

COMMUNITY BOARD #1 – MANHATTAN  
RESOLUTION

DATE: JANUARY 15, 2008

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: WTC REDEVELOPMENT

COMMITTEE VOTE: 14 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused  
BOARD VOTE: 43 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained 0 Recused

RE: Intro 650 to NYC Council’s Committee on Public Safety

WHEREAS: New York City Council’s Public Safety Committee is revising a bill (Intro 650) that will require the New York Police Department (NYPD) to allocate permits for all biological, chemical, and radiological atmospheric testing devices, and

WHEREAS: The stated purpose of this legislation is to avoid “excessive false alarms and unwarranted anxiety that a large-scale public emergency may be occurring,” and

WHEREAS: In the aftermath of the World Trade Center attacks, residents and workers were repeatedly lied to about the quality of the air they breathed by government agencies, and therefore, any concern about maintaining the right to independently test the air is certainly far from “unwarranted,” and

WHEREAS: Residents should be empowered to hold the government accountable and confirm for themselves, in a timely fashion, that their air is free of hazardous chemicals, and

WHEREAS: Intro 650 is also opposed by U.S. Rep. Nadler, Manhattan Borough President Stringer, Assembly Member Glick and Council Member Gerson; and

WHEREAS: The current form of this bill is too broad and will unfairly obstruct the independent collection of scientific data, now

THEREFORE  
BE IT  
RESOLVED

THAT: CB#1 opposes the implementation of the proposed permitting system for environmental sampling instruments.

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RE: Action to Reduce Diesel Particulates in Our Air

WHEREAS: Community Board#1 has been concerned about air quality since September 11, 2001, and

WHEREAS: In response to the sobering findings (November 2007) of the World Trade Center Health Registry that children in Lower Manhattan have an increased likelihood of being diagnosed with asthma post-9/11, Council Member Alan Gerson has announced the following 5-Point Plan to reduce diesel particulates in our air that if passed would address certain gaps in applicable federal and local environmental regulations (specifically Local Law 77, which requires use of Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) fuel and the best available technology by non-road vehicles in city construction, [http://www.nycouncil.info/pdf\\_files/bills/law03077.pdf](http://www.nycouncil.info/pdf_files/bills/law03077.pdf))

1. Extend Local Law 77 to require all construction sites, private or public, to use ULSD fuel in their equipment and generators, and
2. Pass Intros 168 and 169 to require the Staten Island Ferry and all city owned and private ferries to utilize ULSD and the best available retrofits, and
3. Pass a law to require portable generators used in outside movie shoots to use ULSD, and extend the law to cover other portable generators, and
4. Prohibit all buses, including school buses, long distance buses, which do not use ULSD and best available retrofits from picking up and dropping off passengers in Lower Manhattan and other residential communities, and
5. Immediately undertake street-level air monitoring for particulate matter on the Canal Street corridor at intervals throughout Lower Manhattan and in vicinities of parks and playgrounds in Lower Manhattan and in other neighborhoods with heightened asthma rates (LS #3251), and

WHEREAS: Diesel exhaust not only aggravates asthma but it may cause asthma and it also appears to play a role in respiratory and allergic diseases, according to the journal Environmental Health Perspectives, February 2002, (<http://www.ehponline.org/docs/2002/suppl-1/103-112pandya/abstract.html>), now

THEREFORE

BE IT

RESOLVED

THAT: Community Board 1 wholeheartedly supports Council Member Alan Gerson's Action Agenda to reduce diesel particulates in our air.