



# COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN  
1664 PARK AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NY 10035  
TEL: 212-831-8929  
FAX: 212-369-3571  
www.cb11m.org

Nilsa Orama  
Chair

Angel D. Mescaín  
District Manager

Date: April 9, 2020  
Committee: Environment, Open Space & Parks  
Board Vote: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

**RE: Support for Intr. 1524-2019, a proposed Local Law that would prohibit city agencies from applying any chemically-based pesticide to any property owned or leased by the city.**

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**WHEREAS**, Intr. 1524-2019 is a Local Law proposed to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the use of pesticides by City agencies would prohibit city agencies from applying any chemically-based pesticide to any property owned or leased by the city; and

**WHEREAS**, The New York City Department of Parks & Recreation has long used Roundup to control weeds on city property;

**WHEREAS**, Roundup is an herbicide manufactured by the agro-technological company, Monsanto, and contains a cocktail of chemicals, including glyphosate, that are linked to severe kidney damage, asthma, non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, and birth defects, among other grave disorders and side effects; and

**WHEREAS**, The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a division of the World Health Organization, deemed glyphosate a "probable carcinogen"-- linking the herbicide to non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and lung cancer in humans, a variety of cancers in rodents, chromosomal damage in mammals, and reproductive errors in amphibians; and

**WHEREAS**, Evidence demonstrates associations between early life exposure to pesticides with pediatric cancers, decreased cognitive function and behavioural problems; and

**WHEREAS**, City Parks improve the livelihood city residents and provide a place for adults, children and pets to play outdoors, and therefore must be protected; and

**WHEREAS**, Monsanto Co. is facing thousands of Roundup lawsuits in state and federal courts filed by farmers, farm workers, gardeners, landscapers, government employees, and a host of other individuals who allege exposure to Roundup weed killer has caused them to develop non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and that Monsanto concealed health risks associated with Roundup; and,

**WHEREAS**, Intr. 1524-2019 would require city agencies to use biological pesticides, which are derived from naturally occurring substances and are usually less toxic than their synthetic counterparts; and

**WHEREAS**, Intr. 1524-2019 includes measures to prohibit the usage of synthetic pesticides within 75 feet of a natural body of water in order to limit the contamination of water systems; and

**WHEREAS**, Intr. 1524-2019 was introduced on April 18, 2019 and forwarded to the committee on Health after receiving support from a supermajority of 34 City Council co-sponsors; and,

**WHEREAS**, On January 29th, 2020, Councilmember Ben Kallos and Carolina Rivera, along with their 34 City Council colleagues, sent a letter to Mayor Bill de Blasio requesting that he put a moratorium on the use of toxic pesticides “until policies and procedures can be codified by the City Council and relevant agencies”; and

**WHEREAS**, The Black Institute presented their January 2020 “Poison Parks: A Special Report by The Black Institute” before the Environment, Open Space & Parks Committee on March 5th, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Manhattan Community Board 11 has a total of 32 parks and playgrounds and over 30 community gardens;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Manhattan Community Board 11 supports NYC Council Intr. 1524-2019: A Local Law to Amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York, In Relation to the Use of Pesticides by City Agencies.