



**JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS**  
Chair

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CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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December 20, 2023

Hon. Erik Bottcher  
NYC Council Member  
224 W. 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1206  
New York, NY 10001

Hon. Gale A. Brewer  
NYC Council Member  
563 Columbus Avenue  
New York, NY 10024

**Re: Int. No. 0758-2022**

Dear Councilmember Bottcher and Councilmember Brewer:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (“MCB4”) at its December 6<sup>th</sup> Full Board meeting, by a vote of 36 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 2 present but not eligible, writes to express skepticism regarding the effectiveness of Int 0758-2022 – Councilmember Robert Holden’s bill seeking registration of all electric bikes with or without electric assist with the Department of Transportation (“DOT”) – towards the laudable goal of improving pedestrian and biker safety. MCB4 also writes to reiterate and renew the recommendation made in our October 16, 2023 letter, requesting that DOT “[e]xpand the registration requirements to any electric vehicle that goes faster than 18 MPH, excluding bikes with operable pedals which generally go slower.”<sup>1</sup>

MCB4 agrees with Councilmember Brewer that “a blanket e-bike registration rule” will not “make streets safer, nor is NYC DOT equipped to establish, manage, or enforce it.”<sup>2</sup> Indeed, the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb4/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2023/10/17-TPC-Letter-to-DOT-Electeds-re-Pedestrian-and-Bike-Rider-Safety-Initiatives.pdf> (emphasis in original).

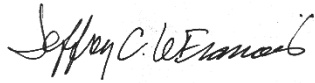
<sup>2</sup> <https://twitter.com/galeabrewer/status/1723012281573728507v>

bill is counterproductive to achieving pedestrian and biker safety, as New York City waits years for DOT to create a registration regime, all while current traffic laws go un-enforced.

Instead, as we expressed in our October 16, 2023 letter, the NYPD must begin to enforce current laws, such as the prohibition of bikes on sidewalks or mopeds in bike lanes, and create a dedicated unit to start issuing tickets.

Likewise, as we wrote in our October 16, 2023 letter, we do support expanded registration requirements for electric bikes that go faster than 18 MPH and do not have operable pedals.<sup>3</sup> We believe that this would deter delivery workers and others from choosing these faster vehicles, and encourage a max- 18 MPH manufacturing standard for all two-wheel electric vehicles.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey LeFrancois  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet  
Co-chair  
Transportation Planning Committee



Jesse Greenwald  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning Committee

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<sup>3</sup> Current electric Citibikes have operable pedals and have a maximum speed of 18 MPH.