

**OPENING STATEMENT OF
MADELYNN LIGUORI
SENIOR COUNSEL, BUREAU OF LEGAL AFFAIRS
NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON DSNY'S INITIAL ZONE RULE FOR COMMERCIAL WASTE ZONES
MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024
10:00 AM
(REMOTE HEARING)**

Good morning and welcome. My name is Madelynn Liguori. I am Senior Counsel in the Bureau of Legal Affairs for the Department of Sanitation ("DSNY"). Thank you for attending this public hearing this morning.

DSNY is conducting this remote hearing in accordance with the requirements of the City Administrative Procedure Act. The purpose of this hearing is to receive comments from the public on DSNY's proposed rule relating to DSNY's initial zone rule for commercial waste zones.

This rule was initially published by DSNY in the City Record on January 30, 2024, with a scheduled hearing date of March 7, 2024. Since the initial publication, DSNY received a request to switch the virtual platform for the hearing from WebEx to Teams for accessibility reasons. As a result, DSNY re-published the rule in the City Record on February 22, 2024, with a scheduled hearing date of today. Additionally, DSNY emailed copies of the rule to all New York City local elected officials, the City's fifty-nine community boards, media and interested parties, and published the proposed rule on its website.

In 2019, New York City enacted Local Law 199 requiring the establishment of a new program for the collection of commercial waste. The program, known as the commercial waste zones program, is a safe, efficient, and competitive collection system designed to provide high quality service to New York City businesses while advancing the City's waste diversion and sustainability goals. Pursuant to Local Law 199, codified in Title 16-B of the New York City Administrative Code, the geographic area of New York City has been divided into 20 "commercial waste zones."

Pursuant to a request for proposals process, three private carters were selected by the Department to serve businesses within each commercial waste zone for a total of 18 carters

selected for 20 zones. Additionally, five carters were selected to provide containerized commercial waste collection services from dumpsters and compactors citywide. The selected carters are referred to as “awardees.” The resulting contracts with the awardees include standards for pricing, customer service, safety, environmental health, and requirements to promote the City’s commitment to recycling and sustainability.

Local Law 199 requires the Department to promulgate rules setting forth an implementation start date and a final implementation date for each commercial waste zone established pursuant to section 16-1001. Different implementation start dates and implementation end dates may be established for different commercial waste zones. See Ad. Code § 16-1002(e)(3). This rule sets the implementation start date and final implementation date only for the first commercial waste zone to be implemented - Queens Central. Subsequent rules will set the implementation dates for the zones being implemented later.

DSNY’s authority for these rules is found in Section 753 and Section 1043(g) of the New York City Charter and Title 16-B of the New York City Administrative Code.

Please note that this hearing only relates to the proposed rule that designates the first commercial waste zone to be implemented as Queens Central. It does not address any other topic with respect to commercial waste zones. We ask that oral statements and written comments be directed to the limited subject matter of the proposed rule.

A court reporter is present today and will record the hearing. You may present an oral statement or submit written comments concerning the proposed rule. We have been accepting written comments on the proposed rule since it was published. Today is the deadline for submission of written comments. Such comments may be emailed directly to nycrules@dny.nyc.gov by 5PM today.

DSNY will make available a copy of all written comments received through today, together with the hearing transcript, for viewing on its website within the next few weeks.

DSNY will carefully consider all the comments it receives today at the hearing and all written comments it receives.

I will begin calling those of you who wish to speak this morning in the order in which you have signed up to testify. While the notice requested that persons wishing to testify sign up in advance of this hearing, anyone wishing to testify at this time may do so by indicating in the chat area that you wish to testify by indicating your name and affiliation, if any. When you speak, please state your name and affiliation, and speak slowly and clearly so that the court reporter can understand and accurately record your statement. [We also ask that you limit your statement to five minutes.]