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**THE COUNCIL
OF**

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

GALE A. BREWER

COUNCIL MEMBER, 6TH DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

CHAIR

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

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CONSUMER AND WORKER PROTECTION

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RULES, PRIVILEGES, AND ELECTIONS

August 9, 2024

Jessica Tisch
Commissioner
New York City Department of
Sanitation
125 Worth Street
New York, NY 12226

Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez
Commissioner
New York City Department of
Transportation
55 Water Street
New York, NY 10041

Joseph Pfeifer
Acting Commissioner
New York City Fire Department
9 Metrotech Center
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Lisa Bova-Hiatt
Chief Executive Officer
New York City Housing Authority
90 Church Street
New York, NY 10007

Demetrius Crichlow
Interim President
New York City Transit
180 Livingston Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Wanda Diaz
Manhattan Postmaster
United States Postal Service
421 8th Avenue
New York, NY 10001

Sue Donoghue
Commissioner
Department of Parks and
Recreation
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Matthew Fraser
Chief Technology Officer
Office of Technology and
Innovation
2 MetroTech Center, P1
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Commissioner Tisch, Commissioner Rodriguez, Acting Commissioner Pfeifer, Commissioner Donoghue, Postmaster Diaz, Chief Executive Officer Bova-Hiatt, Interim President Crichlow, and Chief Technology Officer Fraser:

I write to share the results of a survey that my office conducted from July 1 to July 12 to catalogue the instances of graffiti in Council District 6, which spans from roughly West 54 Street to West 96 Street between Riverside Drive and Central Park West. My staff and interns inspected all of the avenues and major cross streets, including 57 Street, 72 Street, 79 Street, 86 Street and 96 Street.

The survey recorded graffiti on any permanent structure, including residential and commercial buildings, sidewalks, street signs, mailboxes and 27 other unique categories. The survey included instances of painted graffiti, stickers and posters. In total, graffiti was identified on 2,434 structures, and note that this large number does not include many of the side streets.

Majority of the graffiti, 70.1%, is on what we identified as Department of Transportation property, followed by the Department of Sanitation (18.7%), Fire Department (5.5%), and United States Postal Service mailboxes (5.3%).

I echo the concerns of my constituents over the growing problem of graffiti in my district and throughout the city, and request that these areas be cleaned up as soon as possible. Graffiti makes the neighborhood appear unsafe and neglected, can affect property values, and can deter customers from shopping at businesses that have been serving our community for years.

My office also conducted a similar survey one year ago in July 2023, and identified 370 instances of graffiti. I thank the agencies who collaborated with my staff at that time to remove the graffiti. Unfortunately, the problem persists.

It is my understanding that the responsibility to remove graffiti does not lie entirely on one agency, but that the location of the graffiti determines which agency is responsible for its removal. For that reason, I request all agencies review the data found at <https://on.nyc.gov/3LWOTp8> and arrange for removal under your respective jurisdictions.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "gale A. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gale A. Brewer