Russell Squire
Chair

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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan

February 22, 2021

Honorable Bill de Blasio
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Corey Johnson
Speaker
New York City Council
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Henry Gutman
Commissioner
Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

RE: Parking Placards

Dear Mayor de Blasio, Speaker Johnson, and Commissioner Gutman,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on February 17, 2021, the board **APPROVED** the following resolution by a vote of 40 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 1 not voting for cause:

WHEREAS, illegal and fraudulent parking placards and abuse of legal placards have been ongoing problems across Community District 8 and New York City for many years, and have had detrimental impacts to safety and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, New York City enacted a package of parking placard reform laws and policies in 2019 to increase enforcement, stiffen penalties, modernize the system through conversion to a digital pay-by-plate system, and improve reporting of statistics related to placards; and

WHEREAS, budget cuts have resulted in reduced enforcement due to the disbanding of a special enforcement unit with over 100 agents; and

WHEREAS, the transition to a digital pay-by-plate placard system has been delayed, and;

WHEREAS, societal changes have reduced the need for as many placards to be in circulation; and

WHEREAS, New York City agencies should encourage their staff to prioritize use of New York City's extensive public transit network that provides widespread coverage to nearly all corners of New York City rather than promoting or incentivizing driving, and

WHEREAS, advances in technology have greatly improved the ability to track placard issuance and usage and identification of fraudulent placards; and

WHEREAS, the Traffic Enforcement division of the New York Police Department should be empowered with the necessary funding and support to aggressively perform enforcement;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan calls for the New York City Council and Mayor's Office to enact laws and provide funding to perform the following:

1. Assign Traffic Enforcement, as a special division of the NYPD, as the sole parking placard enforcing agency;
2. Restore the $5.4 million annual budget for the dedicated parking placard enforcement unit that was cut in 2020;
3. Immediately initiate the process of retiring all agency-issued placards and require all holders to reapply for a digital placard with a digital identifier that can be verified by enforcement agents using handheld devices;
4. Assess the number of agency permits and specific reasons for them being issued, and reduce the number of placards that are issued to city agencies, doctors, clergy and the media.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Russell Squire *Charles Warren and Craig Lader*

Russell Squire
Chair

Charles Warren and Craig Lader
Co-Chairs, Transportation Committee

cc: Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Robert J. Rodriguez, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District
Honorable Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District