



Comments on Intros. 656, 663, 722, 749 and 752

The Rent Stabilization Association of New York City represents 25,000 diverse owners and managers who collectively manage more than one million apartments in every neighborhood and community throughout the city. We thank the Committee and Chair Ariola for giving us the opportunity to submit these comments on Intros. 656, 663 722, 749 and 752, all of which relate to the fire-danger associated with batteries that power battery-operated mobility devices such as e-bikes and to offer some additional comments on the subject.

Over the past few years, there have been an increasing number of fires in residential buildings caused by these devices. We have seen significant property damage, daring fire department rescues and, sadly, injuries and death. The council must act to address the fire-related dangers associated with these devices. While we support these bills that will seek to provide education, reports, limits on the sale of used batteries, and require those that are sold to be listed and labeled by a nationally recognized testing laboratory or other approved organizations, this is not enough.

The Council needs to enact a ban on the storage of e-bikes and other mobility devices - with the exception of those used for medically-related purposes - powered by lithium-ion batteries in multi-family residential properties. The fire-risk is too great. The batteries are dangerous not only when charged incorrectly but also because of the inherent instability of the battery itself. They can explode even when not being charged, and for this reason they are banned from aircraft. Lithium-ion-powered mobility devices are too dangerous for multi-family housing and must be prohibited.