



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

In light of recent incidents involving horse-drawn carriages in New York City and changing conditions on City streets and in Central Park, there is an urgent need for action to address the public safety and animal welfare concerns raised by the continuation of the horse-drawn carriage industry. In recent years, there have been multiple incidents of carriage horses bolting, sometimes with passengers on board, presenting significant danger to the horses, the passengers, the drivers, and members of the public in city streets or in the Park. Two weeks ago, for example, a carriage horse bolted in Central Park with passengers in the carriage, knocking down a road sign and running through a group of persons using the park for recreational purposes, causing the passengers to leap from the carriage while it was in motion. In recent years, two carriage horses have collapsed on City streets, and others have been involved in collisions with automobiles. Incidents such as these present substantial risks to public safety and to the welfare of the carriage horses.

At the same time, visits to Central Park—to which the horse-drawn carriages are largely confined by current law—continue to increase. The Park is estimated to receive more than 42 million visitors annually, making it the most-used park in the country, and rendering it less hospitable to carriage horses and horse-drawn carriages. Indeed, in light of these changing conditions, the Central Park Conservancy has called for a ban on horse-drawn carriages in Central Park. For all of these reasons, I urge the City Council to promptly pass legislation to prohibit the operations of horse-drawn carriages in the City of New York, taking due account of the effects of the legislation on the drivers of the horse-drawn carriages.

Therefore, pursuant to authority vested in me as Mayor by section twenty of the Municipal Home Rule Law and by section thirty six of the Charter of the City of New York, I hereby certify the necessity for the immediate passage of Int. No. 967, a proposed Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to prohibiting the operation of horse-drawn cabs, and to repeal sections 17-334.1, 19-174, 20-377, 20-377.1, 20-380, 20-381, 20-381.1, 20-381.2, 20-382 and subdivisions b, c, and d of section 20-383 of the administrative code of the city of New York, relating to carriage horses and horse-drawn cabs.

Given under my hand and seal this 17th day of September
2025 at City Hall in the City of New York.

Eric Adams
Mayor