



NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS
Member of Assembly 64th District

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July 19th, 2019

Mayor Bill de Blasio
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: New York City Cooling Center Pet Policy

Dear Mayor de Blasio,

As you know, this weekend we are set to experience extremely high temperatures reaching at least into the high nineties, with reports predicting that it will feel like 110 degrees. During this time we, as leaders, need to take all the necessary steps to prepare New York City residents for the impending heat wave. One measure the city has taken is establishing air conditioned cooling centers throughout each borough where residents can go to escape the extreme weather conditions. Unfortunately information available online does not indicate which of these centers, if any, will allow individuals to bring their pets. In fact, even when I personally made an inquiry to 311, I was told by an operator that each center has its own policy on animals, and that same representative was unable to identify any pet-friendly centers for me.

Any pet owner will agree that our beloved animals are just as much a part of our family as any of our human relatives and deserve to have their safety and wellbeing considered during any emergency situation. It is not right to ask members of our community to leave their loyal companions home alone to endure the extreme heat they themselves are avoiding. This is an issue of compassion for both the animals that may suffer and their owners who deserve the peace of mind that their pet is safe.

Each borough should be required to have cooling centers that allow for animals and the information indicating which centers will accept pets should be readily available online, as well as through 311. I ask that your office please review this issue and make the necessary changes to accommodate the millions of pet owners in New York City.

Sincerely,

Nicole Malliotakis

CC: New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson