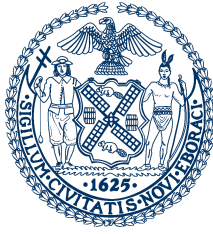


KEITH POWERS

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**THE COUNCIL OF THE
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August 26, 2022

Alexander Hoehn-Saric

Chair

United States Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Chairman Hoehn-Saric:

We are writing to you today regarding the safety of lithium-ion batteries in electric bikes and scooters. This year alone, fires linked to these batteries have claimed the lives of five New Yorkers and caused untold damage to homes and businesses. Earlier this month, a fire sparked by a lithium-ion battery claimed the life of a woman and a 5-year-old girl in their Harlem apartment. In light of these tragedies, we ask the Consumer Product Safety Commission to investigate steps to strengthen the regulation of lithium-ion battery cells.

As you know, in the past few years New York City and other cities across the country have seen a marked increase in the use of e-bikes and e-scooters for food and grocery delivery, recreational use, and more as the pandemic increased demand for these services. With the stark increase in usage, many individuals turn to purchasing cheaper, less safe lithium-ion batteries online, do not have access to safe charging locations, and have to charge these batteries in personal homes.

As a result, we have also seen an increase in deadly fires related to lithium-ion batteries. In 2021, New York City faced a record number of fires related to lithium-ion batteries, with 106 fires leaving 79 people injured and 4 dead. This pattern has continued into 2022, with 85 fires, 33 injuries, and 2 deaths in just the first six months of this year.

The FDNY has found that malfunctioning batteries can result in an explosion and a rapidly burning fire that leaves people with little to no time to evacuate the area. Earlier this year, incidents involving lithium-ion e-bike batteries injured a dozen people in four separate fires in a single day. When lithium-ion batteries fail, entire families, apartments, and homes are put at serious risk. Without stronger regulation of lithium-ion batteries, New Yorkers will continue to face devastation, injury, and loss of life from these preventable fires.

We strongly urge the Consumer Product Safety Commission to take action to implement stronger regulatory measures on lithium-ion battery manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors to increase safety standards and institute policies to prevent future injuries and deaths. The CPSC should also thoroughly investigate manufacturers who frequently sell hazardous lithium-ion batteries so that we can take proper action against them and prevent future tragedies.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to the latest updates on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Powers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Keith Powers
Council Member, District 4

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gale A. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "G".

Gale Brewer
Council Member, District 6

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Selvena N. Brooks-Powers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "S".

Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
Council Member, District 31