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New York City Commercial Waste Zones Safety Task Force

Meeting 12 – May 5, 2026, 10:00 AM

Meeting Minutes

Task Force Members Present

Eric Beaton, Deputy Commissioner, Transportation Planning and Management, DOT
David Biderman, President, Biderman Consulting LLC
William Harris, Director, Audits and Compliance, DSNY
Steven Hoffner, Deputy Chief, Safety and Training, DSNY
Frank Marshall, Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Commercial Waste, DSNY
Asim Rehman, Commissioner, Business Integrity Commission

Additional Agency Staff Present

Anissa Badea, Agency Counsel, DSNY
Alison Bonfoey, Chief of Staff, Business Integrity Commission
Monica Hanley, Director, Bureau of Commercial Waste, DSNY
Nicole Mathias, Director, Commercial & Environmental Enforcement, DSNY
Leah Nomkim, Director of Policy, Business Integrity Commission
Mandy Shum, Deputy Director, Bureau of Commercial Waste, DSNY

Below are the minutes for the 11th meeting of the Commercial Waste Zones Safety Task Force. Created as part of Local Law 199, the Task Force meets at least quarterly and regularly discusses recommendations for the effective implementation of safety measures relating to commercial waste collection. The minutes include items specific to the Safety Task Force's mission and are not comprehensive to the overall efforts of the Commercial Waste Zone Program.

I. Key Topics & Agenda

- Welcome: The Task Force welcomed BIC Commissioner Rehman as a member and Director Nomkin, as the new Director of Policy at the Business Integrity Commission. Assistant Commissioner Marshall reminded the Task Force of the goals of the CWZ program, as well as the background of LL 199 of 2019, introduced as a reform to the commercial waste industry, addressing a historically decentralized system with overlapping routes, inconsistent pricing and safety risks.
- Timeline & Cohorts Update: Director Hanley shared recently released updates to zone cohorts, due to industry consolidation. DSNY is currently in the middle of implementing phase 4 of 10 phases, and is moving forward with 10 phases implemented by the end of 2027.
- Phase 4 Readiness: A/C Marshall and Director Hanley reviewed the progress of Phase 4 – Lower Manhattan. This is the first phase in Manhattan. Director Hanley reviewed DSNY's outreach strategy and raised that there are options to accommodate business types more prevalent in Lower Manhattan such as high



sanitation

rises and multi-tenant buildings. Counsel Badea discussed the options of multi-zone contracts for properties who have operations that cross zones.

- Legal Updates: Counsel Badea presented legal updates to the program: there will be a public hearing on May 8th at 10am for Phase 6 proposed rules, which sets dates for the two zones that will be launched in phase 6 (Brooklyn North and Upper Manhattan). Counsel Badea shared that DSNY recently issued requests for proposal (RFP) to fill two open zone awards: one in Midtown North and one in Manhattan Southwest; questions about the RFP are due May 13. Proposals are due June 10.
- Enforcement Updates & Trends: Director Mathias shared key enforcement updates to the Task Force, including that BCW has held multiple carter trainings around vehicle incidents and workplace injuries and the protocol for drivers with suspended licenses over the past several months. The Director affirmed that DSNY enforcement personnel continue to monitor activity in both active and yet-to-be implemented zones, and from both awardees and non-awardees. The Director shared that the current general trend shows more violations from non-awardees than awardees and more violations are observed in not-yet-implemented zones.
- Recent Incidents: Director Mathias shared with the Task Force that the investigation of a recent fatal crash involving an awardee in a not-yet-implemented zone is ongoing and DSNY remains in touch with partners tracking the case. Deputy Commissioner Beaton inquired about a different fatal incident from 2025 and Director Mathias shared that that investigation is also still ongoing. President Biderman expressed that the carters in his training sessions are paying attention to the outcomes of the investigations.
- Fatal Crash Response: Director Mathias reviewed the framework by which DSNY operates in response to fatal crashes, including our initial immediate response, investigation and oversight, and DSNY authority for potential enforcement and accountability measures.
- Carter Safety Updates & Reminders: Director Mathias highlighted recent updates and key reminders sent to all awardees since the last Task Force meeting. These include: All commercial waste vehicles must now be equipped with back-up Cameras & Auxiliary Lighting Requirements; safety training cares must be carried by workers when on duty; all drivers must hold valid, non-suspended commercial driver's license and must notify DSNY of any license suspensions and/or arrests tied to unsafe or illegal vehicle operation by any drivers who operate vehicles. The Director reminded that DSNY encourages all awardees enroll in the NYS DMV's License Event Notification Service (LENS) to receive



sanitation

notifications about their drivers. Chief Hoffner asked how drivers with out-of-state licenses who may not be flagged by LENS are tracked; Director Mathias shared that driving records (abstracts) from the state that issued the license would have to be obtained and reviewed, although NYS DMV would have record of driving suspensions or other issues if they occurred in New York, even if the driver has a license issued by another state.

- Commercial Waste Employee Bulletin: Director Hanley discussed the spring 2026 edition of the employee safety bulletin. The bulletin is designed to highlight key safety practices, equipment guidelines, and industry updates aimed at preventing injuries and is produced in multiple languages. The 2026 spring edition focused on common violations in the industry, collection truck hopper safety and general safety awareness, such as how employees should enter and exit vehicles to prevent injury. D/C Beaton offered clarification on the announcement of lowering speed limits around school zones, which DSNY has noted for future bulletins. President Biderman suggested that the summer bulletin include warnings about pedestrians in city streets, in the summer months, including during open-street seasons.

- Revisiting Safety Task Force Objectives: A/C Marshall reviewed more closely the 9 Task Force objectives, which are focused on worker safety at the garage, during collection operations, and during disposal. Director Hanley asked the Task Force to review these 9 objectives before the next quarterly meeting in order to help identify experience our members may have in these areas that can be leveraged by the task force to support our core objectives. Chief Hoffner offered a suggestion that BCW look into whether a new training adopted by DSNY for training supervisors to recognize when employees may be under the influence of drugs or alcohol might be useful for the commercial side of the industry; Director Mathias will coordinate with Chief Hoffner on next steps. Those 9 objectives are:
 - a) Personal protection equipment;
 - b) Safely working with and operating vehicle equipment and machines;
 - c) Handling heavy materials and proper lifting techniques;
 - d) Working with hazardous chemicals or other materials;
 - e) Emergency action plans, fire prevention and fire protection;
 - f) Hazard communication;
 - g) Drug and alcohol awareness;
 - h) First aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillator (AED) use; and
 - i) Whether and under what circumstances a person would be permitted to transfer safety training acquired or obtained under one employer to another employer. *See NYC Admin Code § 16-1008(j)(2).*

- Meeting was adjourned at 10:33 AM