

**OPENING STATEMENT OF
MADELYNN LIGUORI
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, BUREAU OF LEGAL AFFAIRS
NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION**

XXXXXX

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2026
10:00 A.M.
(REMOTE HEARING)**

Good morning and welcome. My name is Madelynn Liguori. I am the Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Legal Affairs with the Department of Sanitation. Thank you for attending this public hearing this morning.

The agency 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 XXXXXX

This rule was published in the City Record on XXXX, with a scheduled hearing date of today, XXXXX. Additionally, copies of the rule were emailed to all New York City local elected officials, the City's fifty-nine community boards, media and interested parties, and DSNY published the proposed rule on its website.

XXXXXX

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.

From: [Joanne Silverman](#)
To: [NYC Rules \(DSNY\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DSNY Amendment of Penalty for Improper Disposal of Regulated Household Waste
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 11:46:59 AM

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This is completely unfair to property owners and their staff. If Tenants do not properly dispose of these medical devices, why should the property owner be held responsible. Additionally, it is unfair for a porter of superintendent to risk their safety purging through garbage. We post signs for everyone, and it is common courtesy to dispose of these items safely. You should mandate the people using these devices to have to dispose of them at hospitals or pharmacies in order to get refills. That would prevent this inhumane behavior.

Please reach out if you have any further questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joanne Silverman

Joanne Silverman | Bronstein Properties LLC | [REDACTED] | Office:
718-521-5700 | Direct: 718-521- 5773 | Joanne@bronsteinproperties.com

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From: [Kurzyna, Daniel](#)
To: [NYC Rules \(DSNY\)](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: CM Wong - re: DSNY Amendment of Penalty for Improper Disposal of Regulated Household Waste
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 8:41:12 PM
Attachments: [CM Wong DSNY Testimony on Household Garbage 8 19 2026.pdf](#)

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

Good evening,

Please find attached written comments on this proposed amendment.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out.

Daniel Kurzyna

Chief of Staff

CM Phil Wong

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PHIL WONG
COUNCIL MEMBER, 30TH DISTRICT, QUEENS

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8/19/2026

**Testimony of New York City Council Member Phil Wong
New York City Department of Sanitation
Proposed Amendment of Penalty for Improper Disposal of Regulated Household
Waste**

To the New York City Department of Sanitation:

I am Council Member Phil Wong, representing the 30th Council District in Queens, including Maspeth, Middle Village, Glendale, Ridgewood, Elmhurst and Rego Park. I write in support of the Department of Sanitation's proposed rule increasing the penalty for the improper disposal of regulated household waste from \$100 to \$250. DSNY has reported an increase in the improper disposal of this waste and more than 140 incidents over the past three years in which Sanitation employees were stuck by needles. Increasing the penalty to \$250 is reasonable, and I support efforts to protect Sanitation workers and deter this dangerous behavior.

At the same time, I urge DSNY to look at the larger problem of household waste being improperly disposed of throughout our neighborhoods. The amount of household garbage being dumped in and around corner litter baskets has exploded. Bags of household trash are routinely left next to baskets or stuffed inside them, causing baskets to overflow and creating litter, odors, rat conditions and a general decline in quality of life.

This is not a new problem. Before I was elected to the Council, I worked for former Council Member Robert Holden, and we dealt with commercial corridors where business owners became so frustrated with household garbage being dumped at corner baskets that they actually advocated for the baskets to be removed. When locations, times and recurring patterns were provided to DSNY for enforcement, too often very little came of it.

Penalties only work when there is a realistic expectation that someone will be caught. If the City is going to increase fines for improper disposal, DSNY also needs a stronger and more targeted enforcement strategy.

When residents, businesses or elected officials identify locations where illegal dumping happens at roughly the same place and time every week, the Department should be able to use that information to conduct meaningful enforcement.

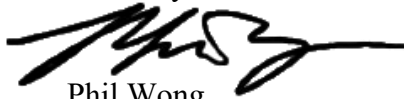
There is also another part of this problem that deserves more attention: landlords who do not provide tenants with reasonable access to a lawful place to store household garbage between collection days. This is particularly common in apartments above storefronts along our major commercial strips. We regularly hear from tenants who say that a basement, rear area or other space that may once have been available for garbage storage has instead been rented to a commercial tenant or used for storage, leaving residents with nowhere convenient to put their household trash.

Landlords of multi-unit buildings must understand their responsibility to provide their tenants with an appropriate way to dispose of and store residential waste. DSNY should increase education and enforcement aimed at property owners, particularly mixed-use buildings on commercial corridors, so tenants are not effectively pushed toward using public litter baskets as their building's garbage cans.

I support the proposed penalty increase before the Department. But higher penalties must be accompanied by enforcement, education and accountability. Our corner baskets are intended for pedestrian litter, not bags of household garbage. If we want cleaner streets, fewer rats and a better quality of life, we need to address both the people illegally dumping the garbage and the conditions that contribute to the problem in the first place.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

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

Phil Wong
Council Member, District 30

From: [Verma, Priyanka](#)
To: [Liguori, Madelynn \(DSNY\)](#); [NYC Rules \(DSNY\)](#)
Subject: Comment DSNY Amendment of Penalty for Improper Disposal of Regulated Household Waste
Date: Monday, September 14, 2026 7:03:47 AM
Attachments: [img-8992abb0-50be-4a15-b1ae-a8766d46d9ca.png](#)
[DSNY Amendment of Penalty for Improper Disposal of Regulated Household Waste.pdf](#)
[2026 Dep. Speaker Williams DSNY Statement on Increase in Penalty.pdf](#)

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Good morning,

On behalf of Deputy Speaker Dr. Nantasha Williams, please find attached her comments regarding the New York City Department of Sanitation's proposed rule concerning penalties for the improper disposal of regulated household waste.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments for the record and respectfully ask that the attached letter be included as part of the Department's consideration of the proposed rule.

Please confirm receipt when convenient.

Best,

Priyanka



Priyanka Verma | Chief of Staff
Office of Deputy Speaker Dr. Nantasha Williams
27th Council District
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From: Liguori, Madelynn (DSNY) <miguori@dsny.nyc.gov>
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 at 8:14 AM
To: Comments, Rule (DSNY) <rulecomments@dsny.nyc.gov>
Cc: Comments, Rule (DSNY) <rulecomments@dsny.nyc.gov>
Subject: DSNY Amendment of Penalty for Improper Disposal of Regulated Household Waste

Please be advised that this e-mail is being sent to you in accordance with the Citywide Administrative Procedure Act ("CAPA"). Amendments to CAPA require that every City agency publishing a proposed rule or an emergency rule in the *City Record* transmit that rule by e-mail to the following: the Speaker of the City Council; the Office of Legislative Documents of the City Council; each member of the City Council; every community board; the news media and civic organizations. In order to comment on the attached rule, you must follow the instructions found in the notice.

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WILLIAMS**

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September 15, 2026

Gregory Anderson, Commissioner
New York City Department of Sanitation
125 Worth Street
New York, NY 10013

Re: Comments on Proposed Rule Regarding Penalties for Improper Disposal of Regulated Household Waste

Dear Commissioner Anderson:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the New York City Department of Sanitation's proposed rule to increase the penalty for the improper disposal of regulated household waste from \$100 to \$250.

I support the proposed increase. Improperly discarded needles and other sharps pose a serious and preventable risk to the sanitation workers who collect our city's waste every day. According to DSNY, sanitation workers have experienced more than 140 needle-stick incidents over the past three calendar years. At the same time, the current \$100 penalty has remained unchanged since 2002.

While increasing the penalty to \$250 is an important and necessary step, I believe we should also examine whether the current statutory maximum is sufficient to deter this dangerous behavior and adequately protect sanitation workers.

As DSNY notes in its proposed rule, the New York City Administrative Code currently limits the penalty for improper disposal of regulated household waste to no less than \$50 and no more than \$250. Given that limitation, I encourage the Department to consider whether additional legislative authority from the City Council would strengthen its ability to address these violations.

In particular, I would welcome DSNY's feedback on whether the Department would support an escalating penalty structure for repeat violations, including higher penalties for second and subsequent offenses. I also believe we should consider whether a higher penalty is appropriate in cases where improper disposal results in a needle stick or other injury to a sanitation worker.

Additionally, as we consider whether stronger penalties are warranted, it would be helpful to better understand how the existing law is being enforced. I respectfully request information regarding the number of violations issued for improper disposal of regulated household waste over the past five years, the penalties assessed and collected, and any challenges DSNY faces in identifying individuals responsible for improperly discarded household sharps.

Penalties alone, however, cannot be the entire solution. I also encourage DSNY to continue evaluating opportunities for public education and outreach regarding the safe disposal of needles and other household sharps, as well as whether New Yorkers have sufficient access to convenient and clearly communicated disposal options.

I commend DSNY for taking action to address this serious workplace safety issue and support the proposed increase from \$100 to \$250. At the same time, the continued occurrence of needle-stick incidents makes clear that we should consider whether additional measures are necessary.

No sanitation worker should face an avoidable needle-stick injury simply for doing their job. I look forward to working with you and the Department to explore whether additional legislative action can further strengthen these protections and keep our sanitation workers safe.

In Service,

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

Dr. Nantasha Williams
Council District 27, Queens

Comments are now closed.

Online comments: 1

Small Property Owners of New York

Small Property Owners of New York (SPONY) agrees that the improper disposal of needles and other sharps is a serious safety hazard. Building owners, superintendents, porters, and other staff encounter the same danger as DSNY workers when handling residential refuse.

Our concern is that increasing penalties against property owners does not address the source of the problem. Owners generally have no control over what tenants or passersby place in trash bags or building receptacles.

If the expectation is that owners or building staff should find and remove improperly discarded needles before collection, that would require them to inspect or sort through refuse containing potentially exposed sharps. That does not eliminate the danger; it simply transfers the risk of needle-stick injuries from DSNY workers to superintendents, porters, and property owners.

Penalties should be directed at the person who improperly disposes of regulated household waste, not automatically at the owner of the property where it is later found.

Rather than focusing on fines, we suggest stronger public education, accessible safe-disposal options, and enforcement against identifiable violators. DSNY should educate New Yorkers about the proper disposal of sharps and clearly identify convenient drop-off locations, including participating pharmacies. The Department should also consider dedicated sharps drop-off bins throughout the city, similar to collection programs for compost and hazardous materials such as e-waste, chemicals, and batteries.

We urge DSNY to revise its enforcement approach so that building owners and staff are not penalized for conduct they did

not commit and cannot safely prevent. Our team would be happy to meet with the DSNY team to discuss education and enforcement improvements that can enable safe working conditions for property managers and sanitation staff alike.

Please contact us at info@spony.org should you wish to discuss.

 [Comment attachment](#)

SPONY-DSNY-Amendment-of-Penalty-for-Improper-Disposal-of-Regulated-Household-Waste.pdf

Comment added September 15, 2026 2:33am



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SPONY

THE SMALL PROPERTY OWNERS OF NEW YORK

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Regards,

Ilan Rabinovitch
Board Member
Small Property Owners of New York
info@spony.org