



CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**LESLIE BOGHOSIAN MURPHY**  
Chair

**JESSE R. BODINE**  
District Manager

February 24, 2026

Hon. Kathy Hochul, Governor  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
State Senate Majority Leader  
188 State Street Legislative Office Building, Room 907  
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Carl E. Heastie  
State Assembly Speaker  
Legislative Office Building, Room 932  
Albany, NY 12248

**Re: Support for the MELT Act and RADAR Act**

Dear Governor Hochul, Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 4, 2026, by a vote of 34 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 2 present but not eligible, voted to express support for the proposed Mandating End of Lawless Tactics (MELT) Act (A.8908/S.8462) and Reporting of Arrests, Detentions, Actions, and Removals (RADAR) by Immigration Enforcement Act (A.9376/S.8858).

**Background**

Manhattan Community District 4 (MCD4) is one of many across New York that has been shaped by generations of immigrants whose contributions have enriched our economic vitality and cultural vibrancy. Like communities throughout the state, we host affordable housing, social services, and schools that support immigrant families as they build their lives and strengthen our neighborhoods.

In recent months, we have witnessed heightened immigration enforcement activities that have caused significant fear and concern among our community members, regardless of citizenship status. MCB4 have organized and advocated for protections for immigrant

families in our community<sup>1</sup>. While recognizing the importance of lawful law enforcement activity and the rule of law,<sup>2</sup> we believe that maintaining transparency and accountability in government operations is paramount. Given recent developments, it is essential to maintain trust between residents and the agencies that serve them. We also note the Governor Kathy Hochul's recent introduction of the "Local Cops, Local Crimes Act," which would eliminate 287(g) agreements and prevent NYPD from being deputized by ICE for federal civil immigration enforcement.<sup>3</sup>

## Overview of the Acts

The MELT Act would prohibit local, state, and federal law enforcement officers from wearing any mask or personal disguise while interacting with the public in the performance of their duties, with limited exceptions for medical-grade masks to prevent disease transmission, masks to protect against smoke or biological and chemical agents, facial coverings for extreme weather protection, and water-rescue equipment. The Act would also require all law enforcement officers to be clearly identified by their name or badge number on their uniforms, with violations punishable as a misdemeanor. We note that California passed a bill (SB627) that would prohibit law enforcement officers from wearing masks or any personal disguise.<sup>4</sup>

The RADAR Act would require the creation of a publicly accessible "immigration enforcement activity transparency dashboard" to track immigration enforcement activities by any federal agency or officer within New York State. This dashboard would display aggregated, non-identifying data on arrests, detainers, agency contacts with immigration authorities, cooperation between state and local agencies and federal immigration enforcement, and geographic patterns of enforcement activity, promoting transparency while protecting individual privacy.

## MCB4 Recommendations

MCB4 believes that both the MELT Act and the RADAR Act are essential measures to promote government transparency and protect immigrant communities. These bills align

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<sup>1</sup> Manhattan Community Board 4, *Letter to Mayor Adams re: Support of PEP Resolution Affirming the Status of New York City Public Schools as a Welcoming Citywide District for All Students* (Feb. 14, 2025), <https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb4/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2025/02/06-ACES-Letter-to-Mayor-Adams-re-Support-of-PEP-Reso-Affirming-the-Status-Of-New-York-City-Public-Schools-As-A-Welcoming-Citywide-District-For-All-Students.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Manhattan Community Board 4, *Letter to NYPD Commissioner re: Non-cooperation with ICE unless there is criminal activity* (Sept. 25, 2025), <https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb4/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2025/09/60-Letter-to-NYPC-Commissioner-re-Non-cooperation-with-ICE-unless-there-is-criminal-activity.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Governor Kathy Hochul, *Keeping New Yorkers Safe: Governor Hochul Introduces the Local Cops, Local Crimes Act to Stop ICE from Co-Opting Local Law Enforcement* (Jan. 30, 2026), <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/keeping-new-yorkers-safe-governor-hochul-introduces-local-cops-local-crimes-act-stop-ice-co>.

<sup>4</sup> California Senate Bill (SB) 627, *No Secret Police Act*, <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/SB627/2025>.

with our commitment to upholding the safety, dignity, and rights of everyone in MCD4. Therefore, we recommend the swift passage and implementation of both proposed bills.

In the implementation of the RADAR Act, if passed, we also recommend that the regulation includes a protocol to report data promptly to encourage timely and accurate submission of information and to ensure that communities can access data real-time to be aware of enforcement activities.

MCB4 remains committed to working with our elected officials and law enforcement agencies to help preserve the safety and rights of our neighbors, uphold the city's tradition of protecting and supporting immigrant communities, and safeguard the rule of law. We urge you to support these important legislative measures.

Thank you for considering our recommendations. We look forward to your response and welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters further.

Sincerely,



Leslie Boghosian Murphy

Chair

Manhattan Community Board 4

cc: Hon. Tony Simone, New York State Assembly  
Hon. Patricia Fahy, New York State Senate  
Hon. Erik Bottcher, New York State Senate