

From the NYFSS Leadership Team: Recap Meeting with Councilmember Keith Powers - January 13 ([District 4](#)). Councilmember Powers showed a willingness to engage in discussion and we look forward to working together to make progress on issues of public safety and quality of life in NYC.

Discussion Recap:

1) **Juvenile Crime:** Increase in youth group crime, particularly of the random on-street variety. (Note: Juvenile Crime was up 43% in 2019).

NYFSS Ask: What has changed? Why and why now? What can be done to ensure public safety while addressing the structural roots of crime? What actual services and programs are provided to teens post arrest? What happens after they are released?

2) **Pharmacy Crime:** Chain store pharmacies have become hot spots for crime, relying on and overtaxing the NYPD resources. Cited multiple robberies with a weapon at stores.

NYFSS Ask: We are calling on chain-store pharmacies (Duane Reade, CVS) to provide their own security to deter crime, freeing up NYPD officers to allocate their resources to protect our neighborhoods.

3) **Seriously Mentally Ill Homeless** who refuse services and contribute to public health and safety challenges.

NYFSS Ask: Why isn't Thrive NYC focusing on these individuals? How can we help to push for funding and appropriate services for these individuals?

4) **Bail Reform:** Brief discussion followed up by a request for the following actions.

NYFSS Ask: Who is responsible for tracking the effectiveness of bail reform in New York City and its impact on public safety? What are the key metrics involved? Who will look at the lack of a legislative way to deal with repeat offenders, judicial discretion, offenses against vulnerable populations (children, hate crimes), and use of remand when appropriate?

What You Can Do: If you live in Councilmember Powers district and share any of these concerns, please call him (212-818-0580) and ask him to address these concerns. You can also email (kpowers@council.nyc.gov) him and use the bullets above to assist in your discussion or email to Councilmember Powers.

NYFSS requested Councilmember Powers follow up with NYPD precincts in his [district](#) to discuss the increase in juvenile crime. We shared this [article](#) citing the rise in juvenile crime and reinforced that NYPD commanding officers across several Manhattan precincts share this concern and have raised it at their precinct and community board meetings.

Councilmember Powers agreed to contact Duane Reade and CVS at the corporate level to push for a better in-store security plan to protect public safety.

Councilmember Powers agreed to follow up on the progress of an ongoing investigation into product tagging as a possible deterrent to theft at these stores. Product tagging helps law enforcement identify stolen store merchandise, which is typically sold by thieves for a fraction of the items' wholesale cost to a "fence" (typically small bodegas), which in turn sells the stolen merchandise to customers.

Councilmember Powers agreed there is an increase in homelessness, particularly encampments. He will discuss with NYPD and follow up with us on action currently being taken.

Councilmember Powers agreed to reconnect with Speaker Johnson to discuss concerns with Thrive NYC and where \$850 million in funding is being spent. We asked that they seek to move funding to focus on unsheltered, seriously mentally ill that are in need of significant intervention and resources.