



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY RALLIES TO DEMAND ACTION TO REIN IN TICKET SELLERS

**Council Member Chin joins residents to express outrage in wake
of Monday's daylight shooting near several schools**

THE BATTERY - In response to years of intimidation and harassment of residents, workers and visitors by ticket sellers that recently boiled over in a shocking display of violence, Council Member Margaret S. Chin led the community today in a call for action to fully address this growing problem at the Battery and other parts of lower Manhattan.

“Our city has an obligation to do all it can to protect everyone who lives, works and goes to school here,” said **Council Member Chin**. “We must act now to address the growing problem of ticket sellers harassing, intimidating and, with this most recent display of violence, shooting at each other and anyone unlucky enough to cross their path. While I commend officers at the 1st Precinct for their bravery in pursuing and apprehending the suspect, our city must do more to protect our neighborhoods.”

On Monday, at approximately 3:15pm on Washington Street and Battery Place, just a few blocks away from P.S. 276 and several other schools, an individual allegedly shot two individuals in broad daylight, one of whom was only walking nearby when the incident occurred.

Officers from NYPD's 1st Precinct responded quickly and apprehended the suspect on the following Thursday.

This incident was particularly alarming for our neighborhood because of its close proximity to several schools, including the Battery Park City School, Lower Manhattan Community Middle School, and the JVL Wildcat Academy. Yet, according to a number of school administrators in the surrounding community, NYPD school safety officers were not informed about the incident for a period of time ranging from hours to a day after the shooting occurred. One of the schools had students shelter in place only because a parent informed an administrator about the incident as it happened.

"Legislation creating a licensing requirement for ticket sellers was a good first step, but it is clear the city must do more to enforce the rules and guarantee safety and order in this, one of our borough's most vital public spaces and transportation hubs," said **Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer**.

"Lower Manhattan is a neighborhood of families, schools, and dozens of attractions, which is why this recent violent gun act near Battery Park was so pronounced in our community. Any gun violence in our neighborhoods is completely unacceptable and we must work towards preventing such acts. That is why in the Assembly I look forward to pushing legislation that would address gun violence, along with anti-gun coalitions led by Assemblymember Kavanagh. It is also critical that the City work towards addressing any communication gaps during emergencies such as this one, especially when schoolchildren may be impacted. I look forward to working with the NYPD, our schools and local stakeholders to ensure our neighborhoods are safe for our families, and those who visit and work here," said **Assembly member Yuh-Line Niou**.

"Community Board 1 stands with our Council Member in fighting this deplorable and criminal situation. Residents and particularly visitors have too long endured aggressive and borderline criminal behavior that has now erupted in gunfire and injury to innocent people in what should be nearby parkland. Our local police have tried to control this situation but it has grown to be a blight on our community. We call for measures to protect the rights of residents, workers and especially visitors who are targeted. Violence must be prevented, laws must be enforced and new controls for this type of vending must be enacted. Our community deserves this and our Council Member Chin can help us solve this problem," said **Anthony Notaro, chair of Manhattan Community Board 1**.

"This terrible incident has highlighted important needs in communication to safeguard our children. The unprecedented growth in lower Manhattan for residential development, business and tourism must be accompanied by a recognition that we need to consider options on where ticket sellers are allowed and ensure they are all operating legally for the safety of everyone visiting, working and living here," said **Tammy Meltzer, co-chair of the CB1 Battery Park City Committee**.

This weekend, Council Member Chin wrote Schools Chancellor Carmen Farina, NYPD Commissioner James P. O'Neill and Office of Emergency Management Commissioner Joseph J. Esposito requesting its current guidelines to inform schools and parents about any emergency or dangerous situations that occur in and around schools.

In the absence of any guidelines, Council Member Chin demanded that the Administration immediately establish protocols to ensure all three agencies, and their employees, are notified of emergency situations.

Last year, Council Member Chin joined Council Member Dan Garodnick on legislation, Intro 1149, requiring DCA to issue licenses for ticket sellers. While that legislation was a big step forward, it is clear that further action is needed to rein in ticket sellers and to ensure that incidents like Monday's shooting never happen again.

****Attached is a letter sent this weekend from Council Member Chin and other elected officials to NYPD, DOE and OEM requesting information about emergency notification protocol for schools.**

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