

New York City Department of Sanitation

Notice of Public Hearing and Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Rules

What are we proposing? The Department of Sanitation (“DSNY”) is proposing to amend its rules relating to the violation amount for the failure to maintain vacant lots.

When and where is the hearing? DSNY will hold a public hearing on the proposed rule. The public hearing will take place via Microsoft Teams at 10:00AM on October 30, 2026, using the following link:

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/261046828947686?p=OpnccjkAc5hq7tUZ4O>

Meeting ID: 261 046 828 947 686

Passcode: 9FM984MD

[Need help?](#) | [System reference](#)

Dial in by phone

[+1 646-893-7101](tel:+16468937101), [961416296#](tel:+1961416296) United States, New York City

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 961 416 296#

How do I comment on the proposed rules? Anyone can comment on the proposed rules by:

- **Website.** You can submit comments to the DSNY through the NYC rules Web site at <http://rules.cityofnewyork.us>.
- **Email.** You can email written comments to nycrules@dsny.nyc.gov.
- **Mail.** You can mail written comments to DSNY, 125 Worth Street, Room 710, New York, NY 10013.
- **By speaking at the hearing.** Anyone who wants to comment on the proposed rule at the public hearing must sign up to speak. You can sign up before the hearing by emailing miguori@dsny.nyc.gov by October 29, 2026, at 5:00 P.M. While you will be given the opportunity during the hearing to indicate that you would like to provide comments, we prefer that you sign up in advance. You can speak for up to three

minutes. Please note that the hearing is for accepting oral testimony only and is not held in a “Question and Answer” format.

Is there a deadline to submit comments? The deadline for submitting written comments is October 30, 2026.

What if I need assistance to participate in the hearing? You must tell the Bureau of Legal Affairs if you need a reasonable accommodation of a disability at the hearing. You must tell us if you need a sign language interpreter. You can tell us by email at eluna@dsny.nyc.gov or by mail at the address given above. You may also tell us by telephone at 646-885-4996. Advance notice is requested to allow sufficient time to arrange the accommodation. Please tell us by October 23, 2026.

Can I review the comments made on the proposed rules? You can review the comments made online on the proposed rules by going to the website at <http://rules.cityofnewyork.us/>. A few days after the hearing, copies of all comments submitted online, copies of all written comments, and a summary of oral comments concerning the proposed rule will be available to the public at 125 Worth Street, Room 710, New York, NY 10013 and on DSNY’s website.

What authorizes DSNY to make this rule? Sections 753 and 1043(a) of the New York City Charter and section 16-118 of the New York City Administrative Code authorize DSNY to make this proposed rule. This proposed rule was not included in DSNY’s regulatory agenda for this Fiscal Year because it was not contemplated when DSNY published the agenda.

Where can I find the DSNY’s rules? DSNY’s rules are in Title 16 of the Rules of the City of New York.

What laws govern the rulemaking process? DSNY must meet the requirements of Section 1043 of the New York City Charter when creating or changing rules. This notice is made according to the requirements of Section 1043.

Statement of Basis and Purpose of Proposed Rule

New York City has seen a rise in complaints from residents and elected officials about dirty vacant lots and adjacent sidewalks in their neighborhoods and throughout the five boroughs. Section 16-118(2)(b) of the New York City Administrative Code (“Administrative Code”) makes an owner, lessee, tenant or person in charge of a vacant lot responsible for ensuring that the entire lot and the area fronting that lot are free of litter and other debris.

The penalty for the failure to maintain a vacant lot is currently \$100. Such penalty is not enough of a deterrent to ensure that property owners take care of vacant lot conditions throughout the City. The Administrative Code allows for a penalty of not less than \$50 nor more than \$250. This rule will increase this penalty to \$250.

New material is underlined.

[Deleted material is in brackets.]

“Shall” and “must” denote mandatory requirements and may be used interchangeably in the rules of this department, unless otherwise specified or unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

Section 1. The following rows of the table set forth in section 19-103 of Title 16 of the Rules of the City of New York are amended to read as follows:

Section of Law	Description	Offense	Penalty	Default Penalty
16-118(2)(b)*	Dirty Sidewalk (Vacant Lot)*		[100] <u>250</u>	300
16-118(2)(b)*	Dirty Area (Vacant Lot)*		[100] <u>250</u>	300
16-118(2)(b)*	Sidewalk Obstruction (Vacant Lot)*		[100] <u>250</u>	300
16-118(2)(b)*	Failure to Clean 18" Into Street (Vacant Lot)*		[100] <u>250</u>	300