



Legislation Text

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Proposed Int. No. 2424-A

By Council Member Rosenthal, the Public Advocate (Mr. Williams) and Council Members Van Bramer, Kallos and Brooks-Powers

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to establishing a street harassment advisory board

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 1 of title 10 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 10-182 to read as follows:

§ 10-182 Street harassment advisory board. a. Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Advisory board. The term “advisory board” means the street harassment advisory board established pursuant to this section.

Street harassment. The term “street harassment” means unwanted or unwelcome disrespectful, offensive or threatening statements, gestures or other conduct directed at a natural person in public based on the person’s actual or perceived age, race, creed, color, national origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation or any other trait, status or condition.

b. Advisory board established. There shall be an advisory board to advise the mayor and the council on the issue of street harassment in the city.

c. Duties. The advisory board shall have the following duties, subject to subdivision h of this section:

1. To study the occurrence of street harassment;
2. To identify persons most at risk of street harassment;

3. To develop and recommend policies and training materials for appropriate agencies to prevent and respond to street harassment;

4. To develop and recommend policies and education materials to promote public awareness and prevention of street harassment;

5. To develop and recommend forms of redress for victims of street harassment;

6. No later than 1 year after the effective date of the local law that added this section, and as frequently thereafter as the advisory board determines is necessary to fulfill the duties assigned in subdivision c of this section, to conduct a survey regarding the occurrence of street harassment. The advisory board shall determine the specific data elements to be collected in such survey, and shall collaborate with the commission on gender equity to conduct such survey;

7. No later than December 31 of each year, to submit a report to the mayor and the speaker of the council that contains a summary of the advisory board's activities for the prior year, the advisory board's recommendations for legislation and policy, a list of materials the advisory board considered to make its recommendations, including a summary of findings of any survey conducted pursuant to paragraph 6 of this subdivision in the prior year, and the projected costs of implementing any recommendations; and to post the advisory board's report on the website of the commission on gender equity no later than 10 days after its submission to the mayor and the speaker of the council; and

8. No later than December 31, 2022, to post on the website of the commission on gender equity a resource guide for victims of street harassment, and to update the resource guide as appropriate.

d. Members. The advisory board shall be composed of the following members:

1. The executive director of the commission on gender equity or such director's designee, who shall serve as chair of the advisory board; and

2. Four members appointed by the mayor, one member appointed by the speaker of the council and one member appointed by the public advocate, each of whom shall have demonstrated expertise on the topic of

street harassment prevention.

e. Other participants. The chair may invite officers and representatives of relevant federal, state and local agencies and authorities to participate in the work of the advisory board.

f. Appointments. All appointments required by this section shall be made no later than April 1, 2022. Each member of the advisory board shall serve at the pleasure of the officer who appointed the member for a term of two years. In the event of a vacancy on the advisory board, a successor shall be appointed in the same manner as the original appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term. All members of the advisory board shall serve without compensation.

g. Meetings. 1. The chair shall convene the first meeting of the advisory board no later than May 1, 2022, except that where not all members of the advisory board have been appointed within the time specified in subdivision f, the chair shall convene the first meeting of the advisory board within 10 days of the appointment of a quorum.

2. The advisory board shall meet no less than once each quarter to carry out the duties described in subdivision c.

3. The advisory board may invite, or accept requests from, experts and stakeholders to attend its meetings and to provide testimony and information relevant to its duties.

h. Recommendations not to include criminalization. The advisory board shall not recommend criminalization of any act, omission or status in fulfilling any of the duties assigned in subdivision c of this section.

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately.

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