



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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Environmental Justice & Sanitation Committee Minutes

October 16th, 2024

Cesar Yoc, Committee Chairperson

Attendance: *Cesar Yoc, Ngande Ambroise, Argelia Ortiz, Herman Francis, Melissa Bosley*

DRAFT

Meeting Introduction and Agenda Approval

- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc introduces himself as the chair of the environmental justice sanitation committee and calls the meeting to order.
- Member Argelia Ortiz makes a motion to accept the agenda, which is seconded and approved by the group.
- Member Herman Francis Jr. and other new attendees introduce themselves and share their connections to the Bronx.

Presentation by Juan Saldana from Department of Sanitation

- Mr. Juan Saldana from the Department of Sanitation's Office of Community Affairs begins his presentation.
- Mr. Juan Saldana covers three main topics: curbside composting collection, residential containerization requirement, and fines for business owners with repeated sidewalk cleaning violations.
- He explains the composting program, including the types of materials that can be composted and the logistics of collection.
- Mr. Juan Saldana discusses the residential containerization requirement, effective November 12, and the options for obtaining bins.

Details on Composting and Containerization Requirements

- Mr. Juan Saldana provides specifics on the composting program, including the types of bins allowed and the process for setting out compost.

- He addresses concerns about the security of bins and the potential for theft, suggesting that residents report any stolen bins to the police.
- Mr. Juan Saldana explains the enforcement period for yard waste and the fines for food scraps mixed with regular trash starting in spring 2025.
- He covers the residential containerization requirement, emphasizing the importance of using secure, tight-fitting lids and the availability of bins through a vendor.

Questions and Clarifications on Composting and Containerization

- Participants ask questions about the specifics of the composting and containerization programs, including the locations of composting facilities and the logistics of collection.
- Mr. Juan Saldana clarifies that the composting facilities are located at the Newton Creek water treatment plant and a composting facility in Staten Island.
- He addresses concerns about the smell and security of composting bins, suggesting that residents can line their bins with plastic bags to suppress odors.
- Mr. Juan Saldana provides information on the enforcement period for yard waste and the fines for food scraps mixed with regular trash starting in spring 2025.

Concerns About Enforcement and Community Education

- Participants express concerns about the enforcement of sanitation laws and the need for better education of the community.
- Mr. Juan Saldana explains the importance of community involvement in reporting violations and the role of local district superintendents in addressing issues.
- He discusses the challenges of reaching all demographics with information and the importance of outreach through various channels, including mailers, social media, and community events.
- Participants share their experiences with littering and the need for stricter enforcement of laws to encourage better behavior.

Discussion on Business and Public Housing Sanitation Issues

- Participants raise concerns about the sanitation issues in business areas, including the lack of frequent collection and the presence of overflowing bins.
- Mr. Juan Saldana explains the challenges of balancing resources and the importance of reporting issues to the local district superintendent.
- Committee Chair Cesar Yoc and other participants discuss the sanitation issues in public housing, including the lack of trash cans and the need for better education and enforcement.

- Mr. Juan Saldana provides information on the availability of bins for public housing and the importance of management in setting up proper systems.

Final Questions and Closing Remarks

- Participants ask final questions about the specifics of the composting and containerization programs, including the availability of countertop containers and the logistics of collection.
- Mr. Juan Saldana provides information on the availability of countertop containers and the importance of proper storage and collection within buildings.
- Participants express concerns about the enforcement of sanitation laws and the need for better education and outreach to the community.
- The meeting concludes with a commitment to continue working together to address sanitation issues and improve the cleanliness of the community.

Action Items

Reach out to the speaker

Provide the speaker's contact information to the community member to coordinate outreach and education efforts for their building on the new composting requirements.

Relay the concerns raised about enforcement, education, and resource allocation to the local district superintendent.

Coordinate with the committee chair on the planned community cleanup events and collaborate with the Sanitation Foundation to provide supplies and resources.