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JESÚS PÉREZ  
DISTRICT MANAGER

VACANT, TREASURER  
MATT BONDY, SECRETARY

THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD SIX  
211 EAST 43RD STREET, SUITE 1404  
NEW YORK, NY 10017

**VIA E-MAIL**

June 10, 2022

Adrienne E. Adams  
Speaker  
New York City Council  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Selvena N. Brooks-Powers  
Chair  
NYC Council Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
250 Broadway, Suite 1865  
New York, NY 10007

**Supporting Intro 0258-2022, which would require the city to establish a plan to install at least one public restroom in every zip code in NYC**

At the June 8, 2022 Full Board meeting of Manhattan Community Board Six, the Board adopted the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, public bathrooms serve essential functions by providing toilets, clean and safe personal care facilities, and diaper changing facilities; and the lack of public bathrooms in New York City impacts public health, equity, human rights, and the overall quality of life;

**WHEREAS**, the lack of public bathrooms impacts everyone by directly contributing to public urination, resulting in an annual average of roughly 20,000 citations and 50,000 complaints to 311;

**WHEREAS**, existing federal, state, and city regulations require bathroom access for employees, and for customers under certain circumstances, establishing such access as a basic human need; but no regulations provide for bathrooms in public spaces that are generally accessible;

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the lack of such regulation, there are very few bathrooms available to the general public in most of the city, most only during limited hours; and many are not accessible, poorly maintained, or difficult to find;

**WHEREAS**, only 14 of the 550 privately-owned public spaces (POPS) and only 78 of 472 New York City Transit subway stations have bathrooms; and New York ranks 93rd out of the nation's 100 largest cities in per capita access to parks bathrooms, and the comfort stations that do exist in our parks are often in poor repair due to a lack of available operating funds in the Department of Parks and Recreation;

**WHEREAS**, the reliance by the Parks Department on external nonprofits and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to provide and maintain bathrooms results in inequitable distribution, according to a 2019 report by the Office of the New York City Comptroller;

**WHEREAS**, there are only 5 automated public toilets in the entire City of New York, with the nearest to our district located adjacent to Madison Square Park;

**WHEREAS**, the 50,000 New Yorkers who are homeless and living in shelters, the hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers whose jobs require them to be outdoors daily, the elderly and those with special physical needs, and the 60 million annual tourists in our city are in particular need of restroom access;

**WHEREAS**, concerns about the quality of life impacts of public bathrooms can be mitigated via staffing to ensure cleanliness and public order, while still providing for the dignity and human needs of the hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers who need them every day;

**WHEREAS**, numerous tools and mechanisms exist to address the lack of bathroom access, including innovative small-footprint outdoor toilets, public-private partnerships, community toilet schemes, and public funding and regulation;

**WHEREAS**, Councilmember Rita Joseph, in coordination with Manhattan Borough President Mark D. Levine, has introduced legislation (Intro 0258-2022) that would direct the Departments of Transportation and Parks to designate at least one location in each zip code in the City for the installation and operation of a public toilet, with the collaboration of Community Boards;

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has the authority to designate funding to support the Parks Department in renovating, maintaining, and operating comfort stations in our 1,700 parks;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Manhattan Community Board Six endorses Intro 0258-2022 and urges the City Council to pass it and the Mayor to sign it into law;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Manhattan Community Board Six urges the City to install additional fully staffed and maintained public bathrooms in our Community District, beginning with one located within walking distance of Bellevue Hospital and the 30th Street Men's Shelter, which can serve the population of homeless New Yorkers who are outdoors in that part of our District during the day;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Manhattan Community Board Six urges the City Council to make available both capital and operating funds for the Parks Department sufficient to enable it to renovate, maintain, and operate significantly more comfort stations than it currently does.

**VOTE: 39 In favor   o Opposed   o Abstain   o Not entitled**

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jesús', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jesús Pérez  
District Manager

Cc: Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Keith Powers, Council Member  
Hon. Carlina Rivera, Council Member  
Hon. Julie Menin, Council Member  
Rich Mintz, Chair, CB6 Housing & Homelessness Committee