



United Poultry Concerns, Inc.

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September 9, 2026

Mayor Zohran Mamdani
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Mamdani:

On behalf of the Alliance to End Chickens as Kaporos, a project of United Poultry Concerns, we ask that your administration enforce New York City's laws during the annual Kaporos slaughter of chickens on Brooklyn streets and sidewalks.

Each year, tens of thousands of chickens are brought into Brooklyn and confined in crates, often for days, exposed to weather, deprived of adequate food and water, and subjected to rough handling and, ultimately, slaughter. In 2025, our rescue team saved 202 chickens from Kaporos sites. Approximately two dozen required medical treatment for broken beaks, eye infections, mobility problems, amputations, and other injuries and illnesses. One rescued chicken had a slit throat.

Kaporos also raises serious public-health and sanitation concerns. This year, the CDC reported 1,061 people sickened, 234 hospitalized, and two dead in multistate Salmonella outbreaks linked to backyard poultry. Twenty-three percent of those sickened were children under five. While these outbreaks were not identified as Kaporos-related, they underscore the serious public-health concerns associated with the handling of live chickens and the City's responsibility to protect public health.

The City has long participated in Kaporos by providing police protection, barricades, traffic control, and other assistance at Kaporos sites. City sanitation trucks have been documented hauling away the dead bodies of the birds. The City has a responsibility to maintain public order, but it also has a responsibility to enforce its animal-cruelty, health, sanitation, slaughter, and other applicable laws.

We ask your administration to enforce these laws at Kaporos sites, investigate credible reports of animal cruelty and other violations while the activities are occurring, and ensure that City personnel do not facilitate conduct that would otherwise violate the law. There is a humane and charitable alternative to killing chickens: Kaporos can be performed with money given to charity. No religious observance requires the City to suspend its laws or allow animals to suffer.

Sincerely,

Liqin Cao
President

*A non-profit public information organization addressing the use of poultry in
food production, science, education and entertainment
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