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Gale A. Brewer, Borough President

October 7, 2021

Melanie E. LaRocca
Commissioner
NYC Department of Buildings
280 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Lily M. Fan, Greeley T. Ford
Commissioners
New York State Liquor Authority
163 West 125th Street
New York, NY 10027

Peter A. Hatch
Commissioner
NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection
42 Broadway, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10004

Dave A. Chokshi, MD, MSc
Commissioner
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
42-09 28th Street
Long Island City, NY 11101

Anita Laremont
Executive Director
NYC Department of City Planning
120 Broadway, 31st Floor
New York, NY 10271

Dear Commissioners and Executive Director:

I am concerned about the new quick-service fulfillment centers opening in storefronts throughout Manhattan and seemingly the city at large.

Companies such as Gorilla, BuyK, GoPuff, Fridge No More, Jokr, and others are using street-level retail spaces to exclusively store items for delivery and are not open to the public.

I believe that these centers fall under Use Group 16D. Use Group 16D is only permitted in certain areas in Manhattan (areas with M1, M2, M3 and C8 zoning). However, these sites are opening in areas where that zoning does not apply. In addition, some of these establishments sell beer, requiring SLA licenses that don't seem to be publicly displayed. I am attaching a list of addresses of some of these centers that I've been able to easily identify.

I am concerned that these services compete with existing supermarkets, bodegas and other food and beverage establishments, and occupy spaces that are now no longer available to the public. They deaden our streetscapes, as windows are sometimes papered over and there is no ability to actually enter and shop, thereby reducing foot traffic, which ultimately impacts adjacent small businesses.

While there continue to be food deserts in Manhattan, these companies are not serving those areas; instead, most are opening where there are already many grocery options.

Please let me know if your agency is aware of these new centers, if they are compliant with existing zoning, health and liquor regulations, and what enforcement mechanisms can be used to regulate them.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gale A. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President

Enclosure:

Business Name	Street Number	Street Name	City	State	Zip Code
FRIDGE NO MORE	46	CORTLANDT ALLEY	NEW YORK	NY	10013
GORILLAS NYC EAST HARLE	149	E 125TH ST	NEW YORK	NY	10035
GORILLAS NYC BRYANT PAR	20	W 37TH ST	NEW YORK	NY	10018
GORILLAS NYC BATTERY PA	90	WEST ST	NEW YORK	NY	10006
BUYK	178	DELANCEY ST	NEW YORK	NY	10002
GORILLAS NYC CHELSEA	245	W 14TH ST	NEW YORK	NY	10011
GORILLAS NYC COLUMBIA	2681	BROADWAY	NEW YORK	NY	10025
GORILLAS NYC SOHO WEST	315	SPRING ST	NEW YORK	NY	10013
GORILLAS NYC LES	294	GRAND ST #296	NEW YORK	NY	10002
GORILLAS NYC MORNINGSID	2280	FREDRICK DOUGLASS BLVD	NEW YORK	NY	10027
JOKR	245	E 25TH ST	NEW YORK	NY	10010
JOKR	371	BROADWAY	NEW YORK	NY	10013
JOKR	39	W 14TH ST	NEW YORK	NY	10011
JOKR	155	RIVINGTON	NEW YORK	NY	10002
GoPuff	2680	BROADWAY	NEW YORK	NY	10025