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## **COMMUNITY BOARD No. 2, MANHATTAN**

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### **CB2 Human Services Committee**

#### **Resolution Advocating for Increased Urgency on Addressing the Current Monkeypox Epidemic**

##### **Whereas:**

- 1) According to the Infectious Disease Society of America<sup>1</sup> monkeypox is a viral infection that can cause excruciating pain and leave lasting damage. It is a milder relative of smallpox that has resulted in fatalities in Africa but none so far in the United States.<sup>2</sup> In most cases it requires close contact for transmission; and
- 2) The first case of monkeypox in the United States in 2022 was reported in Massachusetts on May 18.<sup>3</sup> According to the Centers for Disease Control,<sup>4</sup> New York State had 581 cases of monkeypox as of July 20, although according to New York City,<sup>5</sup> 711 people in the city alone have tested positive for monkeypox, and actual cases are believed to be higher because of limited testing for the virus; and
- 3) While a vaccine to prevent this disease exists, according to New York City no vaccines are currently available; and
- 4) Appreciates the challenge for the U.S. government and for our City and State to respond quickly to a monkeypox crisis while still coping with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic; but
- 5) Recalls the missteps, inefficiencies, and difficulties of local health departments during the early phase of the Covid-19 epidemic, when communication was poor, testing was scarce, vaccines were in short supply, and the system for scheduling vaccines was so poorly designed that it heightened anxiety rather than calming fear; and
- 6) Counts on our health entities to show an improved coordinated effort to face this new epidemic.

##### **Therefore Community Board 2, Manhattan urges:**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.idsociety.org/public-health/monkeypox/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/18/nyregion/new-york-monkeypox-vaccine.html?searchResultPosition=1>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/18/health/massachusetts-monkeypox.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022/us-map.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/monkeypox.page>

- 1) Federal, State, and City health authorities to give urgent attention and increased funding to address the growing monkeypox epidemic, especially among communities that are particularly vulnerable to contracting the disease and to suffering its effects; and
- 2) Health authorities to collaborate with not-for-profit organizations that are already recommending steps to improve communication to the public and aid for those who are infected.