubescent-age girls, some have directed attention toward the absence of sanitation facilities in many schools worldwide”. One concern is that the absence of school latrines may cause girls to miss school on their menstruation days and then drop out from school” (Sanitation and Education). New York state law requires all public schools that serve 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade students to provide menstrual products in women’s restrooms (2019, Sathish), but that doesn’t guarantee that the restrooms are always fully stocked. There should be more female hygiene products in school restrooms and facilities in order to make females more comfortable in schools and to prevent incidents by providing the right resources.

## **Proposal**

This Proposal suggests City Council support the development of an initiative to promote better school hygiene. This would entail a campaign to provide the following:

1. Implementation of school-wide clean up committees and documentation of their work.
2. Ensuring mandatory female hygiene products in school restrooms and facilities are stocked and available by inspecting dispensers monthly.
3. Monitoring use of hygiene products such as toilet paper and soap dispensers, refilling weekly.

## **Fiscal Implications**

This Proposal will incur no cost to the City of New York.

## **Effective Date**

§2. This local law takes effect immediately

## References

- Adams J., Bartram J., Chartier Y., Sims J., (2009) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Standards for Schools in Low-Cost Settings: World Health Organization Geneva, Switzerland.  
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- Adukia, A. (2017, April). Sanitation and Education. American Economic Journal: Applied Economics. Retrieved from  
[https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/adukia/files/adukia\\_sanitation\\_and\\_education.pdf](https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/adukia/files/adukia_sanitation_and_education.pdf)
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**Proposal No. 420SIBX – Broadway YMCA**

By Council Members Gilbert, Sangare, Lewis, Lewis, Vasquez, Vasquez, Cureton, Rodriguez  
Staten Island – Broadway

A Local Law to address the issue of lack of fallout shelters in Staten Island

**Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

**Committee: Public Safety**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: Out of the over 200 fallout shelters in New York City, only three of them are on Staten Island. The lack of fallout shelters is a hazard to the many inhabitants in the Staten Island area. This Proposal is necessary to ensure the safety of the Staten Island residents during Natural Disasters. New York City Council should support this Proposal because civilians around the city of New York are unaware of the danger of not having enough fallout shelters. The scarce amount of fallout shelters is a threat to Staten Island resident’s safety.

**Proposal**

This Proposal suggests City Council support the development of an initiative to increase the amount of fallout shelters in Staten Island. This would entail a campaign to provide the following:

- I. Better distribution of shelters throughout the borough
- II. Better prepare adults and children and educate on locations of fallout shelters.
- III. Increase quality and practicality of operating nuclear shelters in the five boroughs.

**Fiscal Implications**

Millions.

**Effective Date**

§2. This will take months of preparation and will be in place by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

# **MANHATTAN**

**THURSDAY, MAY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2020**

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Proposal No. 120M – Chinatown YMCA – Beacon

Proposal No. 220M – Harlem YMCA

Proposal No. 320M – McBurney YMCA

Proposal No. 420M – Vanderbilt YMCA – TAG

Proposal No. 520M – Vanderbilt YMCA – Branch

Proposal No. 620M – West Side YMCA

**Proposal No. 120M – Chinatown - Beacon**

By Council Members Chen, Chiu, Lin, Malarkey, Pan, Ren, Tai, Wang  
Chinatown – Beacon

A Local Law to address the issue of food waste within the restaurants of NYC

**Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

**Committee: Environmental Protection**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: This Proposal will address the food waste from restaurants in New York City. There's too much food being thrown out daily by restaurants when this food could be used to feed the hungry people of NYC. According to the US Department of Agriculture, 3.9 million tons of food are thrown in the landfill yearly in New York. Although the food being thrown out is past the best by date, the food is still edible if eaten within one week. Some foods can last even longer.

**Proposal**

This Proposal suggests City Council enforce the donation of food by restaurants with their leftovers after, at most, every three days. Any food that cannot be donated will be composted either through the city or by the restaurant themselves. It will entail the following:

- I. The City of New York Department of Sanitation (DSNY) currently has a website where organizations who needs food can sign up and organizations who have food to donate can pick an organization to donate food. DSNY will continue monitoring this website to ensure that food gets donated evenly throughout the organizations in the city to ensure that no organization have an excess of food. We will distribute flyers to inform restaurants about the website.

- II. All services provided by DSNY will be free for the restaurants.
- III. The composting of food waste can be done by the restaurants on their own property or can be picked up by the sanitation department to be brought to the designated city composting site. We will turn 500 garbage truck of the 2500 trucks that's currently used by the DSNY into composting trucks.

If you do not follow these policies, you will be charged with fines. These fines are based on the type of restaurant. Chain restaurants (defined by NYC as a restaurant with more than 15 locations nationwide) will be charged with higher fines because they have bigger support behind them. They will be charged \$2000 flat rate plus \$50 dollar per pound. Family restaurants will be charged \$1000 flat rate plus \$50 per pound.

This Proposal will make restaurants be more mindful of the amount of food they order, and the amount they wasted. By being mindful of the food being wasted, the restaurants will save money purchasing the right amount. In turn, this can increase the quality of foods provided by restaurants.

**Fiscal Implications**

This Proposal will incur \$140,000,000 the first year to the City of New York due to the cost 1000 food trucks and salary of the 3000 workers. The following years will just be 125,500,000 for the salary of the workers and maintenance.

**Effective Date**

§2. Restaurants can start taking part in this program immediately, but the local law takes effect June 2021.

## References

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World Hunger Statistics. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.foodaidfoundation.org/world-hunger-statistics.html>



**Proposal No. 220M – Harlem YMCA**

By Council Members Cotteh, Diakhowmpa, Caro, Kamara, Diof, Diarrassouba, Diop, Rodriguez, Rodriguez, Mosley, Diornz, Samavhoru, Wagner, McFaulla, Edwards, Martinez, Diallo and, Johnson  
Harlem YMCA  
A Local Law to address the issue of Affordable Housing

**Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

**Committee: Affordable Housing**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: Unaffordable homes are negatively impacting our city, communities and the neighborhoods we live in, which are the cultural fabric and authenticity that is New York. New York City youth residents and their families are practically screaming in financial suffering as their families are being priced out of existing homes or unable to find affordable homes, due to soaring living costs. This include increases in monthly rent for apartments in the city and high buying/selling costs for properties such as condo apartments or houses. Meanwhile subsidized and affordable housing programs for working-class New Yorkers, are failing as new homes are not being built or, if they are, they are being priced as luxury condos. These new condos with amenities become the playground for the financially comfortable and wealthy. Then you have individuals like landlords and building owners seeking to maximize profits through unethical means by pricing the new homes too high or failing to comply with city laws that are meant to make the housing market fair for the middle class or low-income residents. All this at the expense of working-class New Yorkers who simply want the right to live comfortably for what they can afford.

New York City Council should support this Proposal because residents around the city of New York are aware of the harm and the effects of the lack of unaffordable homes. The real estate lobby, landlords, and building administrations are going unchecked. Since New York City resident's ability to stop and counteract these forces alone as individuals have been met with roadblocks and a lack of galvanization of elected officials, we have decided to highlight this issue, put forth a policy, and help our elected officials to enact it!

*“In neighborhoods already gentrified or in the throes of gentrifying, a relatively new class of mega-landlords has driven up rents by exploiting enforcement gaps in a web of city and state agencies. By churning through enough tenants and claiming enough renovations, landlords can raise the rent enough — beyond \$2,733.75 a month — to wrest an apartment from regulation’s grip and into the free market. New York is among the global boomtowns, like London, Los Angeles and San Francisco, where skyrocketing rents — and the struggle to shelter those who can’t afford them — have struck a deep political chord. But New York grapples with its own peculiar contradictions.” ( Kim Barker NYT Reporter May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018)*

## **Proposal**

This Proposal suggests City Council support the development of an initiative to fund, build and establish partnerships to expand the affordable housing stock and double the availability of affordable homes through the city. This would entail a campaign to provide the following:

- I. Increase awareness of the unethical behavior taking place in the housing and real estate world, by fining landlords and building owners for illegal acts such as unsanctioned rent hikes.
- II. Subsidized current housing stocks, including existing low-income units, and subsidize landlords and owners who buy into the program and create initiatives to expand the program through city funding that is allocated towards current failing housing programs.
- III. Expand access to other housing alternatives including housing vouchers, and change zoning laws that makes it easy for high priced housing buildings to be built-in low-income areas.

## **Fiscal Implications**

With existing money already used and other funds redirected from failing programs to help cover cost gaps or over runs. As well as a tax on millionaires and billionaires in the city. The taxes will be applicable to all millionaires and billionaires who own properties with either a rental income of more than \$1 million annually or, properties that are valued at more than \$3 million for selling value. Also fines collected from unscrupulous landlords and prosecutions of dirty real estate companies and lobbying groups could more than make up for the budget of such a project.

## **Effective Date**

§2. This local law takes effect immediately

## References

*All references are in APA format* (2015, November 23). Retrieved

from <https://stormwater.wef.org/2015/11/new-york-city-launches-campaign-reduce-litter-improve-waterways/>

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<https://education.seattlepi.com/littering-affect-environment-6802.html>

**Proposal No. 320M – McBurney YMCA - Washington Irving High School**

By Council Members Beltran, Oseguera, Orellana, Soler, DeBouse

McBurney YMCA – Washington Irving High School

A Local Law addressing the lack of resources given to lower income schools in New York City within the Department of Education.

**Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

**Committee: Education**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: The lack of educational resources that should be provided for every student, such as tablets, laptops, computers in their libraries, and better experienced teachers, are negatively impacting their education (learning experiences, gaining more ‘up to date knowledge’). According to The Education Trust-New York, the highest-need schools have more new teachers than other schools. Research shows that having strong teachers is the most important in-school factor for student success. And teachers are typically stronger after a few years of experience. The more experienced and training a teacher is given, the better and healthier their classroom settings could be.

Integrate NYC reported that, “NYC currently serves 1.1 million students in some of the most separate and unequal schools in the country,” emphasizing in between the lines that there is such a thing as lower income versus higher income schools when that should not even exist; equality. According to Chalk beat, the city is owed \$1.2 billion for education by the state, money that could go toward fully funding the formula, which is designed to provide extra financial support for the neediest schools.” Where and who is all of that money going towards? The Education Trust mentions, “What happens when once resources get to a school district has historically received the least transparency and attention.” Parents and students, especially if

English is not the first language taught, can be negatively affected by the confusion of funding charts and websites.

This Proposal is necessary to bring awareness to not only students, parents, but also board members in the Department of Education. Students are denied access and privileges that the New York City Council should be supplying to schools all over. The New York City Council should support this Proposal because the importance in a student's education is our future. We are not asking for any more money, we are simply asking for an equal redistribution, and a new analysis of that money given to each school.

### **Proposal**

This Proposal suggests City Council support the development of an initiative to increase income for educational resources to lower income schools (school equity access). This would entail a campaign to provide the following:

- I. Increase awareness towards not only students, but parents by providing transparent charts for both parties to be able to understand how their school is funded.
- II. Organize workshops/programs for students on how to efficiently fundraise and advocate better for their schools.
- III. Provide workshops, leadership seminars, and teacher talks so that those with less experience can gain more help, advice, and tools to produce a better and healthier behavioral classroom setting.

### **Fiscal Implications**

This Proposal will incur no cost to the City of New York.

**Effective Date**

By Summer of 2020 (end of school year).

## References

The Education Trust-New York. My School's Funding: Is my child's school getting the funding it needs to help all students be successful? Retrieved <https://newyork.edtrust.org/my-schools-funding/>

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**Proposal No. 420M – Vanderbilt YMCA - TAG**

By Council Members Baylor, Belton, Brennan, Castro, Garrison, Kwok, Malone, Morales, Raghunath, Spinella, Smith, Torres

Vanderbilt YMCA – TAG

A Local Law to address the issue of maltreated community gardens and the lack of healthy food access in lower-income NYC neighborhoods.

**Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

**Committee: Environmental Protection/Health**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: Many people in New York City do not have access to fresh produce and we hope to make such produce accessible. With this Proposal, we aim to provide low income communities with affordable food options year-round. Community gardens in NYC have been overlooked due to gentrification and extreme lack of funding, among other reasons. Locally grown produce is said to be quite beneficial toward low income communities. Since the early 2000s, community garden initiatives have had a great surge in prevalence. Community gardens are very impactful, and we can grow a multitude of crops in such a space.

By revamping community gardens in low income areas, we will add healthier foods to people’s diet and help them avoid chronic diseases, such as heart disease and diarrhea. Several studies have shown that visible exposure to greenspaces can effectively reduce stress and improve one's capability to be productive. Nearby greenspaces also help clear the mind, improve one's mindset, and offer sensory impacts that are mentally restorative. The mere presence of nature helps improve connections within the community. [The Health Benefits of Small Parks and Green Spaces]

## **Proposal**

This Proposal suggests City Council support the development of an initiative to increase the access of healthy foods and community gardens in low income communities. This would entail a campaign to provide the following:

- I. The “revamping” of malnourished/abandoned community gardens
- II. The transformation of community gardens into affordable farmers markets
- III. Investment of potential profits back into the gardens
- IV. Regularly scheduled workshops teaching the communities about food harvesting
- V. Partnerships with companies such as GrowNYC to develop the gardens and workshops

## **Fiscal Implications**

This Proposal will incur an initial cost of about \$4000 per abandoned lot, \$0 per pre-existing garden.

## **Effective Date**

§2 This local law takes effect immediately.

## References

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- TRUiC. (2019, December 9). How to Start a Community Garden. Retrieved from <https://howtostartanllc.com/business-ideas/community-garden>

**Proposal No. 520M – Vanderbilt YMCA**

By Council Members: Corcino, Fils- Aime, Flores, Flores, Gold, Latorre, Medina, Morales, Sapp  
Vanderbilt YMCA - Branch

A Local Law to address the issue of lack of awareness of youth jobs and lack of work readiness.

**Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

**Committee: Youth Services**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: A lack of awareness of youth employment programs is negatively impacting our low-income youth. Youth not having access to information regarding youth employment opportunities can drive motivation down. Alternatively, having access to this information can increase motivation as well as decreasing youth crime rates.

This Proposal is necessary to prepare low-income youth for the workforce and self-sufficiency in adulthood. New York City Council should support this Proposal because low-income youth are not being exposed to the necessary preparation for what it is like to apply to jobs, and work for their own benefit (besides school). According to a research study at New York University, youth job opportunities have the potential to benefit high school students' academic performance and future employment opportunities, especially for low-income youth. According to Urban Alliance, "Working while in high school has been linked to improved academic performance, decreased dropout rates, and increased rates of General Educational Development (GED) and vocational certificates. Research conducted at Northwestern University showed that high school programs 'with a work experience component can increase the likelihood of students' enrolling in college after graduation.' These educational outcomes are important because more than half of all new jobs in the next decade will require some postsecondary

education, and youth who stay in school and graduate from college are almost twice as likely as high school dropouts to be employed (83% vs. 46%).”

### **Proposal**

This Proposal suggests City Council support the development of an initiative to increase awareness of available youth job opportunities and better prepare low-income youth for the workforce. This would entail a campaign to provide the following:

- I. Implement an out-of-school time program focused on preparing youth for the workforce, consisting of mandatory monthly programming totaling 4 hours of program, focused on resuming building, interview preparation, and workforce readiness. It also contains partnerships with SYEP/DYCD to provide the mentors and curriculum for the program. The program culminates in the participants being propelled to the front of the priority list for SYEP jobs, only if they complete the mandated hours of programming every month. Alternatively, they may receive information from their mentors regarding similar jobs and internships in which they may apply to.
- II. Adding the option for former SYEP participants to become a mentor for the program once they lose eligibility for the summer jobs.
- III. This program will be implemented into NYC public high schools with a high percentage of their population being low-income students.

### **Fiscal Implications**

This Proposal will incur a cost of \$70,000 per program manager, based upon number of schools in which the program is implemented into.

### **Effective Date**

§2. This local law takes effect immediately.

## References

nyc department of youth and community development dycd Salaries. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.simplyhired.com/salaries-k-nyc-department-of-youth-and-community-development-dycd-jobs.html>.

Schwartz, A. E., Leos-Urbel, J., & Wiswall, M. (2015, August). Retrieved from [https://research.steinhardt.nyu.edu/scmsAdmin/media/users/js5333/Making\\_Summer\\_Matter\\_8-5-15\\_working\\_paper.pdf](https://research.steinhardt.nyu.edu/scmsAdmin/media/users/js5333/Making_Summer_Matter_8-5-15_working_paper.pdf)

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT MATTERS! - Urban Alliance. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.theurbanalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/UA-Policy-Brief-4.pdf>

## **Proposal No. 620M – West Side YMCA**

By Council Members: Estrella, Pearson, Campbell, De - La Rosa, Kuilan, Raspaldo, Morrison  
West Side YMCA

A Local Law to address the issue of police and community disconnection in the minority communities of NYC

### **Policy Proposal to New York Council**

#### **Committee: Public Safety**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: The biggest obstacle police and citizens face is the lack of connection. Citizens in New York City don't always feel safe around the police. According to Reuters Polling, "30 percent of African-Americans, 43 percent of the younger generation and 47 percent of Democrats say they trust the police to be fair and just." Although some people trust the cops in New York City, citizens and police have been thrust in consistent conflict in recent years. "With the rise of groups like Black Lives Matter," The New York Times reports, "Tensions have been rising in the subway system in recent weeks, with commuters observing and filming what they deem to be the overly aggressive policing of black and hispanic riders. Some New Yorkers have jumped turnstiles in protest of the arrests of young black men and the handcuffing of a woman selling churros." Unnecessary aggression has led to conflicts in our neighbourhoods but is only a symptom of the ongoing tension between civilians and police in america. The most common form of police misconduct in 2010 was excessive force. According to the Cato Institute/US Department of Justice, this is similar to the data that was collected in 2001 by the US Government(Natalie Regoli, Editor from Vittana.org). They have also reported, excessive force reports made up more than 23 percent of all police misconduct reports in 2010 of those excessive force reports, an estimated 57 percent involved cases of physical use of force, which

include chokeholds, baton strikes, and other physical attacks. This Proposal is necessary to combat the issue, better the community and to further build upon a standard of law enforcement overall. Unlike US law enforcement, Canadian law enforcement has set a tone for more services and less intimidation to install trust and better connection with the community. Ontario Council of agencies suggest, “Most police services in Canada use a community policing approach. This means that the police work with you and your community to prevent crime and to address safety issues. Community policing can include: (1)Providing police services in languages other than English... (2)Recruiting officers from a variety of ethnic backgrounds to better reflect a community's needs. (3)Meeting with neighborhood residents to find out their concerns and ideas for solutions. (4)Making police more visible, such as police on foot or bicycles instead of in cars. (5)Offering or supporting crime prevention programs, such as Neighbourhood Watch and Block Parent. (6)Doing public education, with young people or seniors.” The Police in the NYPD do a lot every day to stop crime but not enough to directly help the community and settle more than conflict. Officers will be assigned times and services as needed in the communities they serve.

### **Proposal**

This Proposal suggests that the city council supports an initiative that develops community relations with cops. This would entail a campaign that provides the following:

1. Creating a monthly time and space for meeting with neighborhood residents to find out their concerns and ideas for solutions.
2. Allotting time for public education that insures the awareness of individual rights as well as local and state laws.
3. Dedicates a certain amount of hours to acts of service by police officers of all ranks.

### **Fiscal Implications**



There are no Fiscal Implications, this Proposal will incur no cost to the City of New York.

**Effective Date**

§2. This local law takes effect immediately.

## References

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- Hauler, Lesley. "5 Facts about Police Brutality that will shock you." aol.com, aol, 22 Oct. 2015, www.aol.com/article/2015/10/22/5-facts-about-police-brutality-in-the-united-states-that-will-sh/21252144/. Accessed 21 Feb. 2020.
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- Opam, Kwame. "Tensions Over Subway Policing, Race and 'Arrest Quotas.'" The Ny Times, New York today, 9 Dec. 2019, www.nytimes.com/2019/12/09/nyregion/nypd-subway-racial-profiling.html. Accessed Feb. 2020.
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# **BROOKLYN**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2020**

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- Proposal No. 120BK – Coney Island YMCA
- Proposal No. 220BK – Coney Island YMCA – CI Prep
- Proposal No. 320BK – Dodge YMCA
- Proposal No. 420BK – Flatbush YMCA
- Proposal No. 520BK – Greenpoint YMCA
- Proposal No. 620BK – North Brooklyn YMCA – MS
- Proposal No. 720BK – Prospect Park YMCA – Armory
- Proposal No. 820BK – Flatbush YMCA – M.S. 907
- Proposal No. 920BK – North Brooklyn YMCA – HS

## **Proposal No. 120BK – Coney Island YMCA**

By Council Member Levans

Coney Island YMCA

A Local Law to address the issue of New York restaurants wasting edible food instead of feeding people that are in need of a meal every day.

### **Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

#### **Committee: Health**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: Approximately 3.9 million tons of wasted New York food makes its way into landfills each year, where it decays and contributes massively to methane (a greenhouse gas even more harmful than carbon dioxide) production. Additionally, with landfills such as Albany's Rapp Road scheduled to reach capacity within the next five years, it is becoming more and more crucial for state and local actors to make a dent in this burgeoning crisis. Food waste that ends up in landfills produces a large amount of methane – a more powerful greenhouse gas than even CO<sub>2</sub>. For the uninitiated, excess amounts of greenhouse gases such as methane, CO<sub>2</sub> and chlorofluorocarbons absorb infrared radiation and heat up the earth's atmosphere, causing global warming and climate change.

Food Waste in New York has been an ongoing issue impacting those in need and our health as well. Food waste also affects the environment as well. According to the Mayor's Food Waste Challenge to Restaurants, New York City sends four million tons of waste to landfill every year. Almost a third of that is food waste. When food waste degrades in landfills, it produces methane, a harmful greenhouse gas. New York City restaurants, in total, account for the largest single stream of food waste on the commercial side. They generate close to half a million tons of food waste per year – enough to fill well over a hundred subway cars per day. Not to mention, food

loss and waste and public health intersect primarily in the domains of food security, food safety, and nutrition. Important to realize, a law that will push restaurants to donate all of their edible food to organizations will ensure better health for New Yorkers and a reduced amount of wasted food going to landfills creating the worst greenhouse gas to at least 14 percent.

This Proposal is very vital because it will ensure that New York City restaurants are donating the edible food that has not been eaten to those who are in need or organizations that will provide retirement Homes, homeless shelters, Meals on Wheels, etc. The New York City Council should support this because New Yorkers are truly affected by the immense amount of food being wasted just simply because most restaurants are unaware of how they should donate their leftover food and 56 percent of large restaurants said concerns about liability kept them from donating food. “Liability is just an excuse,” said Mary Risler, founder of Food Runners, a nonprofit that rescues leftovers from businesses in San Francisco. “There’s no reason not to donate.” Started in 2009, We Don’t Waste works with restaurants, universities, distributors and major stadiums and collects food five days a week. Because the goods are perishable, everything is delivered on the same day it’s retrieved, Arlan Preblud, founder and executive director, told HuffPost.

### **Proposal**

We propose that the New York City Council supports the implementation for New York Restaurants to donate all of the leftover edible food to those in need. We entail the City Council approve the following:

- I. Managers will conduct inventory frequently in order to compare purchase and quantity of garbage and change the menu in order to minimize quantity of leftovers that turn into food waste

- II. Restaurants must be cautious of the amount of food that is being used and track and analyze the waste in the restaurants.
- III. Decrease the amount of wasted food that restaurants waste that are going to landfills by simply sending the edible food to food banks, soup kitchens and nonprofit organizations who aim to feed the hungry.

**Fiscal Implications**

§ 2. This Proposal will be subjected to no cost to the City of New York.

**Effective Date**

§ 3. This local law takes effect immediately.

## References

Goldberg, E. (2016, December 7). Why Restaurants Officially Have No Excuse Not To Donate Their Leftover Food. Retrieved from [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/restaurants-that-dont-donate-because-of-liability-are-just-making-excuses-experts-say\\_n\\_577d6f92e4b0344d514dd20f](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/restaurants-that-dont-donate-because-of-liability-are-just-making-excuses-experts-say_n_577d6f92e4b0344d514dd20f).

The problem of food waste. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://olioex.com/food-waste/the-problem-of-food-waste/>.

Lunsford, M. (2015, November 24). Despite law, restaurants still don't donate food. Retrieved from <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2015/11/23/despite-law-restaurants-still-dont-donate-food/76286144/>.

Working to Solve New York's Food Waste Problem. (2018, August 23). Retrieved from <https://nylcv.org/news/working-solve-new-yorks-food-waste-problem/>  
<https://www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/archive/fy19/exec/agencies/appropData/HealthDepartmentof.html>

**Proposal No. 220BK – Coney Island YMCA - Coney Island Prep**

By Council Members: Cheung, Pajarito, Altamirano, DeVito

Coney Island YMCA – Coney Island Prep

A Local Law to address the issue of littering and pollution that has led to the Coney Island community having an increase of pollutants in the beach and water areas.

**Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

**Committee: Environmental Protection**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: In recent decades, the Coney Island landscape has been deteriorating rapidly at the hands of human neglect of our beaches and waterways. We aim to develop a sense of unity within our community through raising awareness to the littering and pollution that plague our area. Not only is this a conflict on a local-scale, but also on a global scale. As with all issues, we must start small. In doing so, we hope to inspire a ripple effect that will spread throughout the city. This ripple will soon become a wave. I want to see a society with people determined to make the world better now and for future generations.

This will not be an easy task as the sudden influx of new technologies compromises our Earth. However, we can change that and use technology for the betterment of our community, but we cannot do this alone. Coney Island is not what it used to be. The place of wonders lays a victim. The once picturesque beach is currently covered with garbage. The once clear ocean is severely polluted. Our beach, or rather, our home, is fading before our very eyes. We ask that the city lend us a helping hand by establishing laws to regulate littering, as well as promote sanitary measures. To accomplish this, we need the Department of Environmental Protection to hire personnel to monitor and preserve our home. The city can implement recyclable machines and



organize disposables into landfill, recyclables, and paper. This will be a concerted effort and we want to engender a sense of unity within our community. [...]

### **Proposal**

This Proposal suggests City Council support the development of an initiative to decrease littering and pollution this would entail a campaign to provide the following:

- I. Adding reverse vending machines to areas near beach
- II. Hiring people to patrol the beach more frequently to pick up litter and empty garbage cans more frequently
- III. Adding garbage containers with lids

### **Fiscal Implications**

- The reverse vending machines cost \$90,000
- The trash cans will cost \$27,965
- The addition of staff members needed to patrol beaches would include a budget of \$200,000
- Total estimated budget would be \$317,965

### **Effective Date**

This local law will take effect on January 31, 2020

## References

“Millions Of Pounds Of Trash Found On Ocean Beaches.” *ScienceDaily*, ScienceDaily, 18 Apr.

2008, [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/04/080416214912.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/04/080416214912.htm).

“Impacts of Mismanaged Trash.” *EPA*, Environmental Protection Agency, 23 May 2017,

[www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/impacts-mismanaged-trash](http://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/impacts-mismanaged-trash)

Stegman, Robyn, et al. “The Impact of Ocean Trash.” *Ocean Conservancy*, 18 Sept. 2018,

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[www.nydailynews.com/new-york/brooklyn/volunteers-clear-124-lbs-garbage-coney-island-shoreline-article-1.955877](http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/brooklyn/volunteers-clear-124-lbs-garbage-coney-island-shoreline-article-1.955877).

**Proposal No. 320BK – Dodge YMCA**

By Council Members Jahlani Q, Andre S, Amanda O, Kenneth B & Kamani G.  
Dodge Branch

A Local Law to address the needs of teens who face various issues that oppresses their well-being within New York City.

**Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

**Committee: Public Safety**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: This Proposal addresses the needs of teens who face various issues that oppresses their well-being. In providing a counseling service led by teens, this can help raise awareness of teen depression and build the upliftment of one another when we see our peers going through situations in their lives. Narratives like this become a necessity for change that the causes of environmental stresses such as abuse, the loss of loved ones, bullying victimization and so on can lead to higher chances of harm.

According to *“Psyche Central.com Why Are So Many Teens Depressed”* article about 20 to 50% of teens face depressive episodes and 50% develop anxiety disorders and as a result to suicide is the second leading death among adolescents. It’s essential that US, Teens obtain counseling being that we go through events which may cause us stress; such obstacles include meeting the expectations of school standards, parental beliefs, unfortunate family conditions, unable to be our true selves within school “cliques”, etc.

Inside Schools reported that in City Polytechnic High School, the high school nearest to the Dodge YMCA, nearly half of their students believe that school faculty assists them when in a time of grief. We must ensure that our students feel as safe and secure as possible and we will be able to do so by increasing the amount of teen assistance they receive.

## **Proposal**

We propose that the city council support the improvement regulations of allowing our service to aid in a union to teens with hopes to reach a greater impact throughout the school community and youth organizations. This project includes such acts of goodwill in:

- I. Hosting positive conversations and appropriate teen talks amongst each other as well as participating in group activities that will develop reassurance.
- II. Requesting authorization for the counseling service to be supported as a school requirement and led by teens with the furtherance of an adult(s).
- III. Enforcing schools to dedicate 15 mins per day towards a break where students can collaborate with peers and school faculty.

## **Fiscal Implications**

None Specified.

## **Effective Date**

This law shall take effect immediately.

## Reference

[https://www.medicinenet.com/teen\\_depression/article.htm](https://www.medicinenet.com/teen_depression/article.htm)

<https://time.com/longform/never-again-movement/>

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/teen-depression-facts.page>

<https://psychcentral.com/blog/why-are-so-many-teens-depressed/>

<https://www.parents.com/kids/teens/depression/teen-depression-statistics-causes-and-treatment/>

**Proposal No. 420BK – Flatbush YMCA - Branch**

By Council Members La Barrie, Navarrete, Auer, Robinson, Jean, Pinnock  
Flatbush YMCA

A Local Law to improve police interaction and address the immense rate of police misconduct in New York City.

**Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

**Committee: Public Safety**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: In 2017, for the first time in 8 years the number of allegations of misconduct against the NYPD increased. Police misconduct has negatively impacting the safety and security of all New York City residents. This past October, artist and Professor Oriel Ceballos was pepper sprayed, tackled, and assaulted since he was selling artwork without a table. This incident is an act of an abuse of power and can be avoided with the supplementation of training. Currently, the NYPD allocates approximately \$107,000 towards training officers. Trainings based around deescalating and controlling issues between police officers and civilians are ran by the NYPD's Crisis Intervention Team Training and Tactical Training Program. Such training does not take place after a Police Officer leaves the Police Academy which simultaneously lowers the odds of a police officer retaining information once provided. New York City's Police Department is harming the communities they serve by reducing the amount of trainings that are needed the most.

The New York City Council should support this Proposal because civilians around the city of New York feel unsafe when interacting with Police Officers. Washington Post reported, "Only 54 percent overall said they approved of the job the police were doing. And the view of nonwhites toward the police had turned negative, with only 35 percent of African Americans and

43 percent of Hispanics expressing a favorable view”. These low percentages are despicable and must be increased so people of all races and ethnical residents feel safe within our city.

### **Proposal**

This Proposal suggests that the City Council supports the development of an initiative to reduce police brutality in New York City. This would entail a campaign to provide the following:

- I. Mandate that the NYPD conduct trainings about ways to handle cop-civilians’ interactions once per month.
- II. Increase awareness by implementing workshops that are open to the public.
- III. Plan events where officers and civilians interact and partake in activities in selected areas.
- IV. Hold police officers accountable for excessive use of power against innocent civilians and making that offense a Class B felony.

### **Fiscal Implications**

§ 2. This will incur 1.3 million of the NYPD’s 5.6 Billion Dollar Budget

### **Effective Date**

§ 3. This local law takes effect immediately.

## References

Rich, S. (2018, January 2). Fatal Force: 2019 police shootings database. Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/national/police-shootings-2019/>.

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Moore, T., & Musumeci, N. (2018, April 12). Police misconduct allegations are up against NYPD. Retrieved from <https://nypost.com/2018/04/12/police-misconduct-allegations-are-up-against-nypd/>. (n.d.).

Cochran, L. (2019, October 10). Artist Tackled, Pepper-Sprayed by Officers in Washington Square Park. Retrieved from <https://nyunews.com/news/2019/10/10/washingtonsquarepark-artist-assaulted-detained-peaceofficers>.



**Proposal No. 520BK – Greenpoint YMCA - Williamsburg Prep**

By Council Members Dawkins, Reid, Grinnage

Greenpoint – Williamsburg Prep

A local law to stop biase treatment of black and brown people at the MTA turn styles, and develop a program to have less cops but much more MTA workers and policies with dealing when low-income communities

**Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

**Committee: Public Safety**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: Propose that the City Council support the development of: Implementing more MTA workers and having less police officers stationed in transit stations specifically in low income areas. The reasons for these particular changes are because of high arrest rates and fines that are produced in these areas low income areas. Black and Latino New Yorkers make up the overwhelming majority of people stopped by police for subway fare evasion, new NYPD data shows. Of nearly 1,000 fare evaders arrested during the first three months of 2019, some 87% were black or Latino. Of 18,700 fare-beating summonses issued during the same period — which did not involve arrests — 70% went to black and Latino riders.

This is also can be a form of racism, once someone is fined and possibly arrested for not having adequate funds he/she will be placed in the system and have a permanent record. According to the daily news “The NYPD, as it does with so many offenses, continues to disproportionately target communities of color for what is basically a crime of poverty,” said Anthony Posada, a supervising attorney at The Legal Aid Society. “A fare evasion arrest carries with it collateral consequences that can affect employment, deny access to critical public benefits, and for immigrant New Yorkers, result in detention and possibly deportation.” Officers

are stationed in these communities have a good deal of discretion over whether fare beaters are fined or arrested.

When many riders have been subjected to these types of treatment for the issues of poverty, it can result in being resistance to police officers, which can turn into un-necessary police force which damages the community. In November of 2019, in New York riders overflowed into a protest in against increased policing on the MTA. The outrage was prompted by multiple videos of viral arrests that appeared to involve unnecessary force by police toward passengers of color.

In closing, this is why the City council should support the public safety issue of removing or replacing police officers in these stations. Once someone gets a fine or arrested they are immediately placed in the system which can play into the stereotypes of being black and Latino. This is an issue that must be addressed immediately.

### **Proposal**

- I) Implementing more MTA workers in stations, and having less police officers
- II) Creating and policies and procedures towards better customer (MTA riders) experience with the MTA involving riders with little to no income to ride.
- III) Monthly workshops with MTA, NYPD and the people of the community to better understand the demographic and needs of the community
- IV) Having a program in which repeat-offenders are offered help

### **Fiscal Implications**

None Specified.

### **Effective Date**

Take effect immediately.

## References

GUSE, C. (2019, May 12). Thedailynews.com. Retrieved from <https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/ny-fare-evasion-nypd-enforcement-20190512-wz6pgm7q3vf37a4g37uhoun2ji-story.html>

Nguyen, T. (2019, November 15). Retrieved from Vox.com: <https://www.vox.com/the-goods/2019/11/12/20959914/fare-evasion-costs-cities-millions>

Sandoval, E. G. (2019, April 13). Retrieved from New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/13/nyregion/mta-bus-riders-fare-beaters.html>

**Proposal No. 620BK – North Brooklyn YMCA - 347/349 Beacon – YASMS**

By Council Members Parera, Rodriguez, Crespo, Coronado, Bermeo

North Brooklyn – M.S. 347 / 349 Beacon – YAS

A Local Law to address the issue of mental health within DoE schools located in New York City

**Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

**Committee: Health**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: Major Depressive Disorders are affecting our youth. According to the Polaris Teen Center, 20% of Adolescents and teenagers will struggle with depression before adulthood. The CDC's 2015 report on suicide stated that suicide one of the leading causes of death among people between the ages 10-14, and the second among persons aged 15-34 years. Every ~40 seconds, a teen takes his or her own life, according to the World Health Organization's Data on Suicide Statistics. Teens are common victims of self-harm and suicidal tendencies. Teens can often experience negative emotions, consisting of extreme highs and lows—and the lows could potentially lead to an attempt. I Need a LightHouse, an agency for raising awareness for depression and suicide, reported that between 10-15% of teenagers have some symptoms of depression at any one time; however, some teens with depression may not feel sad at all. Teens are already more likely to be experiencing reduced energy, changes in eating or sleeping habits, become angry or irritable more quickly or more often. These feelings often coincide with feelings of self-loathing, worthlessness or guilt, and angst. All these factors could make it more difficult to determine whether a teen is depressed.

This Proposal is necessary to provide more accessible, ample resources for teens mental health. New York City Council should support this Proposal because teens across the city are

experiencing these thoughts and feelings, with little to no support. As we know, treatment for mental disorders, like depression, is a combination of psychotherapy and medication; however, teen depression is significantly underdiagnosed and undertreated. As the American Family Physician reported, because of the lack of mental health care professionals, family physicians are often responsible for detecting and treating childhood and adolescent depression.

### **Proposal**

This Proposal suggests City Council support the development of an initiative to increase students access to mental health programs within their school buildings. This would entail a campaign to provide the following:

- I. Mandating that every DoE school holds student led mental health workshops once a month
- II. Demands that Teachers completes at least one online mental health training in order to learn how to combat issues that may occur within the classroom.
- III. Mandates that all kids are granted 2 Mental Health Days per month.

### **Fiscal Implications**

This Proposal will incur no cost to the City of New York.

### **Effective Date**

§2. This local law takes effect immediately

## References

- “WISQARS (Web-Based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System)|Injury Center|CDC.” *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 18 Sept. 2019, [www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html).
- Center, Polaris Teen. “Teen Mood Disorders: Can Anxiety Cause Depression? - Polaris Teen Center.” *Polaris Teen Center: Premier Adolescent Treatment Center in Los Angeles*, 27 Mar. 2019, [polaristeen.com/articles/can-anxiety-cause-depression-in-teens/](http://polaristeen.com/articles/can-anxiety-cause-depression-in-teens/).
- “World Mental Health Day 2019: 40 Seconds of Action for Suicide Prevention.” *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, [www.who.int/bangladesh/news/detail/10-10-2019-world-mental-health-day-2019-40-seconds-of-action-for-suicide-prevention](http://www.who.int/bangladesh/news/detail/10-10-2019-world-mental-health-day-2019-40-seconds-of-action-for-suicide-prevention).
- “Teen Depression.” *I Need a Lighthouse*, [www.ineedalighthouse.org/depression-suicide/teen-depression/](http://www.ineedalighthouse.org/depression-suicide/teen-depression/).
- “Mental Health Care Services by Family Physicians (Position Paper).” *AAFP Home*, 24 Aug. 2018, [www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/mental-services.html](http://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/mental-services.html).

**Proposal No. 720BK – Prospect Park YMCA - Armory**

By Council Members Abihizer, Belcher, Benjamin, Petinaud, Roy, A. Stanley & M. Stanley  
Prospect Park YMCA – Armory

This Proposal will address the need for an increase in safety precautions towards human trafficking and it will additionally provide, along with strengthening the local communities awareness and safety procedures against human trafficking.

**Policy Proposal to New York City**

**Committee: Public Safety**

Be enacted by the council as follows:

Section 1: Human trafficking is negatively impacting our community because it is the illegal trade of human beings for the purposes of reproductive slavery, commercial sexual exploitation, and forced labor. According to case act.org, there are 11 counts including general negligence, various liability for assault with a deadly weapon, sexual assault, the sexual battery in breach of contract. Over the past 8 years, there has been a dramatic increase in human trafficking and it's affecting many people and communities it is now time that we take steps towards protecting ourselves and others.

This Proposal is necessary because it will create a sense of safety and preparedness for citizens. Each year, as many as 100,000–300,000 American children are at risk of being trafficked for commercial sex in the United States. The New York City Council should support this Proposal because civilians around the city of New York are most likely not aware of the rate of these attacks. Adding this type of mentorship to school will help kids who are traumatized /from human trafficking-related situations or just from the fact that it could be them next. Other ways to decrease the rates of these attacks are mandatory classes, electives, or day training in

schools that would educate students on the possibilities of human trafficking and things they should do or look at for if they find themselves in the situations.

### **Proposal**

The Proposal suggests the City Council support the development of the initiative to provide an awareness campaign of the safety precautions for local citizens. Search campaigns will inform the local community and enter the greater society. It will entail a campaign to provide the following:

- I. Placing advisor/Counselor/mentors into educational building/schools that are experienced with talking to young people about the topic of human trafficking, and so students have easy access to someone they can talk to about their trauma of either being a victim or the possibility that it can happen to them.

### **Fiscal Implications**

This bill will incorporate into regular Health Classes.

### **Effective Date**

Start of the school year.



## References

Hui, T. K. (2019, December 30). New NC law means school workers must be trained to spot signs of sex trafficking. Retrieved from <https://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/education/article238829023.html>

Homeland Security, Department (2000) Human Trafficking 101 for School Administrators and Staff. <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/oshs/humantraffickin101-schladmin.pdf>

**Proposal No. 920BK – Flatbush YMCA – M.S. 907**

By Council Members Cottrell, Fargas, Torres, White  
Flatbush YMCA – MS 907

A Local Law to address the issue of lack of resources being offered to the community and the youths in East New York

**Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

**Committee: Youth Services**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. There is a lack of community resources readily available to the people and its youth of East New York. The lack of opportunities being available specifically to the youth in our community. This proposal is necessary to get more youths off the streets. New York City Council should support this proposal because offering more resources to the youths in the community of East New York will give them a better opportunity to succeed in school and life, this will also help struggling families.

§2. Resources such as afterschool programs, mentoring and youth programs in neighboring community centers. According to youth.gov, after school programs bring a good range of benefits to youth, families and communities. Afterschool programs can boost academic performance, reduce bad behaviors, promote physical health, and provide a safe, structured environment for children of working parents. According to bu.edu it states mentoring creates a positive impact in youth's lives. Youth with mentors have higher rates of high school graduation and are less likely to drop out of school. They find more self-confidence, self-esteem, and can create big goals for themselves. Additionally, studies show that behavior, attitudes, and relationships skills improve when a youth has a mentor. Mentors help children grow and close

the social and/or economic opportunity gap. Studies show that getting youths involved with after school programs can have a positive effect on them. Effects such as improvement in attendance and engagement in learning, improvement in test scores and grades, utilizing a range of techniques known to foster youth's success, decrease drug usage, prevent criminal behavior, increase moral values, and strengthen self-confidence.

Thirty-four percent of residents living below the poverty line. Programs such as Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) which helps teens and young adults from the ages 14-24 years old get a job/make money at a young age. SYEP has supported over 540 youth participants from East New York in Brooklyn, providing 14 to 24-year-olds with summer employment and educational opportunities. Programs such as SYEP help youth with working class parents that suffer financially.

This proposal is necessary to foster a healthy character for the youths in East New York. New York City Council should support this proposal because there is a lack of resources catering to the youths in East New York. By offering community resources readily accessible to the youth, it can boost their self-confidence and self-esteem, they learn to deal with challenges, communicate with different people and build up their life skills in a supportive environment. It's also a great foundation for general and mental health and wellbeing. Building our a child's character and making sure they thrive in the future are important goals to achieve.

## **Proposal**

This proposal suggests City Council support the development of an initiative to offer more resources to the community. This would entail a campaign to provide the following:

- I. Partnerships with local community centers
- II. Offer volunteer opportunities with local organizations, increase accessible resources and other opportunities to the youths in East New York.
- III. Doing some events/open houses or PSAs

**Fiscal Implications**

§3. This proposal will incur no cost to the City of New York.

**Effective Date**

§4. This local law takes effect immediately

## References

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- Harvard Health Blog - Harvard Health Publishing. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/>
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youth-development-programs

**Proposal No. 820BK – North Brooklyn YMCA - 347/349 Beacon – HS**  
By Council Members Ramos, John, Works, Parra, Watson, La Barrie  
North Brooklyn Beacon IS 347/349

**Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

**Committee: Public Safety**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: Gang activity and recruitment is negatively impacting our youth in low income areas inside of schools in Brooklyn, New York. According to the New York Times, on last year's Memorial Day weekend gunshots ripped across St. Andrew's Playground on Atlantic Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant where three teenagers were wounded in the gunfire, the youngest being 16. This Proposal is necessary to restore social safety and decrease violence in our neighborhoods.

According to SeattlePi, a study conducted by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse reported that 45 percent of high school students have gangs or gang members on their campuses. Many of these students feel isolated, unsafe or lonely may want to join gangs to feel involved, form friendships or feel safe and secure.

The New York City Council should support this Proposal because teenagers and civilians around the city of New York are unaware of the harm and results of such gang activities. Since the Department of Education ability to limit gang activities on school grounds is restricted, such activities are common. While the New York's DoE's has attempted to solve this issue by enacting New York Citywide Standards of Discipline and Intervention Measures, this act does not adequately address this issue reason being, it does not provide a recovery method for students

who partake in gang related activities. Additionally, according to the NYPD's chief of crime control strategies, Lori Pollock, nearly half — 43 percent — of the 24 murders citywide recorded last month had some kind of "gang nexus". Furthermore, the increase in school wide forums and workshops, will decrease the presence of gang violence on school grounds, and will lead to a more stable and secure school system.

### **Proposal**

This Proposal suggests City Council support the development of an initiative to decrease gang activity on school grounds. This would entail a campaign to provide the following:

- I. Holding bi-weekly workshops in schools with an immense rate of gang related activities.
  
- II. Mandate that the DoE orders schools to hold monthly school-wide forums where students express views on school related issues.
  
- III. Hold school wide events during school hours to better interactions between students and so our students develop new bonds with school faculty.

### **Fiscal Implications**

This Proposal will incur no cost to the City of New York.

### **Effective Date**

§2. This local law takes effect immediately



## References

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.nytimes.com/2019/05/29/nyregion/murder-rate-nyc.amp.html>

Chief of Detectives Dermot Shea pointed out that of the 29 murders this past month, eight were part of two separate incidents, including four found dead at a gambling hall on Utica Avenue on Oct. 12 and the other four were homeless people beaten to death in a single night incident. He attributed the others increases in homicides to rising gang and narcotics violence.

<https://patch.com/new-york/new-york-city/nearly-half-nycs-july-murders-were-gang-related-nypd-says>

New York City saw a rash of gang-related murders in July despite the number of slayings tying an all-time record low for the month, police said Thursday. Nearly half — 43 percent — of the 24 murders recorded last month had some kind of "gang nexus," said Lori Pollock, the NYPD's chief of crime control strategies.

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.wsj.iloops-drive-up-murders-shootings-in-new-york-city-11573080007>

Gang-related crimes have led to an increase in murders and shootings in New York City this year, New York Police Department officials said on Wednesday as they released the city's latest crime statistics.

The NYPD's data shows 29 murders in October, an increase of just over 61% from 18 during the same month in 2018.

Murders in the city are up 3% for the year, with 267 reported between Jan. 1 and Nov. 1, compared with 259 in the same period in 2018.

Shooting incidents have increased nearly 5% in 2019, with 670 recorded between Jan. 1 and Nov. 1, compared with 641 in the same period in 2018.

<https://education.seattlepi.com/statistics-gangs-schools-2199.html>

# **QUEENS CHAMBER**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2020**

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Proposal No. 120Q – Cross Island YMCA

Proposal No. 220Q-A – Flushing YMCA – Beacon 189

Proposal No. 220Q-B – Flushing YMCA – Beacon 189

Proposal No. 320Q – Jamaica YMCA

Proposal No. 420Q – Jamaica YMCA – IS 59

Proposal No. 520Q – Long Island City YMCA

Proposal No. 620Q – Rockaway YMCA – Beacon 43

Proposal No. 720Q – Rockaway YMCA – VA

## **Proposal No. 120Q – Cross Island YMCA**

By Council Members George, Mathew, Kurian, Paul, Philogene, Philogene, & Etienne  
Cross Island YMCA

A Local Law to address dirty and unclean public parks in the City of New York

### **Policy Proposal to the New York City Council**

#### **Committee: Environmental Protection**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. This Bill came to be because of the realization that City Parks are very different, in terms of cleanliness. After interviewing members of the community, we derived that the cleanliness of the park mainly depended on its popularity. When we interviewed Y Members, a majority echoed the same thoughts. This is also visible if you visit a park today. The popular ones are well-kempt, but the rest are not quite as tidy.

The way to make sure that all of these parks are cleaned evenly is to direct all park sanitation efforts to all parks equally. The ideal way to do that is to distribute sanitation equipment and faculty to the parks depending on how large the park is, and the park's current state. Another way to improve the state of these parks is to increase the park staff. This change should not be drastic, but be enough to impact the parks meaningfully.

#### **Proposal**

- I. Add 2-4 new staff members to smaller parks in the NYC area
- II. Have more sanitation supplies be diverted to smaller parks.
- III. Survey the parks' capacity (how large the park is) and it's state (condition of park equipment) every 2 years, so it is evident which parks are in dire need of assistance

### **Fiscal Implications**

This Proposal will incur at most \$10,000 for supplies and approx. \$100,000 for between 5-10 extra workers.

### **Effective Date**

This local law will be taken into effect June 1st, 2021.

## References

“Rules & Regulations of the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.” *Rules & Regulations : NYC Parks*, New York City, [www.nycgovparks.org/rules](http://www.nycgovparks.org/rules).

“Greening the Fleet.” *Greening the Fleet : NYC Parks*, New York City, [www.nycgovparks.org/greening/sustainable-parks/fleet](http://www.nycgovparks.org/greening/sustainable-parks/fleet).

“Jobs at Parks.” *Jobs at Parks : NYC Parks*, New York City, [www.nycgovparks.org/opportunities/jobs](http://www.nycgovparks.org/opportunities/jobs).

**Proposal No. 220Q-A – Flushing YMCA - Beacon 189**

By Council Members Chong, Torres, Lin, Dubon

Flushing YMCA – Beacon 194

A Local Law to raise the age of E-Cigarette users to 25 instead of 21

**Policy Proposal to New York Council**

**Committee: Health**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: New York City Laws prohibits the use of E-Cigarettes in places where smoking is prohibited including residential common areas. Such as restaurants, sporting arenas and workplaces. If you see the sale of E-Cigarettes to anyone younger than 21, you can file a complaint regarding underaged sales online or by calling 311. Even though it is not an actual cigarette, it still contains all the deadly ingredients a real cigarette would have. They contain nicotine, a highly addictive drug that can lead to illness or even worse, death. Adolescent years are times of important brain development. Brain development begins during the growth of the fetus in the womb and continues through childhood and through to the age of 25. According to Science Alert 2,290 people are at critically ill of and 47 people died from using vapes and that number is continuing to rise each day.

We are proposing to change the age in New York City to use an E-Cigarette from 21 to 25. Resources say your brain isn't fully developed when your 21. So why make it easier for people to ruin their lives and buy an E-Cigarette? According to Pew Research Center from 2017-2019 the percentage of High school students who use vapes went up at least 30%. These kids are ruining their lives without even knowing it. As of January 14<sup>th</sup>,2020 a total of 2,668 people was hospitalized because of the use of an E-cigarette or vaping products. Most of those reporting

were people under the age of 25. With Research we have found the results of the people using these products should have not able to purchase because they were too young to make rational decisions.

### **Proposal**

This Proposal suggests City Council support the development of an initiative to increase the age of buying any E-Cigarette products:

- I. Going to schools to spread vaping awareness
- II. Put it in the local newspapers so it could build more awareness
- III. Post about the negative side affects on social media, make hashtags

### **Fiscal Implications**

This Proposal will incur no cost to New York City.

### **Effective Date**

Immediately after this Proposal is passed



## References

Before Recent Outbreak, Vaping Was on the Rise in U.s., Especially Among Young People

Katherine Schaeffer - <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/09/26/vaping-survey-data-roundup/>

<https://www.sciencealert.com/the-death-toll-from-vaping-in-the-us-keeps-rising>

Manhattan Man Is Second New Yorker To Die Of Vaping-related Illness, According To Officials

Denis Slattery - <https://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/ny-vaping-related-death-manhattan-man-ecigs-ban-flavors-thc-20191120-5r6rsaz4mvdkjbt4yaajvlqbq-story.html>

New York City Council Approves Ban on All Flavored E-cigarettes As Us Officials Backpedal

William Feuer - <https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/26/new-york-city-council-approves-ban-on-all-flavored-e-cigarettes.html>

**Proposal No. 220Q-B – Flushing YMCA - Beacon 189**

By Council Members M. Cai, R. Cai, M. Chang, M. Chang

Flushing – Beacon 189

A Local Law to address the issue of the cost of the citizenship test in New York City

**Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

**Committee: Immigration**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: There are nearly 3.1 million immigrants in New York City alone. According to USCIS, to take the citizenship test; you must pay a fee of \$725. According to NBC News, the USCIS and President Trump administration are planning to raise the price more than 69 percent. This will raise the price to almost \$1,300. With the increase of the price this will affect the number of how many immigrants will take the citizenship test because of the lack of money. Most undocumented immigrants are paid less than minimum wage and most can't make ends meet or take care of their families.

Our solutions is to have the Department of Education pay for the citizenship test so this can lead to a decrease of undocumented immigrants. According to USCIS the first-time passing rate is 90 percent. According to [www2.ed.gov](http://www2.ed.gov), the Department of Education's budget for New York City is \$34 billion. Only \$2.6 million of that budget goes to the education of immigrants. We are proposing that 2 public schools in every borough should have a program for undocumented immigrants for a subsidized cost of \$200 to take the citizenship test for free. We will go to each borough with a survey to see how many people need these services around their communities. We are also proposing that the \$200 fee should cover the test and a make-up test, if the participant fails the test. The New York City Council should support this Proposal because

our city alone has so many different opportunities and benefits. How can we be the city of opportunities when a lot of the people here can't enjoy them?

### **Proposal**

This Proposal suggest City Council support the decrease for the cost of the citizenship exam for undocumented immigrants in New York City, the plan would be:

- I. Have DOE give an additional \$3 million for 15 people to take the test in each borough every 6 months.
- II. Have workshops that are open to everybody in every borough to increase awareness in different communities.

### **Fiscal Implications**

This Proposal will cost \$3 million dollars.

### **Effective Date**

Immediately after Proposal is passed.

## References

Trump Admin. Wants To Raise Costs To Become a U.S. Citizen By 83 Percent

Nicole Acevedo - <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/trump-admin-wants-raise-costs-become-u-s-citizen-83-n1082286>

N-400, Application For Naturalization

<https://www.uscis.gov/n-400>

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/funding/funding-our-schools>

U.s. Department Of Education Budget Office

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/index.html>

Applicant Performance on the Naturalization Test

<https://www.uscis.gov/us-citizenship/naturalization-test/applicant-performance-naturalization-test>

## **Proposal No. 320Q – Flushing YMCA - Beacon 194**

By Council Members Alvarez, Cullen, Garcia, Lee, Lin, Sanles, Vail, Vroulis  
Flushing YMCA – Beacon 194

A Local Law to address the issue of personal hygiene of New York City students.

### **Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

#### **Committee: Health**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: Lack of knowledge of proper handwashing is negatively impacting our health. According to The New York State Department of Health, viruses easily spread from person to person by way of coughing, sneezing or simply talking face to face. Viruses can live and spread through sweat, saliva and blood and can pass from person to person by touching an item such as a doorknob, pencil or hand that is contaminated by a person who has a cold and touched their nose. Each year, Agata Blaszczak-Boxe states that an estimated 19 to 21 million illnesses contribute to 56,000-71,000 hospitalizations and up to 800 deaths by touching surfaces contaminated with viruses. As reported by the National Health Service of the United Kingdom, viruses such as the common cold, the flu, the stomach bug, MRSA, and oral herpes could live on hard surfaces from 24 hours to 5 months unless disinfected properly.

In a 2020 article written by Kate Gibson from CBS News, the FDA states that while hand sanitizers have not been proven to eliminate the flu, Ebola or a norovirus yet, they are effective when the alcohol content is of 60% or above. In order for hand sanitizers to prevent disease, they would need to be classified as a drug, and according to the FDA, they are not. *“Hand sanitizers, at least alcohol-based like Purell, are very effective in killing viruses and bacteria that may be on your hands,”* said David Dowdy, an associate professor of infectious disease and

epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dowdy further explains that *"infections don't enter the body through your hands, but can when a person touches their mouth, nose, eyes or other orifices...If someone were to sneeze in your face, obviously this wouldn't protect against that. These products are nice to have around, but we shouldn't be thinking of them as a magic bullet."* Furthermore, as stated by the Center for Disease Control and Protection, alcohol-based hand sanitizers kill most of the bad germs that make individual's sick, and is the preferred way to clean hands in healthcare settings. This is because alcohol-based hand sanitizers is more effective and less drying on the skin's moisture than using soap and water, and additionally does not create antibiotic-resistant superbugs.

In a 2012 study conducted by the United Kingdom in response to the 2011 antibiotic-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae* superbug in Maryland, researchers observed six different door thresholds in close proximity to each other within a busy urban hospital. Two of the doors were equipped with level handles while four featured rectangular push plates on one side and long vertical handlebars on the other. The movement conducted through these thresholds were monitored for a six month period, twice a day at the same times, in 150- minute intervals. Additionally, the door handles were thoroughly disinfected beforehand as a constant control, and the bacterial counts were then taken after each observational period. As stated by Ross Pomeroy from RealClearScience who reported on this study, *"When analyzing the data, the researchers looked to see whether or not certain handle types were more likely to accumulate bacteria. They found that lever handles sported the highest ratio of bacteria contaminants per use (6.38), followed by pull handles (2.24), then push plates (1.2). They theorize that this difference may be because pull handles and levers require more hand contact to open the doors, leading to a greater concentration of bacteria on the handle."*

This Proposal is necessary because it will assist in reducing the amount of germs spread throughout the school day. Agata Blaszczak-Boxe reported that “*within two to four hours, the virus had been picked by 40 to 60 percent of workers and visitors in the facilities and could be detected on many commonly touched objects,*” in regards to a sample virus applied by researchers to an office doorknob and tabletop. Students in NYC public schools experience this amount of exposure, if not more, to germs as compared to an office. Often, students do not have access to water and soap to wash their hands because restrooms are locked during specified times during the day, along with the constant flow of students and faculty moving throughout the building which causes an abundance of germs. By supplying NYC public schools with hand sanitizer dispensers along with PUSH and PULL door plates, the health of students and faculty will greatly benefit because of the ability to provide protection from viruses and bacteria living on hands and commonly touched hard surfaces.

### **Proposal**

We propose that the city council support the development of an initiative to reduce the spread of germs within NYC public schools. This would entail a campaign to reallocate funding within the New York City DOE budget to provide for:

- I. One 1200 mL Purell Hand Sanitizer Push Button Dispenser and refills for every 300 students, minimum of 3 per school.
- II. Installation of PUSH and PULL door handles on the exit door of bathrooms.
- III. Signage of proper hand washing methods posted above bathroom sinks.

### **Fiscal Implications**

The cost per one Purell Hand Sanitizer Push Button Dispenser is \$11 with 667 applicants. Each school is required to install a minimum of three units, for the total cost of \$33. The cost for a Purell Advanced Hand Sanitizer Gel, Fragrance Free, 1000 mL Hand Sanitizer Refill for Purell NXT Push Style Dispenser is \$8.62. It is estimated that each unit will use 36 refill bags per year, or 108 bags for all three units. The total cost of refill bags per school is \$930.96. When combined with the cost for all three units, the total cost per school per year is \$963.96. The total cost for units and refill bags for all 1,866 NYC Public Schools is \$1,798,749.36.

The minimum cost for a set of PUSH and PULL door handles is \$13.99. Exact cost per school is unable to be determined due to lack of access to amount of bathrooms per school or doors that already have PUSH and PULL door handles installed.

### **Effective Date**

§2. This plan would take effect in the first month of the 2020-2021 academic year.



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**Proposal No. 320Q – Jamaica YMCA - Branch**

By Council Members Tripp, Ferdinand, Galloway, Bocoum, Fraser  
Jamaica YMCA - Branch

A Local Law to address the issue of adding metal detectors to all public schools throughout New York.

**Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

**Committee: School Safety Prevention**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: We propose that the city council support the development of putting metal detectors in all public schools (K-12th grade) for the safety of everyone, both minors, adults, and teachers. We propose this because as young adults we have been attending school the majority of our lives. Unfortunately, we have to worry about weapons in our school. Knives, guns, and things that can be used to harm us should be acknowledged and seen before that child/adult enters the building. On March 16, 2016, CBS2’S Hazel Sanchez reported an incident that happened in Jamaica, Queens where at an Elementary school P.S.40 an 11 year old boy brings a loaded gun to school in his book bag.

This shows that the problems lie not only with upper grades but with elementary school students too, which shows they need metal detectors. Another example of why metal detectors are necessary for schools is because in W. H. Maxwell Career and Technical Education High School the metal detectors helped find a gun in a teen’s bag as he tried to enter school. This helped prevent any incidents that could have occurred within the school involving a gun. The last example is when a 7th grader decided to bring a bullet to school and showed his friends, causing a soft lockdown in the school. The lockdown could have been prevented if the school had metal detectors beforehand. And for the schools who already have metal detectors, They are already

ahead of the curve. These incidents show that we need a major increase in metal detectors to prevent incidents like these from happening.

Although some may argue that children in the schools will not be comfortable with having their bags being scanned through /walking through metal detectors and might even say that it is an invasion of privacy let me ask you this. How would you feel if your younger sibling's school was on tv because there was a knife found in the school or even worse, gunshots or a stabbing occurred in the school? Or what if you get a call from your mom telling you that they found a knife in your little brothers or sister school, but they are safe, and with the help of the metal detectors the person with the knife was found and taken into custody. It's better to be safe than sorry!

This proposal is necessary to provide safety for the sake of everyone including children and adults. New York City Council should support this proposal because civilians around the city of New York are unaware of the harm and results of not having metal detectors in schools. With support from you and sponsors who will help us fund the installation of permanent metal detector, we would be able to keep children and adults safe from harm. Also, parents would feel safer to send their children to public school where they can guarantee their kids won't be harmed from danger.

## **Proposal**

This proposal suggests City Council support the development of an initiative to increase in metal detectors in all public schools. This would entail a campaign to provide the following:

- I. Increase awareness by putting up posters throughout all 5 boroughs about the necessity of metal detectors
- II. Hosting fundraisers in the communities that have been affected by gun violence
- III. Implementing workshops at school P.T.A meetings to get everyone engaged

## **Fiscal Implications**

This proposal will incur a cost of 9.4 million dollars as estimated based on the cost of the installation, and the warranty of the metal detectors.

## **Effective Date**

§2. This local law takes effect in 2022.

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**Proposal No. 420Q – Jamaica YMCA - IS 59**

By Council Members Jerome, Cornel, Hamm, Barrett, Martin, Middleton, Smith, Miller,  
Rhooms-Forest, Kante, Birchwood

Jamaica – I.S.59

A Local Law to address the issue of Low Income Public Schools

**Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

**Committee: Education**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: According to a New York Post editorial on *New York Cities failures to create good schools*, “the parents of 59 percent of black New York City elementary-school children opt out of their neighborhood school, aiming for a better one. That’s up from 38 percent a decade ago.” The issue with is Public School funding is based on population and the Public School funding decreases. With less funding, the students in these public schools are at a disadvantage academically and more obstacles are created that makes it harder for them to succeed.

This Proposal is based around the theological concept of, “it takes a village to raise a child.” The New York City Council should support this proposal to that is meant to keep these children in their community and increase the funding of these schools. Marc Tucker, president of the National Center on Education and the Economy believes that radical change is necessary if we want to make a change and improve our school system. Our proposal calls for that radical change.

According to an article written by Madina Toure it cost \$17,500 to send a child to public school in New York. That is how much money local schools are losing per student when their parents choose to send them to school outside their community. It is proven that private school students are far better off academically than those who attend public school. According to

privateschoolreview.com it cost around \$18,000 to send a child to private school in New York City on average. With our incentive, the once \$16,000 gap between those students will be cut in half, providing public school students in our communities with a better educational and learning environment.

According to recent research it states that teachers who have higher cognitive skills perform better academically this happened in 31 countries. If we invest more money into more qualified teachers the students will do better. [Blogs.edweek.org](https://blogs.edweek.org) states “Notably, teachers have stronger cognitive skills—and their students perform better in math and reading—in countries that pay teachers more, like in Ireland, Canada, and Finland.” Organization for Economic cooperation and development found that increasing teachers' math skills by one standard deviation increases student performance by nearly 15 percent of a standard deviation on the PISA math test. The effect of increasing teachers' literacy skills on students' reading performance is slightly smaller, but still positive.

### **Proposal**

This proposal suggests City Council support the development of an initiative to raise funding of Public Schools and low income communities. This would entail a campaign to provide the following:

1. , it cost roughly \$168,000 to house a prison inmate in the state of New York for a year, our proposal asks that we cut that by only 8% (\$12,800), and apply \$6,600 to public school students
2. increase teachers salary
3. building renovations



**Fiscal Implications**

\$12,800

**Effective Date**

None Specified.

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Higher Pay Leads to Smarter Teachers, Global Study ... - Blogs

**Proposal No. 520Q – Long Island City - Q126**

By Council Members Lliguichuzca, Nava, Liu, and Chan

Long Island City – Q126

A local law to address the issue of New Bike Lane Proposal

**Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

**Committee: None Specified**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1: Cyclist on the side: NYC is home to over 19million people in which 200,000 of their residents are cyclist. Over the years, NYC has spent roughly 9million dollars on their bike lanes in efforts of creating a more “safe” way of traveling for those that ride bikes. Although the cities intention where with virtue, their intent have been left with countless amounts of deaths, and injuries. If safer measures such as relocating the position of the bike lane from the street to the side ‘walk where in place. We believe that this will be a more reliable method for both cyclist and citizens. We the students of LIC 126q are proposing this idea in which the benefits from placing the lanes on the sidewalk instead of the streets, is literally a life of death change.

Previously stated this proposal is necessary due to the countless amount of cyclist lives that have been lost. Aubri Johasz “In NYC, cycling deaths increases but gears turn slowly once safety measures.” States “Bike deaths are on the rise across the United States. “According to data from the US department of transportation, it is recorded that 840 cycling fatalities in 2016. The highest in 25years .Statements as such, expresses the crucial reality that bikers have to face on a daily basis.

Pollution have become a universal problem that the world itself is facing. Cyclist have been doing their part in cutting down pollution by resulting to methods of transportation that does not use fossil fuels. The Department of Transit and Main roads article “Cycling benefits” expresses “Bike riding uses minimal fossil fuels and is a pollution free mode of transport. Bikes reduce the need to build, service, and dispose fuels.” Statements as such promotes the positive impact that those who choose to ride bikes have on the community and the environment. If citizens felt more protected on the road, then this can encourage more people to turn towards cycling as their method of transportation, thus cutting down on fossil fuels that have led to pollution.

Living in a city where the average speed limit is 25mph unfortunately creates room for fatalities and serious causalities amongst cyclists. Angie Schmitt article “The chance of being killed by a car going 20 MPH” States: Once cars reach a certain speed (just above 20 mph), they rapidly become more deadly. According to [AAA’s Brian] Tefft’s data, a person is about 70 percent more likely to be killed if they’re struck by a vehicle traveling at 30 mph versus 25 mph.” Evidence as such shows just how serious the issue with cyclists and car proximity is when establishing severity of cyclist accidents. Once again supporting our idea that bike lanes should be removed from the streets and become an added expansion to the sidewalk.

Creating a safer community can become a slippery slope affect one city at a time. Expanding our sidewalks to create bicycle lanes vs having them in the streets will create a substantial amount of safety for both cyclist, and drivers. If this proposal is processed, the number of cyclist death will ultimately drop due to the main cause of death no longer sharing the road with them. As you review this proposal please take in consideration that your overall decision has the power to either save lives, or continue the already heightened death toll.

### **Proposal**

This proposal suggests City Council support the development of an initiative to expand City sidewalks in order to create a bike lane. This would entail to provide the following:

- I. Safer measures for cyclist to ride bikes.
- II. Lower pollution levels in the city by encouraging more cyclists to ride bikes.
- III. Lower the risk of casualties and fatalities.

### **Fiscal Implications**

This proposal will incur an estimate cost of \$183,000.

### **Effective Date**

This local law will take place in January 2021.

## References

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Limit on City Streets.” *Streetsblog USA*, 31 May 2016, [usa.streetsblog.org/2016/05/31/3-graphs-that-explain-why-20-mph-should-be-the-limit-on-city-streets/](http://usa.streetsblog.org/2016/05/31/3-graphs-that-explain-why-20-mph-should-be-the-limit-on-city-streets/).

**Proposal No. 620Q – Rockaway YMCA - Beacon 43**

By Council Members Brown, Glenn, McLendon, Persaud, Ramirez, Rivera, Seabrooks  
Rockaway – Beacon 43

A Local Law to address the issue of gender-neutral bathrooms in New York City public schools.

**Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

**Committee: Education**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Students in public schools should feel like school is a safe haven. Creating a safe haven means making a comfortable place for all students to enjoy and have a safe and healthy learning environment. According to Tylt, gender-neutral restrooms are a perfect compromise for transgender students. This would allow trans students to use the bathroom as well as other students without the fear of being of being harassed or bullied. In Nevada, Fox News reports that newly built elementary and middle schools will have gender-neutral restrooms with wall to ceiling stalls and common area for handwashing that's in an open space.

This proposal is necessary because times are changing and so are students in New York City public schools. Having access to a bathroom that makes a student comfortable isn't just a right, it's a necessity. Gender-neutral restrooms provide safety and comfort for transgender and gender non-conforming students. According to the National Conference for Community and Justice, gender-neutral restrooms are frequently found in public places. They're just usually called family restrooms and are typically single-stall spaces often used by caretakers.

## **Proposal**

This proposal suggests City Council support the development of an initiative to create gender-neutral restrooms in New York City public schools. This would entail a campaign to provide the following:

- I. Spread awareness in New York City public schools
- II. Implement a fundraiser to raise money for bathrooms
- III. Create and build single-stall restrooms

## **Fiscal Implications**

This proposal will incur no cost to New York City.

## **Effective Date**

§2. This local law takes effect immediately.



## References

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Wallace, D. (2019, August 1). Gender-neutral restrooms planned for Nevada district's newly built schools. Retrieved January 15, 2020, from <https://www.foxnews.com/us/nevada-school-district-gender-neutral-bathroom>

**Proposal No. 720Q – Rockaway YMCA - Village Academy**

By Council Members Blackman, Garcia, Headley, Lemus, McDale, Ortega, Rosario

Rockaway - Village Academy

A Local Law to address the issue of using hotels as homeless shelters in Far Rockaway

**Policy Proposal to New York City Council**

**Committee: Health or Public Safety**

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

New York City is home to more than 60,000 homeless men and women. According to Rockaway Youth Task Force, New York’s homeless population has nearly doubled and shows no signs of slowing down. High rent and stagnant wages are just a few causes of homelessness among New York City residents. Compared to other boroughs, Queens has the smallest amount of shelters with the largest number of homeless citizens. Tourism is curbed, and this essentially hurts the economy in the neighborhood.

This proposal is necessary to help the homeless populations in Far Rockaway and also help build the economy in Far Rockaway. New York City Council should support this proposal because having tourism be boosted and having residents come to spend money in your neighborhood helps boost the economy which brings more money to the neighborhood. *The Wave* reported that La Quinta Inn and Suites on Rockaway Beach Boulevard in Edgemere was housing the homeless after repeated denials. Dr. Gerald David of CB14 states that the infrastructure of the peninsula at this moment cannot meet the needs of the homeless population that Far Rockaway contains. Far Rockaway residents deserve a safe and secure place for their homeless populations.

### **Proposal**

This proposal suggests City Council support the development of an initiative to stop using hotels as shelters in Far Rockaway. This would entail a campaign to provide the following:

- I. Address the DHS placing homeless residents in Queens hotels.
- II. Create more shelters in Queens, specifically Far Rockaway.

### **Fiscal Implications**

This proposal will incur no cost to New York City. The City is already in the process of building more shelters.

### **Effective Date**

§2. This local law takes effect immediately.

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# TEENS TAKE THE CITY

## TEEN LEADERSHIP 2019-2020

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MAYOR

**ORION CROSSMAN**

PROSPECT PARK YMCA

PUBLIC ADVOCATE

**KIMBERLY NAVARRETE**

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