



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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Richard R. Lewis, Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

November 22, 2019

Hon. Corey Johnson
NYC Council Speaker Corey Johnson
City Hall Office
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Mark Levine
Councilmember
250 Broadway Suite 1816
New York, NY 10007

Re: Emergency Resolution in support of City Council bill (Int. No. 1362) to prohibit the sale of flavored electronic cigarettes

Dear Councilmember Levine and Speaker Johnson:

On Monday, November 18, 2019, with a vote of 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, Community Board 12 Manhattan Executive Committee, passed an emergency resolution supporting the immediate passage of Int. No. 1362 to prohibit the sale of flavored electronic cigarettes and urging the Mayor to sign it into law at the earliest possible opportunity. This resolution is on the agenda to be ratified at the November 26, 2019, General Meeting.

Whereas: The use of electronic cigarettes in the U.S., commonly referred to as "vaping," has grown rapidly, with sales skyrocketing by 132% between 2012-2016, not including online sales or vape shop sales; and

Whereas: Although manufacturers and proponents of electronic cigarettes claim that these devices are a safer alternative to smoking regular cigarettes, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notes that scientists still haven't confirmed this claim and that e-cigarettes have not been approved as a stop-smoking aid by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration; and

Whereas: The CDC in fact has found that "most adult e-cigarette users do not stop smoking cigarettes and are instead continuing to use both tobacco and non-tobacco products"; and

Whereas: The CDC also has determined that most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, which is highly addictive, a danger for pregnant women and developing babies, and harmful to brain development in young people. Recent research has shown that vaping e-cigarettes delivers cancer-causing chemicals into the body and that popular fruity flavors appear to have the worst carcinogenic effect; and

Whereas: The CDC has reported that as of Nov. 5, 2019, there have been 2,051 cases of lung injuries associated with e-cigarette or vaping product use in 49 states, Washington, D.C. and one U.S. territory. Additionally, there have been more than 40 deaths, including two in New York City, one of them a 17-year-old boy in The Bronx; and

Whereas: A 2015 survey of youth funded by three federal health agencies found that the majority of respondents who reported experimenting with tobacco started with a flavored product, including 81% of those who had ever used an e-cigarette, indicating that the flavoring is the enticing factor of e-cigarettes for youth; and

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Whereas: E-cigarettes with flavors like cotton candy, bubble gum and mint are now the most popular tobacco product among middle school and high school students; and

Whereas: In 2009 the City Council passed, and the Mayor signed Local Law 69 of 2009, which prohibited the sale of flavored tobacco products, excluding menthol, mint and wintergreen flavors; and

Whereas: Council Member Mark Levine has introduced a bill, Int. No. 1362, to prohibit the sale of flavored electronic cigarettes in New York City, which is pending before the City Council; and

Whereas: Governor Cuomo issued an emergency state regulation in September restricting the sale of flavored e-cigarettes, including menthol, but the ban is only temporary and has been held up by a lawsuit; and

Whereas: Former Mayor David Dinkins recently wrote a column for the Daily News in which he called for the passage of the City Council legislation to ban both flavored e-cigarettes and menthol cigarettes "as soon as possible"; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: Community Board 12-Manhattan supports the immediate passage of Int. No. 1362 to prohibit the sale of flavored electronic cigarettes and urges the Mayor to sign it into law at the earliest possible opportunity

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Lewis".

Richard Lewis
Chairperson

cc: Erik Bottcher, Chief of Staff
Aya Keefe Chief of Staff
Hon. Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Gale Brewer, Borough President
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator

Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman
Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member