

**MANHATTAN  
COMMUNITY  
SAFETY  
PLAN**

**2025**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....3

Whose Streets? Everyone's Streets.....5

Behavioral Health = Community Safety...7

Stable Housing, Safer Streets.....9

A Gun Free NYC.....11

Protecting Our Diverse Community.....12

Acknowledgements.....14

# WE KEEP US SAFE

## A BOLD PLAN FOR PUBLIC SAFETY IN MANHATTAN

In the wake of the triple stabbing that tragically took the lives of three of our neighbors in November 2024, many of our constituents told us they feel less safe in the neighborhoods they call home. After speaking with colleagues and constituents in the aftermath of this crime, we concluded that a focused effort is necessary to make our communities safer and to ensure that this effort translates into our constituents feeling safer. As elected officials representing areas of Midtown and Downtown Manhattan, it is part of our responsibility to respond to these tragedies by fighting for policies that will prevent more from happening in the future.

To achieve true community safety, a multi-faceted approach is required. While the police have a role to play in that, prosecution and incarceration are inherently responsive measures; they only happen after harm has already occurred. Taking a proactive approach requires adopting additional strategies. Prevention and harm reduction must be pillars of our strategy to build community safety in a comprehensive way.

We recognize that, overall, policies to increase public safety through things like subway infrastructure improvements, street redesigns, and increased investment in mental health services and getting guns out of our communities have been working. From 2022 to 2024, there was a 10% decrease in index crimes across Manhattan. Despite this, many New Yorkers still report feeling unsafe in their communities.

For the purposes of this plan, we limited our scope to non-carceral measures in five categories: street safety, mental health and substance abuse, housing, gun violence, and protecting our diverse communities:

- In the street safety section, we outline changes to ensure our roads and sidewalks are safe for everyone who uses them.
- In the mental health and substance abuse section, we highlight ways to ensure that people are getting appropriate treatment and support from experts.
- In the housing section, we focus on getting people off of the streets and on the path to stable housing.
- In the gun violence prevention section, we highlight the success that New York State has had in reducing gun violence and how we can continue this trend.
- In the final section, we focus on ways to prevent hate crimes and protect vulnerable groups from state violence.

We recognize that there are numerous forms of violence and safety concerns that people experience in the private realm, including domestic violence, elder abuse, and unsafe housing conditions, and that addressing these matters is pivotal to making our communities safer for everyone. However, this plan is focused primarily on safety within the public realm. The scope of this plan was informed by the concerns we hear most often from constituents and recent incidences of stranger violence that have led to our constituents' concerns.

This plan is not meant to be comprehensive, but rather, a jumping off point that establishes the status quo and the next steps we must prioritize. Nearly every policy area can be categorized under public safety, from infrastructure to tenant protections. In focusing on these areas, we hope to provide solutions that we can work to implement in upcoming years to make our communities safer for everyone.

# WHOSE STREETS? EVERYONE'S STREETS

Traffic violence poses a risk to New Yorkers whenever they leave their homes. State and City level efforts at reducing traffic deaths have made strides in the right direction, with [NYC DOT reporting the lowest recorded level of traffic deaths during the first six months of 2025](#).

Such progress is worth celebrating, but our offices still routinely hear from constituents who have concerns about their safety on the streets. There are more changes we can make to ensure our streets are safer for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. New Yorkers shouldn't need to fear for their safety when they get around the city.

## What We Have

New York has made recent progress in this area. In 2024, New York State passed Sammy's Law, which allows New York City to reduce speed limits to 20 miles per hour in certain areas. Reducing speed limits helps prevent collisions between drivers and pedestrians by giving both parties more reaction time. When collisions do happen, slower car speeds can [dramatically decrease the chances of fatalities](#).

While not primarily intended as a street safety measure, the data indicates that congestion pricing has contributed to a decrease in car crashes. [Gothamist found](#) that from January 5th through April 21st, the total number of crashes in the Central Business District

decreased by 13% from the same period the year previously. While Gothamist notes that crashes were already trending downward, their analysis of the data indicates that the crashes decreased at a notably higher rate once congestion pricing began.

In recent years, Manhattan has seen numerous improvements that prioritize making our streets safer for all their users. The [2nd Avenue redesign](#) included widening the bike lane, an important change for one of the city's most heavily used bike lanes. The redesign also included pedestrian safety improvements, including shortened crossing distances, new painted pedestrian islands, and visibility improvements. The [1st Avenue Tunnel](#) protected bike lane is another example of safety improvements that we want to see in our communities.

## What We're Fighting For

### Legislation

- (S4045A/A2299B) Stop Super Speeders, Relates to requiring the installation of intelligent speed assistance devices for repeated violation of maximum speed limits
- (S5008A/A803A) Establishes in the city of New York a bicycle lane safety program to enforce certain restrictions on the use of bicycle lanes and/or protected bicycle lanes by means of bicycle lane photo devices

- (S5631/A5466) Requires motorcycles to be registered at point of sale
- (S445/A3730) Removes New York City's exemption from New York State's laws mandating daylighting at intersections. Daylighting is the practice of prohibiting parking within 20 feet of an intersection, increasing visibility for pedestrians, drivers, and cyclists before crossing.
- Int. 1138 – Requires universal daylighting in NYC. Includes citywide community outreach on the change and requires DOT to implement daylighting barriers at 1,000 intersections per year
- Int 1431 – Limits police high speed chases when pursuing someone suspected of a non-violent offense

### **Full Implementation of Sammy's Law**

The passage of Sammy's Law is a major step forward for street safety in our city. We must ensure that the law is fully implemented. Thanks to Sammy's Law, the New York City Department of Transportation created a regional slow zone with a speed limit of 20 miles per hour in each borough. In 2024, the Manhattan slow zone was implemented south of Canal Street. We must push for more slow zones throughout the city, but especially in Manhattan, the densest borough.

### **Universal Daylighting**

While S445/A3730 at the state level and Intro 1138 at the city level would enable NYC to enact daylighting at all intersections, we must continue advocating for daylighting at crucial intersections even now. Due to Local Law 66 of 2023, the Department of Transportation must daylight at least one hundred intersections each year beginning in 2025. We must ensure that the DOT can achieve and exceed this rate of expansion of daylighting every year.

# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH = COMMUNITY SAFETY

To fully address mental health and substance abuse, we need to expand the availability of affordable treatment and ensure that it is consistently accessible to the people who need it. In the 2025 New York State Budget, the state expanded the circumstances where it is possible for police to involuntarily commit individuals experiencing serious mental health issues. While this leads to immediate hospitalization, it does not provide a long-term solution.

## What We Have

### Clubhouses

Clubhouses are community centers for individuals with severe mental illness. The Clubhouse Model has been implemented in numerous countries, originating with Fountain House in Hell's Kitchen in 1948. In addition to providing services and assistance, Clubhouses provide individuals with severe mental illness the opportunity to form connections built on trust and establish support systems.

Funding for existing Clubhouses in NYC was secured in this year's city budget, and the New York State budget included \$10 million to create seven new Clubhouses across the state.

### Neighborhood Navigators

In 2024, the Manhattan District Attorney's office began funding the Neighborhood Navigator program. The program has

outreach workers who build relationships with and provide aid to people on the street dealing with homelessness, mental health conditions, and substance use disorder. These navigators are assigned to the same neighborhoods so that they can be a consistent presence. Establishing a relationship built on trust takes time, but it is vital to producing long-term results. Navigators connect chronically homeless people to supportive services, including treatment and housing, and help address immediate needs through giving out food and hygiene kits.

## What We're Fighting For

### Legislation

- (S1744A/A2440A) Support Act, requires each appropriate institution housing a defendant due to mental disease or defect to assign a critical time intervention care management team to the defendant and make a single point of access referral for the defendant prior to such defendant's discharge.
- Int. 1019 – Requires the Office of Community Mental Health to report mental health emergency response data to the Mayor and the Speaker of the Council's offices on a quarterly basis. The reports must include information on whether B-HEARD responded

## **Bellevue**

Going into next year's state budget, we're prioritizing \$200 million in itemized funding for Bellevue Hospital. As an H+H Hospital, Bellevue participates in the NYC Care program, which allows New Yorkers who are not eligible for insurance or cannot afford insurance to access free or low cost preventative health care.

This includes having a primary care provider, vaccines and screenings, and mental health care and substance abuse services. Getting treatment before a behavioral health issue becomes a crisis keeps everyone safer and healthier, and preventative care tends to be less expensive than emergency care.

With this year's closure of the neighboring Mount Sinai Beth Israel Campus and impending federal cuts to Medicaid and Medicare, the hospital is facing an increase in patients and a potential decrease in pay for the care it provides.

Bellevue Hospital also has a Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program. It operates 24/7 and is the only one in all of NYC that accepts children and adolescents.

## **B-HEARD**

The Behavioral-Health Emergency Assistance Response Division (B-HEARD) was

established in 2021, and sends mental health professionals and EMTs to respond to eligible mental health-related 911 calls.

Currently, the B-HEARD program does not serve the whole city, and the service area does not include Lower Manhattan. Additionally, a 2025 audit by the New York City Comptroller's office found that 35% of eligible 911 calls were not routed to the program. As of June 2024, there were only 18 B-HEARD teams. In order for this program to succeed, it needs to be adequately funded, and better tracking needs to be implemented to better understand why teams are not sent in response to qualifying calls. The Comptroller's audit found that the survey responses from patients served by the teams were overwhelmingly positive, and these improvements are necessary in order for the program to succeed and potentially expand.

The police are often not the ones who are best equipped to respond to mental health emergencies, as such crises are often a public health concern rather than a public safety issue. The B-HEARD program recognizes this reality. By prioritizing mental health responses to mental health crises, we not only save lives, but build trust.



# STABLE HOUSING, SAFER STREETS

Safe, stable housing is a vital part of ending violence in our communities. As the NYC Comptroller's Office highlighted in its [2023 report on the Housing First model of addressing homelessness](#), "individuals experiencing street homelessness are more likely to be chronically homeless, have higher rates of serious mental illness, substance use disorders, and other severe health problems than homeless families in the shelter system."

The Housing First model prioritizes placing people in permanent housing without making that housing conditional upon matters such as sobriety or employment. The underlying premise is that the other struggles that people are dealing with are exacerbated by homelessness. The Housing First model has worked across the country to dramatically decrease street homelessness with long-term success rates. The Comptroller's report recommends the expansion of the Housing First model within New York City.

## What We Have

The 2025 state budget took a step in the right direction by funding programs that keep people housed and help get people into housing. \$50 million has been allocated to a state-wide, four-year Housing Access Voucher Program pilot in addition to \$80 million in funding to Mitchell-Lama and \$225 million in funding for NYCHA.

At the city level, the CityFHEPS voucher program helps those in shelter pay to get into permanent housing and helps those at risk of homelessness stay in their apartments by providing up to five years of rental assistance. In the 2025 city budget, the program has continued to be funded. Spending on the program has increased as more people enroll and get into housing.

In 2023, the City Council voted to expand CityFHEPS and make more New Yorkers eligible. However, Mayor Adams has refused to implement the expansion even after the City Council [overrode his veto](#) of the legislation. The Adams Administration has faced legal challenges over this inaction. In July of 2025, the New York State Court of Appeals [unanimously ruled](#) that the city must follow the law passed by the City Council and expand the program.

## What We're Fighting For

### Legislation

- (S3937/A712) Prohibit Shelter Time Limits
- (S113/A108) Increase cash benefits for homeless New Yorkers to ensure they receive the same benefits as those who are housed
- (S6772/A4669) Right to Counsel, which will establish a civil right to counsel for New Yorkers in eviction proceedings.

- While NYC has already implemented this within the five boroughs, this legislation would expand that right state-wide
- Int. 1211 – Requires the New York City Commission on Human Rights to impose civil penalties against landlords found to have engaged in source of income discrimination to vary based on the portfolio size of the landlord, with larger landlords facing higher civil penalties

In addition to getting people into housing, we also need to implement policies that protect tenants, keep people in their homes, and ensure that affordable housing is being built. At the state level, S5674/A6265 would establish a New York State Social Housing Development Authority. Its goal would be to increase the supply of permanently affordable housing throughout the state through building new housing and rehabilitating and preserving existing permanently affordable housing. Legislation like the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act, S401/A6100, would give tenants the opportunity to purchase their homes when their landlord decides to sell the building they reside in. This would help protect low and middle-income families from displacement and being priced out of their homes.

# A GUN-FREE NYC

In New York City, gun violence has reached record lows in 2025. Our efforts to end gun violence have been working, and it's important that we continue to invest in keeping this trend going. With federal cuts to Community-Based Violence Intervention grants and the closure of the White House Office of Gun Prevention, the state must step up to fill in the gaps left by the absence of federal partnership on this issue.

## What We Have

In 2025, New York State has furthered its effort to prevent gun violence. In June, Governor Hochul codified the New York State Office of Gun Violence Prevention. Earlier this year, new gun safety bills were signed into state law. These include S744/A436, which classifies pistol converters as rapid-fire modification devices, and S743/A437, which includes rifles and shotguns in required warnings for consumers regarding the risk of death or suicide where such weapons are present. This year's state budget included \$347 million in funding for gun violence prevention initiatives. At the city level, there is a standing gun buy-back program that helps get guns off of the street.

## What We're Fighting For

### Legislation

- (S399A/A199A) Regulates pistol converters and convertible pistols

- (S362/A3233) Establishes a 10-day waiting period for the purchase of any firearm
- (S1026A/A198A) Relates to establishing a voluntary waiver of the right to purchase firearms, rifles or shotguns; requires the division of state police to maintain statewide records of individuals who have waived the right to purchase firearms, rifles, or shotguns and any revocations of such waivers.

### Advocacy Beyond NYS

Tragic mass shootings like the one carried out in Midtown in July of this year remain a fear for New Yorkers. Thankfully, these incidents are less common in New York compared to some other parts of the country. However, no one state can end this crisis alone. These tragedies highlight the necessity of working with other states and with allies on this issue at the federal level to prevent gun violence.

# PROTECTING OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY

While we've seen a decrease in crime rates across the board, hate crimes have been on the rise in our city. This is intolerable, especially in one of the most diverse cities on earth where everyone is welcome.

According to the Manhattan District Attorney's office's written testimony to the City Council, bias motivated crimes have significantly increased in recent years. In 2020, the DA's office reported 89 hate crimes, with the number having increased to 268 in 2023.

This corresponds to the findings of the New York State Comptroller's office's 2024 report on hate crimes in the state, which found that reports of such crimes also increased state and city-wide from 2020 to 2023. This report also noted that the number of hate crimes in New York City and in the rest of the state used to be relatively similar, but that these crimes have increased disproportionately in the city. In 2023, over 60% of reported hate crimes in the state were in NYC.

At the federal level, we've seen not only a tolerance of but an embrace of hateful rhetoric and policies targeting immigrants, the LGBTQ+ community, and other marginalized groups.

ICE arrests in NYC have dramatically increased in recent months. This shows no signs of stopping and will likely get worse with ICE set to become the largest law

enforcement agency in our nation's history.

The expansion of expedited removal by the Trump Administration raises serious concerns about the integrity of our justice system and regard for due process, especially when many immigrants are being targeted for expedited removal at immigration courts.

If the Federal Government will not protect the our constitutional right to due process, as elected representatives of New York State, it is incumbent upon us to do everything in our power to uphold the constitution. We must protect our immigrant communities and enforce our city's sanctuary city laws.

## What We Have

In 2024, New Yorkers voted to codify protections against unequal treatment based on ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, and pregnancy outcomes in the state constitution.

Previously, New York's constitution only contained protections against unequal treatment based on race, color, creed, and religion. This is an important step to expand protections to vulnerable communities across our state in a way that cannot easily be rolled back.

To address hate crimes, the 2024 State budget included \$35 million in funding for

the Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes program. The program provides grants to improve safety and security for organizations at risk of hate crimes, including houses of worship. The New York State Division of Human Rights has a Hate and Bias Prevention Unit that allows individuals to report hate crimes directly. The unit's Response Team can refer those who have experienced hate to trauma-informed resources for victims.

laws by creating a private right of action to hold the city accountable for illegally sharing individuals' information with ICE

## What We're Fighting For

### Legislation

- (S5816/A1565) Establishes the homeless protection act which designates certain offenses against homeless persons as hate crimes
- (S316/A4181) Dignity Not Detention Act, prohibits New York from entering immigration detention contracts and requires government entities to terminate existing immigration detention contracts
- (S2235A/A3506) New York for All, prohibits state and local government agencies from allocating personnel and resources for federal immigration enforcement and from colluding with ICE
- (S8462/A8908) Mandating End of Lawless Tactics Act, prohibits local, state and federal law enforcement officers from wearing any mask or personal disguise while interacting with the public in the performance of their duties, excluding certain protective masks
- Int. 1412 – Prohibits federal immigration enforcement from maintaining office or quarters on property under DOCs jurisdiction
- Int. 214 – NYC Trust Act, bolsters the compliance with existing sanctuary city

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