

My name is Keanu Arpels-Josiah, I live in Manhattan, I help lead Fridays for the Future NYC and Sunrise Movement NYC, and I am an 18 year old senior in High School. The truth is I should be in class right now. I should be able to worry just about the stress of High School, of my grades, of now, applying to college, without having to worry about the stress of our disappearing human rights, my disappearing future. Without worrying whether our city will still exist in 30 years, in 10 years, in 5 years, next year.

This summer, our skies turned orange, the air unbreathable. Our streets, without warning, were flooded, and we experienced record heat. Each week, each month hotter than the rest.

In response to the record-breaking events of the summer, we organized. We turned tens of thousands of people onto the streets in the biggest post-pandemic march. 75,000 people marched onto our streets, and onto the cover of the New York Times calling for specifically an end to fossil fuels—climate justice.

New York City is one of the world's top greenhouse gas-emitting cities. This city is disproportionately responsible for the climate crisis.

That needs to change, and Local Law 97 promised to be a first step forward, toward that change — toward action.

Yet these regulations do not achieve that. The Administration must fully implement and enforce Local Law 97, without doing so you're betraying the calls for action from all who marched, from the youth, from the movement, from the people of this city, without doing so, the death, the suffering of the climate crisis, are on your hands.

That means building owners must have no free pass for more pollution! Landlords should be required to make additional pollution cuts if they are allowed a delay program - buildings have already had 5 years to make energy efficiency improvements, and emissions cuts cannot wait.

Critically, also, buildings should not be allowed to avoid energy efficiency measures by simply purchasing renewable energy credits. The rules must follow the LL97 Advisory Council's unanimous recommendation that RECs be limited to not more than 30% of the pollution over a building's pollution limit, and RECs must be limited to pollution generated from electricity. The city, this administration, this DOB have no place undercutting our city's climate law.

The youth, the movements for climate justice, the people of the city, we're watching. This is truly a matter of survival. Thank you!