

**OPENING STATEMENT OF
MADELYNN LIGUORI
DIRECTOR OF REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT/
EXECUTIVE AGENCY COUNSEL
NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON DSNY'S PROPOSED RULE
RELATING TO ENTITIES ENGAGING IN CLEANING SERVICES**

**MONDAY, February 10, 2025
10:00 A.M.
(REMOTE HEARING)**

Good morning and welcome. My name is Madelynn Liguori. I am the Director of Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement and Executive Agency Counsel 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 entities engaging in cleaning services.

This rule was published by DSNY in the City Record on December 30, 2024, with a scheduled hearing date of today, February 10, 2025. 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. DSNY also engaged with members of the regulated community to discuss their operational concerns regarding how they may be able to containerize waste.

Section 16-120(e)(2) of the New York City Administrative Code prohibits the placement of household or commercial refuse upon any sidewalk, street, public place, wharf, pier, dock, bulkhead, slip, navigable waterway or other area whether publicly or privately owned, except in accordance with rules of the department relating to collection.

The purpose of this rule is to clarify that any entity that performs or causes others to perform cleaning services such as manual sweeping and cleaning of sidewalks, public plazas, streets, curbs and gutters, or emptying of public litter baskets, for the purpose of supporting local businesses or communities, may not place any amount of refuse or recycling within the vicinity of any public litter basket, or at any other location described in Section 16-120(e)(2) of the New

York City Administrative Code, except in accordance with rules of the Department relating to collection. The proposed rule also requires that such materials be placed out for collection by the Department in rigid receptacles with tight-fitting lids. An entity, for purposes of this rule, shall mean any business improvement district, merchant association, neighborhood association, or other non-governmental organization.

Any entity violating the prohibition of placing any amount of refuse or recycling out in bags for Department collection within the vicinity of any public litter basket, or for any other reason at any other location described in Section 16-120(e)(2) of the Administrative Code, shall be subject to the civil penalties for violations of §16-120(e)(2) of the Administrative Code.

Bags of waste placed out on the sidewalk attract rats and vermin. These changes align with the City's commitment to cleaning up New York City streets and reducing food sources for rats and aligns with the City's initiatives to increase the use of containers for waste storage and collection, creating cleaner, more livable, and more vibrant streets and neighborhoods across New York City.

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@dsny.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 asked 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 say 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 three minutes.

DSNY Proposed Rule Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services

 rules.cityofnewyork.us/rule/dsny-proposed-rule-relating-to-entities-engaging-in-cleaning-services/



Rule status: Proposed

Agency: DSNY

Comment by date: February 10, 2025

Rule Full Text

DSNY-Proposed-Rule-Relating-to-Entities-Engaging-in-Cleaning-Services.pdf

Section 16-120(e)(2) of the New York City Administrative Code prohibits the placement of household or commercial refuse upon any sidewalk, street, public place, wharf, pier, dock, bulkhead, slip, navigable waterway or other area whether publicly or privately owned, except in accordance with rules of the department relating to collection.

The purpose of this rule is to clarify that any entity that performs or causes others to perform cleaning services such as manual sweeping and cleaning of sidewalks, public plazas, streets, curbs and gutters, or emptying of public litter baskets, for the purpose of supporting local businesses or communities, may not place any amount of refuse or recycling within the vicinity of any public litter basket, or at any other location described in Section 16-120(e)(2) of the New York City Administrative Code, except in accordance with rules of the Department relating to collection. The proposed rule also requires that such materials be placed out for collection by the Department in rigid receptacles with

tight-fitting lids. An entity, for purposes of this rule, shall mean any business improvement district, merchant association, neighborhood association, or other non-governmental organization.

Any entity violating the prohibition of placing any amount of refuse or recycling out in bags for Department collection within the vicinity of any public litter basket, or for any other reason at any other location described in Section 16-120(e)(2) of the Administrative Code, shall be subject to the civil penalties for violations of §16-120(e)(2) of the Administrative Code.

Attendees who need reasonable accommodation for a disability such as a sign language translation should contact the agency by calling 1 (646) 885-5006 or emailing by **February 3, 2025**

Send comments by

- **Email:**
- **Mail:** DSNY, 125 Worth St Room/Floor: 710 ; New York, New York 10013

Public Hearings

Public Hearing

Date

February 10, 2025

10:00am - 11:30am EST

Location

Connect Virtually

https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_NDAxODkwZDgtNWJIYS00NDY3LWEzZjEtYzdiNTYyYmY1OGZj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2232f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221d3255a2-4904-4aaa-899e-3f943348182b%22%7d

Meeting ID: 218 688 274 294

Passcode: cC2rq7px

Dial in by phone

+1 646-893-7101,,722549772#

United States, New York City

Phone conference ID: 722 549 772#

Disability Accommodation

Comments are now closed.

Online comments: 69

Dale Aucoin

In a perfect world, this new law makes sense because it prevents bags of trash from sitting on street corners and next to garbage cans. Unfortunately this is going to make it much more difficult, if not impossible, for local neighborhood cleanup groups to keep the sidewalks, gutters, and storm drains of NYC clear of trash. Because the city doesn't have the resources to keep our streets clean, this job falls on the shoulders of building owners/maintenance people, some of whom do decent jobs, but many do not. Community cleanup groups like the Litter Legion in Hell's Kitchen are there to fill in the gaps. These small groups don't have bins of their own and therefore need to leave bags of trash next to street bins. Essentially the city is going to kill these community groups by enacting this law, leading to more trash on the streets, and more rats on the streets.

The city should be making laws that make it easier for people to keep the streets clean not harder. It's much better to have trash in a bag next to a trash can, than blowing around the streets, and ending up in storm drains. That's common sense IMHO.

Comment added December 30, 2024 4:41pm

Iris Lentjes

I've been part of the volunteer driven organization Jackson Heights Beautification Group – TreeLC in Jackson Heights Queens for several years. We meet most every Saturday mornings because we want to keep our neighborhood beautiful. While we want to mostly focus on tending to plants and trees, picking up trash from tree beds, the pavements, and the gutters in our neighborhood is a continuous effort we unfortunately have to divulge much of our time on. I fully agree with the bin mandate and the war on rats. I do hope however a provision can be made for our group within this proposed rule where we can leave black bags next to the street bins. We would put a sticker on our bag so the Sanitation department can recognize our bags. We can also report our garbage bags with 311, which we already do right now if we collect excessive amounts of trash. I hope you may reconsider and tweak this rule, because we unfortunately collect at least 3 full 60 gallon garbage bags each week filled with street trash, abandoned house hold garbage, lunches and food receptacles dumped out of cars from our gutters. This happens despite us having an ACE crew on 37th Avenue. Unfortunately, visitors and fellow neighbors do leave that much trash around. Please also note that we also collect trash from various rain gardens as part of the stewarding program DEP has in place. Should you need further data, please verify our entries on the NYC Tree Map. Our group is listed on that portal as the Jackson Heights Beautification Group. We log our cleaning and maintenance activities there most every week. So as stated, I hope you may make a provision for our group. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to email me. Regards, Iris Lentjes

Comment added December 31, 2024 8:19am

Nicolas Marcotrigiano

I am one of hundreds of New Yorkers who volunteers my time to clean streets and sidewalks in my community. Beyond just helping ease the constant burden of litter cleanup on local businesses and property owners, these groups provide a critical environmental and public health service that prevents litter from flowing into storm drains, causing flooding that threatens our neighbors health and well-being. What's more, this activity is a vital source of connection and community building in a time when social isolation has caused untold harm across the city and country.

It is unconscionable that DSNY would seek to criminalize this behavior, and I urge you in the strongest terms to change course.

Comment added December 31, 2024 1:47pm

Riley Wolf

Hello,

I am one of the many New Yorkers who participates in my neighborhood cleanup group, Community Cleanup PLG. Therefore, I am very concerned to hear this new proposal.

While I understand the thought behind receptacles for the trash we collect, it is unrealistic for volunteer-run groups such as ours to be expected to do this, as we just do not have the access to the funds or adequate storage for these receptacles.

Our group reports the locations of our trash bag drop-offs to 311 after each cleanup event, so DSNY can pick up and dispose of them. While it may take some time for the bags to be picked up, which leads to the concern of attracting rats and other pests, there would be a higher risk for pests throughout the community if this trash was left scattered everywhere.

This may not have been the intention of the proposal, but to us, it seeks to penalize groups assisting the city in keeping itself clean, and therefore may snuff them out. These groups have purpose beyond just picking up litter; they keep storm drains free of clutter that therefore leads to less flooding, help to prevent the pollution of our water via chemicals from litter, and provide invaluable community. I would not have much of the community I have today if it were not for my neighborhood group.

I urge you to reconsider and work with groups like ours to come up with a realistic solution. Thank you.

Comment added January 1, 2025 2:11pm

Teru Kuwayama

The city should accommodate trash collection and drop off by individuals and civic groups. It's understandable that we don't want commercial or industrial actors to circumvent their responsibilities by using public trash receptacles, but extending a prohibition to "any entity" (which could include community groups or private citizens who take the initiative to clear trash from streets or parks etc) is counterproductive.

Comment added January 2, 2025 9:47am

Sarah Schuster

Community groups that help keep our streets clean needs to place trash bags near public trash cans. Otherwise, we have no where else to dispose them. This is only hurting people who want to keep their communities clean by attempted to dispose trash that is otherwise on the floor.

Alternatively: Add more/bigger public trashcans so we can properly dispose the trash in our neighborhood. The trash to trashcan ratio isn't working if this is such a big problem. Thank you!

Comment added January 2, 2025 7:12pm

Kristin Eley

I co-lead Community Cleanup PLG, and we love our weekly pickups. In addition to cleaning up the neighborhood's never-ending trash, we have formed a meaningful neighborhood third place for folks. I don't think the issue is folks picking up trash... I think the issue is not enough trash cans! Put one at every corner, and we'd be able to plop our bags into the bins. Thanks!

Comment added January 3, 2025 3:59pm

Tessaria

Please talk more with community groups before signing something like this into law. You tell us what not to do, but you don't provide a clear alternative. Community cleanup groups are part of the solution, work with us!

Comment added January 3, 2025 5:59pm

Shannon Donohue

As one of the many local volunteers committed to keeping NYC neighborhoods clean, I understand the importance of reducing litter and its associated risks wherever possible. However, this proposal would likely exacerbate street litter by making it impossible for volunteer groups to operate. Many neighborhoods, including ours, rely on the community-led volunteer groups mentioned in these comments to address gaps in city resourcing and keep streets clean. The groups also foster a shared sense of pride and responsibility in the neighborhood. I urge the city to support community cleanliness by empowering residents to contribute to a more beautiful and sustainable city, rather than taking away their ability to contribute by enacting this proposal.

Comment added January 4, 2025 5:41pm

Amanda Melhuish

This rule is sadly poorly considered, given the reliance of many neighborhoods on the work of local community clean-up groups to gather trash. Unless there is a plan to make their work unneeded with a huge investment in sanitation tidying litter themselves OR a plan to provide compliant receptacles to these groups, this will essentially criminalize and discourage community clean-up. No one likes leaving bags of trash on the street — perhaps table this rule until investing in citywide containerization plan that wisely repurposes public street space for this goal. Volunteer groups are doing their best to fill in the gaps created by policy failures and mismanagement of funding by city government. Work with them when developing these rules!

Comment added January 7, 2025 6:23pm

Amy Guo

The language of the rule presented here would deprive many neighborhoods from the community cleanup they rely upon to keep their areas safe and clean. Criminalizing these groups would ultimately lead to more waste, bugs, and mice on the streets, not less; and eliminate a valuable point of social connection in a time of increasing isolation.

Comment added January 18, 2025 6:31am

Stephanie Joseph

Trash is such a huge problem in our neighborhoods. Please don't make it more difficult for citizens volunteering to clean our streets by implementing this new rule. It's truly disheartening that so many people in our city don't feel the responsibility to clean up after themselves. Our local cleanup groups are a ray of hope for cleaner community.

Comment added January 18, 2025 8:59am

Kathleen Nolan

Why on earth are you discouraging neighborhoods from taking pride in keeping their neighborhoods clean and filling the gaps in the DSNY? This is a ridiculous idea. Community organizations in their various forms should not be threatened for helping government look successful. Instead of encouraging these groups to hire private garbage entities, DSNY should be encouraged that people are even picking up trash to begin with. Why can't DSNY provide trash bins to organizations? Why can't they just have more garbage bins in general? Why can't they hire a community outreach person to coordinate extra trash pick ups with these groups? Carrot or stick. It's ridiculous to go stick first for community organizations focused on IMPROVING the spaces around them.

Comment added January 18, 2025 10:02am

Maura FitzGerald

In communities where DSNY refuses to put sufficient numbers of garbage bins for public use, we rely on public community cleanups to keep the neighborhood looking good. There needs to be an exception made for street litter cleanup, which is done in bags, and placed next to bins for pickup.

Comment added January 18, 2025 10:26am

Leticia Aliaga

Hello DSNY!! This new proposed rule is an impediment and deterrent to citizens like myself that take it up to clean up our communities.

We are a vital resource for the DSNY and for our neighborhoods (especially those marginalized and not properly funded). Daily clean ups by community groups lead the efforts in keeping Bushwick clean. Your proposal will make the clean up process more complicated.

And let's be honest.... You all ain't gonna clean our neighborhood so please consider the implications of this rule.

Thank you for taking the time to read my suggestion.

Comment added January 18, 2025 11:21am

Larry Weissman

The DSNY has removed public trash bins throughout my neighborhood in Kensington, Brooklyn (and elsewhere across the city), causing an intolerable increase in litter and refuse throughout the area. The result has forced community groups to organize neighborhood clean ups, collecting trash from sidewalks and gutters, leaving the bags adjacent to the few remaining public trash bins for pickup by DSNY. Either they can take away the street trash that taxpayers have collected or add more public bins throughout the district; to do anything else is shirking their mandate and responsibility to the citizens of New York City

Comment added January 18, 2025 1:32pm

Annika Leybold

Dear DSNY,

I'm a resident of Brooklyn deeply disturbed by the implications of this rule change. As someone who cares about my community and enjoys participating in neighborhood community cleanups, I'm appalled that the city is now targeting, to the point of criminalization, the neighborly actions of helping to clean up our streets and parks. Given DSNY's valid, but ultimately under-resourced efforts to keep our city beautiful, it is often up to everyday people to clean up our own communities. With increased flooding due to climate change, and the serious issues of sewers being clogged by trash in rain gutters, flexible and fast community efforts become all the more important. In a sane system, this would be encouraged and supported by city structures. Instead, we are witnessing a backlash against civic behavior. It's impossible not to see a pattern here that began with DSNY's increased cruelty and frequency in destroying unhoused people's camps that began a couple years ago. The copification of the department of sanitation, arresting and destroying the lives of marginalized people, in the name of "clean streets" should be seen by all as a step toward fascism. We will not stand for it. Please stop this rule change.

Sincerely,
Annika Leybold

Comment added January 18, 2025 2:52pm

Johanna Mosenthal

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed new rule regarding trash bags on the curb. This rule will negatively impact neighborhood and community clean up groups who help the city bridge the gap between what DSNY is able to provide in terms of cleaning parks and sidewalks and public spaces, and what community members want and can do themselves. I have volunteered many times cleaning up parts of my community, most often through the community group Clean Up Crown Heights, and received many thank yous from neighbors. Not being allowed to place the filled and tied bags of litter next to the trash cans on the curb makes it much more difficult for groups to organize clean ups and dispose of the litter. How is it better to have litter all over the street than to have it tied up in one bag on the corner? The law should be rewritten to clarify that it's about not dumping household trash.

Comment added January 18, 2025 3:13pm

Jaelynn

There are not enough trash cans and too many people who litter. Everyday Let us clean up our own communities.

Comment added January 18, 2025 5:14pm

Elisa Fox

Wording needs to be changed so that local community clean ups are still able to put bagged trash out. There is an inordinate amount of trash in NYC and local community clean ups serve a vital purpose of helping clean streets. The Rule must allow them room to continue their work.

Comment added January 19, 2025 12:03am

Casey Levine-Beard

I am a member of a community with significant trash and rodent issues, and one key way our neighbors organize and make a difference is in community cleanups. These are suggested and supported by local community nonprofits. We can make a difference in our parks and surrounding areas but need to dispose of the trash as we are moving it out of public spaces and off to sanitation. Having it bagged next to trash cans is much better than loose in the streets and sidewalks, parks and gutters.

Comment added January 19, 2025 10:27am

Liz slome

Strongly oppose, as this is the only way certain areas ever get cleaned.

Comment added January 21, 2025 9:56am

Chrissy Rose

I strongly opposed this rule. It will penalize community groups who engage in litter cleanup and need a place to leave the trash they collect so it can be properly disposed of. DSNY alone does not adequately clean up our communities – volunteers and community groups like litter legion do our community a huge service by taking on some of this work. Do not hamstring their ability to help by imposing this rule!

Comment added January 21, 2025 5:28pm

Charles Todd

I'm worried that these new rules will be a problem for community clean ups. I have been volunteering with Litter Legion in Hell's Kitchen with my family for almost 5 years.

Comment added January 25, 2025 11:41am

Grace Koehl

I am a resident of the Upper West Side and Master of Public Health student at Columbia. I recently began cleaning the block of 80th St where I live because I hope to contribute to my community. I never noticed how much litter was accumulating on my block, but it became very apparent once I started my weekly cleanups how dirty the area was. I am very happy to have the opportunity to help keep my neighborhood clean, safe, and healthy by removing wrappers, cigarette butts, and other debris.

The new policy proposed to ban placing bagged trash near public receptacles would make it impossible for me to continue my volunteering. I often have more trash than can fit in the top of a public trash can and need to place the sealed bags nearby on the ground. The language of the rule targeting cleanups with “the purpose of supporting local businesses or communities” is especially perplexing, as I’m not entirely sure why the city would want to hinder those working hard to beautify their local communities.

Please reconsider banning space near trash cans for individual and group volunteers supporting the community. We depend on this to continue our vital work.

Comment added January 27, 2025 1:45pm

Megan Taylor

I volunteer with the Jackson Heights Beautification Group and Sanitation Foundation regularly to keep my neighborhood safe, clean, and enjoyable.

Although there is a wonderful ACE crew picking up litter on 37th and Roosevelt avenues, I am still picking up trash from sidewalks, tree beds, storm drains, rain gardens, etc. on a weekly basis. If the existing corner trash cans are full, we have typically been allowed to leave bags of trash alongside them.

We already report huge amounts of trash to 311, but I would hope that some provision might be made by DSNY for the work we do in our neighborhood, because this proposed rule would prevent volunteers, BID employees and ACE workers from continuing to maintain these areas.

I understand that bags are not impervious to rats and other critters, but if the city is not able to keep our neighborhoods clean, then it should at least not stand in the way of its citizens volunteering to do so.

Comment added January 28, 2025 8:30pm

Tom Harris

My name is Tom Harris, President of the Times Square Alliance. On behalf of our board and stakeholders, I want to start by affirming our respect for DSNY's hard work, strong values, and leadership. The men and women of the department do a thankless job and I want to publicly acknowledge them for their dedication to this city. I do want to comment specifically about these proposed rules, which attempt to operationalize a well-intentioned but heavy-handed policy that has been poorly communicated and executed. Business improvement districts are the city's partners in keeping our neighborhoods and our city clean, and these rules fail to reflect that.

I note that the Alliance voluntarily embraced containerization, piloting retail containerization on 8th Avenue. Building on this idea, we reimagined containerization for the city's public garbage in Times Square that we volunteer to pick up. We chose to do this because given the volume of our garbage and our ability to remove it, containerization makes Times Square cleaner. That said, we CANNOT support a policy that issues a mandate that all business improvement districts who pick up the city's public garbage must comply or risk monetary penalties.

BIDs are uniquely effective because each district assesses its needs and dedicates resources accordingly. BIDs supplement the city's responsibility to collect trash – we do not replace the city's core responsibility. Any garbage we are collecting is public garbage that is statutorily the responsibility of the Department of Sanitation to collect. Any bags that are on the street are there because the Department of Sanitation's services do not meet the city's demands.

These rules do two things that are highly problematic: first, they create an unfunded mandate for all BIDs to containerize; second, they impose monetary fines for failing to comply with a container program that reaches beyond our responsibility to provide supplemental services.

These rules imply, intended or unintended, that you do not view us as equal partners who you work with to develop a shared vision for keeping our city clean. These rules also fail to acknowledge that each business improvement district is unique with different priorities and different resources.

True partners who value a relationship work with each other – they do not dictate how those relationships work. True partners do not impose rules that financially penalize partners for helping them do their job. True partners compromise and work together to resolve conflicts – they do not exert power through punitive rules and mandates.

What these rules fail to do is provide any financial support for this additional mandate.

As one of the largest BIDs in the city, Times Square pioneered and was able to quickly adopt containerization because we had the need, desire, resources and capacity to do so. The vast majority of the 76 BIDs in the City do not have that same ability, often operating with minimal staff and with budgets under \$1 million. They are already stretched in their efforts to keep the city clean, safe, and desirable.

These rules will result in smaller bids abandoning sanitation services and require the Department of Sanitation to do more.

As for fines: the Alliance sweeps streets, empties garbage cans, containerizes that garbage and transports 100% of that public garbage to sanitation garages. Our goal is to have zero bags on the street, and 99% of the time we achieve that goal. That other one percent is often because there was either more garbage than normal, or because someone dumped garbage near our containers. It is ridiculous to even consider fining us for experiencing an unusually heavy garbage day, or for another entity dumping at our locations.

We value our partnership with the Department of Sanitation. A clear acknowledgement of the DSNY valuing that partnership would be to rescind these mandates and work with each BID to come up with a shared vision for making each neighborhood cleaner and bag free.

Thank you.

Comment added January 29, 2025 8:59am

Jayden

If this ruling passes, BIDs would be required to ensure that no waste bags are placed on the street, despite the fact that a significant portion of the waste collected results from illegal dumping—public garbage that is the responsibility of the City. Given the lack of enforcement, what measures has the DSNY implemented to address illegal dumping across NYC?

Furthermore, BIDs operate under formal agreements with the Mayor's Office and the City of New York, which clearly define their role as providers of supplemental sanitation services. These agreements do not transfer the City's core sanitation responsibilities onto BIDs. As a property owner paying taxes for DSNY services, why should I also be required to fund a BID assessment to cover DSNY's failure to fulfill its obligations?

Legal Concerns:

Authority & Jurisdiction:

DSNY lacks the unilateral authority to dictate BID operations. BIDs are independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations governed by contracts with the City. These contracts define their responsibilities and cannot be altered without mutual agreement. Any attempt by DSNY to impose additional obligations on BIDs without due process violates contractual rights and oversteps legal boundaries.

Municipal Overreach & Due Process:

Any policy requiring BIDs to assume DSNY's sanitation responsibilities constitutes an unauthorized expansion of BID duties without legal justification. If BIDs fail to comply, they face summonses—an arbitrary and punitive measure that disregards the principles of fairness, transparency, and contractual governance.

Failure to Address Root Issues:

Instead of addressing illegal dumping and improving enforcement, DSNY is shifting responsibility onto BIDs and property owners—who already contribute through taxes and assessments. This approach imposes an unfair financial and operational burden without addressing the systemic failures that led to this issue in the first place.

If DSNY seeks to modify BID operations, it must do so through proper legal channels, ensuring compliance with contract law and principles of due process. Any unilateral action to impose new responsibilities on BIDs without consent is legally questionable and sets a dangerous precedent for municipal overreach.

Comment added January 31, 2025 11:44am

Joanna Tallantire

Thank you. I have attached testimony for this meeting.

Comment attachment

Testimony-for-DSNY-BID-Mandate-February-2025.pdf

Comment added February 3, 2025 12:39pm

Rachael Cain

My name is Rachael Cain and I work with the community cleanup group the Pick Up Pigeons. We meet weekly to clean neighborhoods all over NYC because we love our city!!!

I was disturbed to hear about this proposed DSNY rule, criminalizing leaving bags of trash collected by community volunteer groups near existing public trash cans.

As you know, the rule uses the NY Admin. Code's definition of "entity," which includes volunteer and community groups. There has long been a symbiotic relationship between volunteer trash pickup groups and the DSNY whereby the volunteers perform sidewalk trash pickup that DSNY is unable to perform. This proposed rule criminalizes volunteers for removing loose trash from the city streets.

The existing rule criminalizing leaving household and commercial waste in public bins could instead be very easily amended to say "in or in the vicinity of" to prohibit household and commercial uses from leaving abandoned bags near the existing public bins. Alternately, the rule could have a clear exception stating that the term "entity" as used in that section excludes "volunteer community groups."

Further, I would support an easier and more usable system to report trash collected by community groups. The existing city cleanup application, with two-week lead time and set trash pickup locations, is unusable by many community trash pickup groups who will not know the amount of trash that will be picked up or have a location for the pickup two weeks in advance – or may not need an entire, fully staffed DSNY truck to visit a location for a small number of bags. A simpler system allowing us to directly contact local DSNY in real time – either a 311-type system or a directory of local DSNY sanitation emails that we could contact – would be hugely helpful in preventing bags being abandoned by volunteer cleanup groups.

Finally, if this push is about containerization, well, this trash was blowing around the street letting rats frolic in it prior to us picking it up. We love our city and want to make it better – please don't make it harder for us to do so.

Comment added February 3, 2025 7:17pm

Ankita Suri

Volunteers in New York City have a significant role in the cleanup of our city, filling the gaps that the city itself is not maintaining or enforcing private businesses to do. I understand why this was proposed – of course, ideally, there wouldn't be any overflowing garbage. But this doesn't recognize the reality that requires multiple solutions to address NYC's trash problems.

Volunteers and regular citizens are collecting trash and placing them in garbage bags besides the bin. They don't have access to private spaces to put this trash. There is no funding for this. This will limit the ability of the volunteers to do this work and will ultimately lead to more litter on our streets. Add MORE garbage bins and encourage more cleaning up – not less. People want places to put trash and are not given that opportunity by the city when those trash bins are overflowing and blocks apart from each other. On top of that now you're hoping to eliminate the convenience of those trying to help the situation. Please reconsider.

Comment added February 4, 2025 11:59am

Rhiannon Blouin

The reality of this code does not take into account the lack of public trash cans in large areas of New York City. If anything, volunteers making sure to coordinate trash disposal located next to public trash cans in tied bags and containers is helping the DSNY keep our streets clean. This law would make more sense if it penalized disposing of trash in front of property without orchestrated trash pick up. Rigid bins make sense for commercial and residential waste- however- most of the groups disposing of trash from the streets and sidewalks do not contain food items that would attract rats. The majority of groups do their due diligence to schedule pickup of trash bags after community clean ups. It's not realistic to propose volunteer run groups purchase rigid bins when the infrastructure for collection is already in place.

Comment added February 4, 2025 12:26pm

Lucy T.

Please reconsider this rule proposal. It seems like the purpose of this rule is to generate revenue for the DSNY at the expense of the community and its members. Community engagement groups that help remove trash in the neighborhood can reduce municipal costs from property damage caused by street flooding due to clogged stormwater drains, potential fires in neglected areas and public health issues (rats and other pests). These groups help provide support to the DSNY as well as other city agencies that will have to provide emergency response when a street floods (DEP), trash fires break out (FDNY) or an epidemic occurs (DOHMH) because of windswept trash blown away from overfilled public trash cans that is generated by the dense communities that outpaces the DSNY collection. Other potential benefits of community engagement groups providing cleanup are the value increase of the neighborhood and business sales tax gains which will improve the city budget granting city agencies like the DSNY with better equipment and hiring opportunities.

Comment added February 4, 2025 3:12pm

Jesaca Lin

Dear DSNY,

The overwhelming number of public comments regarding the proposed rule underscores the need for a more nuanced approach to waste management. While I understand the desire to address legitimate concerns about illegal dumping, this broad rule will severely hinder invaluable local community cleanup efforts. As a member of Pickup Pigeon, I can attest to the significant positive impact these volunteer initiatives have on our city.

Our Impact:

For the past two years, rain or shine, our group has conducted weekly cleanups, dedicating several hours to each session. Our average attendance last year was 10 volunteers, and we collected an average of 113 pounds of rubbish per session. This amounts to nearly 5,650 pounds of garbage annually – litter that would otherwise pollute our waterways, clog storm drains, and contribute to local flooding. Perhaps equally important to the environmental impact is the psychological impact on residents of seeing their neighborhoods filled with trash! We expand our impact by cleaning various neighborhoods across the city. Imagine the consequences if groups like ours were no longer able to operate. 5,650 pounds of trash—just from our small group—would remain on the streets of NYC.

Our Challenges:

The proposed requirement for rigid receptacles presents a significant logistical and financial burden for volunteer groups like ours. Like most New Yorkers, we rely on public transport to reach cleanup sites, making easily transportable bags essential. The cost and storage of a sufficient number of rigid containers would be prohibitive.

Community Support:

Our efforts are recognized and deeply appreciated by local residents and businesses, who frequently express their gratitude and often provide us with supplies. This demonstrates the high value our community places on our work.

A Possible Solution:

We believe there are ways to achieve DSNY's goals without crippling community initiatives. We propose exploring a system of easily printable identification tags for bags collected by registered community cleanup groups. This would allow DSNY to

distinguish between properly collected community waste and illegally dumped trash. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this and other potential solutions with DSNY representatives.

This proposed rule, as it stands, effectively discourages community involvement in keeping our city clean and sends the message that trash left on our streets is an acceptable outcome. We urge you to reconsider this rule and work collaboratively with community groups to find a solution that supports both effective waste management and the invaluable contributions of volunteer cleanup efforts.

Sincerely,

Jesaca Lin

Comment added February 4, 2025 3:22pm

John Lindaman

Criminalizing groups that undertake community cleanups makes no sense. The things they clean up and bag for collection do not create a health hazard because they were all things already laying on the ground prior to bagging, so there is no logical need to require them to also be placed in the newly required receptacles. Don't penalize community groups keeping our city clean unless the city is willing to do this work (which the presence of the trash indicates it is not in the first place)—these groups work with DSNY, not against it! There is a clear difference between this kind of trash and commercial trash, which should absolutely be required to follow sanitation guidelines.

Comment added February 4, 2025 4:46pm

Tim Reed

I volunteer with a community group that picks up and bags litter, focusing on a different neighborhood once or twice each week. This is an important effort to help clean up neighborhoods that are otherwise overlooked or underserved. I am against this rule change as written as it would criminalize community cleanup volunteer efforts. The rule should be rewritten to allow the use of city garbage bins by volunteer community groups.

Comment added February 4, 2025 5:30pm

Stan Cherian

I am opposed to this as it criminalizes community cleanups.

Comment added February 4, 2025 9:06pm

Vincent Chau

So this rule is to make things harder for people who help keep the neighborhood clean because the people who's job (DSNY) to make the neighborhood clean isn't doing a good enough job?

Shouldn't DSNY make it easier and for people and organizations who make their jobs and purpose (clean neighborhoods) easier?

They literally pack everything and put it in one spot. I think this proposal would make NYC a dirtier place.

Comment added February 5, 2025 10:33am

Luke Raithel

I have taken part in multiple community clean up events for a variety of organizations to help tidy up the neighborhoods of Bushwick, Ridgewood, and Glendale. These are always very positive events and have an undeniably good impact on the area. Street trash is an unfortunate reality in this city but making it harder/penalizing grassroots organizations that are looking to help clean and beautify areas of the city out of the goodness of their hearts is a mistake.

Comment added February 5, 2025 12:38pm

Yelena Makhnin

attached

Comment attachment
Sanitation-testimony.docx

Comment added February 5, 2025 3:21pm

Albert Oeswadi

The Department of Sanitation of New York's efforts to prohibit the placement of refuse, while aimed at maintaining cleanliness and order, inadvertently criminalizes community cleanup initiatives. These initiatives are effective in keeping areas clean and making people feel proud of their neighborhoods. As part of a neighborhood cleanup crew, we always report our trash via 311 for a pick-up.

Comment added February 5, 2025 4:13pm

Lydia A DiLalla

I'm against this rule change as it is an attack on community organizations that are tending to their neighborhood. The "Entities" are New Yorkers trying to better the streets. They are volunteers. Do-gooders. They just want to make the world a little better, God knows we need it. This would make things more difficult for such "Entities." DSNY should be finding ways to work with these organizations rather than punish them.

Comment added February 5, 2025 4:56pm

Kimberly Steger

My investment in trash clean-up started with my child's Fort Greene public school. In collecting trash around her school yard, sidewalks, and the curb, I have the ease of dropping clutter that blows in from the neighboring park, commuters refuse, and pedestrian waste into the school dumpster. However, if I was engaged in extending the effort in other parts of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, The Navy Yard, and Vinegar Hill, this rule change would significantly thwart the efforts to reduce the public health and public safety threats (mental health, rat mitigation, flood mitigation, crime reduction, etc.) from uncollected trash.

Because the wording of the rule seems to be addressing organized entities, not individuals, there may be a gray area of where informal alliances initiate said community improvement efforts and reference public waste bins.

Additionally, if there is a rule elsewhere that uplifts each of the organizations listed as "entities" to be mandated to have collection bins issued or approved by the Department that serve as rigid receptacles with tight-fitting lids.

Comment added February 6, 2025 11:58am

Elizabeth Lovejoy

Testimony attached for this meeting.

Comment attachment
DSNY-Hearing-Testimony.pdf

Comment added February 6, 2025 12:47pm

James Ellis

See attachment

Comment attachment
North-Flat-BID-DSNY-Rules-Hearing_02102025_final.pdf

Comment added February 7, 2025 2:14pm

Maria Fernandez

I am a Astoria, Queens native and thankfully still live in my hometown. As many who have submitted comments on here – I have also spent a good portion of my life in helping clean the streets of New York City.

In a city where millions of folks reside and work, the Department of Sanitation cannot do it alone. A good amount of people cannot stand seeing their neighborhood and streets filled with litter and waste.

A lot of times volunteer groups clean remote areas that are overlooked and are simply not within reach of any trash bins.

Unless millions of people change their habits for the greater good, volunteer street cleaning groups and individuals will exist to fill in the gap and clean up after others.

Please do not punish, and criminalize those that are actually trying to do good for society.

Thank you

Comment added February 8, 2025 11:25am

Mark Caserta

I am Mark Caserta, Vice President of Small Business Support at the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. I am providing comments on the Department of Sanitation's proposed containerization rules for organizations that provide supplemental cleaning services.

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce supports the Department of Sanitation's goal of eliminating garbage bags on street corners and, as a result, reducing the number of rats on our city streets. However, we agree with the New York City BID Association's comments on the proposed rules, especially:

Lack of funding: Small and medium business improvement districts (the vast majority of Brooklyn's BIDs) were created through a city process through which a special assessment is collected by the City of New York and provided to the BIDs for services such as supplemental cleaning. In order to provide the best services possible at the lowest costs to landlords and

merchants, BID budgets are tightly constructed and managed, without much wiggle room for additional expenses. The extra cost of installing secure, closed bins on public street corners on behalf of the City of New York or carting waste to Sanitation facilities without providing additional

public funds is nothing more than an unfunded mandate. While BIDs do have the ability to raise assessments in order to account for additional costs, this process can be long and arduous and is not guaranteed. It requires sign-off from the City Council and the Mayor and could take more than a year, if successful.

Timing: Even if the proposed rules pass, as is, most small to medium BIDs would be unable to come up with the funds to comply with the rules by the deadline of August 1st. As noted, an assessment increase can take one year or more and is a legal process that is mandated by the City of New York. The only choice that our Brooklyn BIDs would have is to reduce or eliminate their services, which is not something that the City of New York should have as its ultimate goal.

Again, BIDs were created through a City process and are encouraged. Why is another City agency creating a policy that could damage them? This make no sense. We respectfully urge the Department of Sanitation to work with our BIDs to find funding and to be flexible in timing in order to preserve critical BID services and keep our streets safe and clean

Thank you.

Comment attachment

BKChambeofCommerce-DSNY-TESTIMONY-021025.docx

Comment added February 8, 2025 6:58pm

Coalition of Volunteer Community Groups

As volunteer community groups engaged in cleaning our streets, sidewalks, curbs and gutters and public plazas, we are against this proposed rule which would put an undue burden on our groups who give their time to care for their communities. We have prepared a detailed letter with suggestions for moving forward.

Comment attachment

Volunteer-Groups-Letter-to-DSNY-Re_-Proposed-Rule-Relating-to-Entites-Engages-in-Cleaning-Services.pdf

Comment added February 9, 2025 6:40pm

Catie Savage, Litter Legion founder

I have the utmost respect for the uniformed men and women of the Department of Sanitation who work hard to keep our city clean both of trash and snow. However, making such ill-advised changes to the Administrative Code without thoughtful engagement with the very organizations it would impact is a serious oversight. While the Department handles many functions to remove trash and recycling from our streets and sidewalks, regular manual cleaning of all our public spaces is not one of them.

The very organizations impacted by this rule change are the ones who have worked with the Department to collect all the loose bits of trash so that all the sanitation workers need to do is collect the bagged material. To force such organizations to use rigid tightly lidded containers (more secure than public litter baskets) places an undue burden on these groups that are providing a valuable and appreciated public benefit for their communities. I request that the Department reconsider this rule and work with all of the stakeholders to find workable solutions.

Sincerely,

Catie Savage

Founder, Litter Legion

Comment added February 9, 2025 6:51pm

Sunita Vatuk

I work with Jackson Heights Beautification Group in Queens on Saturdays to care for street trees and take litter out of the tree beds. We work all over the neighborhood downshift on which blocks need the most care, and often decide that morning where to focus s our efforts. We can't plan 2 weeks in advance, and never know in advance how much we will collect. Sometimes we need to prune tree branches (with permission from Parks). We are an all volunteer organization. All of which is to say that the new rules would put an undue burden on us and hamper our efforts. Please exempt volunteer groups from this proposed regulation.

Comment added February 9, 2025 10:38pm

Bonnie Astor

I agree with most of the previous writers and fellow JHBG volunteers. What is it going to take to have our well thought out and logical viewpoints heard? Volunteerism in the US is at an all time low due to post COVID concerns .other health scares, aging population areas and people struggling with family finances. Seems like NYC should be grateful and nourishing our efforts.

Comment added February 9, 2025 11:52pm

Bill Bruno

Dear Acting Commissioner Lojan:

I volunteer with the Jackson Heights Beautification group to help care for street trees and public gardens. I am deeply concerned about the language of a recently proposed rule and potential impacts of amending Section 16-120(e)(2) of the New York City Administrative Code. The rule is written in a way that specifically targets organizations like the one for which I volunteer.

I totally understand the value and importance of containerization when applied to residential and commercial waste. However, applying such rules to organizations who perform manual cleaning such the cleaning of tree beds can create problematic consequences.

To require that volunteer groups purchase, store and maintain rigid receptacles with tight-fitting lids in order to have their bags of litter collected, under threat of fines, is unworkable and would severely compromise our mission to clean and care for street trees and public gardens in our neighborhood. There is no way for our group to know in advance how much litter we will collect and where, exactly, the litter will be concentrated, so how could we possibly plan to have enough bins and the means to secure them from theft when put out for collection? The litter we collect can come from anywhere in 16-block stretch of one or two avenues, it is not practical to simply lug a bin around and no reason not to use the litter baskets already out there.

Furthermore, the current process for volunteer community groups to liaise with DSNY requires a two week advance notice that includes indicating the area to be cleaned and where filled bags will be left for collection. It is often impossible to know what area will be the most dirty, and therefore benefit the most from our work, this far in advance or where the most convenient bag locations will be.

Despite assurances from leaders within the Department that this rule would not be applied to organizations like ours, the language very clearly includes us since the rule, as written, would bar us from depositing the litter we collect in public baskets or leaving bags or branches (we often prune street trees). We would argue that, since we are not a store with a fixed location and a limited area of responsibility for litter collection, but a group which operates over a broader area, that using the public litter baskets is not an abuse of their purpose.

I suggest the following that the language be updated to specifically exclude “volunteer community groups” and that a revised system be created to allow volunteer groups to interface with DSNY in real time to alert of cleanup activities

resulting in bags or branches (as we often prune street trees) being left at public litter baskets for collection rather than the current system of filling out documents at least two weeks in advance with information we may not have available at that time.

We want to continue to work with the Department to keep our community clean and help reinforce the message that caring for our shared public spaces is the responsibility of all New Yorkers. We hope you will recognize our requests and continue to partner with us in this effort.

Comment added February 10, 2025 12:48am

Nina Leonard (Flatbush Development Corporation)

Dear Members of the NYC City Council,

Flatbush Development Corporation urges reconsideration of the proposed rule, as it will significantly hinder cleaning efforts in our commercial corridors. By restricting where refuse from community cleanups can be placed, this rule creates additional burdens on local businesses, making it more difficult and costly for them to maintain clean storefronts. Without a designated place to dispose of collected waste, litter will accumulate, attracting rodents and worsening sanitation conditions. Merchant associations and community organizations, which play a vital role in keeping our neighborhoods clean, do not have storefronts or private collection sites to store trash from cleanup efforts. This rule will discourage much-needed volunteer and merchant-led cleanups, leaving more waste on our streets. We urge the Council to consider alternative solutions that support, rather than hinder, our collective efforts to maintain a clean and thriving business district.

Sincerely,
Flatbush Development Corporation

Comment added February 10, 2025 7:50am

Adrian Kondratowicz

I have been working on organizing community clean ups since 2008. In the last 5 years my project has organized over 200 clean ups in NYC, ranging from local street and park clean ups to whole remediation efforts of abandoned public spaces. I am not a non-profit nor do I get paid for my services rendered to the city. I promote urban beautification and environmental awareness to my local community using art as a catalyst for change in the form of the TRASH project. We place our trash in pink polka dotted bags as a sign that volunteers did this work. Anyone who has seen us work, especially the folks who live in the areas we clean up, always graciously thank us and appreciate seeing the pink bags on their streets.

We understand the rule proposed and are left scratching our heads. Why would the city include our groups and discourage a wave of civic engagement that is growing, saving the city money and doing an essential service for all? This new rule will deter anyone who is interested in volunteering and getting involved in any civic sanitation activity. For communities that are always last on the list of trash collection, this means more trash, more rats, and less health and safety. Since 2020 there has been a boom in civic engagement and this rule will kill the momentum all the clean up groups have been building to keep their communities clean.

Lastly, over the years I have seen too many poor or ill-considered solutions that seem to overcharge or misuse the funds from the city rather than maximize the natural order of things. We are strongly in opposition to this rule and have proposed a list of solutions to make this rule work for the city and volunteer groups. We hope the city sees our value and will not include community clean up groups in a rule that is limiting and prohibitive to all communities/volunteers who want to lead a clean good life.

TRASH project

Comment added February 10, 2025 9:57am

Meredith Faltin

Why would you make this a rule? Why would you make it harder for community organizations and volunteers to do good?? I don't understand you people...

Comment added February 10, 2025 11:35am

Erin Piscopink

Please see attached

Comment attachment

Testimony_DSNY-Rulemaking_Containerization_SoHo-Broadway-Initiative.pdf

Comment added February 10, 2025 11:49am

Dr. Camelia Tepelus

My name is Camelia Tepelus, I am the Executive Director of the Morris Park BID in the Bronx, a BID with a \$390,000 in assessment revenue, 1 full time staff member, paying 2 full time supplementary sanitation staff from our vendor Streetplus \$153,000/year, to clean up sidewalks along 21 blocks of commercial corridor on Morris Park Ave in the Bronx.

We cleaned Morris Park Avenue for the past 6 years, 7 hrs/day, 7 days/week, 365 days/year. The proposed rule simply states that what we can NOT do, which is place neatly collected bags of public “within the vicinity of any public litter basket”, but does not tell us what to do instead, other than requiring that “such materials be placed out for collection by the Department in rigid receptacles with tight-fitting lids.”

The rule does not indicate HOW to comply with it. It does not tell us WHERE would it be acceptable to DSNY for us place the excess PUBLIC trash we sweep. Former Commissioner Tish seemed to think that small BIDs with budgets of under \$.5 Mill mostly in outer boroughs can do the exact same thing that large BIDs do with \$25 Mill budgets, which is transport their own trash. Newsflash, being poor is not the same as being wealthy. And it is us, smaller BIDs that are a majority of all BIDs serving commercial corridors. And no, we can not afford to hire trucks to transport the additional trash to DSNY’s garages – which is the DSNY’s taxpayer-funded mandate to do.

This rule – in its current formulation – asks us to either stop cleaning sidewalks of our commercial corridors, or dispose of excessive trash, somehow by magic.

Nothing happens by magic. Cleaning the City takes careful planning, coordination, analysis, and finally execution that costs money. It is critical to remember that even though we/BIDs are privately funded by commercial property owners, at the end of the day, and just like DSNY we provide a public service: a service ensuring that commercial corridors create a positive pedestrian shopping experience, and bring taxpayers money to the budget. We are now paralyzed knowing that we will not afford to transport the trash ourselves – which is 1) the mandate of DSNY; and 2) would be both unaffordable and causing us to cut other critical programs – beautification, community events, holiday lights, etc.

At the moment we are basically stuffing our existing DSNY cans as much as possible, and hope this will be sufficient due to the low foot traffic associated to the cold weather. But come summer, we will need a procedure and a process of disposing of excess trash agreed with both DSNY and DOT.

Instead of this over-simplifying, trash-disappearance-by-magic rule, there are smarter and more collaborative ways for DSNY and BIDs to address this issue, including actual data collection and the ability to customize implementation – either through increased frequency of trash cans emptying, or through new mechanisms such as the “Empire Bin”, which, if installed on sidewalks, would need DOT approval for the site placement (see photos).

We – BIDs servicing long commercial corridor are somehow expected by the former Commissioner Tish to do the same as individual businesses. But we collect much more public trash. If anything, we should be compared with larger apartment buildings, or schools, for which DSNY is already exploring better mechanisms to collect the garbage – such as the Empire Bins or the large containers that can be lifted by the sanitation trucks with side-forks.

Finally, there was a poor, non-collaborative process leading up to this regulation, which shows a significant and troublesome discrepancy between the DSNY executives and policy makers that were testifying in front of you at the November, and the DSNY operational staff on the ground that is in contact with us, such as Chief Frank Lettera, or in our case Bronx East 11 District Superintendent Vincent Allard, clearly much better informed, practical and conscious of the realities on the ground. We appreciate them and we thank them.

We are here to support cleanliness in the City, and to work alongside DSNY in smart, data-driven ways to make this a reality in NYC’s commercial corridors. We are optimistic that together we devise a strategy that is optimally applicable to each commercial corridor’s needs.

We are here to work together and to partner with DSNY in keeping our city clean in creating a thriving environment for small businesses and neighborhoods.

Please allow at least 1 more year until August 2026, to improve this rule and to give us sufficient time to articulate along with DSNY mechanisms for implementation to its desired aim – clean commercial corridors in NYC.

Thank you for your consideration to our testimony on this matter.

Dr. Camelia Tepelus
Executive Director
Morris Park Business Improvement District

Comment attachment
Testimony-MPBID-DSNY-Feb-10-2025-.pdf

Comment added February 10, 2025 12:17pm

Ulrike Nischan

I am a planning member of the Clean Bushwick Initiative, a community group that organizes regular street cleanups, a Super Steward with NYC Parks, and a Rain Garden steward with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, though opinions here are my own. In my volunteer capacity in all these roles, I have filled the gap for the DSNY by removing litter and illegally dumped debris off the streets. I strongly oppose the proposed rule change outlined in Section 16-120(e)(2). I, along with numerous other volunteers, work tirelessly to keep our NYC neighborhoods clean by collecting litter and placing it in bags near public trash bins for pickup. This proposed rule creates unnecessary obstacles that will make it significantly more difficult for us to continue our efforts.

First and foremost, requiring individual volunteers and community groups to use rigid receptacles with tight-fitting lids presents a logistical challenge. Unlike businesses or residents who have designated trash collection systems, individual volunteers and community cleanup groups operate on a volunteer basis, often working on an ad-hoc schedule. Carrying large, rigid containers to various cleanup sites is impractical, especially for volunteers who clean in areas far from their homes and rely on public transportation. Trash bags have been the most efficient way to collect and dispose of litter without burdening volunteers with cumbersome equipment.

Additionally, prohibiting the placement of bagged litter near public trash bins forces the clean-up community to choose between discontinuing clean-ups or risking fines. Public trash bins are natural collection points that ensure litter is properly disposed of instead of being left scattered on sidewalks or streets. If our volunteers are not allowed to leave collected litter in a reasonable location for city pickup, the only option will be to transport it ourselves—a task that is simply not feasible given our limited resources. Without a viable alternative, this rule risks discouraging volunteer cleanups altogether, leading to dirtier streets, more rats, and other environmental hazards.

Furthermore, imposing penalties on community groups for simply trying to help maintain public spaces punishes volunteers for helping our communities. Volunteer-driven initiatives should be encouraged, not penalized, especially at a time when sanitation services are already strained. Rather than enforcing rigid and impractical disposal requirements, the Department of Sanitation should work collaboratively with community organizations to find solutions that support, rather than hinder, grassroots cleanup efforts.

I urge the Department to delay issuing new rules on this issue for at least a year to allow time to develop policies that facilitate community engagement in keeping our neighborhoods clean. Possible alternatives include designated drop-off points for community cleanup efforts or allowing exceptions for DSNY issued bags to be used

for voluntary litter collection.

Volunteers give their time and effort freely to improve the city. Do not make it harder for us to do so.

Comment attachment

Testimony-proposed-rule-amending-Section-16-120e2-UN.docx

Comment added February 10, 2025 12:50pm

David Estrada

2/10/2025

Re:

RULE TITLE: Amendment of Rules Relating to Placement of Refuse and Recycling for Collection

REFERENCE NUMBER: 2024 RG 108

RULEMAKING AGENCY: Department of Sanitation

Public Testimony by David Estrada, Executive Director, Sunset Park Business Improvement District

Good morning, my name is David Estrada, and I am the Executive Director of the Sunset Park Business Improvement District. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the proposed new DSNY rule.

In short, we believe this rule is unnecessary and unlikely to contribute effectively to our shared goals of rat mitigation and public trash containerization. Our organization urges DSNY to pause this rule—and any similar initiatives—until there has been comprehensive planning and support for a smooth transition to citywide containerization. As written, the proposed rule is vague, overbroad, and, in some places, oddly specific, which makes it incompatible with the real work that BIDs and community groups are doing to keep our neighborhoods clean.

Additionally, this rule contradicts DSNY’s own claims that BIDs are “trusted partners.” Instead, it risks becoming a punitive measure that undermines our longstanding, collaborative relationship with the city. Furthermore, the issue of illegal dumping and improper use of corner baskets is already addressed by existing DSNY laws and regulations.

The suggestion that this rule is merely a “clarification” is misleading, to say the least.

Since 1995, our small, independent, locally-run nonprofit has proudly served Brooklyn’s Fifth Avenue, from 38th to 64th Streets. Our district covers 1.3 miles, a dense, mixed-use commercial corridor with 26 blocks, 52 block faces, 400 buildings, and over 600 businesses. We also maintain 96 designated DSNY corner waste basket locations.

While our community is bustling, it is also an underserved, lower-income, immigrant neighborhood, home to small “mom-and-pop” businesses with residential units above. It’s crucial to understand the scale of our operations in a district that is both large and high-need. Our annual assessment totals \$300,000, with one-third allocated to sanitation and related services, such as tree pit care, graffiti removal,

and volunteer cleanups. However, the majority of our budget supports a supplemental sanitation worker who works seven days a week. This worker collects trash blown by the wind, overflowing from baskets, and discarded in tree pits. We collect about 25,000 bags of trash annually.

Despite our modest size—we have only two employees—we play a central role in the community as a social service and economic development anchor. We are part of the solution, and we want to continue supporting DSNY. That's why we're here today.

We value our local DSNY sanitation garage (BK07) and consider the Superintendent and Cleaning Supervisors to be partners in this effort. We acknowledge that containerization is the ideal solution, and we are committed to collaborating with urgency to achieve it. However, replacing entrenched practices with rules that penalize partners will not lead to success.

Consider this: if our BID didn't sweep, bag, and deposit trash at corner baskets, that waste would remain on the sidewalks, clogging gutters and overflowing from baskets. BIDs don't create waste—we make DSNY's job easier by managing the daily volume of public trash that DSNY alone cannot handle.

About a year ago, DSNY ordered BIDs to take on the responsibility of containerizing public trash at our own expense. The demands were not only impractical, but they also lacked a clear plan, support, or funding. While there has been some progress in dialogue, we are still far from a true partnership on containerization.

For 30 years, we've been eager to help, but we need a clear path forward. While we support containerization—especially for rat mitigation—we recognize that implementing it quickly within our district presents significant challenges.

If DSNY is concerned about bags accumulating at corner baskets, why not simply increase the frequency of service? Too often, we find baskets already overflowing, which means much of the trash we consolidate into bags comes from baskets that have been neglected too long. If DSNY is struggling to keep up with street trash, how can we expect them to suddenly manage corner baskets and bins more effectively?

Our board of directors will be forced to reevaluate our sanitation services in light of this new rule. Should DSNY begin issuing tickets in response to our efforts to maintain cleanliness, we will be forced to suspend our corner basket service.

It's also worth noting that about a third of our 96 corner waste baskets are missing at any given time. This has been a long-standing issue. While we respect our local DSNY garage and workers, the agency has not done enough to maintain the fixtures that already exist on our streets, yet now they want us to add more.

We also urge you to consider that residential overcrowding, street vendors, construction crews, and storefronts that avoid commercial waste hauling contracts contribute to significant improper dumping—primarily in bags, and typically at corners whether or not a basket is present. This waste is outside our BIDs control and clearly not within DSNY's ability to stop.

If DSNY is serious about containerization, they must fund and establish a program that BIDs can reasonably participate in. This funding must cover the startup costs, ongoing maintenance, labor, permits, and insurance. DSNY must actively partner with our community stakeholders, not just offload siting, permitting, and public relations to BIDs.

Let's work together to create a concrete plan with clear logistical support, reliable funding, and service-level agreements that involve both BIDs and DSNY. Let's plan for the future with realistic goals and a step-by-step approach, knowing that we all want a cleaner, safer neighborhood.

The bottom line is this: Business Improvement Districts want to help. We are ready to collaborate and take action, but we need DSNY to bring the necessary resources and cooperation to make sustainable success a reality.

To that end, we recommend:

- Deferring any new rule until proper planning and funding are in place.
- Addressing this issue after the Commercial Waste Zones are fully established.
- Clarifying DSNY enforcement practices for mixed-use small retail and residential zones, as current enforcement times and the distinction between household and commercial trash are problematic.
- Acknowledging that containerization cannot be imposed overnight and that in some areas a reasonable multi-year timeline is essential.
- Developing reasonable standards for the number and placement of bins, and streamlining the DSNY/DOT permitting process.
- Providing provisions for DSNY to support BIDs in maintaining and periodically replacing bins.
- Issuing an RFP for group purchasing of bins at discounted rates for BIDs.
- Clarifying the need for insurance on street fixtures and whether bins are considered capital or programming expenses.
- Collaborating with large sanitation service providers like ACE, StreetsPlus, and

Block by Block, whose field knowledge is invaluable.

- Requiring DSNY to provide written terms of engagement for BIDs serving commercial zones where multiple entities are involved in waste management.
- Setting a realistic, achievable goal for transitioning to containerization that aligns with BID funding, budget cycles, and governance processes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Estrada
Executive Director

Comment attachment
DSNYruleTestimony.pdf

Comment added February 10, 2025 1:48pm

Angel Hart

Thank you, see testimony attached for the Long Island City BID.

Comment attachment
02.10.2025-DSNY-Containerization-Rules-Hearing-1.pdf

Comment added February 10, 2025 2:28pm

Ryan Pukos

Please see attached for the full written testimony of the Grand Central Partnership regarding the DSNY Proposed Rule Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services.

Comment attachment
Trash-containerization-testimony_DSNY_02-10-2025.pdf

Comment added February 10, 2025 3:50pm

Zach Owens, West Village BID

This proposed rule unfairly codifies a flawed sanitation policy, making a burdensome and ineffective system permanent without fully considering its real-world consequences. By targeting BIDs and civic organizations, groups that voluntarily supplement city services, it penalizes those actively working to keep neighborhoods clean while failing to address the real issue of illegal dumping. Locking this rule into law would create lasting financial and operational hardships for nonprofits, forcing them to divert critical resources from other community initiatives. Additionally, the optics of punishing civic groups for stepping up where city services fall short undermines public trust and discourages future cooperation. Instead of imposing rigid mandates, DSNY should collaborate with stakeholders on practical and adaptable solutions that improve sanitation without harming the very organizations striving to enhance New York's public spaces. Attached is my testimony

Comment attachment

Testimony-Owens-West-Village-BID.pdf

Comment added February 10, 2025 4:06pm

Nathaniel Reynolds

Testimonial Letter to the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) on Proposed Rule Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on the proposed rule relating to entities engaging in cleaning services. We are writing to ask you to withdraw the proposed rule, delay its implementation, and work with community organizations to reach a mutually beneficial solution such as a carve-out for community groups.

We represent the Clean Bushwick Initiative (CBI). CBI is a community organization based in Bushwick, Brooklyn, that works to improve the cleanliness and sustainability of our neighborhood. In 2024, we hosted 15 cleanups throughout Bushwick, engaging over 250 volunteers and taking over 3,600 lbs of trash off the street. Cleanups involve keeping our streets and green spaces free of debris. We also educate volunteers about sustainability issues.

We are concerned that the proposed rule amending Section 16-120(e)(2) would negatively impact organizations like ours. The rule prohibits placing refuse near public litter baskets and in other public locations but provides no practical alternatives for disposing of trash collected during community cleanups. This proposed rule does nothing to reduce street litter—it just outlaws cleaning it up.

The Proposed Rule Does Not Prevent Litter, it Outlaws Cleanups

Currently, Section 16-120(e) of the New York City Administrative Code prohibits the placement of household or commercial refuse in or around a public litter basket or in the streets or other public places. In effect, it is a rule against littering. Ostensibly, the proposed change seeks to clarify that community cleanup organizations, such as CBI, also may not place refuse within the vicinity of any public litter basket, or in the streets and other public locations. The actual effect of the proposed rule would be to make it illegal for community organizations to perform cleanups and remove trash from the streets and other green infrastructure, like rain gardens, because we would have nowhere to dispose of the trash we collect.

The notion that Section 16-120(e) needs clarity is misguided and appears to rely on a fundamental misunderstanding of what cleanup organizations like CBI do: they do not create trash, they remove it. The current rule does not contain a hidden exception allowing community cleanup organizations to litter or dispose of household and commercial refuse in public litter baskets. It would already be in violation of the current rule for an organization to bring personal or commercial refuse to public receptacles or into the public streets, but this is not what community

cleanup organizations do. Community cleanups, like those organized by CBI, collect litter already in the streets, often caused by illegal dumping. By placing this waste near public receptacles, cleanup groups make it easier for DSNY to collect and dispose of it. Without the efforts of thousands of volunteers with multiple cleanup organizations across the city, the litter already in the streets would remain there, contributing to health and pest problems, blocking drains, clogging rain gardens, and potentially ending up in our waterways.

If the goal of Section 16-120 is to prevent litter and reduce trash in the streets, this proposed rule must be rejected. Cleanups work to clear streets of trash, not to leave more behind. This rule would discourage these efforts, leaving more litter on the streets and making it harder for volunteers to keep our neighborhoods clean.

Broader Impact and Equity Issues

Bushwick has been designated a disadvantaged community by the New York State Climate Justice Working Group and large parts of the neighborhood are included in a rat mitigation zone. The neighborhood already lacks adequate trash bins, enforcement, and resources for waste management. This rule would hurt underserved communities like ours the most, where residents rely on local efforts to keep streets clean. DSNY cannot manage all the waste on its own, so community groups fill an important gap. If groups like ours can't operate, trash will pile up, and street cleanliness will decline. Beyond CBI, this rule will make it harder for schools, scout troops, park stewards, business improvement districts, and other groups to clean their neighborhoods.

The impact would go beyond just street cleanliness and beautification. CBI maintains a number of rain gardens in Bushwick in partnership with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection that are necessary to absorb stormwater, reduce flooding, and filter pollutants. Our cleanups regularly focus on clearing trash and debris from the rain gardens and surrounding streets to ensure that the gardens are able to function properly. Without a way to dispose of this waste, maintaining rain gardens becomes much harder, which could lead to more flooding and pollution.

Recommendations and Conclusion

Rather than outlawing community cleanup efforts, we would urge the DSNY to 1) provide practical disposal options for community cleanups, like designated drop-off points; 2) install more trash bins in neighborhoods like Bushwick, especially larger, more secure bins; 3) provide more education and resources to local businesses and

property owners to ensure they are aware of their obligation to keep the sidewalks in front of their property clean, as well as 18 inches into the street; and 4) create a carve out in the proposed rule for non-profit community organizations.

Clean Bushwick Initiative is committed to improving our neighborhood and supporting DSNY's mission to maintain cleaner streets. However, this proposed rule would make it harder for us and others to continue this vital work. Rejecting this rule and supporting community-led cleanups is essential to keeping New York City clean, safe, and healthy.

Sincerely,
Clean Bushwick Initiative

Comment attachment
CBI_Comment-on-Proposed-DSNY-Rule.docx

Comment added February 10, 2025 4:19pm

Clare Miflin

Comments attached as pdf and pasted in below:

The Center for Zero Waste Design is a nonprofit that develops research, advocacy campaigns, and policy tools for buildings and cities to achieve zero waste. We work with community organizations, nonprofits, and municipalities to provide thought leadership to ensure policies and systems are aligned for circularity. We thank the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) for this opportunity to comment on their proposed rule relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services.

We fully support DSNY's goals to get rid of bags of trash piled up on sidewalks and instead move to a system where waste is collected from bins and containers by mechanized trucks. But we have strong concerns about the way DSNY is moving forward with waste containerization, without any outside stakeholder input, and moving forward in a way that goes against the City's goals of improving pedestrian mobility and the quality of the public realm. We recently released a report On Containerization, which outlines alternatives to DSNY's plans which would allow waste containerization to improve streetscapes and labor, at lower cost, and would help the City reach waste reduction and climate goals.

Our concerns include:

Lack of stakeholder or public engagement:

There has been very little outreach and discussion with the groups doing the hard work, much of it volunteer labor, helping keep the city clean who are affected by this rule. As many of the BIDs testifying stated, this is a huge additional cost to them, cannot be made by August of this year, and their concerns have been ignored.

Most containerization solutions currently available to these groups are enclosures for bins, which are expensive, take up a lot of sidewalk or curbside space, and are not suited for BIDs with substantial volumes of waste.

The rule requires waste be set out for collection "in rigid receptacles with tight fitting lids that do not exceed fifty-five gallons in size, unless an alternative receptacle is approved by the Department." I believe the alternative is tilt trucks or hampers within an enclosure, as DSNY will be lifting the material by hand into the back of the truck. These solutions are not space or cost efficient, and do not improve labor for DSNY collection staff.

Also, DSNY is rolling out alternative containerization solutions, like the Empire Bins being piloted in CB9, so why not wait and evaluate solutions like this before making entities invest substantial dollars in short term solutions?

Negative impact on streetscapes and pedestrian mobility

Placing 55 gallon bins on sidewalks will be the cheapest and only option available for many groups to be able to continue supplemental cleaning services. This will just add to the many permanently located bins we already see on sidewalks. We will have more bins chained to street trees and DOT poles alongside litter bins, to prevent theft. These bins will block pedestrian traffic along sidewalks. Given that almost half of NYC has sidewalk widths below 9 feet wide, per Open Street data – and the growing crowdedness of NYC sidewalks in general, the reduction in walkability and accessibility is unacceptable. The aim is to improve sidewalks and public space, not make them more cluttered.

Alternative Solutions Include:

We believe there are many alternate solutions that DSNY should consider piloting with BIDs or neighborhood entities:

Adjusting collection times to reduce volume of waste to be stored.

Adjusting collection times to collect waste more frequently, especially at times of high generation rates, could reduce the amount of time waste needs to be bagged alongside the litter basket. Many BIDs state that DSNY collection times are not consistent, which makes it difficult to know how much waste volume to plan for. Working with BIDs to locate the bags in better locations for DSNY's collection routes could also make it more efficient for DSNY.

Consider large stationary containers aka "Empire Bins" for neighborhoods with large volumes of litter bin waste.

"Empire Bins" (the 4 cubic yard containers used in Barcelona and many other European and South American cities) would be a much more space efficient for waste to be stored, would cost much less, and be better for DSNY labor. I do realize DSNY do not yet have enough trucks to roll this out citywide, but they could pilot and evaluate it in CB9 or on a route which could easily be serviced by a truck working on that upcoming 2025 pilot.

Collect waste from alternate off-sidewalk locations – eg loading docks, trucks.

Some BIDs have access to loading docks in their district, through agreement with the building owner, and could stage waste temporarily there. Other BIDs have trucks for supplemental service – if they fill a box truck with bags of litter bin waste, DSNY could collect directly from the truck. These innovative approaches don't require any new permanent infrastructure.

Collect from larger 4-wheeled bins

There are other products available which are not full enclosures, but instead allow 4-wheeled bins, with a capacity of 283 gallons, to be docked in place. If DSNY added simple lift mechanisms to their existing rear load trucks, they could pick up both 2-wheeled and 4-wheeled bins mechanically. This would allow them to collect larger capacity bins from both on-street and from large multifamily buildings – where the 4 wheeled bin can be directly hooked up to the trash chute and offer greater compaction. This option is cheaper and more space efficient, taking up less curb length which is needed for so many other reasons – passenger pick up, deliveries, bike lanes, bus lanes and parking.

We believe that DSNY should work with BIDs and other entities to pilot and evaluate a range of solutions before offering a suite of options citywide. It is thoughtless to expect entities to figure out and invest in a short term solution, when there may well be much better options available.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our suggestions with DSNY and help improve the outcomes of waste containerization citywide.

Clare Mifflin
Executive Director
Center for Zero Waste Design

Comment attachment

250210-DSNY-Proposed-Rule-BIDs-and-other-entitites-in-Cleaning-Services-.pdf

Comment added February 10, 2025 4:21pm

Brooke Schooley

This proposed rule would be a disaster for heavily trafficked areas like the West Village. Overflowing trashcans are the responsibility of the city, and our BID is doing the city a favor by actively bagging overflowing trash. Our BID does not have the resources to invest in hard containers, nor do our streets have room for them. If the city doesn't want bagged trash by the bins, they should increase the number of times they pick up the trash, or remove trash cans altogether so that there is no public trash service. Preventing bagging is simply going to result in litter falling everywhere around the bins and blowing down the street.

Comment added February 10, 2025 4:49pm

Vanessa Warren

This is an insane rule. Can you imagine if BIDs which are a non-profit stopped picking up the public's litter? As a resident and the block president of Wash PI Block Assoc which is very near west 4th st and wsp the Village Alliance BID is doing God's work! The funds required for this with 144 receptacles currently in this BID district would be completely out of budget and they have already warned that because of this they would stop this service all together. If the BIDs and other neighborhood dont provide the service of picking up after the public and tourists, who will? Is the city going to step up and make sure the sidewalks are clean every single day? Please change course before we are all living in filth... or make an exception for street litter cleanup, which is done in bags, and placed next to bins for pickup.

Comment added February 10, 2025 5:09pm

Jonah Birch

The Office of New York City Council Member Tiffany Cabán is writing to express our concern over the proposed rule change by the Department of Sanitation, which would force trusted community partners like ACE Contract Services to either purchase permanent trash containers or use private trucks for waste removal. This would cost organizations like ACE an estimated \$4-5 million a year, which would potentially force it to shut down essential services it provides to residents of District 22. Organizations like ACE serve a crucial function in cleaning communities like ours in Astoria, Queens, where they removed 12,000 pounds of trash in December 2024 alone. In addition, this rule change would threaten the employment of 165 individuals who rely on ACE for their livelihood and path to a better life. For these reasons, our office feels that this rule would be detrimental to public health, safety, and the well-being of our community. We ask you to reconsider.

Comment added February 10, 2025 5:18pm

Mary Ellen Sullivan

Hello DSNY,

I have participated in many community clean-ups, sometimes separating out recyclables and sometimes putting all trash and recyclables into black garbage bags. As community groups are doing these clean-ups, people passing by always say "thank you!" They mention that they have noticed the trash for a long time, but nothing has been done about it. If community groups are not allowed to perform this useful service, our city will be dirtier, uglier, and provide food and haven for rats. It will not be an improvement.

I recognize DSNY is working to improve processes. I think containerization without exception for community clean-ups is a bad idea. Did DSNY talk with the BIDs? Did you talk with City Council Members who regularly organize clean-ups? Did DSNY speak with community leaders who have done their neighbors and the city a service by spearheading clean-up activities? Has the DSNY solicited ideas about how this challenge can be solved?

I would urge the DSNY to partner with community groups and BIDs to come up with a workable solution. I would also urge DSNY to encourage everyone doing community clean-up efforts to also include recycling and organics in their efforts. Let's focus on the goals of helping our city get clean and stay clean, AND divert recyclables, organics and yard waste to their proper and useful place. The community is DSNY's partner. Help us help you.

Comment added February 10, 2025 5:26pm

David

Communities depend on bids to help keep the city clean you are fixing something that isn't broken why you don't allow him to Bunch the garbage bags that they fill next to the public pickup wire baskets is beyond belief if you're concerned that the plastic bags can be attacked by rodents then specify a much heavier gauge plastic bag to be used rodents can't go through everything the city is not cleaning the streets in the same way a local bid can really sweep the neighborhood stop trying to prevent this from happening

Comment added February 10, 2025 5:28pm

From: [REDACTED]
To: [NYC Rules \(DSNY\)](#); [NYC Rules \(DSNY\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BIDS and bagged garbage
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 8:38:57 PM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION! EXTERNAL SENDER. Never click on links or open attachments if sender is unknown, and never provide user ID or password. If **suspicious**, report this email by hitting the **Phish Alert Button**. If the button is unavailable or you are on a mobile device, forward as an attachment to phish@oti.nyc.gov.

Hello,

I wanted to post this statement regarding BIDs placing bagged trash by city garbage cans, but the comments had already closed at 8:28:

The city has a lot of nerve/gall/chutzpah to ask BIDs to do take care of city garbage. Isn't this the city's responsibility? Aren't BIDs doing the city a favor by sweeping and cleaning the streets? And how are we being thanked? By asking us to pay for containers and to haul away garbage? Incredible! I can barely understand how this rule has gotten to the point where we have to explain our situation.

Best,
Marla Wolf

Marla E. Wolf, Ph.D.
New York University
Graduate School of Arts & Science
& Stern School of Business
marla.wolf@nyu.edu (work)

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [NYC Rules \(DSNY\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment - DSNY Proposed Rule Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services
Date: Sunday, January 19, 2025 7:10:44 AM

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION! EXTERNAL SENDER. Never click on links or open attachments if sender is unknown, and never provide user ID or password. If **suspicious**, report this email by hitting the **Phish Alert Button**. If the button is unavailable or you are on a mobile device, forward as an attachment to phish@oti.nyc.gov.

Hello,

My name is Lauren Pecora, I live in Brooklyn, NY. I'm writing to submit a public comment regarding the DSNY Proposed Rule Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services. I believe this will negatively impact community cleanup efforts, which are vital to empowering neighbors to come together to fill the gaps in cleaning coverage in their own communities.

Please do not enact this proposed ruling.

Thank you,
Lauren Pecora

[REDACTED]

From: [Port Richmond North Shore Alliance](#)
To: [NYC Rules \(DSNY\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Commenting on Proposal/rules
Date: Monday, January 6, 2025 4:46:50 PM

You don't often get email from portrichmondstrongcivic@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION! EXTERNAL SENDER. Never click on links or open attachments if sender is unknown, and never provide user ID or password. If **suspicious**, report this email by hitting the **Phish Alert Button**. If the button is unavailable or you are on a mobile device, forward as an attachment to phish@oti.nyc.gov.

Good Day;

We are a Civic group located on Staten island Port Richmond area.
Port Richmond North Shore Alliance.

As one of our many functions we employ a person which maintains and monitors the trash bins along our 1.1 mile stretch of commercial corridor.

We would definitely be interested in attending this seminar and meeting regarding as well as participating.

We respectfully request to join this meeting

Regards;

--

PORT RICHMOND NORTH SHORE ALLIANCE 128 PORT RICHMOND AVENUE-2G
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10302

From: frank@throggsneckbid.com
To: [NYC Rules \(DSNY\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment/question regarding DSNY proposed rule re garbage bags
Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 9:02:40 AM

You don't often get email from frank@throggsneckbid.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION! EXTERNAL SENDER. Never click on links or open attachments if sender is unknown, and never provide user ID or password. If **suspicious**, report this email by hitting the **Phish Alert Button**. If the button is unavailable or you are on a mobile device, forward as an attachment to phish@oti.nyc.gov.

The **Throggs Neck Business Improvement District** has two comments/question regarding the proposed rule **"TO clarify that no entity engaging in cleaning services shall be permitted to place bags of refuse and recycling out for collection."**

1. Placement of containers in parking spaces will result in the loss of desperately needed parking. Can the containers be placed on the sidewalk?
2. BID budgets, especially smaller BIDS like ours, are already operating under severe financial constraints. Can assistance be provided, via joint venture or other method, to eliminate or sharply reduce the severe cost of this proposal?

From: [Laurie Blumenfeld](#)
To: [NYC Rules \(DSNY\)](#)
Cc: [Cerna, Edward](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Community Clean ups
Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 3:22:12 PM
Attachments: [lbr-logo_Fotor.png](#)

You don't often get email from laurie@laurieblumenfelddesign.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION! EXTERNAL SENDER. Never click on links or open attachments if sender is unknown, and never provide user ID or password. If **suspicious**, report this email by hitting the **Phish Alert Button**. If the button is unavailable or you are on a mobile device, forward as an attachment to phish@oti.nyc.gov.

Hello

This seems extreme for those of us who conduct quarterly clean up events. We live in Red Hook, BK which is severely underserved by DSNY as it is now. Garbage is constantly all over the side walks, illegal dumping a daily occurrence.

We need to be able to leave our bags near the bins after a clean up event.

What do you recommend??

Thanks for your attention.

Laurie

LAURIE BLUMENFELD
DESIGN

laurieblumenfelddesign.com

@laurieblumenfelddesign

mobile phone: 917.757.5464

From: [Daniel Scorse](#)
To: [NYC Rules \(DSNY\)](#)
Cc: [Ansorge, Jamie L.](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Copy of Testimony from Daniel Scorse
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 2:54:36 PM

You don't often get email from dscorse@hyhkalliance.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION! EXTERNAL SENDER. Never click on links or open attachments if sender is unknown, and never provide user ID or password. If **suspicious**, report this email by hitting the **Phish Alert Button**. If the button is unavailable or you are on a mobile device, forward as an attachment to phish@oti.nyc.gov.

Good afternoon. Below is a written copy of the testimony that I presented this morning. Thank you.

Testimony to DSNY from Daniel Scorse
2/10/2025

My name is Daniel Scorse, Vice President of Operations for the Hudson Yards Hell's Kitchen Alliance, a Business Improvement District, also known as HYHK. Thank you for allowing me to speak today.

BIDs partner with many city agencies such as DOT, Sanitation, NYPD, and Parks, among others. A year ago, if you had asked me which of these agencies we had the best relationship with, I would have said Sanitation. We both want the same thing - clean streets. And we've helped each other achieve that goal for years. Unfortunately, this rule threatens that partnership and may ironically result in dirtier streets.

HYHK supports getting bags off the street. And we feel that containerization is the answer. In fact, HYHK containerized some public space trash 10 years ago and it's been great. However, due to funding and siting restrictions, we have not containerized all of the trash we handle. As my colleague mentioned, it took Sanitation six months to approve ONE container location. We may need 20 containers for full coverage. When a restaurant containerizes its trash, it does it for one location. When a residential building containerizes, its for one location. BIDs, on the other hand, cover vast swaths of the city, including the busiest parts. It's a tremendous undertaking.

If any other agency were rolling out a change this dramatic, it would be an iterative process, with planning meetings, pilot programs, and phased implementation. Although Sanitation liked the idea of a BID containerization pilot program, they claimed to have no time or money for it. What's the rush?

I encourage Sanitation to take a deep breath and rethink this important program.

Thank you

From: Daniel Scorse

Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 5:11 PM

To: nycrules@dsny.nyc.gov

Subject: Registration for 2/10 DSNY Hearing on Rule Change

Hello:

I would like to register to testify at the 2/10/25 DSNY Hearing.

Thank you,

Dan

Dan Scorse

Vice President of Operations

Hudson Yards Hell's Kitchen Alliance

[1-212-239-1619](tel:1-212-239-1619) ex. 2 | c: 1-415-722-6077

hyhkalliance.org

From: [Patricia Maltezos](#)
To: [NYC Rules \(DSNY\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DSNY Hearing Testimony - February 10, 2025
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 11:10:03 AM

You don't often get email from pmaltezos@hyhkalliance.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION! EXTERNAL SENDER. Never click on links or open attachments if sender is unknown, and never provide user ID or password. If **suspicious**, report this email by hitting the **Phish Alert Button**. If the button is unavailable or you are on a mobile device, forward as an attachment to phish@oti.nyc.gov.

DSNY Containerization Public Hearing Testimony
February 10, 2025

Good morning, I am Patricia Maltezos, the Planning and Development Director at the Hudson Yards Hell's Kitchen Alliance, a BID in west midtown.

The Hudson Yards Hell's Kitchen Alliance stands with our fellow NYC BID partners in our frustration over DSNY's process and attitude on containerization law as it applies to BIDs.

We have always considered ourselves partners with the city. We all endeavour to improve our various districts, in both physical and programmatic ways, that are specifically tailored to our neighborhoods. We support small businesses throughout the five boroughs, plant trees, create public art, organize free public events and much more. Supplemental sanitation is the most important part of that program. Our communities thrive thanks to clean sidewalks. Users of our neighborhoods often mistakenly think the city takes care of sidewalk trash, but it is the BIDs who do this work everyday.

This new law, with its current expedited timeline, is not built for partnership. While HYHK supports the idea of containerizing trash, we cannot do this in the dark. The lack of process so far has forced BIDs to make decisions quickly without the time to consider future ramifications on operations, budget, staffing, and streetscape.

At this point, we are being forced to comply with a program with no monetary resources and very little written guidance. HYHK staff have been working to pilot a container in one location with the hope of expanding the containerization program throughout the district. HYHK applied for one container location in July of 2024. That application was approved in January, six months later. How can DSNY expect all BIDs to containerize by August if it takes six months to get one permit? It takes time to work through the staffing issues, plan for fluctuations in trash volume, understand complex on the ground realities and balance all of the needs of other amenities in the public space.

DSNY is punishing us for the work we do. BIDs clean up public trash. Not trash that we create, trash that the public creates and throws on the sidewalk or in corner bins.

We request a reset so that BIDs and DSNY can move forward again, as partners.

From: frank@throggsneckbid.com
To: [NYC Rules \(DSNY\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Further Comment on proposed rule
Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 9:44:47 AM

You don't often get email from frank@throggsneckbid.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION! EXTERNAL SENDER. Never click on links or open attachments if sender is unknown, and never provide user ID or password. If **suspicious**, report this email by hitting the **Phish Alert Button**. If the button is unavailable or you are on a mobile device, forward as an attachment to phish@oti.nyc.gov.

The Throggs Neck Business Improvement District has two comments/question regarding the proposed rule "TO clarify that no entity engaging in cleaning services shall be permitted to place bags of refuse and recycling out for collection."

1. Placement of containers in parking spaces will result in the loss of desperately needed parking. Can the containers be placed on the sidewalk?
Can they be placed on side streets to avoid making commercial corridors unsightly?

2. BID budgets, especially smaller BIDS like ours, are already operating under severe financial constraints. Can assistance be provided, via joint venture or other method, to eliminate or sharply reduce the severe cost of this proposal? ***Can DSNY or elected officials provide the necessary funds?***

From: [Zach Owens](#)
To: [NYC Rules \(DSNY\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Rule
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 4:27:31 PM
Attachments: [Testimony - Owens, West Village BID.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from zach@westvillagebid.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION! EXTERNAL SENDER. Never click on links or open attachments if sender is unknown, and never provide user ID or password. If **suspicious**, report this email by hitting the **Phish Alert Button**. If the button is unavailable or you are on a mobile device, forward as an attachment to phish@oti.nyc.gov.

See attached testimony. We strongly oppose this rule and will discontinue bagging trash if implemented. Reference attached pictures of what will happen. We will direct constituents directly to DSNY. We will refocus our efforts on horticulture and other quality of life issues where we can get cooperation from city agencies on.

Thanks,
Zach

From: [QNS Trash](#)
To: [NYC Rules \(DSNY\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rule change for community cleanups
Date: Wednesday, January 1, 2025 4:42:41 PM

You don't often get email from qnstrash@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION! EXTERNAL SENDER. Never click on links or open attachments if sender is unknown, and never provide user ID or password. If **suspicious**, report this email by hitting the **Phish Alert Button**. If the button is unavailable or you are on a mobile device, forward as an attachment to phish@oti.nyc.gov.

Penalizing/fining community groups for leaving litter from cleanups outside of public waste bins is detrimental to our communities. I understand this requirement of business owners cleaning their property and property outside their business, since they have access to their own trash bins/dumpsters and should be utilizing them. However, volunteers and volunteer organizations do not have this resource available to them.

It's the lack of street and sidewalk cleaning plus budget cuts by the city of New York that have caused community cleaning groups to emerge since the pandemic. Often, public waste bins are overflowing and the only course of action after a cleanup is to place bags neatly beside them to be picked up. What is the solution here? Please do not punish those who are trying to beautiful our neighborhoods by attaching fines to their good work. Even The Sanitation Foundation, DSNY's own nonprofit, suggests leaving community cleanup refuse next to public trash cans.

DSNY is available to schedule a pickup for large collections at certain times/streets. But oftentimes smaller cleanups do not require a dedicated pickup crew/garbage truck sent for just a few shopping bags of trash. We need a better solution here. Can we call a number to let dsny know we are leaving smaller quantities next to Public cans? Can DSNY increase pickups for overflowing public waste bins so we can fit street litter into cans? We need something better than dining people who are picking up the slack.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [NYC Rules \(DSNY\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rule targeting BIDs
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 11:57:59 PM

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

CAUTION! EXTERNAL SENDER. Never click on links or open attachments if sender is unknown, and never provide user ID or password. If suspicious, report this email by hitting the Phish Alert Button. If the button is unavailable or you are on a mobile device, forward as an attachment to phish@oti.nyc.gov<<mailto:phish@oti.nyc.gov>>.

To whom it may concern,

I'm deeply grateful for the remarkable, challenging work of the DSNY; however, as a member of the board of the WV BID, and a long-time resident of Lower Manhattan, I fear this proposed rule re: BIDs is self-defeating. BIDs will have to suspend their sanitation/street-cleaning work for lack of rigid container space to store trash.

I understand the rule is meant to curtail rats, but it will end up just making our streets dirtier.

Please reconsider or offer a workable solution (eg, finally containerize all street trash in Manhattan! Then BID workers can just drop bags into the containers...).

Sincerely,
Tom O'Keefe



Long Island City Business Improvement District

DSNY Rules Hearing

Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services

February 10, 2025

My name is Angel Hart and I am writing on behalf of the Long Island City Business Improvement District. I want to start off by emphasizing that we have worked in very close partnership with the NYC Department of Sanitation for over twenty years, since our BID was formed in 2005. We appreciate all of the work that the agency does to keep the city clean, and we especially appreciate the relationship we have built with our local DSNY operations team from Queens District 1 and 2. While we also support the agency's intention of getting bags off of the street for rat mitigation and general sidewalk cleanliness, we do not support these newly proposed rules for containerization. This unfunded mandate burdens BIDs and other community organizations that supplement the City's sanitation services to containerize public trash without providing any financial support and flexibility. These overhauling rules do not follow in line with the partnership we have built and may result in the inability for many BIDs to continue their supplemental sanitation programs as they stand.

After our recent expansion in January 2025, the Long Island City BID now covers the biggest geographic area of any other BID In NYC. Over 50% of our budget goes towards sanitation services, which includes sidewalk sweeping, bagging and replacing public trash from corner bins, graffiti removals and additional salting and snow shoveling as needed. This past year we bagged over 45,000 bags of trash for DSNY collection from our 115 corner bins throughout the district - this number will likely double with our newly expanded district. The agency has suggested a few options for BIDs to comply including the following: invest in on street containers for garbage storage such as Metrostor or Citibins, purchase wheely bins to collect and move trash around the district, pay for hauling to local garages and/or some combination of the above. These suggestions are not only extremely expensive, and therefore nearly impossible to comply with, but they also require major operational changes that are only exacerbated in our district due to the sheer size and distance our team already must travel to operate as is. None of the suggested options would fully allow us to keep all bags off the street without financial support to do so.

This proposed bill is an unfair one size fits all attempt to punish BIDs for the work we do to supplement City sanitation services across NYC. If DSNY expects us to comply with these rules by August 1st they need to provide more flexibility and/or financial support for this program. To

honor our shared goal of keeping NYC commercial corridors clean, we are happy to work collaboratively with DSNY for a solution that will work best for our BID individually. However, we oppose the Rule as drafted. We thank you for your consideration.

Testimony on Proposed DSNY Rule Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services

Submitted by Scott Hobbs
Executive Director, Village Alliance
Monday, February 10, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the proposed DSNY rule that would allow the Department of Sanitation to fine Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) for bagging overflowing corner baskets. While we share the City's goal of a cleaner and more efficient waste management system, this rule will have severe financial consequences for the Village Alliance, effectively forcing us to suspend our operations at corner baskets due to budgetary constraints.

We are not opposed to containerization; in fact, we fully support efforts to modernize waste collection and improve street cleanliness. However, for containerization to be successful, the City must partner with organizations like ours—not only to fund and place these containers (which DSNY does not currently do) but also to replace them when they are damaged, just as NYC DOT does with planters. Our District Plan, as established in the legislation that created our organization, does not include providing services for pedestrian waste. Yet under this rule, we would be penalized for filling the gap left by the City's failure to provide adequate infrastructure.

Over the past several weeks, we have closely monitored the volume of trash our corner baskets generate and have conducted meetings with DSNY and vendors, including CitiBin, DSNY's preferred vendor, to assess the financial implications of compliance. Based on these assessments, the cost to containerize public waste at a minimum would be \$125,000, with more realistic estimates reaching \$300,000. This would be in addition to the \$575,000 we already allocate annually for sanitation services. Simply put, our budget—and the small businesses that fund our BID—cannot absorb this additional cost.

When I assumed leadership of the Village Alliance, the organization was in a deficit-spending situation, having not raised its assessment since 2015. When the COVID-19 pandemic led to inflation at levels not seen in decades, we remained mindful of the vacant storefronts caused by the crisis and chose not to raise rates until recovery was clearly underway. Once inflation had stabilized, we developed a responsible five-year financial plan to restore fiscal stability, which was approved by the City Council in 2023. This plan is working as intended, and we are on track to return to a balanced budget by

VILLAGE ALLIANCE

FY27. However, until then, we remain in a planned deficit-spending phase, drawing from reserves to maintain operations. Absorbing an additional six-figure expense for containerization at this time would jeopardize our financial recovery and force us to make cuts elsewhere, including in supplemental sanitation services.

If this rule is enacted without financial support from the City, we will have no choice but to cease corner basket operations entirely. This would be an unfortunate and avoidable outcome, as we remain willing partners in improving waste collection but require a financially viable path forward.

We urge the City to reconsider this approach and work collaboratively with BIDs to implement containerization solutions in a way that does not disproportionately burden small business districts like ours. Thank you for your time and consideration.



Testimony for DSNY Proposed Rule Hearing February 10th, 2025 DSNY Proposed Rule Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services

The Center for Zero Waste Design is a nonprofit that develops research, advocacy campaigns, and policy tools for buildings and cities to achieve zero waste. We work with community organizations, nonprofits, and municipalities to provide thought leadership to ensure policies and systems are aligned for circularity. We thank the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) for this opportunity to comment on their proposed rule relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services.

We fully support DSNY's goals to get rid of bags of trash piled up on sidewalks and instead move to a system where waste is collected from bins and containers by mechanized trucks. But we have strong concerns about the way DSNY is moving forward with waste containerization, without any outside stakeholder input, and moving forward in a way that goes against the City's goals of improving pedestrian mobility and the quality of the public realm. We recently released a report [On Containerization](#), which outlines alternatives to DSNY's plans which would allow waste containerization to improve streetscapes and labor, at lower cost, and would help the City reach waste reduction and climate goals.

Our concerns include:

- **Lack of stakeholder or public engagement:**
There has been very little outreach and discussion with the groups doing the hard work, much of it volunteer labor, helping keep the city clean who are affected by this rule. As many of the BIDs testifying stated, this is a huge additional cost to them, cannot be made by August of this year, and their concerns have been ignored.
- **Most containerization solutions currently available to these groups are enclosures for bins, which are expensive, take up a lot of sidewalk or curbside space, and are not suited for BIDs with substantial volumes of waste.**
The rule requires waste be set out for collection "in rigid receptacles with tight fitting lids that do not exceed fifty-five gallons in size, unless an alternative receptacle is approved by the Department." I believe the alternative is tilt trucks or hampers within an enclosure, as DSNY will be lifting the material by hand into the back of the truck. **These solutions are not space or cost efficient, and do not improve labor for DSNY collection staff.** Also, DSNY is rolling out alternative containerization solutions, like the Empire Bins being piloted in CB9, so why not wait and evaluate solutions like this before making entities invest substantial dollars in short term solutions?

- **Negative impact on streetscapes and pedestrian mobility**

Placing 55 gallon bins on sidewalks will be the cheapest and only option available for many groups to be able to continue supplemental cleaning services. This will just add to the many permanently located bins we already see on sidewalks. We will have more bins chained to street trees and DOT poles alongside litter bins, to prevent theft. These bins will block pedestrian traffic along sidewalks. Given that almost half of NYC has sidewalk widths below 9 feet wide, per [Open Street data](#) - and the growing [crowdedness of NYC sidewalks](#) in general, the reduction in walkability and accessibility is unacceptable. The aim is to improve sidewalks and public space, not make them more cluttered.



Alternative Solutions Include:

We believe there are many alternate solutions that DSNY should consider piloting with BIDs or neighborhood entities:

- **Adjusting collection times to reduce volume of waste to be stored.**

Adjusting collection times to collect waste more frequently, especially at times of high generation rates, could reduce the amount of time waste needs to be bagged alongside the litter basket. Many BIDs state that DSNY collection times are not consistent, which makes it difficult to know how much waste volume to plan for. Working with BIDs to locate the bags in better locations for DSNY's collection routes could also make it more efficient for DSNY.

- **Consider large stationary containers aka "Empire Bins" for neighborhoods with large volumes of litter bin waste.**

“Empire Bins” (the 4 cubic yard containers used in Barcelona and many other European and South American cities) would be a much more space efficient for waste to be stored, would cost much less, and be better for DSNY labor. I do realize DSNY do not yet have enough trucks to roll this out citywide, but they could pilot and evaluate it in CB9 or on a route which could easily be serviced by a truck working on that upcoming 2025 pilot.

- **Collect waste from alternate off-sidewalk locations - eg loading docks, trucks.**

Some BIDs have access to loading docks in their district, through agreement with the building owner, and could stage waste temporarily there. Other BIDs have trucks for supplemental service - if they fill a box truck with bags of litter bin waste, DSNY could collect directly from the truck. These innovative approaches don't require any new permanent infrastructure.

- **Collect from larger 4-wheeled bins**

There are other products available which are not full enclosures, but instead allow 4-wheeled bins, with a capacity of 283 gallons, to be docked in place. If DSNY added simple lift mechanisms to their existing rear load trucks, they could pick up both 2-wheeled and 4-wheeled bins mechanically. This would allow them to collect larger capacity bins from both on-street and from large multifamily buildings - where the 4 wheeled bin can be directly hooked up to the trash chute and offer greater compaction. This option is cheaper and more space efficient, taking up less curb length which is needed for so many other reasons - passenger pick up, deliveries, bike lanes, bus lanes and parking.



Docked 4-wheeled bins in Vienna, Austria



Docked 4-wheeled bins in Liverpool, UK (by Metrostor)



E admin@centerforzerowastedesign.org
T 718.306.9525

We believe that DSNY should work with BIDs and other entities to pilot and evaluate a range of solutions before offering a suite of options citywide. It is thoughtless to expect entities to figure out and invest in a short term solution, when there may well be much better options available.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our suggestions with DSNY and help improve the outcomes of waste containerization citywide.

Clare Miflin
Executive Director
Center for Zero Waste Design



February 6, 2025

Dear Acting Commissioner Lojan,

As you know, ACE partners with the City Council each year to provide supplemental sanitation services in over 40 Council Districts across the 5 Boroughs. We remove in excess of 1 million garbage bags a year from city streets. By all measures, our workforce development nonprofit is one of the best supplemental sanitation service providers in all of New York City.

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed policy prohibiting supplemental service providers like ACE from placing collected garbage bags next to DSNY public waste receptacles so that DSNY trucks can collect them. This policy, part of the agency's "containerization" initiative, will significantly impact our ability to provide essential supplemental sanitation services across the City.

After consulting with DSNY staff, we have learned that the proposed policy will require ACE to adopt one of two expensive solutions, or receive punitive fines, beginning August 1, 2025. Our options would be either to purchase and install permanent trash bag containers (Citybin, etc.) to store full garbage bags for DSNY removal, or to purchase garbage trucks to remove and cart full garbage bags to DSNY garages. The cost of these containers and/or garbage trucks would be ACE's responsibility, or the responsibility of New York City Council Members who fund ACE to provide supplemental sanitation services in their districts.

An analysis has revealed that in order to comply with the policy, ACE would need to purchase and install in excess of 230 containers at an estimated cost between \$4 Million and \$4.3 Million. That cost nears \$5 million when you include the cost of maintaining these containers (cleaning, repairs, etc.) and the cost of insuring each container (both policies mandated by DSNY). ACE estimates for purchasing, insuring, staffing and parking a fleet of garbage trucks to service all ACE routes across the 5 boroughs exceeds \$4.5 Million.

ACE is unable to afford these expenses. Should these expenses be passed on to our City Council partners, the expense would basically eliminate any ACE supplemental sanitation allocations, resulting in the elimination of ACE sanitation services in most, if not all, Council Districts we currently serve. Ultimately, the burden of this policy may result in ACE closing its doors after 33 years of service to New York City, meaning the 165 hard-working men and women at ACE who provide these sanitation services would lose their jobs. These men and women have overcome homelessness, incarceration, and addiction, and this job has been a lifeline for them as they begin their journey towards economic independence. They would be yet another casualty of the "containerization" initiative.

We are so grateful for the longtime partnership ACE has enjoyed with the Department of Sanitation and ask that you please consider the negative impacts this policy will have both on ACE and the City Council Districts we service. Please contact me so that we may discuss this matter further. I can be reached at Jmartin@acenewyork.org.

Regards,

James Martin
Executive Director



Alliance for Downtown New York, Inc.
120 Broadway, Suite 3340
New York, NY 10271
212 566-6700 Fax 212 566-6707
www.DowntownNY.com

Downtown Alliance Statement on the NYC Department of Sanitation Proposed Rule Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services

February 10, 2025

Good morning Chiefs and Sanitation Department staff, I am Ben Ackert, the Senior Manager in Operations at the Downtown Alliance.

The Downtown Alliance BID is roughly the area south of Brooklyn Bridge to The Battery from West Street to the East River. The district is the city's second-largest central business district. Today it is home to nearly 90 million square feet of commercial real estate, over 230,000 private sector employees, 67,000 residents, nearly 1100 storefront businesses, and over 9 million visitors annually.

Given these sizable figures, the district generates significant waste daily. In FY24, we collected over 1000 tons of trash and over 324 tons of recyclables. Between the 178 Big Belly trash compactors and the trash cleaned up by our street sweepers, our sanitation crew is managing nearly 600 bags a day.

The Alliance has long advocated for the city to better manage its waste and believes containerization is a positive step forward in this effort. In 2022, we were asked by then Commissioner Tisch to pilot the containerization of public trash in partnership with the Department. By November of 2023, we sited 6 Citibin containers with DOT approval and began to operate our trash collection fully containerized in collaboration with DSNY. Since then, DSNY has provided pick-up service to the bins 3 times a day. This level of collection service has been essential for us to be able to do our work and be successful. If this schedule were to be disrupted for any reason it would lead to serious operational challenges that would make it nearly impossible for the program to function properly.

We do not have control over where the bins are currently placed nor can approve new spots. Siting locations for the current 6 containers was an arduous task. As you know, Lower Manhattan has a narrow street grid that regularly undergoes construction work and development projects that led us to lose a site at one point and made it quite challenging to find a new approved location. Despite the Department being very helpful in this process we know it might not be possible to find new locations. We are concerned that if this were to happen again the Alliance would face punitive and operational problems.

For the Alliance, trash containerization can only function properly and effectively with robust cooperation and continued partnership with the Sanitation Department.

February 10, 2025

**TESTIMONY TO NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL REGARDING DSNY PROPOSED
RULES REGARDING SUPPLEMENTAL CLEANING SERVICES**

I am Mark Caserta, Vice President of Small Business Support at the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. I am providing comments on the Department of Sanitation's proposed containerization rules for organizations that provide supplemental cleaning services.

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce supports the Department of Sanitation's goal of eliminating garbage bags on street corners and, as a result, reducing the number of rats on our city streets. However, we agree with the New York City BID Association's comments on the proposed rules, especially:

Lack of funding: Small and medium business improvement districts (the vast majority of Brooklyn's BIDs) were created through a city process through which a special assessment is collected by the City of New York and provided to the BIDs for services such as supplemental cleaning. In order to provide the best services possible at the lowest costs to landlords and merchants, BID budgets are tightly constructed and managed, without much wiggle room for additional expenses. The extra cost of installing secure, closed bins on public street corners on behalf of the City of New York or carting waste to Sanitation facilities without providing additional public funds is nothing more than an unfunded mandate. While BIDs do have the ability to raise assessments in order to account for additional costs, this process can be long and arduous and is not guaranteed. It requires sign-off from the City Council and the Mayor and could take more than a year, if successful.

Timing: Even if the proposed rules pass, as is, most small to medium BIDs would be unable to come up with the funds to comply with the rules by the deadline of August 1st. As noted, an assessment increase can take one year or more and is a legal process that is mandated by the City of New York. The only choice that our Brooklyn BIDs would have is to reduce or eliminate their services, which is not something that the City of New York should have as its ultimate goal. Again, BIDs were created through a City process and are encouraged. Why is another City agency creating a policy that could damage them? This make no sense.

We respectfully urge the Department of Sanitation to work with our BIDs to find funding and to be flexible in timing in order to preserve critical BID services and keep our streets safe and clean

Thank you.



Statement
DSNY Public Hearing
February 10, 2025

C. Virginia Fields, Board Member, speaking on behalf of the 125TH STREET BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT, INC., to formally express the Association's deep concerns regarding the Department of Sanitation's (DSNY) Containerization rules and the contractual obligations that will most assuredly impose on Business Improvement Districts (BIDs).

The 125TH STREET BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT fully supports efforts to improve sanitation, reduce trash accumulation, reduce rat infestation and enhance the cleanliness of New York City's streets. However, based on our work, our experiences, and past efforts undertaken by the city, the current containerization approach presents serious operational, and financial concerns, that are detailed in my Statement and highlighted in my presentation.

Financial and Contractual Burden

- Proposed Ruling - BIDs would be required to purchase DSNY-approved trash containers at our own expense, despite the lack of a dedicated budget for such a significant capital investment.
- Maintenance Contract's two-year term, with termination permitted on 30 days' notice, presents a severe financial risk requiring the BID to make an upfront investment in expensive containers while providing no long-term security.
- Requirement for the removal and disposal costs upon maintenance contract termination adds a potentially significant and unpredictable financial burden that is untenable.

- In addition to the initial procurement cost of containers, the following ongoing and indirect costs make compliance infeasible:
 - A. Installation Costs - Many containers require site preparation, such as securing dedicated space or modifying existing infrastructure to ensure compliance with city regulations.
 - B. Maintenance and Cleaning Costs - Keeping the containers functional and sanitary will require regular cleaning, repairs, and graffiti removal, all of which place an additional burden on our already limited budget.
 - C. Insurance Costs - Since containers must be placed in public spaces, the BID will need to obtain additional liability insurance coverage to protect against accidents, vandalism, or damage claims.
 - D. Security and Monitoring Costs - Given the history of vandalism and illegal dumping in many districts, we anticipate additional expenses associated with monitoring and protecting these containers from misuse or damage.
 - E. Staffing Costs - Additional personnel will be required for waste consolidation, moving trash into the containers, and ensuring compliance costs that many BIDs simply cannot absorb without reducing other essential services.

The absence of financial assistance, grants, or subsidies for these expenses makes the proposed requirements impractical for many BIDs, particularly smaller or less resourced districts.

Implementation presents significant Operational Challenges and Enforcement Concerns

- Lack of Adequate Space for Containers – Many BIDs operate in dense commercial corridors where sidewalk and street space are already constrained. There is no viable placement for large, enclosed trash containers without obstructing pedestrian traffic, business operations, or curbside activities.
- Illegal Dumping and Unfair Fines – Under the current system, BIDs already struggle with illegal dumping from outside sources, including

businesses, vendors, and residents. The proposed rule makes no distinction between BID-generated waste and third-party refuse, yet BIDs would still be subject to fines if trash accumulates improperly.

- Maintenance, Vandalism, and Security Issues – BIDs with prior experience of using containers have reported frequent vandalism, graffiti, and operational difficulties. Many of these containers do not meet durability standards required for high-traffic areas, and maintenance costs add yet another financial burden.
- Lack of DSNY's Commitment to Collection Standards – The contract does not guarantee DSNY service levels or establish specific pickup schedules, leaving BIDs vulnerable to inconsistent or delayed collection.

Recommendations for Alternative Solutions and Revisions

125TH STREET BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION strongly urges DSNY to reconsider aspects of the current mandated containerization initiative and contractual obligations to ensure that BIDs can comply without jeopardizing their financial and operational viability. Towards that end we propose the following:

- Alternative Compliance Options – DSNY to consider alternative trash management solutions such as designated waste consolidation zones, particularly in BID areas where containerization is infeasible.
- Financial Support Mechanisms – DSNY to re-open a grant program or subsidy fund to assist BIDs in purchasing and maintaining containers.
- Contractual Protections for BIDs – Agreements should include a minimum contract term guarantee (e.g., purchasing and maintaining containers).
- Fair Enforcement Policies – Fines to be issued only for waste directly managed by the BID, with DSNY assuming responsibility for illegal dumping enforcement.

- Collaboration and Transparency – DSNY to establish a working group with BID representatives to develop practical solutions that meet the city’s sanitation goals without overburdening the very organizations that help keep neighborhoods clean.

In conclusion, the 125TH STREET BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT remains fully committed to working with DSNY to find an equitable path forward that balances the city’s need for cleaner streets with the realities faced by BIDs that jeopardize our ability to function.

We appreciate your attention to this critical matter and welcome further discussions with the DSNY.

Submitted By

C. Virginia Fields

Board Member

125th Street Business Improvement Management Association



Clean Bushwick Initiative

Testimonial Letter to the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) on Proposed Rule Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on the proposed rule relating to entities engaging in cleaning services. We are writing to ask you to withdraw the proposed rule, delay its implementation, and work with community organizations to reach a mutually beneficial solution such as a carve-out for community groups.

We represent the Clean Bushwick Initiative (CBI). CBI is a community organization based in Bushwick, Brooklyn, that works to improve the cleanliness and sustainability of our neighborhood. In 2024, we hosted 15 cleanups throughout Bushwick, engaging over 250 volunteers and taking over 3,600 lbs of trash off the street. Cleanups involve keeping our streets and green spaces free of debris. We also educate volunteers about sustainability issues.

We are concerned that the proposed rule amending Section 16-120(e)(2) would negatively impact organizations like ours. The rule prohibits placing refuse near public litter baskets and in other public locations but provides no practical alternatives for disposing of trash collected during community cleanups. This proposed rule does nothing to reduce street litter—it just outlaws cleaning it up.

The Proposed Rule Does Not Prevent Litter, it Outlaws Cleanups

Currently, Section 16-120(e) of the New York City Administrative Code prohibits the placement of household or commercial refuse in or around a public litter basket or in the streets or other public places. In effect, it is a rule against littering. Ostensibly, the proposed change seeks to clarify that community cleanup organizations, such as CBI, also may not place refuse within the vicinity of any public litter basket, or in the streets and other public locations. The actual effect of the proposed rule would be to make it illegal for community organizations to perform cleanups and remove trash from the streets and other green infrastructure, like rain gardens, because we would have nowhere to dispose of the trash we collect.

The notion that Section 16-120(e) needs *clarity* is misguided and appears to rely on a fundamental misunderstanding of what cleanup organizations like CBI do: they do not *create* trash, they *remove* it. The current rule does not contain a hidden exception allowing community cleanup organizations to litter or dispose of household and commercial refuse in public litter baskets. It would already be in violation of the current rule for an organization to bring personal or commercial refuse to public receptacles or into the public streets, but this is not what community cleanup organizations do. Community cleanups, like those organized by CBI, collect litter already in the streets, often caused by illegal dumping. By placing this waste near public receptacles, cleanup groups make it easier for DSNY to collect and dispose of it. Without the efforts of thousands of volunteers with multiple cleanup organizations across the city, the litter already in the streets would remain there, contributing to health and pest problems, blocking drains, clogging rain gardens, and potentially ending up in our waterways.



Clean Bushwick Initiative

If the goal of Section 16-120 is to prevent litter and reduce trash in the streets, this proposed rule must be rejected. Cleanups work to clear streets of trash, not to leave more behind. This rule would discourage these efforts, leaving more litter on the streets and making it harder for volunteers to keep our neighborhoods clean.

Broader Impact and Equity Issues

Bushwick has been designated a disadvantaged community by the New York State Climate Justice Working Group and large parts of the neighborhood are included in a rat mitigation zone. The neighborhood already lacks adequate trash bins, enforcement, and resources for waste management. This rule would hurt underserved communities like ours the most, where residents rely on local efforts to keep streets clean. DSNY cannot manage all the waste on its own, so community groups fill an important gap. If groups like ours can't operate, trash will pile up, and street cleanliness will decline. Beyond CBI, this rule will make it harder for schools, scout troops, park stewards, business improvement districts, and other groups to clean their neighborhoods.

The impact would go beyond just street cleanliness and beautification. CBI maintains a number of rain gardens in Bushwick in partnership with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection that are necessary to absorb stormwater, reduce flooding, and filter pollutants. Our cleanups regularly focus on clearing trash and debris from the rain gardens and surrounding streets to ensure that the gardens are able to function properly. Without a way to dispose of this waste, maintaining rain gardens becomes much harder, which could lead to more flooding and pollution.

Recommendations and Conclusion

Rather than outlawing community cleanup efforts, we would urge the DSNY to 1) provide practical disposal options for community cleanups, like designated drop-off points; 2) install more trash bins in neighborhoods like Bushwick, especially larger, more secure bins; 3) provide more education and resources to local businesses and property owners to ensure they are aware of their obligation to keep the sidewalks in front of their property clean, as well as 18 inches into the street; and 4) create a carve out in the proposed rule for non-profit community organizations.

Clean Bushwick Initiative is committed to improving our neighborhood and supporting DSNY's mission to maintain cleaner streets. However, this proposed rule would make it harder for us and others to continue this vital work. Rejecting this rule and supporting community-led cleanups is essential to keeping New York City clean, safe, and healthy.

Sincerely,
Clean Bushwick Initiative



495 Flatbush Avenue
Suite C30
Brooklyn, NY 11225
Main: 929.722.6340
Fax: 718.744.2673
churchflatbush.org
@ChurchFlatbush

Testimony on DSNY's Proposed Rule Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services,
Feb. 10, 2025

My name is Lauren Elvers Collins and I'm the Executive Director of the Church Avenue/Flatbush Avenue Business Improvement District, d/b/a the Church-Flatbush Community Alliance (CFCA). We serve small businesses and properties on more than 1.5 miles of Flatbush, Brooklyn. Garbage is a huge problem but forcing partners like BIDs to spend their own funds to takeover keeping bags of public trash off the street - part of a service that the City should be providing - will take needed services away from our community.

We appreciate the hard work that the Dept. of Sanitation (DSNY) does every day towards keeping our City clean and we are glad to supplement that effort. Several years ago, we were part of DSNY's Clean Curbs pilot program under which the City paid for three containers which our three-person supplemental crew fills every day with bags of public trash that we gather from litter baskets.

We already spend \$255,000 per year on supplemental sanitation (42% of our annual assessment budget) and an estimated 30% of staff time is dedicated to addressing sanitation issues and collaborating with sanitation officials, our property and business members, and the community for a cleaner neighborhood. The rest of our efforts go into creating free community events, promotion and marketing, small business support, and safety and quality of life programs.

If DSNY were to implement this rule, we'd be faced with several possible options: storing bags in large, on-street containers; hauling bags; and ending service. The first two of these options are cost prohibitive for us (adding the four new containers that we would need would cost ~\$40,320* plus the cost of ongoing maintenance, which would force us to drop some community events, services, and outreach). The latter idea of ending service would be damaging to the quality of life in our neighborhood.

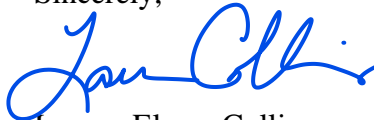
**We have had multiple conversations with the two primary container vendors and we also have several years of experience using and understanding the real-life capacity of these containers. The cost of containers that is sometimes mentioned by DSNY is simply not accurate and understates what would be needed.*

Instead of imposing this rule, DSNY should be adding pick up times to those commercial corridors that need it and working with each BID directly to find a solution that the BID can achieve without forcing us to remove services upon which our communities rely. If containerization is required, BIDs should be provided with containers at no cost to us and siting should be made easy.

Penalizing BIDs and similar groups who are already dedicating money and time to do the City's job of keeping our streets clean is unfair and ignores the negative impact that this would have on our communities. We urge DSNY to put this proposed rule aside and to instead work with each of us as partners to find a solution that is feasible for each BID.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at LaurenC@churchflatbush.org.

Sincerely,



Lauren Elvers Collins
Executive Director

From: [Hakuna, Clothilde](#)
To: [NYC Rules \(DSNY\)](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Comments from Council Member Williams on Proposed Rules Hearing: Council District 27
Date: Friday, January 24, 2025 10:35:26 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Department of Sanitation Opposition letter.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from chakuna@council.nyc.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

Attached, please find comments from Council Member Williams regarding the upcoming Proposed Rules hearing.

Best regards,



Clothilde T. Hakuna
Director of Budget and Organizing
Office of Council Member Dr. Nantasha Williams
27th Council District
Office Phone: (718) 776-3700 | Mobile (917) 280-3248
Email: chakuna@council.nyc.gov
Follow us on Social Media: [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#)

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail message is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain CONFIDENTIAL or PRIVILEGED material. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message. If you are the intended recipient but do not wish to receive communications through this medium, please so advise the sender immediately.

DISTRICT OFFICE
172-12 LINDEN BOULEVARD
ST. ALBANS, NY 11434
TEL: (718) 776-3700
FAX: (718) 487-3580

CITY HALL OFFICE
250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1734
NEW YORK, NY 10007
TEL: (212) 788-7084
FAX: (212) 788-7093
DISTRICT27@COUNCIL.NYC.GOV



THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

NANTASHA WILLIAMS

COUNCIL MEMBER • 27TH DISTRICT • QUEENS

CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

COMMITTEES
CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES, AND INTERNATIONAL
INTERGROUP RELATIONS
FINANCE
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
CHILDREN AND YOUTH
TASKFORCE TO COMBAT HATE

January 24, 2025

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed rule prohibiting supplemental service providers from placing collected garbage bags next to Department of Sanitation (DSNY) public waste receptacles. This regulation would significantly impact organizations such as the Association of Community Employment Programs for the Homeless, Inc. (ACE), local Business Improvement Districts, and other entities that have consistently provided invaluable services to our communities by managing waste effectively.

While I understand the intent to maintain cleanliness and order across the city, I believe this rule will result in unintended negative consequences that far outweigh its potential benefits. Supplemental service providers have been instrumental in addressing gaps in sanitation services, particularly in high-traffic areas, and their work has contributed significantly to improving urban cleanliness.

The requirement for organizations like ACE to purchase and maintain private containers for all garbage bags collected during their operations or to transport these bags directly to DSNY facilities poses severe financial and logistical challenges. ACE, for example, operates as a nonprofit organization, and the additional burden of acquiring containers potentially exceeding a million dollars would jeopardize their ability to deliver their vital services. Furthermore, the time and resources required to transport collected waste to DSNY garages would reduce the time workers spend in the field, directly affecting the cleanliness of our communities.

Currently, ACE provides contracted services in 40 council districts and four state senate/assembly districts, maintaining multiple routes in each. For routes with substantial waste accumulation, the need for numerous containers would further increase expenses. Similarly, the alternative solution of transporting waste to DSNY facilities would necessitate significant investment in vehicles, hiring qualified drivers, and managing complex logistics, thereby diverting resources away from the core mission of these organizations.

I have personally witnessed the positive impact of supplemental service providers on our communities and urge DSNY to reconsider this proposed rule. A collaborative approach involving key stakeholders such as community members and supplemental service providers would be far more effective in achieving equitable and sustainable waste management solutions.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I am confident that, through constructive dialogue, we can identify a solution that ensures our city remains clean and functional while supporting the organizations that have long served our communities.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nat W", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nantasha Williams
27th Council District



1113 CHURCH AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11218

Testimony on DSNY's Proposed Rule Relating to Entities

Engaging in Cleaning Services

Feb. 10, 2025

My name is Fabiola Santos-Gaerlan and I'm the co-Chair of the Church Avenue/Flatbush Avenue Business Improvement District, d/b/a the Church-Flatbush Community Alliance (CFCA). Our BID serves small businesses and properties on more than 1.5 miles of Flatbush, Brooklyn.

As everywhere in NY, dumping garbage in street corners is a huge problem. But forcing BIDs to spend our own funds to pick up bags of public trash off the street - part of a service that the City has been providing - is not something that a BID should be responsible for. As our title says "Business Improvement District," not "maintenance". I believe that our role is to help residents and small businesses in our community so that their needs are met and the neighborhood can flourish.

We appreciate the hard work that the Dept. of Sanitation (DSNY) does every day toward keeping our City clean and we are glad to supplement that effort. Several years ago, we were part of DSNY's Clean Curbs pilot program under which the City paid for three containers which our three-person supplemental crew fills every day with bags of public trash that we gather from the corner baskets.

We already spend \$255,000 per year on supplemental sanitation (and this is 42% of our annual assessment budget) and an estimated 30% of staff time is dedicated to addressing sanitation issues and collaborating with sanitation officials, our property and business members, and the community for a cleaner neighborhood. The rest of our efforts go into creating free community events, promotion and marketing, advising small businesses, and safety and quality of life programs. Our annual events are expected and enjoyed by hundreds of residents and visitors to our district.

If DSNY were to implement this rule, our budget will not be able to sustain the expenses. We would be forced to drop some community events, services, and outreach.. It would be damaging to the quality of life in our neighborhood. When I opened my childcare business in 2005, within a month of opening, a DSNY representative came and informed me that I am required to have a trash pickup service and I would need to place their sticker on my window or we will be ticketed. Within a few days, I obtained one and we never had a problem with our garbage ever since. What happened to this diligent enforcement that the DSNY does to all small businesses opening in our district? I believe it would be very helpful.

Penalizing BIDs and similar groups who are already dedicating money and time to do theCity's job of keeping our streets clean is unfair and ignores the negative impact that this would have on our communities. We urge DSNY to put this proposed rule aside and to instead work with each of us as partners to find a solution that is feasible for each BID. This way, we can be assured of a sustainable and effective partnership in addressing this problem.

Thank you for reading my testimony. If you have any questions, I can be reached at Director@honeydewdrop.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fabiola Santos-Gaerlan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Fabiola Santos-Gaerlan

Executive Director

Statement on DSNY Text Amendment: No Entity Engaging in Cleaning Services Shall be Permitted to Place Bags of Refuse or Recycling out for Collection

The Atlantic Avenue Business Improvement District (BID) represents over 300 businesses along Atlantic Avenue and side streets in the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Brooklyn Heights, Cobble Hill, Boerum Hill, and Downtown Brooklyn. We urge the committee not to adopt this text amendment, as it puts the function of all BIDs in peril.

Business Improvement Districts are independent non-profits that report to a board of directors. The Atlantic Avenue BID has an annual budget of \$390,000, a third of which goes to a sanitation contractor who provides services in supplement to DSNY. Our contractor does the work the DSNY cannot do because of the agency's limited capacity and funding. If we were to use our budget to comply with this text amendment, we would have to cut from all of our other services. This would mean no lights during the holidays, no Open Street programs, and little support for our small businesses, all so that our trash bags filled with the public's trash will not be subjected to fines. As a result, our organization may need to stop sanitation services altogether, falling out of line with our mission, and causing trash to take over our corridor. Our organization simply does not have the funds to execute and maintain this compliance.

In addition to the strain on the BID's capacity, this mandate would be logistically impossible for our organization. The proposed rules do not specify how to containerize the trash, and which bins we are supposed to use. In addition, siting these bins would cause major issues. Not only do we not have the funds to purchase bins for the corridor, but the bins we do have are constantly being stolen, and need to be replaced often. Even if the fining penalty were eliminated, the burden of compliance would weigh too heavily on our organization.

BIDs have always been strong partners of the city, and have helped make New York a desirable place to live, work, and shop. To penalize BIDs for doing the work that DSNY cannot do is a betrayal of the fruitful relationship between BIDs and the city of New York. If the goal of this amendment is to curb rat populations on our city streets, let's work together to accomplish it, like designating set-out times and using the new residential containers.



ERIK BOTTCHER
COUNCIL MEMBER

THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
224 WEST 30TH STREET, #1206
NEW YORK, NY 10001

TELEPHONE
(212) 564-7757

January 27, 2025

Acting Commissioner Javier Lojan
New York City Sanitation Department
59 Maiden Lane, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Dear Acting Commissioner Lojan,

I am writing in support of the concerns raised by Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in response to the Department of Sanitation's (DSNY) proposed rule that would prohibit the placement of bagged public trash on the sidewalk next to corner litter baskets. The points raised in the BID's letter resonate strongly with my own concerns, and I believe it is important to carefully reconsider the proposed rule to avoid unintended consequences that could negatively impact the cleanliness and livability of our neighborhoods.

The proposed rule raises significant operational challenges. BIDs play a critical role in maintaining our streets by emptying corner litter baskets throughout the day to prevent overflow. Under the current system, BIDs place the collected trash bags next to the litter baskets for DSNY to pick up during their routine collection. As the BIDs have highlighted, managing a large number of movable receptacles across an entire district with limited staff is not a practical or sustainable solution. This approach could lead to logistical difficulties, such as cluttered sidewalks, and increase the risk of bins being stolen or damaged.

Moreover, the financial burden of complying with this proposed rule is untenable for many organizations that already struggle to maintain services within their limited budgets. The costs associated with installing and maintaining rigid receptacles—ranging from \$5,000 for each Citibin, to anti-graffiti wraps, to additional labor costs—are simply not feasible for most BIDs. The significant

financial strain these requirements would impose threatens to divert resources from other crucial neighborhood services, ultimately making it harder for organizations to address the needs of their communities effectively.

I am also hearing concerns from volunteer community cleanup groups who fear that the new mandate will discourage them from participating in clean-up efforts. These groups play a vital role in keeping our neighborhoods clean, and we should not do anything that discourages their participation.

These stakeholders have already demonstrated their willingness to collaborate and engage in constructive dialogue on this issue. I believe we must prioritize partnership and collaboration over punitive measures. I strongly encourage DSNY to revisit this proposal and consider alternative solutions that include input from all relevant stakeholders, ensuring that we work together to address the issues at hand while supporting the vital work BIDs and other neighborhood groups are doing to maintain and improve our communities.

I look forward to continuing to work together toward a solution that prioritizes the long-term well-being of our city and its residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik Bottcher", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Erik Bottcher
Council Member
3rd Council District, Manhattan



February 6, 2025

Re: DSNY Proposed Rule Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services

Dear Acting Commissioner Lojan,

The Belmont Business Improvement District (BID) represents a robust business and cultural hub that has uniquely defined our community for over a century. The Bronx's Little Italy has a longstanding iconic image as a culinary center, and as such, the cleanliness of our streets and sidewalks is paramount. We are, however, in opposition to BIDs and similar entities no longer being able to place the public's refuse "within the vicinity of any public litter basket" and instead in "rigid receptacles with tight-fitting lids" as described in Section 16-120(e)(2) of the New York City Administrative Code. While we understand the City's goal to get trash bags off the street, this blanket no-bags rule would be a tremendous operational challenge and financial burden for the Belmont BID. Further, it's outrageous and offensive that The New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) plans to fine BIDs for the work we do to help keep the city clean.

BIDs across the city have for half a century been supplementing and enhancing the services that are provided by DSNY. The litter our sanitation teams are sweeping and bagging and placing on the sidewalk at corner baskets is the public's garbage. If the city wants to mandate containerization by BIDs, DSNY with 10,000 employees, a \$2.9 billion budget, and ample resources should implement the plan. In Belmont, there are a myriad of complexities surrounding containerization implementation.

Siting specifications are critical, and we don't believe enough has been done by DSNY to share what the guidelines are and what types of receptacles can be used. Is sidewalk placement an option? Demand for the curb increases by the day - how will outdoor dining, bus lanes, bike lanes, and parking compete with containers? Our commercial district is located within a transportation desert, and as such, the impact of containerization on parking is one of our biggest concerns. 83% of the upwards of five million people a year who come to Little Italy in the Bronx from not just the metropolitan region, but from around the world, drive here, making parking accessibility essential to our ability to conduct business. Together with our nearby cultural, educational, and health care institutions, we contribute to and have created a thriving ecosystem. Our local small businesses bring tax dollars to the city from its poorest borough by drawing millions of local, regional, and international visitors to the area annually. We cannot lose parking spaces, our most precious resource, to containers, and threaten the ecosystem we have helped build for over a century.

More so, moveable wheelie bins aren't a realistic replacement as they would contribute to sidewalk clutter and present operational challenges for our small sanitation team. Setting out and collecting dozens of bins each shift would take away from the time the team is meant to be cleaning our sidewalks and streets. This would result in less of our district being maintained daily which, would then leave that to DSNY. Further, we don't believe any of our members would tolerate trash containers in front of their properties or businesses; it does not provide the warm hospitable feeling we strive to achieve, especially

as we have heard from some of our BID colleagues that DSNY has been inconsistent with their pick-ups, resulting in trash bags piled next to containers. Additionally, it is not feasible for our small BID to transport the public's garbage to a sanitation garage. We do not own any BID vehicles and could not afford costly carting services – or even have the capacity or space to collect and store bags for a collection.

Our organization would have to significantly cut other fundamental services and programming to purchase what could easily be paid for via the City's \$100 billion capital budget. A popular national brand charges \$3,000 for one large trash enclosure, and \$544 for each installation and trash can. The BID estimates it would need at least 12 trash enclosures, totaling \$42,528 (nearly 10% of our annual assessment). This figure does not even include the costs of regular maintenance, repairs, and insurance. In our judgement, our funding is needed much more elsewhere.

We do not want to stop offering our voluntary, supplemental sanitation services; it would be a great disservice to our members, stakeholders, visitors, and our great city, however we may have to because our budget could not sustain the purchase of containers and associated costs of maintenance, repairs, and insurance.

Furthermore, how will liability of the containers be handled? Who owns the liability if a pedestrian trips on a container, if a driver runs their vehicle into one, if a homeless individual freezes to death sleeping in one, or if a DSNY or BID sanitation worker hurts their back getting bags into or out of the container? It is unacceptable to place this financial responsibility on BIDs and other entities.

Thus far, we have received no clear specific details in writing from DSNY on how the initiative would operationally work, and what financial resources are available. Up until the end of last year, DSNY was not a good cooperative partner and kept BIDs in the dark about their containerization methods and goals. Our BID recently had new DSNY trash receptacles placed on sidewalk corners. DSNY could have, with some forethought, attached a container on each to implement this initiative. More so, DSNY recently shared they are piloting stationary on-street containers and exploring whether similar containers may become available for BID purchase in the future. Why should we invest tens of thousands of dollars in containers now - there is no guarantee that what is currently available in the open market will continue to be serviced. And as has been recently reported, rats easily gnaw through what were heralded as rat-proof bins by the City. What is DSNY's response to this? We suggest you first research, test and select products that are truly rat-proof if you are serious about containerization.

There has been no holistic approach or forward thinking to containerization. The City is not ready for this implementation; we must find another way to accomplish this goal. Why not work with BIDs on when we set out trash bags so it could be coordinated with a DSNY pickup resulting in bags not being on the sidewalk for a long period of time? Will DSNY commit to a pickup schedule and be held accountable to one?

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. We share your goals of clean streets, however, the issue is too complex and it is too soon to progress with. Asking a small BID to commit more than 10% of its budget to purchasing containers plus the cost of maintaining, repairing, replacing them and having all the liability they may create is preposterous. DSNY's core mission is to pick up garbage and clean streets. That is not the core mission of the BIDs across this city - we do it as a supplemental service. DSNY trying to turn their job into ours in the way they are doing it is simply unreasonable.

Until there is a true partnership, written agreements on pickup schedule, allocated funding, and indemnification for entities who utilize receptacles from the City, the Belmont BID remains opposed to containerization as part of Section 16-120(e)(2).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Madonia", is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Peter Madonia
Chairman
Belmont Business Improvement District

From: [QNS Trash](#)
To: [NYC Rules \(DSNY\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rule change for community cleanups
Date: Wednesday, January 1, 2025 4:42:41 PM

You don't often get email from qnstrash@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION! EXTERNAL SENDER. Never click on links or open attachments if sender is unknown, and never provide user ID or password. If **suspicious**, report this email by hitting the **Phish Alert Button**. If the button is unavailable or you are on a mobile device, forward as an attachment to phish@oti.nyc.gov.

Penalizing/fining community groups for leaving litter from cleanups outside of public waste bins is detrimental to our communities. I understand this requirement of business owners cleaning their property and property outside their business, since they have access to their own trash bins/dumpsters and should be utilizing them. However, volunteers and volunteer organizations do not have this resource available to them.

It's the lack of street and sidewalk cleaning plus budget cuts by the city of New York that have caused community cleaning groups to emerge since the pandemic. Often, public waste bins are overflowing and the only course of action after a cleanup is to place bags neatly beside them to be picked up. What is the solution here? Please do not punish those who are trying to beautiful our neighborhoods by attaching fines to their good work. Even The Sanitation Foundation, DSNY's own nonprofit, suggests leaving community cleanup refuse next to public trash cans.

DSNY is available to schedule a pickup for large collections at certain times/streets. But oftentimes smaller cleanups do not require a dedicated pickup crew/garbage truck sent for just a few shopping bags of trash. We need a better solution here. Can we call a number to let dsny know we are leaving smaller quantities next to Public cans? Can DSNY increase pickups for overflowing public waste bins so we can fit street litter into cans? We need something better than dining people who are picking up the slack.



RULE TITLE: Amendment of Rules Relating to Placement of Refuse and Recycling for Collection

REFERENCE NUMBER: 2024 RG 108

RULEMAKING AGENCY: Department of Sanitation

February 10, 2025

**TESTIMONY BY ROB BYRNES
PRESIDENT, EAST MIDTOWN PARTNERSHIP**

Thank you for this opportunity to address the New York City Department of Sanitation's proposed rules relating to banning the placement of trash and recycling bags on the street corner for collection.

Let me begin by saying that the East Midtown Partnership was formed more than twenty years ago specifically to meet the cleanliness needs of our community. That is a responsibility we take very seriously, and a job we do very well. All other aspects of our programming were and remain secondary to the cleanliness of our community.

Since 2002, we have removed more than three million bags of trash and recycling from the 132 block-faces we clean daily. To accomplish this, we have placed 250 trash and paper recycling receptacles on our street corners, which are serviced several times each day by dozens of workers. It is a large operation, but it has paid off with an environment that is clean and well-maintained.

With that said, we object to the New York City Department of Sanitation's proposed rule that would require us to stop leaving full trash bags next to our receptacles until we can

collect them and haul them away to a DSNY garage, and instead containerize those bags, no later than August 1 of this year for the following reasons:

1. **So-called “BID Trash” is, in fact, public trash:** Unlike a residential or commercial building, or an individual business, the trash we sweep up, bag, and dispose of is not generated by a self-contained entity. We are collecting litter and other debris from **the public**. In the case of the East Midtown Partnership, that means we are cleaning up after people throughout 132 block-faces of Midtown Manhattan, not an individual building or storefront. It is a service the City of New York does not provide to its taxpayers, and it is inherently unfair to penalize us for providing that service.
2. **The timeline is unrealistic:** DSNY has given the City’s BIDs and other private organizations a severely accelerated timeline to implement a Waste Containerization Program. We have three major concerns with that timeline.
 - a. **There is no reason that BIDs should only have seven months to react.** Despite the best efforts of, and repeated inquiries from, the NYC BID Association, and despite months in which DSNY vaguely floated the concept of BID Waste Containerization, the Department did not issue any written proposed guidelines until December 30, 2024. Seven months and one day is hardly enough time for an organization to implement a major change in service. With the imminent deadline, the absolute best the City can hope for from the minority of business districts with the workforce and funding to react quickly is a rushed roll-out of unimaginative, cookie-cutter designs which will do nothing to enhance our streetscapes... and in those business districts without that workforce and funding, we can look forward to dirtier streets and sidewalks.
 - b. **Budgetary considerations might doom the project.** Even in best case scenarios, districtwide waste containerization will be an expensive undertaking. A majority of BIDs will not have the financial resources to implement the program, meaning they will have to severely limit or end their street cleaning programs. We fail to see how this will result in a cleaner City of New York. In addition, annual BID budgets are generally approved in the spring and take effect on July 1. By mandating an expensive midyear program, DSNY is putting the BID community in the position of having to find tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars that were never allocated in their

current-year budgets.

- c. **BIDs have many stakeholders.** We are not private companies. Every BID President/Executive Director answers to a volunteer Board of Directors and individual stakeholders and must also receive approval for components of a containerization plan from various City agencies. I cannot make unilateral decisions on the design and placement of containers, and I cannot unilaterally appropriate hundreds of thousands of dollars for the purchase of units and new, related, personnel expenses. These processes take discussion, research, and time... time, again, that we have not been given.

Now that I have outlined the problems and our concerns, I should add that the goals of DSNY are laudable, and with a few changes, we can work together to implement a waste containerization program the city can be proud of. I request that DSNY seriously consider the following amendments to its proposed rule:

1. **Implementation Date:** By moving the implementation date from August 1, 2025 to August 1, 2026, the following can be accomplished:
 - a. **BIDs can budget for the program.** When planning FY 2026 budgets, the City's BIDs will be able to add funding necessary for district waste containerization.
 - b. **BIDs can plan.** Extra time will allow BIDs to more effectively plan their Waste Containerization Programs, including the design of units that will best work in their communities and where those units can best be sited. It will also allow BIDs to roll out pilot programs in advance of full implementation, so they can work out problems and address community concerns.
 - c. **It would take the pressure off DSNY, DOT, and other City personnel.** Right now, a small number of Department personnel are tasked with working with the City's 76 BIDs (not to mention countless community groups and workforce development organizations like ACE and The Doe Fund). An extra year built into the timeline would give them the time they need to guide the

process, rather than rush through it as quickly as possible.

2. **Provide funding for the program.** Frankly, as organizations that clean up the ***public's*** trash and litter, an argument can be made that the City should bear the full cost of implementing a waste containerization program for *all* BIDs. At a *minimum*, the City should provide funding for small BIDs and other smaller organizations which might otherwise have to end their sanitation programs.

When it comes to a BID Waste Containerization Program, we can do it quickly and in a slipshod manner, or we can do this thoughtfully and properly. I urge you to consider amending these proposed rules so that we can have a program that works for everyone and proves to the nation that New York City continues to lead the way in innovative public programming.

February 10, 2025

**TESTIMONY TO NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL REGARDING DSNY PROPOSED
RULES REGARDING SUPPLEMENTAL CLEANING SERVICES**

I am Mark Caserta, Vice President of Small Business Support at the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. I am providing comments on the Department of Sanitation's proposed containerization rules for organizations that provide supplemental cleaning services.

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce supports the Department of Sanitation's goal of eliminating garbage bags on street corners and, as a result, reducing the number of rats on our city streets. However, we agree with the New York City BID Association's comments on the proposed rules, especially:

Lack of funding: Small and medium business improvement districts (the vast majority of Brooklyn's BIDs) were created through a city process through which a special assessment is collected by the City of New York and provided to the BIDs for services such as supplemental cleaning. In order to provide the best services possible at the lowest costs to landlords and merchants, BID budgets are tightly constructed and managed, without much wiggle room for additional expenses. The extra cost of installing secure, closed bins on public street corners on behalf of the City of New York or carting waste to Sanitation facilities without providing additional public funds is nothing more than an unfunded mandate. While BIDs do have the ability to raise assessments in order to account for additional costs, this process can be long and arduous and is not guaranteed. It requires sign-off from the City Council and the Mayor and could take more than a year, if successful.

Timing: Even if the proposed rules pass, as is, most small to medium BIDs would be unable to come up with the funds to comply with the rules by the deadline of August 1st. As noted, an assessment increase can take one year or more and is a legal process that is mandated by the City of New York. The only choice that our Brooklyn BIDs would have is to reduce or eliminate their services, which is not something that the City of New York should have as its ultimate goal. Again, BIDs were created through a City process and are encouraged. Why is another City agency creating a policy that could damage them? This make no sense.

We respectfully urge the Department of Sanitation to work with our BIDs to find funding and to be flexible in timing in order to preserve critical BID services and keep our streets safe and clean

Thank you.



February 10, 2025

To: NYC Department of Sanitation Acting Commissioner Javier Lojan

Dear Acting Commissioner Lojan,

On behalf of the 161st Street Business Improvement District (BID), I am writing to formally request greater consideration from the Department of Sanitation regarding Section 16-120(e)(2) of the New York City Administrative Code, known as containerization. Our district, serving the commercial corridor of Yankee Stadium, is fortunate to own a city-sanctioned container for daily operations through Citibin.

As a small BID in the Southwest Bronx with a limited budget, we have faced fewer challenges than others regarding the proposed changes. However, we believe adjustments would benefit both the community and the Department's overall efficiency. While we support the policy's intent, we have three key concerns regarding its implementation:

1. **Placement challenges** for containers across the city.
2. **Financial burden** on small BIDs to procure containers.
3. **Responsibility for illegal dumping** and associated fines.

BID's provide supplemental sanitation services, and fines for noncompliance contradict our contractual relationship with the City. If this policy moves forward, we urge the Department to:

- Streamline container siting across all BID's.
- Accurately assess the costs of implementation for each BID.
- Clarify fines and illegal dumping responsibilities to prevent undue burdens on organizations working to keep the city clean.

These recommendations align with the Department's commitment to a cleaner, more sustainable city. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate on practical solutions that balance efficiency with community needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to working together to enhance sanitation services in our district and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration,

Trey Jenkins & Michael Darryl Torres
Executive Director, Commercial Revitalization Program Manager
161st Street Business Improvement District



My name is Elizabeth Lovejoy, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Bay Ridge 5th Avenue Business Improvement District (BID) in Brooklyn. Our BID operates with an annual assessment of \$534,000 and employs two full-time staff members. A significant portion of our budget—43%—is dedicated to supplemental sanitation services, ensuring that our commercial corridor remains clean and inviting for businesses, residents, and visitors. Our dedicated sanitation team of three works tirelessly daily to maintain a high standard of cleanliness.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the BID operates on a break-even budget, often relying on additional funding sources such as grants to enhance programming and offset operational costs. In 2022, we secured a nearly \$20,000 grant from the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) for waste management initiatives, which enabled us to acquire containers. We do not oppose containerization—in fact, we welcome it. However, to continue containerization efforts, additional funding is necessary.

DSNY has repeatedly referred to waste left for pickup in business districts as “BID Bags.” We strongly disagree. Much of this refuse results from improper dumping and should be classified as public trash. BIDs do not create the waste—we manage it, ensuring that sidewalks and curbs remain clean rather than littered with trash.

BIDs play a vital role in supporting DSNY by funding and managing supplemental sanitation services. Now, it's time for DSNY to reciprocate by implementing a more equitable and sustainable waste management solution—one that acknowledges the unique needs and challenges of diverse commercial districts.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Elizabeth Lovejoy
Executive Director
Bay Ridge 5th Avenue Business Improvement District

DSNY Hearing re: rule making
Monday, February 10, 2025
125 Worth Street, Room 710
10:00 a.m.

Good morning. I am Barbara Blair, president of the Garment District Alliance, a Business Improvement District in midtown Manhattan. Reaffirming my testimony to the City Council committee on sanitation in November, I am responding to the new DSNY rules regarding containerization rules that will negatively impact BIDs and undermine our collaborative relationship with DSNY.

The Garment District supports the City's efforts to reduce the unsightly and unsanitary garbage on our sidewalks and rat mitigation with containerization. However, the new rules proposed by DSNY are prejudicial in that they unfairly target BID districts with a burdensome cost to do the city's work while non-BID areas are unaffected. This ploy smacks of opportunism, government interference and lack of respect for the intended purpose of the public/private collaboration.

The Garment District is a non-profit that voluntarily provides *supplemental* neighborhood sanitation services to the city's existing municipal DSNY service. It is clearly stated in our contract with the city that the city cannot reduce service in a BID district unless that service is also being reduced citywide. In other words, a BID should not be penalized for assisting the city with their municipal obligation to clean the streets and remove publicly generated waste from the public realm.

It is an affront to require the Garment District businesses and property owners to privately pay for standard NYC containers that are otherwise provided by DSNY throughout the rest of the city. A BID may opt, at its own cost, to provide non-standard waste receptacles but we cannot pay for City property or face penalties for not providing them.

Similarly, the Garment District should not be forced to undertake responsibility for mapping locations of the proposed, shared containers. These are city streets and DSNY should not slough off their responsibility to manage them, including the siting of waste containers.

The Garment District strenuously objects to the proposal that we would face fines for leaving bags of garbage on street corners for DSNY collection. The contents of the bags that GDA places on corners are publicly generated street litter that GDA sweeps up, at the discretion of our board, to improve the neighborhood. In meetings with DSNY they have tried to assure us that they do not intend to impose fines. If that is the case, then please remove that potential sanction from the rules.

Like all BIDs, the Garment District Alliance wants clean streets. We currently spend \$5,500,000 per year on sanitation operations, supplying the labor, equipment and bags to have NYC public waste removed from NYC waste receptacles and carted away. The neighborhood benefits, but so does the city and the tens of thousands of commuters and tourists who are passing through daily. This service is provided at the discretion of our board of directors, which understands and values the importance of cleanliness above and beyond the ever-declining standards and operations of DSNY. To turn this voluntary contribution towards making a better city into a punishable requirement is unconscionable, a contractual violation and possibly illegal.

We implore you to abandon these rules and start anew by working with the BIDs as partners.



2/10/2025

Re:

RULE TITLE: Amendment of Rules Relating to Placement of Refuse and Recycling for Collection

REFERENCE NUMBER: 2024 RG 108

RULEMAKING AGENCY: Department of Sanitation

Public Testimony by David Estrada, Executive Director, Sunset Park Business Improvement District

Good morning, my name is David Estrada, and I am the Executive Director of the Sunset Park Business Improvement District. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the proposed new DSNY rule.

In short, we believe this rule is unnecessary and unlikely to contribute effectively to our shared goals of rat mitigation and public trash containerization. Our organization urges DSNY to pause this rule—and any similar initiatives—until there has been comprehensive planning and support for a smooth transition to citywide containerization. As written, the proposed rule is vague, overbroad, and, in some places, oddly specific, which makes it incompatible with the real work that BIDs and community groups are doing to keep our neighborhoods clean.

Additionally, this rule contradicts DSNY's own claims that BIDs are "trusted partners." Instead, it risks becoming a punitive measure that undermines our longstanding, collaborative relationship with the city. Furthermore, the issue of illegal dumping and improper use of corner baskets is already addressed by existing DSNY laws and regulations.

The suggestion that this rule is merely a "clarification" is misleading, to say the least.

Since 1995, our small, independent, locally-run nonprofit has proudly served Brooklyn's Fifth Avenue, from 38th to 64th Streets. Our district covers 1.3 miles, a dense, mixed-use commercial corridor with 26 blocks, 52 block faces, 400 buildings, and over 600 businesses. We also maintain 96 designated DSNY corner waste basket locations.

While our community is bustling, it is also an underserved, lower-income, immigrant neighborhood, home to small "mom-and-pop" businesses with residential units above. It's crucial to understand the scale of our operations in a district that is both large and high-need. Our annual assessment totals \$300,000, with one-third allocated to sanitation and related services, such as tree pit care, graffiti

removal, and volunteer cleanups. However, the majority of our budget supports a supplemental sanitation worker who works seven days a week. This worker collects trash blown by the wind, overflowing from baskets, and discarded in tree pits. We collect about 25,000 bags of trash annually.

Despite our modest size—we have only two employees—we play a central role in the community as a social service and economic development anchor. We are part of the solution, and we want to continue supporting DSNY. That's why we're here today.

We value our local DSNY sanitation garage (BK07) and consider the Superintendent and Cleaning Supervisors to be partners in this effort. We acknowledge that containerization is the ideal solution, and we are committed to collaborating with urgency to achieve it. However, replacing entrenched practices with rules that penalize partners will not lead to success.

Consider this: if our BID didn't sweep, bag, and deposit trash at corner baskets, that waste would remain on the sidewalks, clogging gutters and overflowing from baskets. BIDs don't create waste—we make DSNY's job easier by managing the daily volume of public trash that DSNY alone cannot handle.

About a year ago, DSNY ordered BIDs to take on the responsibility of containerizing public trash at our own expense. The demands were not only impractical, but they also lacked a clear plan, support, or funding. While there has been some progress in dialogue, we are still far from a true partnership on containerization.

For 30 years, we've been eager to help, but we need a clear path forward. While we support containerization—especially for rat mitigation—we recognize that implementing it quickly within our district presents significant challenges.

If DSNY is concerned about bags accumulating at corner baskets, why not simply increase the frequency of service? Too often, we find baskets already overflowing, which means much of the trash we consolidate into bags comes from baskets that have been neglected too long. If DSNY is struggling to keep up with street trash, how can we expect them to suddenly manage corner baskets and bins more effectively?

Our board of directors will be forced to reevaluate our sanitation services in light of this new rule. Should DSNY begin issuing tickets in response to our efforts to maintain cleanliness, we will be forced to suspend our corner basket service.

It's also worth noting that about a third of our 96 corner waste baskets are missing at any given time. This has been a long-standing issue. While we respect our local DSNY garage and workers, the agency has not done enough to maintain the fixtures that already exist on our streets, yet now they want us to add more.

We also urge you to consider that residential overcrowding, street vendors, construction crews, and storefronts that avoid commercial waste hauling contracts contribute to significant improper dumping—primarily in bags, and typically at corners whether or not a basket is present. This waste is outside our BIDs control and clearly not within DSNY's ability to stop.

If DSNY is serious about containerization, they must fund and establish a program that BIDs can reasonably participate in. This funding must cover the startup costs, ongoing maintenance, labor, permits, and insurance. DSNY must actively partner with our community stakeholders, not just offload siting, permitting, and public relations to BIDs.

Let's work together to create a concrete plan with clear logistical support, reliable funding, and service-level agreements that involve both BIDs and DSNY. Let's plan for the future with realistic goals and a step-by-step approach, knowing that we all want a cleaner, safer neighborhood.

The bottom line is this: Business Improvement Districts want to help. We are ready to collaborate and take action, but we need DSNY to bring the necessary resources and cooperation to make sustainable success a reality.

To that end, we recommend:

- Deferring any new rule until proper planning and funding are in place.
- Addressing this issue after the Commercial Waste Zones are fully established.
- Clarifying DSNY enforcement practices for mixed-use small retail and residential zones, as current enforcement times and the distinction between household and commercial trash are problematic.
- Acknowledging that containerization cannot be imposed overnight and that in some areas a reasonable multi-year timeline is essential.
- Developing reasonable standards for the number and placement of bins, and streamlining the DSNY/DOT permitting process.
- Providing provisions for DSNY to support BIDs in maintaining and periodically replacing bins.
- Issuing an RFP for group purchasing of bins at discounted rates for BIDs.
- Clarifying the need for insurance on street fixtures and whether bins are considered capital or programming expenses.
- Collaborating with large sanitation service providers like ACE, StreetsPlus, and Block by Block, whose field knowledge is invaluable.
- Requiring DSNY to provide written terms of engagement for BIDs serving commercial zones where multiple entities are involved in waste management.
- Setting a realistic, achievable goal for transitioning to containerization that aligns with BID funding, budget cycles, and governance processes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David Estrada

Executive Director



230 Fifth Avenue
Suite 1511
New York, NY 10001

T 212.741.2323
F 212.741.2324
FlatironNoMad.nyc

**DSNY Rules Hearing
Flatiron NoMad Partnership Testimony
Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services
February 10, 2025**

Good morning. My name is James Mettham, and I am testifying today on behalf of the Flatiron NoMad Partnership Business Improvement District (BID), where I serve as President. For 19 years, this BID has been a trusted partner to NYC and DSNY, providing consistent and reliable supplemental sanitation services to the Flatiron and NoMad neighborhoods of Midtown South, Manhattan. These services include bagging and re-lining of overflowing corner basket trash cans, and our more recent collaborative efforts with DSNY to containerize district trash and add additional BID-contracted hauling to DSNY dumpsites/garages. We applaud and support the City's "trash revolution" and consider our BID a critical partner in "getting bags off the street." With that said, we do not agree with the DSNY rule as written today and ask that DSNY continue to work with BIDs, merchant associations, community-based organizations (CBOs), and elected officials in good faith to plan and implement contextual trash management measures that achieve our shared goals without subjecting us partners to punitive measures and inflexible operational standards. Our BID is concerned that the rule as written will only discourage BIDs and CBOs from prioritizing supplemental cleaning services, rat mitigation, garbage containerization, and a grassroots role in quality-of-life leadership across our commercial districts and neighborhoods.

I look forward to continuing our organization's great relationship with the City and DSNY to achieve clean and bag-free streets and sidewalks.



From: James Martin <jmartin@acenewyork.org>

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 4:06 PM

To: Lojan, Javier (DSNY) <jlojan@dsny.nyc.gov>

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: [EXTERNAL] ACE New York / Containerization Policy

CAUTION! EXTERNAL SENDER. Never click on links or open attachments if sender is unknown, and never provide user ID or password. If **suspicious**, report this email by hitting the **Phish Alert Button**. If the button is unavailable or you are on a mobile device, forward as an attachment to phish@oti.nyc.gov.

Good afternoon Acting Commissioner Lojan,

I am writing to alert you to the fact that the proposed DSNY rule of "containerization" of street trash threatens to undermine the successful partnership we have built with the City Council and the DSNY.

This proposed rule takes aim at our longstanding, collaborative efforts to bolster sidewalk cleanliness via the City Council's CleanUp Initiative. By threatening to fine ACE, BIDs and other city partners for bagging public trash and leaving it by DSNY cans, the agency is imposing tremendous costs and operational challenges on small organizations.

Please see attached for an overview of how DSNY's proposed containerization policy will impact ACE. The extraordinary financial burden and additional responsibilities will severely impede our ability to do the supplemental sanitation work that we have long done with Council offices across the city. Make no mistake, this policy is an existential threat to our organization, the men and women we serve, and will result in more trash on the streets of New York City.

ACE is truly grateful for our long-standing partnership with the DSNY and the City Council. We share great pride in the work we have done together to beautify and improve neighborhoods throughout the city. Please do not allow this policy to end our good work.

Regards,

James Martin | *Executive Director* | **ACE**

30-30 Northern Boulevard, Suite B100

Long Island City, NY 11101

t: 212.274.0550 x61 f: 212.274.0886

Jmartin@ACENewYork.org

February 10, 2025



Hudson Square
Business Improvement
District

Board Members

Jeffrey Sussman, Chair
Edward J. Minskoff Equities Inc.

Jackie Renton, Treasurer
Atlas Capital Group

Steve Marvin, Secretary
Olmstead Properties

Aldrin Bonilla
The Fund for the City of NY

Valerie De La Rosa
Community Board 2

Neha Desai
Hines

Amanda Gluck
Stellar Management

Matthew Graziano
Resident (Owner)

Brett Greenberg
Jack Resnick & Sons

Armando Gutierrez
New York Public Radio

Christopher Lee
Port Authority of NY & NJ

Shih Hua Liong
Google

Kelsey Louie
The Door

John Maltz
Greiner-Maltz

Kevin McGhee
New York Genome Center

Phil Mouquinho
549 Greenwich St.

Lindsay Parizi
Edelman

Ivo Philbert
Jackie Robinson Museum &
Foundation

Sujohn Sarkar
Trinity Real Estate

David Scatterday
Residential Tenant

Rhonda Singer
GFP Real Estate

Cass Smith
Cass Calder Smith Architecture +
Interiors

Adam Steckler
Storage Mart

Elected Officials
Mayor Eric Adams
Comptroller Brad Lander
Borough President Mark D. Levine
Council Member Erik Bottcher

Samara Karasyk
President & CEO

Public Rules Hearing: Section 16-120(e)(2)

DSNY Proposed Rule Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services

I am Corey Kunz, Senior Vice President of Operations and Administration for the Hudson Square Business Improvement District (HSBID). Since 2009, HSBID has overseen the transformation of Manhattan's former Printing District into a thriving creative hub. The area we manage is generally bounded by Clarkson Street in the north, 6th Avenue in the east, Canal Street in the south, and West Street in the west. I am here today to comment on the new rule Section 16-120(e)(2) of the NYC Administrative Code which imposes civil penalties on entities violating the prohibition of placing any amount of refuse out in bags for Department of Sanitation (DSNY) collection within the vicinity of any public litter basket.

While we understand and support the public policy to "get bags off the street" and have actively participated in the Clean Curbs program to reduce bags in our district, we are concerned with the financial and operational burdens this rule will put on Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). BIDs are independent nonprofit organizations that report to a Board of Directors. Each individual BID's services and budgets are written into our legislatively approved District Plan that takes multiple years to alter.

In the case of HSBID, our District Plan does not include supplemental sanitation in its list of core services provided to the community. We implemented supplemental sanitation services in key neighborhood corridors during the COVID-19 pandemic to keep our district attractive and welcoming as we were trying to lure office workers and visitors back to the neighborhood. This program has continued under the explicit direction of our Board of Directors and could be halted at their discretion.

We estimate that the cost of compliance with this rule to be over \$150,000 in start-up costs alone with significant annual operational costs not anticipated in our 10-year budget projection. The financial penalties for violation (\$400 after the 3rd offense in one year) are a significant cost and burden for a nonprofit to absorb. In addition, it is wholly inappropriate to issue fines to City partners that provide supplemental services and have an existing contract with the City.

The timing of this requirement is particularly concerning as our central business district is finally recovering from the economic decline caused by COVID-19. Pedestrian traffic is currently increasing as we welcome new major office tenants to the district. With more foot traffic also comes more public garbage.

While we support and appreciate the important goal of containerization, it is unfair to burden HSBID with the full cost and penalty of containerizing public trash in our commercial district. As always, we are ready to help move the City towards the goals of containerization, but we must convey our deep concern with this rule.



MONICA BLUM
PRESIDENT

1881 Broadway, Suite 2R
New York, NY 10023
T 212.581.3774 F 212.581.3563
mblum@lincolnsquarebid.org
www.lincolnsquarebid.org

February 10, 2025

Testimony of Monica Blum, President of the Lincoln Square Business Improvement District, to the New York City Department of Sanitation regarding the proposed new section, 1-12, in Section 1, Chapter 1 of Title 16 in the Rules of the City of New York pertaining to the “Improper Placement of Refuse and Recycling for Department Collection”.

My name is Monica Blum and I am founding president of the Lincoln Square Business Improvement District which has an almost 30-year history of enthusiastically supporting every single DSNY initiative and partnering with DSNY. Almost 40% of our budget is dedicated to sanitation. While I appreciate DSNY’s effort to seek our feedback, I am dismayed and disheartened by the punitive nature of these rules. I can’t believe that DSNY is threatening to fine and punish business improvement districts and other partners for helping DSNY do its job.

As per our District Plan approved by the City Council, and our contract with SBS, we supplement City sanitation services across 84 block faces. The language is clear – we supplement what DSNY does. We don’t replace City services. Our neighborhood includes Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Shops at Columbus Circle and has a very large residential population and attracts a huge number of tourists. The fines and the rules are ill advised and make no sense. This is public trash that would otherwise be all over the place.

The former Sanitation Commissioner said that the goal was to bring BIDs in line with other businesses and residential buildings. **Herein lies a major flaw in the reasoning behind these proposed rules.** We are not retail businesses or residential buildings. **We are private non-profit organizations, and we are a critical public-private partnership that helps DSNY keep New York City clean.** These rules run counter to the reason business improvement districts were created in the first place and undermine our core missions.

In 2022, we were among the first to apply for DSNY’s Pilot program through the Clean Curbs initiative and installed two 5-module Citibin units with site approval from DOT. **At that time, DSNY reimbursed us for the cost of the two Citibins.** Our goal was, and remains, totally in sync with the City’s -- getting the piles of bags full of public trash off our corners and sidewalks. We were pleased with our first two Citibins; unfortunately, the program was suspended until last spring when we immediately applied to install additional Citibins. We now have a total of six 5-unit modules which DSNY services daily. We need two more but finding locations is difficult.

I respectfully request that DSNY rethink and rescind these punitive rules, and work with us to come up with a plan that recognizes that business improvement districts are trusted and necessary partners. If the rules are to be implemented, we are recommending that they codify a number of situations/conditions that should not be left to agency discretion as leaders will inevitably change:

1. Eliminate language that fines BIDs. We believe that it is inappropriate and counterproductive to fine business improvement districts for helping DSNY keep the City clean. This sounds like an idea that came from OMB's revenue side.
2. The rules are silent on **extenuating or exigent** circumstances and must include language that addresses missed pick-ups (holidays, parades, visiting dignitaries, snow, etc) and allow for the placement of bags in front of containers or cans under those circumstances.
3. The rules should apply to other government agencies (i.e. MTA) and film companies - which leave garbage bags everywhere. We have received complaints about piles of bagged trash at 60th Street & Central Park West (MTA and Transit police).
4. The rules must insure that DOT works with DSNY, BIDs and SBS to find suitable container locations and, where possible, relocate signage to permit placement of containers. The rules must also state that DOT and DSNY are responsible for the relocation of Citibins for expedited roadway resurfacing.
5. The rules should include a funding program that would help cover the costs of containerization for all BIDs, including medium sized BIDs, who wish to apply.

Our businesses and property owners and residents are pleased with the absence of bags on the sidewalks of Lincoln Square. We appreciate the support of Chief Lettera and Superintendent Quinn and his staff at Manhattan District 7. Currently, we have a system in place that addresses missed pick-ups that works for now, but who knows what will happen when new leaders take the helm as inevitably will happen.

We support DSNY's efforts and are doing our absolute best to comply with this new program. Our mission, and that of all business improvements districts, is to supplement City services, not to replace them. This rule imposes an unfunded mandate that punishes and penalizes business improvement districts for providing supplemental services that help DSNY keep the City clean. This is why BIDs were created. These proposed rules violate the spirit of collaboration and the foundation that supports our public-private partnerships.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony to the
Department of Sanitation on behalf of the
Meatpacking District Management Association

DSNY Rule Change for BID-Collected Public Waste

February 10, 2025

The Meatpacking District Management Association (MDMA) is the Business Improvement District (BID) charged with maintaining New York City's premier live, work, and play cultural district for 50,000+ daily visitors, workers, and residents on Manhattan's West Side. Central to our mission is managing public refuse, which our hard-working sanitation staff sweeps, bags, and sets out for DSNY. The team services over 100 waste receptacles, sweeps 92 block faces, and sets out between 150 and 400 bags of public trash for DSNY collection every day. As a result of this hard work, over 60% of public survey respondents cite cleanliness as a key positive feature of the Meatpacking District.

While the MDMA believes trash containerization is a positive step in New York's streetscape revolution, the rule as proposed shows an inadequate understanding of BID operations, lacks interagency coordination, and is a shortsighted approach to containerization that will negatively affect cleanliness across the City. It is troubling that DSNY proposed this rule without any engagement with BIDs, or input from other city agencies that will have intersecting jurisdiction with this program.

This rule change will undermine the City's efforts to containerize and punish the not-for-profit organizations that ensure our city's streets are clean and inviting.

The rule is punitive and places a significant, undue operational burden on BIDs, merchant associations, and similar organizations without providing any of the policy, permitting, and financial support necessary to ensure a smooth transition to containerizing waste.

Instead of adopting this new rule that punishes key City partners, DSNY should reevaluate and improve its containerization program to support and empower BIDs as we work together to keep NYC clean. DSNY must address the following issues with the curb containerization program before any penalizing rule is adopted:

1. Provide a list of DSNY-approved containerization products
2. Adjust the rule to allow for bags to remain on-street for short periods to facilitate centralization of trash management by BID staff
3. Ensure procurement can adhere to a standard policy or develop a procurement exception with SBS
4. Reduce the administrative burden for BIDs applying to participate in the Clean Curbs program
5. Establish a clear process for additional agency review (e.g., DOT, Landmarks, Public Design Commission) to ensure other agencies do not hold up applications

The Meatpacking District is not objecting to this rule capriciously but instead due to substantive concerns related to effective implementation. Rather than rushing to implement this new rule and placing the containerization burden on BIDs, DSNY should focus its efforts on demonstrating a viable containerization pilot and supporting this transition in waste collection by identifying container locations and viable products. Where necessary, DSNY should also support BIDs with funding to acquire containers or procure containers directly to support this program. DSNY must approach any sanitation-related changes with caution, as even one day of missed collection results in huge piles of bags on street corners.

The supplemental cleaning services that BIDs provide are exactly that: supplemental to DSNY's work. The trash collected comes not from a single household or commercial operator obligated to pay for their environmental impact, but from the people of New York and visitors walking our streets, shopping, dining, and making a living in our city. If DSNY wishes to implement this policy, it should consider and indeed respect the partners that help keep our streets clean.

Although the BID has developed substantial experience managing supplemental sanitation services over our 10-year history, we are not the world's largest municipal sanitation service. The onus on making containerization successful should not be on BIDs but on DSNY.

DSNY has been unable to provide substantive guidance to BIDs regarding the range of issues BIDs have raised. The concerns related to interagency coordination and review, the procurement of appropriate containers, and the operational inflexibility dictated by the proposed rule must be addressed. Furthermore, DSNY has not produced any findings following its previous Clean Curbs pilot, which was supposed to help inform DSNY's BID containerization program.

Agency Review:

DSNY has provided no clarity on the role DOT, PDC, and LPC will play in approving on-street container locations. From conversations with these agencies, there seems to have been limited communication, and no established SOP for these agencies to review applications via the Clean Curbs program. Given the MDMA's recent experience, additional agency review could mean more submissions, hearings, and months of waiting before a determination is made. Without a clear SOP and efficient review, complying with this rule would place BIDs in a bind, forcing them to choose between violating this rule or existing DOT and LPC guidelines.

Procurement Policy:

As certified non-profit organizations with contracts with SBS and DOT, BIDs are subject to procurement rules prescribed by the City, our Boards of Directors, and adopted bylaws. Procurement guidelines require the MDMA to undertake a competitive RFP and seek out at least three proposals for the solicitation to be competitive. Only two suppliers have been identified as potentially viable (metroSTOR and CitiBin), and until very recently, only one has been piloted within New York City. Pressure to adhere to the August deadline prevents BIDs from investigating or piloting additional products that may be more cost-effective, or operationally superior. Furthermore, without an SBS directive to suspend procurement rules, BIDs would be forced to violate existing procurement policies to comply with the new DSNY rule.

Operational Inflexibility:

The rule as presented unduly forces BIDs to undertake a decentralized approach to sanitation management, requiring the BID to install a large number of small bins across the District, as opposed to creating an efficient and centralized collection location. BIDs will be forced to procure dozens of smaller containers and distribute them across the District to comply, polluting the streetscape, removing parking spaces, and using high-demand spaces for sanitation management. The Meatpacking BID believes procuring a smaller number of larger containers to have collection occur from a more consolidated location would be more efficient and beneficial to the District and minimize disruption to the neighborhood environment. This operational inflexibility undermines our efforts to find the best products to meet our operational, budgetary, and aesthetic needs.

The Meatpacking BID looks forward to being a part of the process to best address the needs of the city to containerize our trash. This rule is the wrong step towards achieving that goal.



Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership (MABP)

Testimony to the New York City Council

February 10th, 2025

RE: DSNY Rule hearing on Containerization Mandate

Submitted by: Amanda Zenteno, Executive Director MABP

Amanda Zenteno,
BID Executive Director

BID Board of Directors

Officers

Frances Bronet, Co-Chair

John Dew, Co-Chair

Michael Weiss, Treasurer

Carol Thomas, Secretary

Samantha Johnson, Member

Thank you for providing an opportunity to provide testimony regarding the DSNY containerization mandate.

Business Improvement Districts have long been trusted community partners, improving neighborhood cleanliness with supplemental sanitation efforts. We commit a significant portion of our assessment budget to hire full time staff who, amongst other daily tasks, ensure City corner garbage cans are clean and not overflowing. In addition, the clean team contends with significant illegal and improper dumping at these sites.

Directors

Sam Alison-Mayne

Joy Crichlow

Gurvan Duncan

Diane Huey

Omar Lahoumah

Alex Mendez

Elissa Olin

Theodore Peck

Jamal Robinson

Gerry Rooney

Valarie Taveras

Mayor Eric Adams

While we are committed to the City's goals, the Department of Sanitation of New York (DSNY) does not have unilateral authority to dictate BID operations. BIDs are independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations governed by contracts with the City. These contracts define our responsibilities and cannot be modified without mutual consent. Any attempt by DSNY to impose additional obligations on BIDs without due process violates contractual rights.

NYC Comptroller Brad Lander

Brooklyn Borough President

Antonio Reynoso

NYC Council Member

Crystal Hudson

Requiring BIDs to assume DSNY's sanitation responsibilities represents an unauthorized expansion of our duties without legal justification.

Non-Voting Directors

Taya Mueller, Brooklyn

Community Board 2

P. Ann Daniels

Emily Ahn Levy

We work in conjunction with all City organizations to improve the conditions on our vital commercial corridors. However, the rollout of the containerization mandate fails to address significant concerns.

Financial Responsibility

The proposed rule fails to address the substantial costs of compliance; BIDs were not consulted regarding these costs. We estimate compliance will incur hundreds of thousands of dollars in start-up costs and significant annual expenses that our already strained budgets cannot accommodate. BIDs are independent non-profits that report to a Board of Directors. We have services and budgets that are written into our district plans and outlined in our SBS contracts. To implement a mandate of this scale would require cutting beloved community programs, business support services and potentially staff. The MABP serves a diverse LMI neighborhood that depends on our services. Any cuts to existing programs to pay for the unfunded mandate would be detrimental to the community.

Siting Rules

The proposed siting process does not include DOT and is in conflict with the purpose of the BID. Siting containers requires vetting and approval from DOT. It is a lengthy and arduous process. BIDs can provide information regarding locations for bins, based on neighborhood knowledge, but should not be responsible for selection of the site. This responsibility places BID's in direct conflict with merchants and property owner stakeholders.

Fines

Fining BIDs and their contracted workers for providing a much needed public service- bagging and prepping trash for DSNY- is particularly concerning. The trash we collect can not be called BID trash, as is often referenced in this ruling. The BID cleans, collects, and bags public trash, often including illegal dumping.

There is no such fine or mandate on non-supported commercial corridors. This fine is a punishment to neighborhoods who chose to pay an assessment to provide the community with additional services.

We urge the Council to consider alternative approaches:

- Align this program with the forth-coming large residential containerization rollout to ensure consistency and efficiency
- Establish designated periods during which bags can remain on street, with written DSNY agreements
- Fund the mandate
- Develop clear guidelines for container placement that coordinate with other city agencies
- Provide exemptions for BIDs based on operational and financial constraints and district characteristics

The MABP cares deeply about our community and its ongoing relationship with DSNY to create a cleaner, more sustainable Myrtle Avenue. We can and should be partners in creating a solution for a cleaner NYC for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Amanda Zenteno
Executive Director
Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership



**DSNY Rules Hearing Testimony
Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services
February 10, 2025**

Hello, my name is Cordelia Persen and I am the Executive Director of the NoHo Business Improvement District. My BID was formed 27 years ago to clean up NoHo and we have been doing supplemental sanitation ever since. The NoHo BID believes in containerization in principle, and over the past few years we have spent time and financial resources on implementing containerization in parts of our district for public corner can waste.

What we are concerned with is being forced by DSNY to fully comply with containerization requirements in such a short time with no financial assistance from the City.

We are one of the smallest BIDs in Manhattan and manage a significant amount of trash that ends up on our busy streets. From corner bin trash to illegal dumping to individuals ripping up properly set out garbage, there never seems to be a short supply of garbage to deal with. We've slowly been containerizing and have been adding two Citibins per fiscal year since FY22. However, we still have a ways to go before all trash in NoHo is containerized. Even now, to deal with all corner bin trash, the BID would likely need to spend more than \$60,000 - or 10% of our annual budget.

BIDs were formed to do supplemental sanitation, which means bagging up pedestrian garbage from corner cans to prevent overflow and help DSNY with their overall goal of keeping trash off the streets. Since this is City garbage and a City initiative, I feel like the City should provide funding to BIDs to implement the program. Unless we get more funding my Board of Directors has voted to pull corner cans for areas that we don't have enough capacity in our existing Citibins.

Another problem in the program is that in the first round of the Clean Curbs Pilot DSNY handled notification of property owners. In the latest version of the program, BIDs are supposed to do the notification. Since this is a City program, the City should do the notification versus making

BIDs have contentious conversation with the property owners we represent when we have limited control over the siting locations.

Siting and placement has been a challenge. To make this program work I believe DSNY and DOT will need to be more flexible and responsive to each district's individual streetscape.

Lastly, my BID has learned a lot about what locations work and how best to roll out the program in our district because we had the time to implement over time and make sure we were placing in the correct locations with the correct capacities. I think setting an August 1st deadline for all containerization will lead to the program not being implemented in the best way for DSNY. I recommend it being implemented over a longer time period.



DSNY Rules Hearing Testimony

Regarding DSNY Containerization Mandate and Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services

Submitted by: James Ellis, Executive Director North Flatbush Avenue Business Improvement District (BID)

February 10, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony today. My name is James Ellis, and I serve as the Executive Director of the North Flatbush Avenue Business Improvement District (BID), an organization serving Park Slope and Prospect Heights in Brooklyn since 1986. While my testimony may echo sentiments and realities expressed by my colleagues, I feel compelled to voice our deep concerns about the proposed DSNY containerization mandate.

As one of 76 BIDs in New York City, and as a nearly 40-year-old organization providing essential supplemental services in our neighborhoods, we have long prided ourselves on being a trusted partner to the City, its administrators, and agencies. However, this recent mandate has left us profoundly disappointed in the City's approach to partnership and collaboration. The BID model as created more than 40 years ago speaks to partnership and supplemental services. This DSNY initiative is contrary to the language and intent of the original Legislation; it removes the spirit of shared stewardship and governmental cooperation that the BIDs agreed to be part of; together we will improve everyday life in New York City.

The lack of substantive consultation with BIDs before implementing this mandate reveals a troubling disconnect between policy-making and operational reality. This top-down approach fails to recognize several critical issues:

Financial Feasibility:

Despite DSNY's certification that this rule "minimizes compliance costs for the discrete regulated community," the reality is starkly different. As independent non-profits reporting to Boards of Directors, our services and budgets are carefully outlined in our district plans and SBS contracts. The mandate could require tens of thousands of dollars in startup costs, with significant annual maintenance expenses that our already strained budgets cannot accommodate. Importantly, we cannot simply increase our assessments without undertaking a laborious legislative process.

Operational Challenges:

The mandate's implementation raises serious operational concerns:

- The rule lacks clarity on acceptable container types, alternating between references to "wheelie bins" and large on-street containers while only specifying a 55-gallon limit
- There are significant siting issues for container placement in our dense urban environment and specifically along North Flatbush Avenue which currently hosts curbside regulations to accommodate rush hour traffic demands
- Siting requirements and approvals must be vetted through NYC Department of Transportation, proven to be a time-consuming process with little flexibility. Additionally, we are shouldered with the task of

explaining these demands to impacted stakeholders (property owners, business operators). Their disapproval of these demands may then be unfairly aimed at our organization.

Unintended Consequences:

This mandate may force some BIDs to discontinue their public trash collection services entirely, leading to:

- Overflowing litter baskets
- Increased street debris
- Greater rat activity
- Degraded quality of life in our commercial corridors

Punitive Approach:

It is particularly troubling that we face fines for providing a public service. The trash we collect is not BID-generated or commercial waste – it is public trash. While the rule was modified to protect individual workers from fines, our organizations still bear the burden of compliance and potential penalties. This punitive approach also does not address the countless commercial corridors who do not have local stewardship similar to BIDs.

Proposed Solutions:

We urge the Council to consider alternative approaches:

1. Align this program with the forth-coming large residential containerization rollout to ensure consistency and efficiency
2. Establish designated periods during which bags can remain on street, with written DSNY agreements
3. Create a grant program to help BIDs purchase and maintain compliant containers
4. Develop clear guidelines for container placement that coordinate with other city agencies
5. Provide exemptions for BIDs based on operational constraints and district characteristics

The North Flatbush Avenue BID has discussed this mandate and currently does not see a financial or operational pathway to an August 1st compliance deadline as it currently stands. As a long-standing partner in maintaining clean streets, we ask the Council to recognize that BIDs are not the problem but rather part of the solution. We share the goal of a cleaner, more sustainable New York City, but this mandate, as currently structured, threatens to undermine the very services that help achieve that goal.

We remain committed to working with the Council and DSNY to develop practical solutions that serve our communities effectively while advancing the City's sanitation goals.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.



DSNY Rules Hearing Testimony

Regarding DSNY Containerization Mandate and Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services

Submitted by: James Ellis, Executive Director North Flatbush Avenue Business Improvement District (BID)

February 10, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony today. My name is James Ellis, and I serve as the Executive Director of the North Flatbush Avenue Business Improvement District (BID), an organization serving Park Slope and Prospect Heights in Brooklyn since 1986. While my testimony may echo sentiments and realities expressed by my colleagues, I feel compelled to voice our deep concerns about the proposed DSNY containerization mandate.

As one of 76 BIDs in New York City, and as a nearly 40-year-old organization providing essential supplemental services in our neighborhoods, we have long prided ourselves on being a trusted partner to the City, its administrators, and agencies. However, this recent mandate has left us profoundly disappointed in the City's approach to partnership and collaboration. The BID model as created more than 40 years ago speaks to partnership and supplemental services. This DSNY initiative is contrary to the language and intent of the original Legislation; it removes the spirit of shared stewardship and governmental cooperation that the BIDs agreed to be part of; together we will improve everyday life in New York City.

The lack of substantive consultation with BIDs before implementing this mandate reveals a troubling disconnect between policy-making and operational reality. This top-down approach fails to recognize several critical issues:

Financial Feasibility:

Despite DSNY's certification that this rule "minimizes compliance costs for the discrete regulated community," the reality is starkly different. As independent non-profits reporting to Boards of Directors, our services and budgets are carefully outlined in our district plans and SBS contracts. The mandate could require tens of thousands of dollars in startup costs, with significant annual maintenance expenses that our already strained budgets cannot accommodate. Importantly, we cannot simply increase our assessments without undertaking a laborious legislative process.

Operational Challenges:

The mandate's implementation raises serious operational concerns:

- The rule lacks clarity on acceptable container types, alternating between references to "wheelie bins" and large on-street containers while only specifying a 55-gallon limit
- There are significant siting issues for container placement in our dense urban environment and specifically along North Flatbush Avenue which currently hosts curbside regulations to accommodate rush hour traffic demands
- Siting requirements and approvals must be vetted through NYC Department of Transportation, proven to be a time-consuming process with little flexibility. Additionally, we are shouldered with the task of

explaining these demands to impacted stakeholders (property owners, business operators). Their disapproval of these demands may then be unfairly aimed at our organization.

Unintended Consequences:

This mandate may force some BIDs to discontinue their public trash collection services entirely, leading to:

- Overflowing litter baskets
- Increased street debris
- Greater rat activity
- Degraded quality of life in our commercial corridors

Punitive Approach:

It is particularly troubling that we face fines for providing a public service. The trash we collect is not BID-generated or commercial waste – it is public trash. While the rule was modified to protect individual workers from fines, our organizations still bear the burden of compliance and potential penalties. This punitive approach also does not address the countless commercial corridors who do not have local stewardship similar to BIDs.

Proposed Solutions:

We urge the Council to consider alternative approaches:

1. Align this program with the forth-coming large residential containerization rollout to ensure consistency and efficiency
2. Establish designated periods during which bags can remain on street, with written DSNY agreements
3. Create a grant program to help BIDs purchase and maintain compliant containers
4. Develop clear guidelines for container placement that coordinate with other city agencies
5. Provide exemptions for BIDs based on operational constraints and district characteristics

The North Flatbush Avenue BID has discussed this mandate and currently does not see a financial or operational pathway to an August 1st compliance deadline as it currently stands. As a long-standing partner in maintaining clean streets, we ask the Council to recognize that BIDs are not the problem but rather part of the solution. We share the goal of a cleaner, more sustainable New York City, but this mandate, as currently structured, threatens to undermine the very services that help achieve that goal.

We remain committed to working with the Council and DSNY to develop practical solutions that serve our communities effectively while advancing the City's sanitation goals.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.



**DSNY Rules Hearing Testimony
Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services
February 10, 2025**

Good Morning - My name is Laura Rothrock and I'm testifying today on behalf of the NYC BID Association, where I serve as the volunteer co-chair of our Sanitation Working Group. I am also the Executive Director of the Long Island City BID. The BID Association represents all of the city's 76 BIDs, many of whom you will also hear from today. We want to be clear at the outset that we share the city's goal of getting bags off the street, reducing the number of rats, and in containerizing garbage to the greatest extent feasible, but we oppose this proposed rule as draconian and inflexible.

For over 40 years, BIDs have been trusted partners to NYC and DSNY, providing services including supplemental sanitation to districts that had been inadequately served by the city due to scarce resources. This includes the bagging and re-lining of overflowing corner basket trash cans which cannot be emptied at a fast-enough rate by DSNY. As per the FY23 SBS trends report, BIDs collect or replace over 10,000 trash bags on average every day. While some larger BIDs are able to haul those bags to sanitation warehouses or are moving towards containerization voluntarily, most medium-sized and smaller BIDs set those bags on the sidewalk for DSNY pick up. Other BIDs have opted into the clean curb pilot program to reduce the number of bags at key corners but expanding containerizing to accommodate all of the public trash that BIDs bag would be far too costly for many BIDs.

Unfortunately, DSNY is now moving ahead with the unfunded mandate being considered at this hearing, which assumes that BIDs can somehow either haul away or containerize the bags, rather than staging them at corners until DSNY picks them up and, if BIDs fail to do so, they will be fined for providing these services. While we completely understand the desire to "get bags off the street" this is a huge operational and financial burden for BIDs. While BIDs are ready partners in getting trash off the streets, these changes to our operations would be financially impossible for many BIDs. There's also the complexity of siting containers with DOT and local stakeholders. We remain deeply concerned that an August 1st implementation is still too soon for many BIDs to operationalize these changes. The larger BIDs that have voluntarily moved towards containerization have needed years to do so.

As for the proposed rule itself, it gives no guidance on what types of containers will be allowable, aside from 55-gallon bins which would be wholly inadequate. BIDs are unclear about why there is a mention of a 55-gallon container at all. The proposed rule also does not provide for any flexibility whatsoever. If the ultimate goal here is to reduce rats – a goal which we share – why not limit the times and hours that bags can be left out for pick up in close coordination with DSNY? Wouldn't this achieve the goal without the draconian rule being considered today?

We ask DSNY to consider adding more flexibility to this rule so that more BIDs can realistically comply.

Without additional flexibility and financial support, there is a real possibility that many BIDs – especially medium and smaller BIDs – will have no choice but to cease supplemental sanitation services altogether. In that case, the city may not have nicely-tied up bags on the street – it would have overflowing trash cans along key corridors across the city. This is not what BIDs want, and we suspect it is not what DSNY or the Mayor wants. We remain committed to partnership with DSNY and the City of New York, but have found DSNY to have a lack of understanding when it comes to how quickly and easily we can operationalize their goals. This rule is particularly insulting to partners that have worked to keep the city clean, a job that DSNY cannot do alone. If the City wants to get bags off the street, they need to support organizations financially and operationally that do this work and not introduce punitive measures which will discourage and fine the very organizations on the front lines of cleaning up New York.

We are including the rule change suggestions below highlighted in yellow which would give DSNY additional flexibility to craft and approve alternate plans and strategies for entities like BIDs. These changes would also give DSNY the ability to, if absolutely necessary, grant hardship waivers to entities that simply cannot comply with the rule.

§ 1-12 Improper Placement of Refuse and Recycling for Department Collection

(a) *Definitions.* For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meaning:

(1) Entity. The term “entity” means any business improvement district, merchant association, neighborhood association, or other non-governmental organization that performs or causes others to perform cleaning services such as manual sweeping and cleaning of sidewalks, public plazas, streets, curbs and gutters, or emptying of public litter baskets, for the purpose of supporting local businesses or communities.

(2) Business improvement district. The term “business improvement district” means any business improvement district established pursuant to chapter 4 of title 25 of the New York City Administrative Code or pursuant to relevant state law.

(3) Merchant association. The term “merchant association” means a group of merchants located in a commercial corridor that create an association to provide services and advocate on behalf of local business owners.

(4) Neighborhood association. The term “neighborhood association” means a group of residents who advocate to improve the quality of life or organize activities within a neighborhood.

(b) No entity or organization acting under the direction of an entity shall be permitted to place any amount of refuse or recycling within the vicinity of any public litter basket placed by the Department, or at any other location described in Section 16-120(e)(2) of the New York City Administrative Code, except in accordance with rules of the department relating to collection unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Department.

(c) Any material placed out for collection by the Department by an entity, or organization acting under the direction of an entity, must be placed in rigid receptacles with tight fitting lids that do not exceed fifty-five gallons in size, unless an alternative receptacle or set-out and pick-up plan is approved by the Department.

(d) Any entity or organization acting under the direction of an entity violating subdivision (b) of this section shall be subject to the civil penalty for violations of section 16-120(e)(2) unless such entity is granted a hardship waiver by the Department.

DISTRICT OFFICE

4417 4th AVE
BROOKLYN, NY 11220
TEL: (718) 439-9012
FAX: (347) 599-0604

CITY HALL OFFICE

250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1728
NEW YORK, NY 10007
TEL: (212) 788-7372
FAX: (212) 788-7768

E-MAIL: District38@council.nyc.gov



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Alexa Avilés

COUNCIL MEMBER
38th DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

CHAIR

IMMIGRATION

COMMITTEES

PUBLIC HOUSING

TASKFORCE TO COMBAT HATE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

GENERAL WELFARE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, RESILIENCY, AND

WATERFRONTS

February 10, 2025

Dear DSNY Acting Commissioner Javier Lojan, Deputy Mayors Maria Torres-Springer and Meera Joshi, and all DSNY Staff,

Thank you for taking the time to hear our concerns today about the proposed amendments to DSNY's containerization policies. As the local elected official for District 38, I recognize the importance of tackling litter and rat overpopulation, both of which could be mitigated through proper containerization. However, the administration's proposed requirement that all entities use containers for collection services will be detrimental to the financial operations of local sanitation initiatives where resources are limited, and will therefore harm the sanitation efforts within our community. DSNY's proposed amendment seeks to resolve a significant problem in our city, but does not take into account the needs of nonprofit stakeholders. We look forward to working with the City and Council on a solution to containerization that does not put the majority of the financial burden on our nonprofits, as we believe would happen with this amendment.

District 38 relies on the sanitation services of nonprofit organizations like Association of Community Employment Programs for the Homeless (ACE) to ensure our streets are kept clean. ACE has been a significant asset for my district since my time in office and has partnered with the City Council for the past 9 years, providing supplemental services to help clean our community through the NYC Council Clean Up Initiative. As a CBO that offers job training to homeless individuals and provides full-time jobs to over 165 staff, the containerization policy under discussion would cut into their programmatic funds, requiring the purchase of new containers or the cost of carting garbage to DSNY garages. ACE estimates they would need to purchase 230 new containers to comply with the amendment, costing them an estimated \$4-4.3 million (or \$5 million when considering container maintenance, repairs, and insurance costs). Alternatively, if ACE were to establish a truck fleet and route to get trash to DSNY garages, they would have to spend over \$4.5 million. Either potential change means less money for important job training, and less funding to hire staff coming out of this often life-changing programming for homeless community members.

In a similar vein, smaller BIDs like the Sunset Park BID in my district run on a limited financial budget, and their cleanup efforts would be drastically impeded by this policy change. As NYC

BIDS are legally required to offer *supplementary* sanitation services, the required purchasing of new containers is particularly onerous. Requiring BIDs to place all garbage bags in containers disrupts their ability to continue to provide supplementary services to keep our neighborhoods clean. The Sunset Park BID currently only has room for one full-time sanitation worker for the entire BID. Since DSNY currently labels trash from the public as the responsibility of the BID, the requirement to have all trash bags containerized or face fines could be overly punitive and will likely cause greater financial difficulty to the BID, who already spends around a third of their annual \$300k budget on clean-up efforts. In addition, many BIDs do not understand where these new containers would be stored as many have small offices.

Additionally, while not a BID our close partner Red Hook Business Alliance is also concerned how this amendment will impact their quarterly community cleanups. The Red Hook community relies on these cleanup events to take care of the vast amount of trash buildup and illegal dumping on their sidewalks. Without any further DSNY-funded cleanup support in Red Hook, we believe it is unfair to tell the alliance they are prohibited from placing trash bags next to public litter baskets during these important trash pickup events. It begs the question on whether the City will be providing support and/or containers for volunteer efforts.

We respectfully request DSNY consider the negative impacts of this amendment on hardworking nonprofits, merchant associations, and neighborhood efforts that make it possible for us to keep our streets clean. Without a clearer explanation and solution for how BIDs and our other partners will be expected to comply with this rule without it significantly cutting into their financial capacity, the proposed benefits of these containerization policies are slim compared to the financial damage these regulations induce. We are happy to engage in continued conversations with DSNY, DOT, LPC, and PDC about long-term solutions to containerization that do not financially harm nonprofits who already have limited capacity. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alexa Avilés', with a stylized, flowing script.

Council Member Alexa Avilés
District 38, Brooklyn

From: [Pedro Suarez](#)
To: [NYC Rules \(DSNY\)](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Feb 10th Hearing
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 10:19:13 AM

You don't often get email from psuarez@thirdavenuebid.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Here is a copy of my testimony at today's hearing. Copying SBS and Councilmember Salamanca, Jr.

My name is Pedro Suarez and I am the Executive Director of the Third Avenue Business Improvement District, also known as The HUB, which is located in the South Bronx, bordering the neighborhoods of Melrose and Mott Haven. I represent a community of over 300 businesses over 18 block faces.

As one of the oldest and most heavily-trafficked BIDs, our services around supplemental sanitation represent anywhere between 30-40% of our overall annual budget. My organization provides supplemental sanitation services that support the City's effort, particularly the NYC Department of Sanitation, in keeping the district clean. Illegal dumping in the district has put even more strain on my organization's resources. At the end of last year, we conducted a walk-through of my district with Councilmember Rafael Salamance Jr. and former DSNY Commissioner Tisch to discuss the challenges around illegal dumping and other quality of life concerns, and the need for additional DSNY cameras to conduct illegal dumping investigations.

I met with containerization vendors (Citibin and Metrostor) who provide the containers, and our BID would have to invest anywhere between \$20,000 to \$50,000 for permanent containerization of garbage. That expense represents over 10% of our annual city assessment. We already have one set of 8 containers, also known as City bins, located on E 148th Street near Willis Avenue. These containers have often attracted unwanted quality of life issues, including homeless encampments, defecation, illegal dumping, and drug use. We have had to regularly report these issues to 311 and coordinate operations with DSNY, NYPD, and DHS. I fear that without appropriate resources and city agency support, additional permanent containerization would create the conditions for other quality of life issues. Temporary roll-out containers are also not an option as the BID has very limited options for the storage of roll-out containers and does not have a vehicle to transport containers to distant locations.

I do not believe August 1, 2025 is a realistic timeline for all BIDs to be compliant as these rules were proposed during the current fiscal year and before the next fiscal year, where BIDs are not prepared to make such financial commitments without our respective boards' input and approval.

Additionally, BIDs only provide supplemental sanitation to support DSNY's existing services. This is public waste that does not belong to BIDs. As such, issuing fines to BIDs regarding public waste is not appropriate. We also recommend that DSNY work with BIDs to establish setout times and DSNY collection schedules. BIDs should not be receiving any fines outside of established setout times, DSNY collection schedules, and outside of our normal operating hours.

I look forward to further discussions with SBS, DSNY, DOT, elected officials, and the

Mayor's office to create an implementation strategy that is responsive to the needs of my district and the people of the South Bronx.

Best,

Pedro Suarez

Executive Director

Third Avenue Business Improvement District

2825 Third Avenue, 3rd Fl.

Bronx, NY 10455

D (718) 218-5430

Email: psuarez@thirdavenuebid.org

Web: thirdavenuebid.org

Instagram: [@thirdavenuebidhub](https://www.instagram.com/thirdavenuebidhub)

Schedule meeting: <https://calendly.com/pedro-3rd-ave/virtual-meeting>

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

You don't often get email from psuarez@thirdavenuebid.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



My name is Yelena Makhnin and I am an Executive Director of Brighton Beach BID in Brooklyn.

Our BID is one of the oldest in NYC and we are a small BID. We have supplementary sanitation service provided 7 days a week, 5 hours a day. We consider ourselves to be a great city partner helping keep our streets clean.

Instead of working with us and listening to us, DSNY is now moving ahead with the unfunded mandate being considered at this hearing, which assumes that BIDs can somehow either haul away or containerize the bags,

rather than staging them at corners until DSNY picks them and, if BIDs fail to do so, they will be fined for providing these services. While we completely understand the desire to “get bags off the street” this is a huge operational and financial burden for BIDs.

Currently we pay 47% of our budget for Sanitation services.

And we cannot afford to pay more without jeopardizing BID financial stability. While BIDs are ready partners in getting trash off the streets, these changes to our operations would be financially impossible for many BIDs. There’s also the complexity of sitting containers with DOT and local stakeholders. We are deeply concerned that August 1st implementation is still too soon for many BIDs to implement those changes. It is well-known fact that the larger BIDs that have voluntarily moved towards containerization have needed years to do so.

As for the proposed rule itself, it gives no guidance on what types of containers will be allowable, aside from 55-gallon bins which would be wholly inadequate. BIDs are unclear about why there is a mention of a 55-gallon container at all. The proposed rule also does not provide for any flexibility whatsoever. If the ultimate goal here is to reduce rats – a goal which we share – why not limit the times and hours that bags can be left out for pick up in close coordination with DSNY? Wouldn’t this achieve the goal without the draconian rule being considered today?

2

Also why not really enforce the law first getting rid of illegal dumping and improper disposal before putting additional burden on great city partners.

We ask DSNY to consider adding more flexibility to this rule so that more BIDs can realistically comply.

Without additional flexibility and financial support, there is a real possibility that many BIDs –

especially medium and smaller BIDs – will have no choice but to cease supplemental sanitation services altogether. In that case, the city may not have nicely-tied up bags on the street – it would have overflowing trash cans along key corridors across the city. This is not what BIDs want, and we suspect it is not what DSNY or the Mayor wants. We remain committed to partnership with DSNY and the City of New York, but have found DSNY to have a lack of understanding when it comes to how quickly and easily, we can operationalize their goals. This rule is particularly insulting to partners that have worked to keep the city clean, a job that DSNY cannot do alone. If the City wants to get bags off the street, they need to support organizations financially and operationally that do this work and not introduce punitive measures which will not only affect BIDs financially but put our great relationship in jeopardy.



Statement
DSNY Public Hearing
February 10, 2025

Barbara Askins, President & CEO IS submitting a statement on behalf of the 125TH STREET BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT, INC., to formally express concerns for how DSNY plans to remove bags from the sidewalks.

A bit of historical perspective is in order. In 1988, 125th Street was plaque with trash issues. A routing program was in effect and there was strong enforcement from DSNY on the businesses for dirty sidewalks. It was reported that some businesses found themselves with fines as high as \$10,000 due to lack of payment. The street was filled with street vendors who had no responsibility for removing their trash and storeowners felt they should not be held accountable for removing the trash of others. The fines were referred to the Sheriff department for collection. Tensons were very high over trash.

The creation of a business improvement district was a welcome hope. The incentive for a property owner to pay an additional assessment above the real estate taxes and determine their own needs of the district and assess themselves how much they wanted to pay and determine how the program should be implemented was that gleam of hope. It was never envisioned that an outside entity that was not paying the assessment would have the jurisdiction or ability to dictate how the BID funds were to be used. There is nothing in the enabling legislation that allows a government agency to usurp the powers of the owners and determine what is needed and then the owner pay for it.

In 1993, the 125th Street BID was signed into law and sanitation services was the number one priority. This was the beginning of our partnership with DSNY. DSNY selected depository areas for bags to be placed for collection. Those bags per the instructions of DSNY was to have our name and logo on it as there was some concern that this BID sanitation work would be perceived as

taking away union jobs from DSNY workers. For 32 years, the BID has followed DSNY instructions and the partnership has continued amicably even though sanitation cuts show continuous reduction of services by DSNY: reduction of regular garbage collection, decrease in cleaning frequency, reduction of sanitation workforce, removal of trash baskets, removal of street sweeping and fewer street cleaning days.

Up until now, this has been a successful partnership. When the street sweeping services was removed from sanitation, the BID stepped up. When litter baskets were removed from mid-block, the bids stepped up and purchased new litter baskets to replace the ones DSNY removed. When dumping laws are not enforced, the BID picks up the litter and bags it and take it to depository area as instructed. We have gone far beyond picking up pedestrian litter as if we did not our district would be unsightly. Our team work 7 days a week from 7am to 7pm including holidays. In 32 years, we have taken off only (1) one day since as the demand is so great for trash removal.

The 125th Street BID reviewed DSNY's new mandate, presented it to its board of directors and conducted a walk-thru that included DSNY to try and identify locations. In our five-block area we found only (1) one potential location as our area has a dedicated bus lane, residential blocks and many bus stops on the side street. We also have trash that is created by illegal dumping, street vendors, construction sites, and others. The large amount of litter cannot be left on the street and at the same time the BID cannot continue to remove it under the new ruling.

We are continuing to look for ways that such a program would work on 125th Street. Last week we conducted a quick bag analysis to understand where trash came from. Over a 3-day period we observed that we collected 474 bags. Of that count 50% were from DSNY corner baskets, 31% came from BID baskets (pedestrian and dumping included) and 16% came from dumping on the sidewalk and inside tree pits. Clearly these numbers will be higher in summer months, but the numbers also show that that the bulk of the litter on our streets is litter that should be handled by DSNY either through clean-ups or enforcement. The smallest amount of litter appears to come from pedestrian trash which is the supplemental service the BID should be providing.

We agree with our BID colleagues that this program should not be rushed, and it should not be cookie cutter. We need time to figure out locations, address financial and contractual burdens, understand implementation operational challenges and enforcement concerns, and seek alternative solutions that may be neighborhood specific.

We seek to continue a partnership where the BID and DSNY work together (as we have done in the past) to come up with a workable solution that is not a burden on anyone.

Submitted By

Barbara Askins

President a& CEO

125th Street Business Improvement Management Association

Testimony of Zach Owens, Executive Director, West Village Business Improvement District
Regarding Proposed Rule from New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY)

Hearing on Proposed Rule Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services

Date: 2/10/2025

Good morning,

My name is Zach Owens, and I serve as the Executive Director of the West Village Business Improvement District. I appreciate the opportunity to testify today in opposition to DSNY's proposed rule that would prohibit BIDs and other community-based organizations from placing bagged refuse next to public litter baskets and instead require all collected waste to be placed in rigid containers.

At its core, this rule is not just impractical, it is a punitive measure that fails to address the real issues plaguing sanitation in New York City while imposing an unworkable burden on nonprofit civic organizations like ours, which dedicate resources to keeping our neighborhoods clean.

1. The Rule Misidentifies the Problem

This proposal presumes that BIDs and other community groups are responsible for excessive waste accumulation near public litter baskets. However, the primary contributor to corner trash pile-ups is improper disposal by private businesses and individuals. Our team sees this every day: for every properly disposed BID-collected bag, there are often two or three illegally dumped black trash bags. Penalizing BIDs does nothing to address this chronic issue, and in fact, it may make it worse by discouraging proactive cleanup efforts.

2. Financial and Logistical Burdens Will Undermine Neighborhood Cleanliness

The financial implications of this rule are staggering. Implementing a rigid container system would cost our BID over **\$300,000 in upfront costs** and more than **\$113,000 annually in maintenance**. These costs are not sustainable for a small nonprofit organization, and they divert funding away from other essential quality-of-life initiatives.

While we had productive, though belated, discussions with DSNY regarding implementation, there was a clear misunderstanding of the actual market costs of containers, the number required to manage public waste effectively, and the frequency of litter bag pickups in our neighborhood. This lack of awareness underscores a broader failure to fully assess the rule's real-world impact, highlighting that the proposal was not thoroughly considered before being introduced.

Furthermore, when concerns about costs were raised with the former DSNY commissioner at November's oversight hearing, she suggested that organizations could simply purchase \$53 wheelie bins to containerize public waste. This is not a viable solution. Our BID spans a large area with 152 public litter baskets across 184 corners, and expecting a small sanitation team to manage and move over 150 rigid bins daily is completely unrealistic. If implemented, this rule would lead to abandoned bins cluttering sidewalks, obstructing pedestrians, increasing vandalism, and ultimately making our streets dirtier—not cleaner.

3. The Legal Justification for This Rule is Questionable

DSNY cites **Section 16-120(e)(2)** of the Administrative Code as justification for this rule, but this provision pertains to **commercial and household refuse**, not public litter basket maintenance. BIDs are **not** generating private waste; we are managing public litter on behalf of the city. The law was never intended to regulate BID sanitation efforts, and attempting to impose this requirement through rulemaking, rather than legislative action, raises serious legal concerns.

Additionally, the City Administrative Procedure Act (**CAPA**) requires that agencies assess the economic impact of their rules and minimize compliance costs. No such impact assessment was conducted for this rule, and BIDs were not given a meaningful opportunity to weigh in on the financial and operational feasibility of compliance. This alone could make the rule vulnerable to legal challenge.

4. A Collaborative Approach Would Yield Better Results

The West Village BID and other neighborhood organizations are eager to be partners in the city's sanitation goals. We have already worked closely with DSNY on litter mitigation strategies and have seen great success. But rather than engaging in meaningful consultation, DSNY is attempting to push through an unworkable mandate that will **discourage proactive waste management, exacerbate sanitation challenges, and place a disproportionate burden on nonprofit organizations.**

Conclusion

I strongly urge DSNY to reconsider this rule and instead work collaboratively with BIDs to develop practical, effective sanitation solutions. We share the city's goal of cleaner streets, but this rule will **not** achieve that. Instead, it will create a bigger mess—both legally and literally.

Thank you for your time, and I welcome any questions.

Zach Owens
Executive Director
West Village Business Improvement District

What happens when we stop neatly bagging public waste from corner litter baskets:



The most common origin of corner bags is illegal dumping – not BID bags.



Managing a fleet of 150 wheelie bins? In a few short weeks, every corner would look like this. This is an on-going battle.

We had to hire a hauler to remove abandoned bins on a bi-weekly basis.



Testimony for DSNY Hearing

Date: 2.10.2025

Subject: Concerns and Recommendations Regarding Proposed Sanitation Rule

Presented by: Kalvis Mikelsteins, VP, Planning & Operations, Dumbo Improvement District

Good morning, and thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of The Dumbo BID. Our BID provides essential sanitation services, including bagging public trash, to keep streets clean for residents, workers, and visitors. I want to state upfront that we are in alignment with the goal of the DSNY of beautifying our streets through the removal of trash. However, the proposed sanitation rule raises significant concerns for our organization, as well as other BIDs. We seek a constructive dialogue to address these issues while achieving our shared goals.

BIDs are independent non-profits with budgets and contracts outlined in district plans and through agreement with NYC Small Business Services. Since we cannot adjust assessments without a lengthy process, many BIDs struggle to adapt to new financial burdens such as those imposed by this rule. While the rule claims to minimize compliance costs, it fails to consider the true financial impact. BIDs were not consulted about the costs of compliance, which could reach hundreds of thousands of dollars in startup expenses alone, potentially diverting funds from other essential services.

Moreover, siting these bins will be a lengthy effort with the Department as well as the NYCDOT who govern the curb. In areas of the City with Historic Districts, LPC approval will also be needed. For containerization to move forward, we need there to be dedicated staff and guaranteed approval timelines for the siting.

The rule also includes fines for BIDs, which already provide supplemental sanitation services for the city. These fines are intended for non-compliance, but the trash being bagged is public waste, not BID-specific. Imposing fines on BIDs' efforts to fill a gap left by the city feels unjust. Despite amendments clarifying that individuals won't be fined, BIDs will still bear the compliance burden, which could lead to confusion, inefficiencies, and costly penalties.

Further, the rule lacks clarity on the types of containers BIDs should use for trash bagging. While DSNY suggests "wheelie bins" and large containers, the rule only references containers up to 55 gallons, causing uncertainty. We recommend exploring designated time periods for trash and recycling placement, and coordinating with DSNY on pickup schedules to minimize rat attraction. This could align with residential containerization efforts, providing a cost-effective solution.

We understand the importance of maintaining clean streets and tackling sanitation challenges, but the proposed rule change doesn't account for BIDs' limitations, nor does it offer any workable solutions. We ask you to consider the financial impact, practicality of compliance, and the broader consequences for BIDs. We remain committed to collaborating with DSNY and other stakeholders to develop a fair, realistic, and sustainable solution.

Thank you for your attention to these issues. We look forward to further discussions to ensure that new sanitation requirements are equitable and feasible.



**Morris Park Business Improvement District
966 Morris Park Avenue
Bronx, NY 10462**

Testimony for the February 10, 2025 NYC Department of Sanitation Public Hearing and Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Rules

**by Dr. Camelia Tepelus
Executive Director of the Morris Park Business Improvement District
ed.morrisparkbid@gmail.com**

My name is Camelia Tepelus, I am the Executive Director of the Morris Park BID in the Bronx, a BID with a \$390,000 in assessment revenue, 1 full time staff member, paying 2 full time supplementary sanitation staff from our vendor Streetplus \$153,000/year, to clean up sidewalks along 21 blocks of commercial corridor on Morris Park Ave in the Bronx.

We cleaned Morris Park Avenue for the past 6 years, 7 hrs/day, 7 days/week, 365 days/year. The proposed rule simply states that what we can **NOT** do, which is place neatly collected bags of public “within the vicinity of any public litter basket”, but does not tell us what to do instead, other than requiring that “such materials be placed out for collection by the Department in rigid receptacles with tight-fitting lids.”

The rule does not indicate HOW to comply with it. It does not tell us WHERE would it be acceptable to DSNY for us place the excess PUBLIC trash we sweep. Former Commissioner Tish seemed to think that small BIDs with budgets of under \$.5 Mill mostly in outer boroughs can do the exact same thing that large BIDs do with \$25 Mill budgets, which is transport their own trash. Newsflash, being poor is not the same as being wealthy. And it is us, smaller BIDs that are a majority of all BIDs serving commercial corridors. And no, we can not afford to hire trucks to transport the additional trash to DSNY’s garages – which is the DSNY’s taxpayer-funded mandate to do.

This rule – in its current formulation – asks us to either stop cleaning sidewalks of our commercial corridors, or dispose of excessive trash, somehow by magic.

Nothing happens by magic. Cleaning the City takes careful planning, coordination, analysis, and finally execution that costs money. It is critical to remember that even though we/BIDs are privately funded by commercial property owners, at the end of the day, and just like DSNY we provide a public service: a service ensuring that commercial corridors create a positive pedestrian shopping experience, and bring taxpayers money to the budget. We are now paralyzed knowing that we will not afford to transport the trash ourselves – which is 1) the mandate of DSNY; and 2) would be both unaffordable and causing us to cut other critical programs – beautification, community events, holiday lights, etc.

At the moment we are basically stuffing our existing DSNY cans as much as possible, and hope this will be sufficient due to the low foot traffic associated to the cold weather. But come summer, we will need a procedure and a process of disposing of excess trash agreed with both DSNY and DOT.

Instead of this over-simplifying, trash-disappearance-by-magic rule, there are smarter and more collaborative ways for DSNY and BIDs to address this issue, including actual data collection and the ability to customize

implementation – **either through increased frequency of trash cans emptying, or through new mechanisms such as the “Empire Bin”, which, if installed on sidewalks, would need DOT approval for the site placement (see photos).**

We – BIDs servicing long commercial corridor are somehow expected by the former Commissioner Tish to do the same as individual businesses. But we collect much more public trash. If anything, we should be compared with larger apartment buildings, or schools, for which DSNY is already exploring better mechanisms to collect the garbage – such as the Empire Bins or the large containers that can be lifted by the sanitation trucks with side-forks.

Finally, there was a poor, non-collaborative process leading up to this regulation, which shows a significant and troublesome discrepancy between the DSNY executives and policy makers that were testifying in front of you at the November, and the DSNY operational staff on the ground that is in contact with us, such as Chief Frank Lettera, or in our case Bronx East 11 District Superintendent Vincent Allard, clearly much better informed, practical and conscious of the realities on the ground. We appreciate them and we thank them.

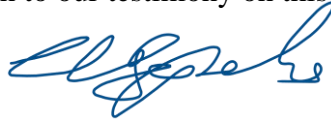
We are here to support cleanliness in the City, and to work alongside DSNY in smart, data-driven ways to make this a reality in NYC’s commercial corridors. We are optimistic that together we devise a strategy that is optimally applicable to each commercial corridor’s needs.

We are here to work together and to partner with DSNY in keeping our city clean in creating a thriving environment for small businesses and neighborhoods.

Please allow at least 1 more year until August 2026, to improve this rule and to give us sufficient time to articulate along with DSNY mechanisms for implementation to its desired aim – clean commercial corridors in NYC.

Thank you for your consideration to our testimony on this matter.

Dr. Camelia Tepelus
Executive Director
Morris Park Business Improvement District
Ed.morrisparkbid@gmail.com
Phone: 646 847 6080



February 10, 2025

Appendix:

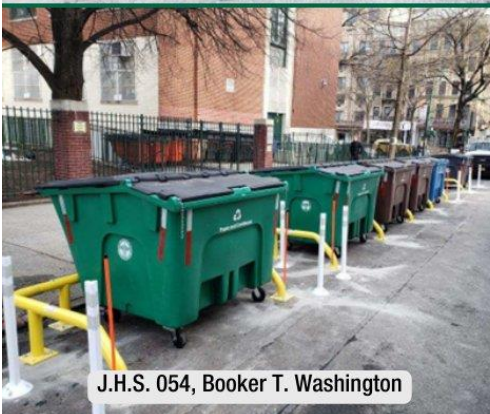
Bulk collection bins that could be offered by DSNY to BIDs in commercial corridors for collection of excessive trash, in order to accommodate the excess capacity needed



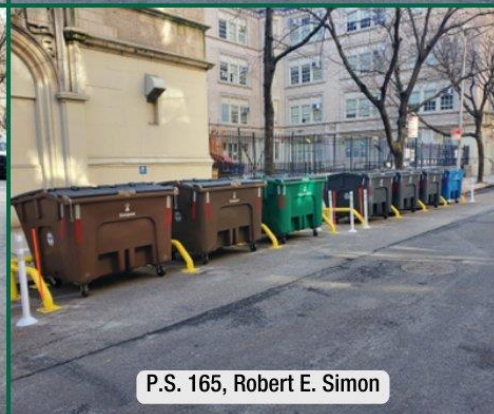
Edward R. Reynolds/Young Women's Leadership



P.S. 145, The Bloomingdale School



J.H.S. 054, Booker T. Washington



P.S. 165, Robert E. Simon

**DSNY Rules Hearing Testimony
Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services
February 10, 2025**

The Soho Broadway Initiative is the business improvement district that provides supplemental sanitation in the area bounded by Houston, Canal, Crosby, and Mercer. Our dedicated clean team manages an average of 150 bags per day, providing service daily in the area recently lauded as the most active retail district in North America. Our daily task of keeping the streets clean is both cumbersome and critical.

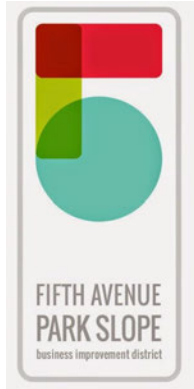
In order to keep trash bags off of the two busiest corners in our district, we installed a prototype trash container in 2023. This container had an initial cost of \$30,000 and requires ongoing maintenance. It also holds less than 10% of our average daily bags managed. If we were to purchase additional units of the same type to containerize all of the trash we manage daily, we would need 14 additional containers, which would cost \$420,000. This fee is more than our annual sanitation budget (roughly \$358,000) and nearly half of our assessment for this fiscal year (\$900,000). This is certainly not feasible. It is also inappropriate for a city agency to force a partner organization to spend private dollars to meet its unfunded mandates.

Even if we were to identify an affordable container set, I have deep concerns about making this investment. Curb space is limited in our bustling district and competition for the curb continues to increase. As we move toward the rollout of commercial waste zones and containerization for large residential buildings, one can assume additional containers will be needed at the curb lane. A more coordinated approach should be considered. It is also difficult for BIDs to identify feasible locations for containers as the onus is on the BID to notify impacted properties. These properties and businesses are our stakeholders and most of them would not be in favor of placing a large container in front of their building. This is guaranteed to create conflicts between the BIDs and the neighbors we serve.

I am also concerned by the temporary nature of the language used in the agreements to place containers. A two-year agreement with a one-year extension is not appropriate given the financial investment we would need to make. If the city is not considering this to be a long-term solution, they should work with us to create short-, mid- and long-term solutions. We have presented ourselves as willing partners with a shared goal of keeping the city's streets clean. Unfortunately, the agency has failed to take our concerns and expertise into account. Finally, I fear that other city agencies that would be impacted by the siting of new containers have not been properly consulted. This directly intersects with the work of the Department of Transportation, Landmarks Preservation Commission, and the Public Design Commission. Without their consultation at this phase of the process, our BID could purchase and install containers that do not meet the requirements of these agencies.

This proposal to fine partner organizations for carrying out work that would otherwise be the responsibility of DSNY is absurd. Furthermore, this punitive enforcement regime will negatively impact the members of our clean team. Many of the employees that keep our streets clean are from vulnerable populations and have in the past experienced addiction, homelessness, or incarceration. Forcing interactions between these hard-working individuals while on the job and law enforcement is cruel.

This rule will not create a pathway to its stated goals. BIDs are dedicated partners to the city, creative problem solvers, and extremely nimble. It is my hope that this rule-making process is halted, and the agency and BIDs can work together in earnest to meet shared goals.



Park Slope Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District

February 2025

Testimony for DSNY Hearing on Proposed DSNY Rule - placement of refuse by BIDs

We are the Park Slope Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District. We are a full-time staff of two with an annual assessment of \$500,000.

Supplemental sanitation services, salaries, programming and other services that support our small businesses, and quality of life issues for residents of our district, are covered by that assessment, with virtually nothing to spare.

The DSNY seems confident that we can easily cover any new costs that would be incurred by this containerization edict. We currently only have a clean team of 3, working 5 days a week on 32 blocks. We therefore do not currently service the corner cans 7 days a week, because we do not have the budget to do so.

We are not against containerization, but the cost and siting problems are totally prohibitive, and this isn't even considering the maintenance costs for repairs and power washing of the containers.

In conclusion, for financial and logistical reasons - including the major issues of siting and maintenance costs of containers - we most likely will be forced to stop servicing corner trash bins; bagging trash and adding a new liner.

We propose that when the community containers are installed by the City, we use those for the public trash bagged up from the 122 DSNY corner cans in our district.

Joanna Tallantire
Executive Director
Park Slope Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District

Testimony of Zach Owens, Executive Director, West Village Business Improvement District
Regarding Proposed Rule from New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY)

Hearing on Proposed Rule Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services

Date: 2/10/2025

Good morning,

My name is Zach Owens, and I serve as the Executive Director of the West Village Business Improvement District. I appreciate the opportunity to testify today in opposition to DSNY's proposed rule that would prohibit BIDs and other community-based organizations from placing bagged refuse next to public litter baskets and instead require all collected waste to be placed in rigid containers.

At its core, this rule is not just impractical, it is a punitive measure that fails to address the real issues plaguing sanitation in New York City while imposing an unworkable burden on nonprofit civic organizations like ours, which dedicate resources to keeping our neighborhoods clean.

1. The Rule Misidentifies the Problem

This proposal presumes that BIDs and other community groups are responsible for excessive waste accumulation near public litter baskets. However, the primary contributor to corner trash pile-ups is improper disposal by private businesses and individuals. Our team sees this every day: for every properly disposed BID-collected bag, there are often two or three illegally dumped black trash bags. Penalizing BIDs does nothing to address this chronic issue, and in fact, it may make it worse by discouraging proactive cleanup efforts.

2. Financial and Logistical Burdens Will Undermine Neighborhood Cleanliness

The financial implications of this rule are staggering. Implementing a rigid container system would cost our BID over **\$300,000 in upfront costs** and more than **\$113,000 annually in maintenance**. These costs are not sustainable for a small nonprofit organization, and they divert funding away from other essential quality-of-life initiatives.

While we had productive, though belated, discussions with DSNY regarding implementation, there was a clear misunderstanding of the actual market costs of containers, the number required to manage public waste effectively, and the frequency of litter bag pickups in our neighborhood. This lack of awareness underscores a broader failure to fully assess the rule's real-world impact, highlighting that the proposal was not thoroughly considered before being introduced.

Furthermore, when concerns about costs were raised with the former DSNY commissioner at November's oversight hearing, she suggested that organizations could simply purchase \$53 wheelie bins to containerize public waste. This is not a viable solution. Our BID spans a large area with 152 public litter baskets across 184 corners, and expecting a small sanitation team to manage and move over 150 rigid bins daily is completely unrealistic. If implemented, this rule would lead to abandoned bins cluttering sidewalks, obstructing pedestrians, increasing vandalism, and ultimately making our streets dirtier—not cleaner.

3. The Legal Justification for This Rule is Questionable

DSNY cites **Section 16-120(e)(2)** of the Administrative Code as justification for this rule, but this provision pertains to **commercial and household refuse**, not public litter basket maintenance. BIDs are **not** generating private waste; we are managing public litter on behalf of the city. The law was never intended to regulate BID sanitation efforts, and attempting to impose this requirement through rulemaking, rather than legislative action, raises serious legal concerns.

Additionally, the City Administrative Procedure Act (**CAPA**) requires that agencies assess the economic impact of their rules and minimize compliance costs. No such impact assessment was conducted for this rule, and BIDs were not given a meaningful opportunity to weigh in on the financial and operational feasibility of compliance. This alone could make the rule vulnerable to legal challenge.

4. A Collaborative Approach Would Yield Better Results

The West Village BID and other neighborhood organizations are eager to be partners in the city's sanitation goals. We have already worked closely with DSNY on litter mitigation strategies and have seen great success. But rather than engaging in meaningful consultation, DSNY is attempting to push through an unworkable mandate that will **discourage proactive waste management, exacerbate sanitation challenges, and place a disproportionate burden on nonprofit organizations.**

Conclusion

I strongly urge DSNY to reconsider this rule and instead work collaboratively with BIDs to develop practical, effective sanitation solutions. We share the city's goal of cleaner streets, but this rule will **not** achieve that. Instead, it will create a bigger mess—both legally and literally.

Thank you for your time, and I welcome any questions.

Zach Owens
Executive Director
West Village Business Improvement District

What happens when we stop neatly bagging public waste from corner litter baskets:



The most common origin of corner bags is illegal dumping – not BID bags.



Managing a fleet of 150 wheelie bins? In a few short weeks, every corner would look like this. This is an on-going battle.

We had to hire a hauler to remove abandoned bins on a bi-weekly basis.



Testimonial Letter to the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) on Proposed Rule Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a planning member of the Clean Bushwick Initiative, a community group that organizes regular street cleanups, a Super Steward with NYC Parks, and a Rain Garden steward with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, though opinions here are my own. In my volunteer capacity in all these roles, I have filled the gap for the DSNY by removing litter and illegally dumped debris off the streets. I strongly oppose the proposed rule change outlined in Section 16-120(e)(2). I, along with numerous other volunteers, work tirelessly to keep our NYC neighborhoods clean by collecting litter and placing it in bags near public trash bins for pickup. This proposed rule creates unnecessary obstacles that will make it significantly more difficult for us to continue our efforts.

First and foremost, requiring individual volunteers and community groups to use rigid receptacles with tight-fitting lids presents a logistical challenge. Unlike businesses or residents who have designated trash collection systems, individual volunteers and community cleanup groups operate on a volunteer basis, often working on an ad-hoc schedule. Carrying large, rigid containers to various cleanup sites is impractical, especially for volunteers who clean in areas far from their homes and rely on public transportation. Trash bags have been the most efficient way to collect and dispose of litter without burdening volunteers with cumbersome equipment.

Additionally, prohibiting the placement of bagged litter near public trash bins forces the clean-up community to choose between discontinuing clean-ups or risking fines. Public trash bins are natural collection points that ensure litter is properly disposed of instead of being left scattered on sidewalks or streets. If our volunteers are not allowed to leave collected litter in a reasonable location for city pickup, the only option will be to transport it ourselves—a task that is simply not feasible given our limited resources. Without a viable alternative, this rule risks discouraging volunteer cleanups altogether, leading to dirtier streets, more rats, and other environmental hazards.

Furthermore, imposing penalties on community groups for simply trying to help maintain public spaces punishes volunteers for helping our communities. Volunteer-driven initiatives should be encouraged, not penalized, especially at a time when sanitation services are already strained. Rather than enforcing rigid and impractical disposal requirements, the Department of Sanitation should work collaboratively with community organizations to find solutions that support, rather than hinder, grassroots cleanup efforts.

I urge the Department to delay issuing new rules on this issue for at least a year to allow time to develop policies that facilitate community engagement in keeping our neighborhoods clean. Possible alternatives include designated drop-off points for community cleanup efforts or allowing exceptions for DSNY issued bags to be used for voluntary litter collection.

Volunteers give their time and effort freely to improve the city. Do not make it harder for us to do so.

Sincerely,

Ulrike Nischan



PITKIN AVENUE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
1572 PITKIN AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11212
718.922.9600
WWW.PITKINAVENUE.NYC

Tiera Mack, Executive Director of the Pitkin Avenue BID, is a current CITIBIN user opposed to mandatory containerization for BIDs and commercial corridors.

The Pitkin Avenue BID has an assessment of \$225,000, covers 32 block faces, and currently holds 52 litter baskets over 64 corners. In FY24, our operating budget was \$380,000. Our total spent on sanitation was \$145,137, 39% of the budget.

The Pitkin Avenue BID has been using containerization since 2022 when we were awarded approximately \$28,000 for containers and supplies to maintain the containers under the DSNY & SBS Neighborhood Challenge grant. This grant was a pilot to test the reality of commercial corridor containerization. DSNY failed to monitor this pilot's process and subsequent failures or successes. DSNY has not collected any data points from me, or have they met with me as a BID leader who uses containers just for basic feedback.

We currently have 13 modules over 3 locations, and they hold 65-50-gallon bags. In FY24 we put out 39,000 bags for collection, and 1/3 of them are containerized. The BID team containerizes about three hours a day, approximately \$19,950 a year (350 days), excluding 15 days when we may need more staff to containerize. To containerize all of the bags in 2024, we would have had to spend an additional \$25,000-\$40,000 in growing labor cost. Plus another four-six containers. With a proper DSNY sanitation pick-up schedule, we could lower the labor cost. But this would require DSNY to be a true partner with us and monitor the program.

In 2023, when litter baskets began to disappear from the corridor, never to be replaced, we attempted to purchase BasketPlus from CITIBIN, a basic litter basket with a container as a sidecar. The clean team would have been able to containerize five bags at the very corner the litter basket is at. DSNY denied our request and said the only new baskets they are servicing are Better BIN. While easier for DSNY staff to lift, they are expensive and less durable, and once they break, they are not being replaced. Pitkin BID is currently missing 12 litter baskets.

Though commercial corridor containerization has many benefits, there are also many limitations, such as:

- **Improper Disposal & Illegal dumping** counteract the intention of the program. We are asking DSNY to create or provide a real solution to those issues.
- **Sanitation pick-up schedule:** we are asking DSNY to provide us with a schedule and let's work together as a BID that has containers.
- **Reconsider Basketplus as a litter basket option.**
- **Staff and labor costs.** This is a \$ 20,000-\$60,000-a-year cost in addition to street sweeping.



PITKIN AVENUE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

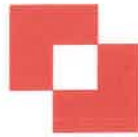
1572 PITKIN AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11212

718.922.9600

WWW.PITKINAVENUE.NYC

- **Pay Equity.** In-house and vendor staff who receive lower pay are expected to do the jobs of DSNY staff.
- **Maintenance costs.** Since our July 2022 installation, the BID has spent about \$7,500 on lock replacement, door repair, and other related expenses.
- **There are fights over public space. The community moving the units from the curb to the sidewalk will prevent DSNY pick-up.**
 - Reduced parking is crucial in BIDs that are further away from train stations and have limited parking spaces or lots.

Drew Mack



Peter S. Kalikow
Chairman

Grand Central
PARTNERSHIP

Alfred C. Cerullo, III
President/CEO

Testimony of the Grand Central Partnership, Inc. on the Proposed Rule Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services

February 10, 2025

The Grand Central Partnership (GCP) would like to thank the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) for this opportunity to present testimony in connection with the agency's proposed rule relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services.

At the outset, we would like to recognize the tremendous work that DSNY – from the uniformed workers to agency leadership – does to keep our city clean. We also greatly value the agency's close, longtime partnership with Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) like ours.

GCP is one of the largest BIDs in New York City, serving a 70-square-block area of Midtown East around Grand Central Terminal. We take tremendous pride in providing a wide array of supplemental municipal services to the community we serve including delivering supplemental sanitation services 365 days a year. The sanitation services provided by our team of more than 50 full-time unionized sanitation sweepers include sweeping streets, curb lines, and sidewalks, emptying trash receptacles, and preparing bags of trash for pickup. The municipal waste we manage is generated not by the BID, not by the commercial or residential buildings, and not by the retail businesses within our boundaries, but by the general public.

GCP strongly supports the goals of containerization. In fact, we worked years ago with stakeholders to develop a similar plan, albeit unsuccessful, to remove public trash bags from the sidewalks and store them in centralized containers on private property. As an organization that dedicates over 80,000 staff hours annually to sanitation and collects and prepares almost 200,000 bags of municipal waste generated by the public, GCP clearly understands the impact that garbage disposal has on quality of life in our communities. As a consequence, GCP has also made significant investments in operations and technology to reduce the time trash bags remain on the curb.

However, the proposed rule is highly problematic and, frankly, insulting for several reasons.

First, to reiterate, this is not our private waste; it is the municipal waste generated by the public. GCP simply sweeps it, bags it, and prepares it for eventual pickup by DSNY, or by a private

carter we privately fund to support New York's Strongest, preventing overflowing garbage receptacles and dirty streets. Treating entities like GCP as "illegal dumpers" is a slap in the face to all BIDs and the longstanding partnership we have had with the City in supplementing core services that it cannot fully provide itself. Since the 1980s, BIDs have partnered with the City to fill critical gaps in city services and bring sanitation standards to an acceptable level. To impose financial penalties on BIDs for simply providing services that DSNY is ultimately responsible for is outrageous.

Another critical issue is the one-size-fits-all approach the rule proposes. Each BID has its own unique character, with different types of building density, foot traffic, and waste generation. A rigid rule that does not account for these differences is likely to be difficult to implement and could have unintended consequences. For example, GCP and other BIDs have been working with DSNY on specific types of large containers, which may be ideal for some BIDs but not all. The proposed rule does not adequately account for those ongoing discussions.

Finally, the most complicated hurdle that GCP and other BIDs must overcome involves the actually siting of these containers. Our desire to comply with detailed regulations issued by two city agencies governing the size and materials of containers and the permissible locations such containers can be installed have not aligned with our ability to find suitable locations that do not obstruct and block commercial and retail businesses in our community. And even if GCP and other BIDS located private, but readily accessible, locations for our containers, it is unclear whether DSNY would service them. Organizations like GCP fear that we would be replacing the unsightly eyesore of trash bags temporarily waiting for pickup with the more permanent one of large container units dotting our neighborhoods.

Enforcement of the recently launched business containerization program has been inconsistent. More time and resources should be dedicated to fully implementing and evaluating these initiatives. Instead of penalizing BIDs for stepping in to provide crucial sanitation services, we urge DSNY to focus on refining existing containerization programs, learning from those experiences, and continuing to collaborate with BIDs to achieve our shared goals.

In conclusion, while containerization has merit, the way this policy has been rolled out has been horrendous. Any rule penalizing BIDs for doing this work should be stopped. We implore DSNY to reconsider its approach and work with us to find solutions that balance the needs of our neighborhoods with the City's goals, without penalizing us, their partners.



Peter S. Kalikow
Chairman

Grand Central
PARTNERSHIP

Alfred C. Cerullo, III
President/CEO

Testimony of the Grand Central Partnership, Inc. on the Proposed Rule Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services

February 10, 2025

The Grand Central Partnership (GCP) would like to thank the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) for this opportunity to present testimony in connection with the agency's proposed rule relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services.

At the outset, we would like to recognize the tremendous work that DSNY – from the uniformed workers to agency leadership – does to keep our city clean. We also greatly value the agency's close, longtime partnership with Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) like ours.

GCP is one of the largest BIDs in New York City, serving a 70-square-block area of Midtown East around Grand Central Terminal. We take tremendous pride in providing a wide array of supplemental municipal services to the community we serve including delivering supplemental sanitation services 365 days a year. The sanitation services provided by our team of more than 50 full-time unionized sanitation sweepers include sweeping streets, curb lines, and sidewalks, emptying trash receptacles, and preparing bags of trash for pickup. The municipal waste we manage is generated not by the BID, not by the commercial or residential buildings, and not by the retail businesses within our boundaries, but by the general public.

GCP strongly supports the goals of containerization. In fact, we worked years ago with stakeholders to develop a similar plan, albeit unsuccessful, to remove public trash bags from the sidewalks and store them in centralized containers on private property. As an organization that dedicates over 80,000 staff hours annually to sanitation and collects and prepares almost 200,000 bags of municipal waste generated by the public, GCP clearly understands the impact that garbage disposal has on quality of life in our communities. As a consequence, GCP has also made significant investments in operations and technology to reduce the time trash bags remain on the curb.

However, the proposed rule is highly problematic and, frankly, insulting for several reasons.

First, to reiterate, this is not our private waste; it is the municipal waste generated by the public. GCP simply sweeps it, bags it, and prepares it for eventual pickup by DSNY, or by a private

carter we privately fund to support New York's Strongest, preventing overflowing garbage receptacles and dirty streets. Treating entities like GCP as "illegal dumpers" is a slap in the face to all BIDs and the longstanding partnership we have had with the City in supplementing core services that it cannot fully provide itself. Since the 1980s, BIDs have partnered with the City to fill critical gaps in city services and bring sanitation standards to an acceptable level. To impose financial penalties on BIDs for simply providing services that DSNY is ultimately responsible for is outrageous.

Another critical issue is the one-size-fits-all approach the rule proposes. Each BID has its own unique character, with different types of building density, foot traffic, and waste generation. A rigid rule that does not account for these differences is likely to be difficult to implement and could have unintended consequences. For example, GCP and other BIDs have been working with DSNY on specific types of large containers, which may be ideal for some BIDs but not all. The proposed rule does not adequately account for those ongoing discussions.

Finally, the most complicated hurdle that GCP and other BIDs must overcome involves the actually siting of these containers. Our desire to comply with detailed regulations issued by two city agencies governing the size and materials of containers and the permissible locations such containers can be installed have not aligned with our ability to find suitable locations that do not obstruct and block commercial and retail businesses in our community. And even if GCP and other BIDS located private, but readily accessible, locations for our containers, it is unclear whether DSNY would service them. Organizations like GCP fear that we would be replacing the unsightly eyesore of trash bags temporarily waiting for pickup with the more permanent one of large container units dotting our neighborhoods.

Enforcement of the recently launched business containerization program has been inconsistent. More time and resources should be dedicated to fully implementing and evaluating these initiatives. Instead of penalizing BIDs for stepping in to provide crucial sanitation services, we urge DSNY to focus on refining existing containerization programs, learning from those experiences, and continuing to collaborate with BIDs to achieve our shared goals.

In conclusion, while containerization has merit, the way this policy has been rolled out has been horrendous. Any rule penalizing BIDs for doing this work should be stopped. We implore DSNY to reconsider its approach and work with us to find solutions that balance the needs of our neighborhoods with the City's goals, without penalizing us, their partners.

February 9, 2025

Dear Acting Commissioner Lojan:

The many volunteer community groups across the city who have engaged their neighbors to help care for their shared public spaces are deeply concerned about the language of a recently proposed rule and potential impacts of amending Section 16-120(e)(2) of the New York City Administrative Code. The rule is written in a way that specifically targets organizations that historically have worked in tandem with DSNY to keep our communities clean.

While we appreciate the value of containerization when applied to residential and commercial waste, applying such rules to organizations who perform manual cleaning such as sweeping and cleaning of sidewalks, public plazas, streets, curbs and gutters, or emptying of public litter baskets puts an undue burden on these organizations that are providing a public benefit.

In 2020, when the City of New York implemented severe budget cuts to the Department of Sanitation, particularly in relation to litter basket collection, volunteers across all five boroughs stepped up to the plate to fill in the gaps. Five years later, these groups continue to organize their neighbors and are responsible for collecting tons of litter from our public spaces each year. As New Yorkers, we recognize the often thankless work of the men and women of the Department of Sanitation tasked with keeping our city clean and are grateful for their dedication.

To require that volunteer groups purchase, store and maintain rigid receptacles with tight-fitting lids in order to have their bags of litter collected, under threat of fines, is frankly outrageous. There is no way for our groups to know in advance of a cleanup event if we will collect 1 bag or 10 bags, so how could we possibly plan to have enough bins and the means to secure them from theft when put out for collection.

Furthermore, the current process for volunteer community groups to liaise with DSNY requires a two week advance notice that includes indicating the area to be cleaned and where filled bags will be left for collection. It is often impossible to know what area will be the most dirty, and therefore benefit the most from our work, this far in advance or where the most convenient bag locations will be.

Despite assurances from leaders within the Department that this rule would not be applied to our organizations, the language very clearly includes us. One such leader characterized the purpose of this rule as stopping the practice of abandoned bags being left at public litter baskets. We would argue that the bags placed here by volunteer organizations are *not abandoned*, rather they are left at a location most convenient for sanitation workers to collect without disrupting their regular routes.

Our coalition of volunteer community groups asks for the following:

1. A complete rejection of this proposed rule as written

2. Updated language to specifically exclude “volunteer community groups”
3. A revised system to allow volunteer groups to interface with DSNY in real time to alert of cleanup activities resulting in bags being left at public litter baskets for collection rather than the current system of filling out documents at least two weeks in advance with information we may not have available at that time.

Our organizations want to work with the Department to keep our communities clean and help reinforce the message that caring for our shared public spaces is the responsibility of all New Yorkers. We hope you will recognize our requests and continue to partner with us in this effort.

Sincerely,

Abuela Neighborhood Maintenance — Queens
Clean Bushwick Initiative — Brooklyn
Clean Up Crown Heights — Brooklyn
Clean Up Kensington — Brooklyn
Community Cleanup PLG — Brooklyn
Friends of 4 Parks Alliance — The Bronx
Jackson Heights Beautification Group — Queens
Litter Legion — Manhattan
Nasty New Yorkers — Manhattan
Pick Up Pigeons — Brooklyn, Queens, and Manhattan
QNS Trash — Queens and Manhattan
The Trash Project — Manhattan

CALLS		Notes	WALK-THROUGHS
930am	Thursday 12/5/2024 Rachelle Pascif	Grand central	
		BID indicated they will purchase on-street containers (OSC). Walkthrough to be scheduled in Spring.	
8am	Friday 12/6/2024 Mark Dicus	5th Ave	
845am	Noah Sheroff	Bayside Village	
10am	Regina Myer	Downtown Brooklyn	
	Monday 12/9/2024 Maddie Baker	Bryant Park	
7am	Rob Byrnes	East Midtown	
115am	Sean Lewin	Hudson Square	
145pm	Bob Jean	Throgs Neck	
	Wednesday 12/11/2024 Angel Hart	LIC Bid	
2pm		Applications currently in for 4 Citibins. Cartine overflow bins to DSNV DWS exarae effective 1/13/2025	
	Thursday 12/12/2024 Katty Garces	Cypress/Fulton	
2pm	Kelly Carroll	Atlantic Ave	
3pm		Looking into Citibins and locations, will have another call after New Years Would like a walkthrough to determine how many OSC she will need. Spring time call to schedule	
	Friday 12/13/2024 Liz Lowmye	Bay Ridge/5th Ave	
10am	Patrick Condren	86th Street Bid	
12pm	Josh Knoller	Fordham	
1pm	Marie Tonnali	Steinway Street	
	Monday 12/16/2024 Kalius Mikulstains	Dumbo	
130pm	Trey Jenkins	161st Street	
230pm		Looking at different OSC options. Once they know what style bin they want, they will schedule a site visit to look over selected locations. 1 Citibin out already, will look at pricing for minimum of 7 more. Generates 80 bags daily.	
	Thursday 12/19/2024 Lauren Collins	Church-Flatbush	
1230pm	Kenneth Mbono	Flatbush Junction	
		Has 3 Citibin containers. Walk through on 1/30/2025. Stated she can use grant money to purchase additional bins Walkthrough 1/30/2025, siting locations for 3 Citibins	
	Monday 12/23/2024 Theodore Rens	Myrtle Ave Queens	
130pm		To be rescheduled	
	Monday 12/30/2024 Camella Tepelus	Morris Park BID	
12pm		Reported low volume (3-5 bags daily). Will not be bagging corner baskets. Will monitor over the next few months (Zero cost)	
	Friday 1/3/2025 Francesca Bruce	Grand Street	
10am		Deciding between carting jointly with Graham or purchasing OSC. Walkthrough 4/10/2025	
	Monday 1/6/2025 Julie Stein	Union Square	
115pm	Dirk McCall	Sunnyside Shines	
2pm		Walkthrough 2/13/2025. Currently carting with StreetPlus 3x daily to DSNV 57th street Garage. Looking into large grey wheelle bins (lift trucks) at designated locations for StreetPlus to pick up from. Wants a walkthrough in March to discuss siting	
	Tuesday 1/7/2025 Matt Malloy	Garment District	
1030am	Cathy Williams	Woodhaven Bid	
1105am	Dan Kong Yu	Flushing bid	
1230pm	Yelena Makhnin	Brighton Beach	
115pm	James Martin	ACE	
2pm		Does not want OSC. Currently carts to DSNV 57th Street Garage. Will continue to cart as well as purchase large grey tipper bins (lift trucks) to store bags in secure location New director of the BID, waiting to hear back on volume of bags produced daily so we can work on a plan. Prefers OSC and is looking into the Clean Curbs website. Update: 65 bags daily Indicated they will be purchasing Citibins. Would like to schedule a walkthrough with DSNV to designate locations. Concerned about improper disposal, businesses not wanting containers in front of properties, and cost. Will try to set up another call after February. Preliminary call to review policy. Follow up call with ACE operations team to work out logistics of each location serviced.	
	Wednesday 1/8/2025 James Ellis	North Flatbush	
8am		Concerned about placement on Flatbush Ave, looking to possibly convert existing Big Belly locations. Looking into OSC options.	
	Thursday 1/9/2025 Theodore Rens	Myrtle Ave	
11am	Joanna Tallantire	Park Slope	
1145am	Matthew Bauer	Madison Ave	
12pm		100 bags a day. Looking into OSC options Concerned with cost, expressed that no option works. Will follow-up in Spring. Indicated they will be purchasing lidded wheelle bins to be placed strategically throughout the BID	
	Friday 1/10/2025 Cordelia Persen	NoHo	
8am	Sean Lewin	Hudson Square	
810am		Already has 4 OSC. Indicated they will be purchasing 3 additional OSCs. Waiting on 4th OSC. DSNV to follow up to confirm carting to DSNV Spring Street Garage.	
	Monday 1/13/2025 Sasha Ortiz	Castle Hill	
113pm	Angie Brown	Fulton BID	
2pm		Explained on a call and in an email all the options for her BID (OSC/Carting/lift trucks). Sent her the info for Clean Curbs. She indicated she will now present to the BID and get back to us Walkthrough 1/30/2025 - sitied 3 locations for OSC	
	Tuesday 1/14/2025 Evan Sweet	Meatpacking	
8am		Not happy about choices of bins, wants more options. Indicated leaning towards 4 metrorator bins. Already has 4 corals where bags are stored. Generates 250-300 bags daily	
	Thursday 1/16/2025 Daniel Bernstein	Columbus Amsterdam	
130pm		Reported generating 40 bags daily. Indicated looking to start with grey lift trucks. Pending funding in August, indicated will look to purchase Citibins.	
	Monday 1/27/2025 Nina Flores	Forrest Ave St	
930am	James Martin	ACE	
130pm		Provided overview and correct misunderstandings about DSNV policy. Indicated they will meet with their board and propose to buy 2 Citibins. Provided subjective analysis on number of OSC potentially needed at locations cleaned by ACE, analysis did not account for number of days serviced or proximity to other containers.	
	Tuesday 1/28/2025 Jessica Lappin	Downtown Alliance	
1pm		Piloted the original Clean Curbs program. Has OSCs in place	
	Wednesday 1/29/2025 Nicole Poynter	Columbus Ave	
10am	Zach Owens	West Village	
130pm	James Mettham	Flatiron/NoMad	
4pm	Barbara Atkins	125th Street BID	
	Friday 1/31/2025 Scott Hobbs	Village Alliance	
130pm		Indicated they are only obligated to clean in front of the stores and the curb line and not obligated to bag DSNV baskets. Will speak to his board about purchasing 5 OSCs.	
	Tuesday 2/4/2025 Daniela Beasley	Jerome Gun Hill BID	
8am		Ordered 10 total Citibins. indicated support for containerization.	
	Monday 2/5/2025 David Estrada	Sunset Park	
8am		Concerned about funding but in favor of containerization. Will schedule a walkthrough in March.	
	Tuesday 2/11/2025 Graham Ave	Alberto Valentin	
1030	Kingsbridge BID	Katherine Brother	
2pm	Isidro Medina	Washington Heights BID	
230pm		Preliminary call to discuss options. 2nd call tomorrow, walkthrough 4/10/2025 Likely requires 2 small Citibins, walkthrough to be scheduled in Spring Concerned with illegal vending. Requested information on OSC options.	
	Wednesday 2/12/2025 Graham/Grand	Alberto/Francesca	
11am			
	Monday 2/24/2025 Alyssa Tucker	Belmont	
230pm			
	Friday 1/24/2025 Ebo Jean	Throgs Neck	
2pm		Notes 2nd walkthrough needed with Kevin. Will buy 20 Citibins, currently scouting for locations	
	Thursday 1/30/2025 Lauren Collins	Church-Flatbush	
900AM	Kenneth Mbono	Flatbush Junction	
10AM	Regina Myer	Downtown Brooklyn	
11AM	Angie Brown	Fulton BID	
1PM		Reluctant at first. Will be looking to add 3 additional bins to the 3 she has Sited 4 locations for Citibins Changing from Citibin to Metrorator and adding to what they already have Sited 3 locations for 3 small Citibins. Generates 40 bags daily	
	Thursday 2/6/2025 Mark Dicus	5th Ave	
9AM	Rob Byrnes	East Midtown	
11AM	Josh Knoller	Fordham	
1PM		Sited locations for large Citibins Re-explained concept, will work on siting Postponed	
	Thursday 2/13/2025 Julie Stein	Union Square	
9am	James Mettham	Flatiron/NoMad	
12pm			
	Thursday 3/13/2025 Liz Lowmye	Bay Ridge/5th Ave	
9am			
	Thursday 3/26/2025 Dirk McCall	Sunnyside Shines	
930am			
	Thursday 4/10/2025 Francesca Bruce	Grand Street	
9am	Graham Ave	Alberto Valentin	
1030			

BID Name:	Have you met with representatives from DSNY regarding possible solutions to comply with the proposed rule yet?	If yes, who did you meet with from DSNY and when?	Any comments about your meeting with DSNY?	How do you currently plan to comply with the new proposed rule? (select one; If more than one apply, you can add details in the final comment box)	If you plan to containerize the trash you collect, how many bins do you anticipate needing?	What is the estimated cost to purchase and install the containers?	Have you met with representatives from DOT regarding siting the containers? Who and when?	Have you drafted a site plan of potential siting locations yet?	Do you anticipate any impediments to siting the on-street containers? What are they?	If using wheelee bins, what is the estimated cost to purchase the bins?	How/where do you plan to store the wheelee bins?	Do you anticipate any impediments to using wheelee bins? What are they?	If planning to cart away the trash, what is the estimated annual cost? (indicate the increase only; above your current sanitation costs)	How will you transport the bags? Will your sanitation vendor do the carting or will the BID rent/purchase a vehicle?	Do you anticipate any impediments to carting/disposing of bags at a DSNY garage? What are they?	If you answered "Other", what is your plan? Please elaborate.	Do you anticipate complying with the proposed rule by August 1, 2025?	If you cannot comply with the proposed rule by August 2025, when do you think you could comply?	Regardless of how you plan to comply, will there be additional related personnel costs? If known, approximately how much per year?	Do you currently collaborate with the Parks Department on trash collection?	If yes, have you met with representatives from Parks to discuss complying with the proposed rule?	If yes, who at Parks did you meet with and when?	Any other comments on implementation, cost, or timeline?
New Dorp Lane District	No, and we don't have anything scheduled	N/A	The SIEDC team emailed with Frank Lettera, DSNY Deputy Chief, to confirm the new regulations. There was not yet a formal meeting. The maintenance provider for the New Dorp BID has been made aware of the change and will be joining the hearing on February 10th.	Other												We are in discussions with our maintenance vendor the New Dorp BID. Plans to be constructed after the hearing.	Yes		Yes	No	No, and we have nothing scheduled		The BID members and the maintenance vendor are displeased with this change as it will affect the budget and the operations of the BID/maintenance crew.
Forest Avenue BID	No, but we have a call/meeting scheduled		Our meeting is Monday morning	Other												Whatever our board decides what is the best interest of our corridor we will follow protocols	Yes		It would be severely high for us and it will surpass our assessment. We couldn't afford it.	No	No, and we have nothing scheduled		
North Flatbush Avenue	Yes, we already met	Frank Lettera, 1/8/2025	Suggested we will need to site locations outside of our BID boundaries due to parking regulations. Also generally underestimated costs (\$5k per container) and operations implications	Stop service of corner litter baskets													Yes		We are planning on adding additional hours and part time personnel to pilot additional services. ~\$15k/year	No			
Bayside Village BID	Yes, we already met	Frank Lettera - Friday, December 6, 2024	We proposed adding additional receptacles for the bags. DSNY seemed open to that idea. I followed up and asked about cost. I was informed that cost would be on the BID. We are supposed to reconnect in February.	On-street containers (e.g. Citibins)	At least 10 receptacles	I am not sure	No	No - I am not sure we need them if we are moving forward with additional receptacles on certain corners.									Yes			No			I feel "out of the loop" with the new policy. DSNY has not proposed any sort of cost or given guidance on what is needed. It was also expressed by the board that we could just leave full cans out for collection.
Brighon Beach	Yes, we already met	Frank Lettera	Seem like city is "pushing" for one rule fits all without taking into consideration size of the BID, Budget of the BID and dumping situation	Stop service of corner litter baskets													No	10/1/2025	\$4000-6000	No			works. Small BIDs with the budget less than \$500K would have difficulties to comply due to cost increase. Before issues with improper disposal and/or illegal dumping resolve, such rule will not help to improve sanitation condition. Brighton Beach BID has 50-60 bags daily collected by contracting workers. Within the same boundaries we have 40-55 bags daily improperly disposed at the same corner for years. Containers will also take much needed parking on the avenue, make businesses suffer. If I remember correctly, containers idea was brought to NYC from Barcelona, Spain. Not
Graham Avenue BID	No, and we don't have anything scheduled	n/a - however, I expect to be reaching out to DSNY this week	Note: I will discuss my interest in exploring the viability of doing some type of bag disposal at DSNY garage (via carting arrangement in partnership with other neighboring BIDs for example, Grand St BID)	Bag disposal at DSNY garage (i.e. carting)									We estimate additional \$70k if we do it alone vs \$40k or so if we partner with other neighboring BIDs. This is a rough estimate arrived at in discussions with my current supplemental sanitation vendor.	Exploring doing it with our sanitation vendor doing the carting and purchasing a vehicle.	Not sure of this, need to get more information from DSNY		Yes		None / I expect all costs will be with supplemental sanitation vendor	No			Need to get more specifics to more accurately estimate costs and implementation logistics.
Jerome Gun Hill BID	No, and we don't have anything scheduled		Reached out and haven't heard anything back yet, sent follow up before completing this survey.	On-street containers (e.g. Citibins)	6 citibin modules	60,000	Yes, Holly Malone, June 2024	Yes, based on feedback from DOT and Citibin	Not as many sites as needed approved by both Citibin and DOT will have to look into other options to cover the entire corridor, will speak with DSNY about other options when they confirm our meeting time.								No	12/31/2025		No	No, and we have nothing scheduled		We can have a plan, but we need time to see how each of our plans as BIDs work, the timeline doesn't allow for implementation, observation/assessment and finalizing or pivoting our strategy. Each BID is going to have a different plan that works for them based on foot traffic, illegal dumping issues, available citibin locations etc. The timeline they've given doesn't give everyone enough time to go through a trial and error process, implementation alone takes months and that's if yeh have the funds to do so.
Woodhaven BID	Yes, we already met	Frank Lettera	He asked for a bag count, which was provided in email after the call, and I have not heard back on how many BINS would be needed.	On-street containers (e.g. Citibins)	Unknown	Unknown	no	no	The elevated train structure poses an obstacle								No		we dont know yet	Yes	No, and we have nothing scheduled		I am working on figuring out how to implement.
86th Street Bay Ridge BID	No, but we have a call/meeting scheduled		Concerns where placement would be	On-street containers (e.g. Citibins)	Approx. 10	Approx. \$4,000/ea	No	No									No	2/20/2026		No	No, and we have nothing scheduled		Timeline is based on meeting with DSNY and availability of bins.

[illegible]

HUB Third Avenue Business Improvement District	Yes, we already met	Chief Frank Lettera	Overall cordial. I'd like to see a greater commitment from the City and DSNY to support the logistics and financial cost that comes with containerization. Consistent and frequent collection schedules would have a greater impact on preventing bags on the street. The BID has very limited storage space and does not have the ability to haul trash to the local garage.	Other												While we are exploring on-street containers, we are not committing to this option as it is expensive and can attract other quality of life concerns (homeless encampments, illegal dumping, littering, and reduced parking). We are also exploring larger corner litter baskets that come with storage units.	No	8/1/2026	\$0,000	No	No, and we have nothing scheduled		The city should be allocating funding to support BIDs around this initiative as we are in a unique position compared to any other type of organization in the city. We provide supplemental sanitation services which are not meant to replace DSNY services. The city should explore aligning containerization with commercial waste zoning to ensure that there is consistency in how trash is handled in commercial areas.
Columbus Avenue BID	No, but we have a call/meeting scheduled	Meeting scheduled with Frank Lettera on 1/29	n/a	Other												We are still trying to work out logistics. In an ideal world, we will do on-street containers but at this point my Board is still open to ceasing litter basket service.	No	2/1/2026	will know more after meeting with DSNY but anticipate roughly \$25,000-\$50,000 increase	No			
Park Slope Fifth Avenue BID	Yes, we already met	Frank Lettera, Jan 9th	DSNY doesn't seem to understand that we are not able to comply; we are not able to afford to comply in any way other than to stop bagging up trash at the corner bins. They did say there was no DSNY grant or funds coming to help.	Stop service of corner litter baskets													No			No	No, and we have nothing scheduled		
Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District (Queens)	Yes, we already met	Frank Lettera on January 9th, 2025	No	Other												We working on ideas but nothing is finalized yet	Yes		We are not sure yet	No		We have talked with DSNY only not Parks Dept.	
The Washington Heights BID	No, and we don't have anything scheduled		The WHBID is very concerned how this is going to affect our budget since we are a very small BID with a very limited assessment.	Other												Considering other alternatives	No	7/1/2026	\$12,000	No			
Steinway Street	Yes, we already met	Frank Lettera	Discussed possibly on-street containers and/or DSNY disposal. No clear answer as to siting of containers; a walk through with DSNY should be scheduled. Also, not sure how many times bags would be permitted to be disposed at garage if we went that route.	On-street containers (e.g. Citibins)	Not sure yet.	Not sure - would also require additional hours for the sanitation crew. Minimum \$50,000 to start the program.	No	No	I assume we would need DOT approval but this is unclear. Also unclear whether DOS would commit to picking up from specific locations. The containers would have to be locked. Business owners might also object to containers in front of business.								No	12/31/2025	There will be additional related personnel cost. Will have a better answer in March	No			
Bay Ridge 5th Avenue BID	Yes, we already met	Frank Lettera	The meeting fell short of expectations in terms of productivity. The lack of coordination and communication between the DSNY policy and operations teams left several key questions unresolved.	On-street containers (e.g. Citibins)	10	~4,000 each container/bin	No	Yes	located at sidewalk corners throughout the district are strategically placed to minimize disruption. However, given Bay Ridge's car-centric nature, positioning containers on the street would likely lead to the loss of valuable parking spaces, which could inconvenience business owners, residents, and visitors. Additionally, on street containers raise concerns related to safety, maintenance, and accessibility. If a vehicle were to damage an on-street container, would the BID be responsible for repairs, potentially increasing insurance premiums? Furthermore, could these containers be								No	1/1/2026	More frequent monitoring and maintenance may be required for street-based containers, such as ensuring they are kept clean, secure, and access. Also, ible. This could require additional sanitation personnel. If vehicles damage containers, staff may need to oversee repairs and manage insurance claims, leading to administrative and coordination costs.	No			
Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership	No, but we have a call/meeting scheduled			Other												Until we have a better option we plan to continue service as is and fight any tickets received.	No			No	No, and we have nothing scheduled		bags from the sidewalk. To do so with containerization we need funding and DOT to handle siting. It would cost over 200K for year one based on my initial research. Other options such as placing wheely bins next to each garbage can is also expensive and we will be unable to keep folks from going through the bins. I am open to options but do not have the funding for this mandate and am deeply concerned that illegal dumping, large populations going through the trash, and inability to site containers are all major hurdles. We are also a neighborhood that has
Church Avenue/Flatbush Avenue BID	Yes, we already met	Frank Lettera on 12/19/24	Kenneth Mbono (Junction) joined the call & we'll be doing a walk through of both districts w/Frank on 1/30/25.	Other												The board has not decided but is considering stopping emptying of litter baskets. Carting public waste is not affordable & there's resistance here to the idea of diverting money from other programs so we can take over a City responsibility that we're already spending half of our budget on. I believe that full funding, based on need, would eliminate much of the pushback from BIDs who can't afford to comply.	No		We currently have 3 clean team workers & additional personnel might be needed depending on how the board decides.	No	No, and we have nothing scheduled		There's much too much public garbage on the streets of our BID & it needs to be brought under control but forcing BIDs to take on this huge cost isn't a reasonable or fair solution. To install additional CITibins in 6-10 locations that we would need would cost an estimated \$60k - \$80k, plus additional man hours to clean in & around them on a regular basis.

NoHo BID	Yes, we already met	I spoke to Frank Lettera on Friday, January 10th	We had a good conversation. I think Frank seems like a good partner just trying to further this program. My BID is well into containerization though so there is no conflict, just sharing our plans.	On-street containers (e.g. Citibins)	By August 1st I should have 7 bins of various capacities around my district. If at that point there isn't enough capacity, we plan to remove a few cans in parts of the district where siting has been more difficult.	I believe to fully containerize our district, meaning adding three more bins mostly funded by the Small BID Grant (\$24,000) and then looking for funding for 2 more 24 bag bins at the harder to site ends of our district (\$18,000)	We continue to work on siting. There are not that many suitable places for the bins, but we continue to try new locations and have been able to cover most of our district.	I have site plans for three more locations funded by the Small BID Grant and hope to share them with DSNY by the end of this week	It has been challenging to find a suitable site in a convenient location on the south end of our district. We also have to find a site on the north end, but I believe if we keep trying they will approve something there. We just haven't gotten to that area yet. It will be our forth phase.							No	6/30/2025	We don't anticipate additional personnel, but the cost of powerwashing the bins is significant.	No	No, and we have nothing scheduled		To explain further, my BID has been moving this program forward in phases. We invested in the first round in early 2023, and then have secured money from the Small BID Grant for two years to more fully cover the district. By June 2025, we will have mostly containerized, but there still may be a need for more capacity and my Board says they will not fund more Citibins and instead would like to pull corner baskets in areas that we don't have the capacity to service. My hope is that we will and if not, that additional funding will become available through the City to complete our rollout.
Bed-Stuy Gateway BID	Yes, we already met	Antonio Whitaker	We agreed to work together for the betterment of the community. This is not an easy process to move forward as the streets are already crowded and now trying to find ways to store trash is even more difficult.	On-street containers (e.g. Citibins)	Not sure yet because we have 4 Citibins and they are getting beat up by cars and people not wanting them.	\$k each	No	No	Parking along Fulton St and Nostrand Ave is already a challenge. With four Citibins in place, maintaining them has been tough due to the demand for parking spaces.							Yes			No	No, and we have nothing scheduled		We should consider having Sanitation collect garbage more frequently to eliminate the need for containerizing public trash, which the BIDs currently manage daily. This change would help maintain cleaner streets and reduce the burden on BIDs, ensuring a more pleasant environment for everyone.
Soho Broadway Initiative	No, and we don't have anything scheduled		I haven't met with them yet but will note I find it extremely frustrating that DSNY has promised partnership and failed at delivering in a number of ways. It's a small point, but DSNY should be proactively reaching out to us, not us having to reach out to them.	Other										We are exploring options. I am very worried about making any kind of investment in this program.	No		Unknown	No				This is bananas
Diamond District Partnership / 47th Street BID	Yes, we already met	We communicated with Ashlee Barker via email	The assistance they provided concerned our efforts to install a garbage bag enclosure bin. They were very helpful.	On-street containers (e.g. Citibins)	We already have. We purchased 6 bins from CITIBIN	It cost us ~ \$16,000	Ashlee Barker this past fall	Yes. We have completed the process and the bins were installed in December 2024	We had to request USPS to move two mailboxes about 20 feet north from where they were sited. USPS accommodated our request with little difficulty or delay							Yes			No	No, and we have nothing scheduled		I am well aware that this process was relatively simple for our BID as our boundary and needs are quite small. I imagine if we had to address multiple bag drop points the process would have been far more complicated.
FORDHAM ROAD BID	No, but we have a call/meeting scheduled	Walkthrough scheduled with Frank Lettera from DSNY	We had an initial phone call to connect with him. Rule details and implementation (bidding, location and logistics) will be discussed during the walkthrough.	Other										We are exploring all options - This will be presented at our upcoming board meeting on 1/30/25. Especially on financial impact of this rule change / mandate (cost of equipment, insurance coverage, and other expenses).	No	11/30/2025	Not sure yet.	No				after our board meeting later this week. A lot of unique challenges to be consider for the implementation along Fordham Road due to having a curbside bus lane across the district from Jerome /Washington Avenue and limited access to side streets. In regard to cost associated; we are looking for funding sources to cover cost of purchasing the equipment, and other expenses (liability insurance, & other related expenses). We are very concerned on timeline especially because at this point DSNY has not provided clear guidelines and/or implementation details on this.
Downtown Jamaica Partnership	No, and we don't have anything scheduled		We intend to meet with DSNY and will arrange a meeting soon.	On-street containers (e.g. Citibins)	We currently have 4 Citibins and will need 8 more to accommodate the daily bag count in our district.	Approximately \$25,000.00	We have not met with anyone from DOT yet, regarding siting 8 additional containers. 4 containers are already sited.	No.	We do anticipate impediments. We have a busway that is troublesome for many reasons, among which is that it is difficult to site Citibins in the roadway. We have so few public parking spaces along Jamaica Avenue due to the busway, that we're concerned that DOT will suggest using up a few of these spaces, which will have further negative impacts on our businesses. People rely heavily on their cars here in this part of Queens, and the busway has doubled our vacancy rate over the past year.							Yes	6/1/2026	We most likely will not have additional personnel costs.	No			We will need additional Citibins in our district, and we will also likely need to rely on carting, if we are not able to fund the purchase of additional Citibins, or if DSNY does not collect the trash bags in a timely manner. We plan to request discretionary funds for additional citibins, but we cannot guarantee receipt of those funds at this time.
LIC BID	Yes, we already met	Frank Lettera		Bag disposal at DSNY garage (i.e. carting)											No	1/21/2025		Yes				
Long Island City BID	Yes, we already met	Frank Lettera, Deputy Chief + Iggy Azzara, Chief Queens West	The meeting went well, they committed to working with us through the different scenarios we presented.	On-street containers (e.g. Citibins)	We've estimated we would need at least 4 XL on street containers to containerize all of our trash.	We were quoted around \$61,000 just for the on-street containers	We did not. Our application is still pending and we have only been communicating with DSNY who has been communicating with DOT on the siting. We have had no direct communication with DOT on the siting.	Yes.	with one of the vendors who talked us through the different siting requirements and what DOT/DSNY looks for before we put in the applications. There have been some issues with the locations already but no direct reasonings were given, they just suggested alternative sites. We don't have as many issues with siting since our BID is so large we had options, it is more about the distance of travel for our sanitation team between containers that makes it difficult to site. Additionally, we will likely get push back from residents/ community members							Yes		We do not know yet.	No			Clean Curbs has been time consuming and there has been a lot of back and forth with DSNY just to get all of the items needed in for the application. Additionally they require detailed site plans and drawings that are difficult to produce - I imagine other BIDs will struggle with this as well. If anyone is planning to do this in the future I would recommend they start by putting in the applications and working out the rest afterwards (how they will purchase the bins etc). The on street containers will not be enough to containerize everything, we will still need to purchase more

Dumbo BID	Yes, we already met	Frank Lettera , 12/16/2024	Very surface level conversation. Would not provide any more details or discuss particulars, just told us to apply to the cleancurbs pilot.	On-street containers (e.g. Citibins)	~12 metrostor bins or ~40 citibins	~\$120,000	no. When reaching out to DOT, they advised to simply apply to DSNY who would connect with DOT regarding siting.	yes	Getting approval from DOT & LPC. Challenges siting due to grade, street size, etc.							No	1/1/2026	~\$15,000	No	No, and we have nothing scheduled			
Madison Avenue BID	Yes, we already met	Frank Lettera, January 9, 2025	Noted that DSNY personnel will pick up from larger wheelee bins, still not sure if they will physically take them from our smaller bins, but our staff will likely be able to physically place the garbage bags in the DSNY truck. This arrangement that we would have with DSNY would of course be dependent upon having a regular DSNY pickup in the afternoons. There is definitely a possibility that this falls through.	Movable wheelee bins						Approximately \$5,000 annually (we will have to make multiple purchases)	We are planning to use smaller bins that are retractable and can be taken offsite by our sanitation crew.	Yes, what happens when DSNY misses a pickup due to staffing issues or inclement weather? This has not been worked out as of yet with DSNY. The bins are also cumbersome to move on our narrow sidewalks.					Yes		We are going to have to designate one person, likely a supervisor, to handle this every day. The cost is approximately \$56,000 annually.	No	No, and we have nothing scheduled		
Lincoln Square BID	Yes, we already met	Chief Frank Lettera last summer after calls with Ryan Merola	positive and supportive	On-street containers (e.g. Citibins)	We currently have 6 and would like one more	approximately \$10K for one.	Kate Mikuljak; Jennifer Sta lines; several months ago	yes a site plan was required prior to installation of each citibin	sufficient locations that meet DOT siting criteria;							Yes		This is more labor intensive as our Clean Team must move bags to the closest citibin which takes away from sweeping and other chores. They often must move multiple bags. This can result in lower productivity and a 10% estimate of their time is being spent on this. That as well as repairs, replacement of panels, etc totals approximately \$100,000.	No	No, and we have nothing scheduled	Parks does not remove any bags from our district. They used to but we have relieved them of that responsibility.	We have a great relationship with DSNY but we believe that the rules should not leave certain things to the Commissioner's discretion. Missed pickups due to snow, vacations, etc. we should not be penalized for DSNY's inability to service the bins.	
Meatpacking District	Yes, we already met	Lterra on Tuesday Jan 14	The meeting was friendly but did not guide the BID. DSNY wants us to do our proposed container, however, some issues prevent us from making that decision until we hear back from DOT and LPC regarding container design and on street placement. The conversation clarified the BID could only engage in a distributed collection system which we find to be inefficient as we would be prohibited from consolidating bags and centralizing collection.	Other									Until we have clarity on the type of container we will be allowed to use, and clarity on how these impact BID procurement policy, we will continue to utilize our designated trash corrals and hot spots for bag collection.	No		Yes - we imagine requiring at least 1 additional staffer per year, an approx cost of \$50,000 per year	No				further the City's efforts to containerize and only overburden and punish the not-for-profit organizations that ensure our city's thriving commercial corridors are clean, safe, and inviting. There are three key areas we will highlight: 1)The rule as written forces the procurement of multiple small containers scattered across the District versus a larger, more efficient centralized trash location. This forces BIDs to undertake operations in one manner, which may be more costly and inefficient. 2)The rule is being enacted before		
East Midtown Partnership	Yes, we already met	Frank Lettera	It was fine. He was reluctant to deviate too far from the DSNY vision of huge containers in curb lanes, but is willing to work with us.	Other									We would like to add a trash storage unit on the sidewalk along with replacements for the existing trash and recycling units. We envision this would take up approximately twice the sidewalk space of our existing arrangement, which are minimal, but would fit in with the community aesthetics better, while at the same time not impeding traffic flow and meeting the requirements of DSNY.	Yes		There will inevitabl be some, but hopefully they are minimal.	No	No, and we have nothing scheduled			The August 1 deadline is ridiculously early. I can afford this and i *think* I can meet the deadline, but it's not feasible for many others. DSNY should set a summer 2026 deadline and provide funding for the majority of BIDs that can't afford the expense. Otherwise, the new rules will actually result in a dirtier city.		
Hudson Square BID	Yes, we already met	Frank Lettera on December 9, 2024 and have had subsequent follow up discussions	We are optimistic that we can cart to the local garage in our district, which helps bring down the cost of compliance. They are also supportive of our continued use of Citibins. We've had positive interactions with Frank and all the operations staff at the local garage.	On-street containers (e.g. Citibins)	we currently have 3 Citibins and plan for a 4th	\$11,000 per locations	We've spoken with Colleen Chattergoon about the clean curbs program. We meet when we have submitted clean curbs applications.	yes	They are limited locations where we can site Citibins in our district. These limitations include parking regulations, traffic, and landlord resistance.							Yes		We estimate \$100,000 annually for additional maintenance staff.	Yes	No, and we have nothing scheduled		We don't anticipate that these new regulations will impact our sanitation protocols with the Parks Department. DPR staff services the BID's. Bigbely containers in Spring Street Park.	
Union Square Partnership	Yes, we already met	Frank Lettera, Zoom, 1/6/25	work with us to find a solution. As we evaluate our menu of options for how to address the proposed rules and how many bags we will need to accommodate in containers, we are concerned that the service that Frank says we can rely on from DSNY ("Most blocks in the BID are serviced 3 times per day") is not the frequency that we observe on the ground. If we design a system based on DSNY's representations of their amount of services, will we be able to hold them accountable so that they aren't leaving us with excess bags if service levels are lower than Frank	Other									we are going to comply with the proposed rules, we are still in due diligence phase and need to bring options to our board. That said, the estimates we are getting for the upfront container investment plus the operational/contract staffing costs are completely unaffordable to us. We already cart our bags 2-3 times a day to a DSNY garage, and still the upgrade to containerization is going to cost us 6 figures. Furthermore, we are concerned about the siting of the bins (anticipating blowback from property owners), and we are awaiting a 2/13 site visit	Yes		We intend to try to comply by the Aug 1 deadline, but as I mentioned, we still have a lot of outstanding questions about cost that will determine what's possible. There will absolutely be additional contract staffing costs - I don't know the scale yet but Streetplus is estimating at least 2 additional people (~\$110,000 combined annual cost for additional team clean members alone).	Yes	No, and we have nothing scheduled		I would be happy to share details once I have more information within the month. We were waiting to see the proposed rules before developing a plan--so we've started now since they were recently received. I anticipate this being a huge drag on USP's budget, especially given the money we are already spending maintaining Union Square Park without any City revenue share to support that work.			

Hudson Yards Hell's Kitchen Alliance	Yes, we already met	Kevin O'Sullivan, Frank Lettera, multiple meetings/calls with both over the last year and a half. Have communicated with DSNY as recently as 1/13/2025	the concerns and tries to be helpful. He has to defer to DOT on issues with siting and that is frustrating. Frank Lettera sympathizes but to understand how the clean curbs program will operate we have to constantly set up calls to ask him. There is nothing in the maintenance agreement that spells out what DSNY will do (how often they will service the units, what they will do when there is illegal dumping in our district, etc.) We plan to pilot 1-2 units in our district for several months before expanding the program so we can work out any issues. Overall, DSNY just does not	On-street containers (e.g. Citibins)	We are planning to pilot 1-2 units, and then purchase more. Possibly as many as 10 throughout the district but that might change	\$10,000 per unit (we like a unit from the vendor metrostor)	No! We have only heard from DSNY about DOT's issues. We would prefer to speak directly with DOT but have not been able to	Yes, we have a plan for our first container	We have been told that they cannot go in a commercial loading zone. Most of our district, being that it is a commercial corridor, is a commercial loading zone, so there is a huge issue. There are other alternative locations in some areas of the district, but in some areas there are not. For our pilot, DSNY allowed us to put it the container in a taxi relief zone after refusing the commercial loading zone. There are very few taxi relief zones in the district so that is not a repeatable strategy for the other units.							No	1/14/2026	unknown	Yes	No, and we have nothing scheduled	We plan to put tip bins inside of the containers to make them rat proof and help with cleanliness when bags break inside the unit. This will add an additional cost (\$1-2,000 per unit approximately) but we are willing to do this because it is actually solving the proposed problem, bags off the street and no rats.
Flatiron NoMad Parntership	No, but we have a call/meeting scheduled	Deputy Chief Frank Lettera	We will be outlining our trash management/operation's plans as well as our asks/needs to comply with the new 2025 DSNY rules	Bag disposal at DSNY garage (i.e. carting)					We need to have direct access to the 353 Spring Street DSNY garage/dump-site (rather than 57th Street garage). We will need to set up 10 container/corral locations (we currently have 4/5 locations operational) around the district to store/stage bags for pick-up daily. We will need to time our private hauling of corner trash with the regularly scheduled 2x daily DSNY pick-ups.	Truck paid for through sanitation vendor for year 1. Purchase or separate vendor to be considered in out-years						Yes		Likely - budgeting now.	No		We will also be implementing additional container sites and working with DSNY/DOT on siting. We need DSNY to regularly service our existing BID corner trash cans as well - that will alleviate the need to move/stage trash and consolidate our own hauling (hopefully to 1x per day).
Fifth Avenue Association	No, but we have a call/meeting scheduled			On-street containers (e.g. Citibins)	5	\$50,000	No	In development	district where siting a container is not possible for several blocks due to roadway configurations, current street closures and seasonal street closures. These gaps in space to site containers will create operational challenges that need to be considered and resolved. We will need to DSNY to develop a completely new route to collect litter basket waste as current 5th Avenue route not feasible as containers must be sited on cross streets. We are considering alternative program where FAA picks up and disposes of litterbasket							Yes		We may need to hire additional personnel to maintain containers or to pick up/dispose of litter basket waste.	No		
Grand Central Partnership	No, but we have a call/meeting scheduled			Other										GCP is evaluating all the different options available and has not determined whether there will be on type or a variety of options.	Yes		TBD	No			
Garment District Alliance	Yes, we already met	Frank Lettera	The meeting went well. We still request that the language in the rule be changed so that we are not responsible for buying or siting containers, cannot receive a summons for bags left on corners and other details. And, although we will be carting, that could change anytime the board requests a cost savings. It is voluntary and not required in our contract withSBS.	Bag disposal at DSNY garage (i.e. carting)						\$250,000	leased two pick-up trucks	No		Yes			No		No, and we have nothing scheduled		
Times Square Alliance	No, and we don't have anything scheduled	We have complied with containerization on our own	No need to meet, we are in compliance with containerization.	On-street containers (e.g. Citibins)	8	85,000	DOT was unhelpful in siting the containers.	yes	Yes, DOT. They do not appear to have bought into the vision that DSNY has.							Yes			No	No, and we have nothing scheduled	
Alliance for Downtown New York	No, but we have a call/meeting scheduled	Chief Frank Lettera		On-street containers (e.g. Citibins)	we currently have 6 locations that we have approved 5 unitcitbins	Approximately \$40,000	Yes we coordinatated with DOT and recieved approval 2yrs ago	Yes this has been completed as part of our approval process	We had to choose multiple site s for our Citibin s because the hardest part of this process aside form the cost is the rigorous sitting requirements. At each location there were impediments we had to work around . We have also in the 2yrs we are utilizing these containers have run into issue s with approved locations due to construction, Truck traffic .							Yes		yes , the additional cost is unknown	No	No, and we have nothing scheduled	The program has been very good for us so far, but it is costly and has numerous challenges to site containers . DSNY collections have been very cooperative and have done a great job servicing the public trash we collect.