



Eleazar Bueno, Chairperson
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Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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October 11, 2022

Hon. Mark Levine
Manhattan Borough President
1 Centre Street, 19th Floor South
New York, NY 10007

RE: Resolution to Increase Access in New York City to Monkeypox Vaccinations and to Protect New Yorkers Against Monkeypox

At the Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, Community Board 12 Manhattan, passed the following resolution with no objection from the members in attendance with a provisional approval subject to the passage at the September 28, 2022, General Meeting. Community Board 12 Manhattan ratified this resolution at its September 28, 2022, General Meeting with a vote of 30 in favor, 0 Opposed, 4 abstentions, and 0, not voting asking the CDC and the Biden administration to act urgently to reduce the spread of Monkeypox by providing increased access to Monkeypox vaccinations in New York City, which is currently disproportionately affected by its spread asking that NYC DOH establish a Monkeypox vaccination clinic within the area it represents to provide better access to residents meeting current vaccination requirements.

Whereas, after enduring the early brunt of the still ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, New York City now faces the beginnings of a second epidemic and the spread of communicable viral disease in the form of the Orthopoxvirus known as Monkeypox; and

Whereas, as of Thursday, July 14, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has tracked 1,470 cases in the United States, with 414 of those cases having been identified in New York State, and 389 of those having been identified within New York City; and

Whereas, the CDC is recommending vaccination for anyone who may have been exposed to Monkeypox or who has had multiple sexual partners in the past 14 days, and the New York City Department of Health has made vaccinations available to gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men, and/or transgender, gender non-conforming, or gender non-binary persons, and are of 18 years of age; and

Whereas, despite the opening of 8,000 vaccination appointments on Friday, July 15th, the rollout of access to monkeypox vaccinations remains woefully inadequate to protect the New York Metropolitan Area's estimated 700,000 LGBT+ people or Manhattan's estimated 50,000 LGBT+ people, let alone remaining residents identifying as cisgender and heterosexual who may be exposed: and

Whereas, demands made of the federal government by Governor Kathy Hochul, the NYS Department of Health, Mayor Eric Adams, NYC Health Commissioner Dr. Ashwin Vasani, and Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine to increase the availability of vaccines have been met with little response; and

Whereas, Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine has promulgated a seven-point Monkeypox Action plan for New York City calling for increased access to testing and vaccination; and

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Whereas, local access to vaccination sites remains constrained, the closest to Community District 12, Manhattan being The Bronx High School of Science located at 75 W. 205th St., Bronx, NY 10468, or the site located in the Central Harlem Sexual Health Clinic at 2238 5th Ave 1st floor, New York, NY 10037; and

Whereas, it was demonstrated during the Covid-19 pandemic that community access to vaccinations is critical to ensuring people's participation and protection; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that Community Board 12, Manhattan (CB12M) endorses Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine's seven-point Monkeypox Action Plan for New York City; and be it further

Resolved, CB12 asks Governor Kathy Hochul, the NYS Department of Health, Mayor Eric Adams, NYC Health Commissioner Dr. Ashwin Vasan, and Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine to continue to demand more Monkeypox vaccinations from the federal government and expand New York City residents' access to them; and be it further

Resolved, CB12 asks the CDC and the Biden administration to act urgently to reduce the spread of Monkeypox by providing increased access to Monkeypox vaccinations in New York City, which is currently disproportionately affected by its spread; and be it further

Resolved, CB12 asks that NYC DOH establish a Monkeypox vaccination clinic within the area it represents to provide better access to residents meeting current vaccination requirements.

Sincerely,



Eleazar Bueno
Chairperson

cc:

Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor
Hon. Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate
Hon. Brad Lander, Comptroller
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman
Hon. Cordell Cleare, State Senator

Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator
Hon. Alfred Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Manny De Los Santos, Assembly Member
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Council Member
Hon. Shaun Abreu, Council Member