

FY 2024 Borough Budget Consultations

Manhattan - Department of Sanitation

Meeting Date:

AGENDA ITEM [1]: General Agency Funding Discussion

The purpose of holding the Borough Budget Consultations is to provide Community Boards with important information to assist in drafting their statement of District Needs and Budget Priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. Community Board Members do not have expertise about funding sources and the process within agencies regarding funding of various programs and initiatives. However, Community Board members are very knowledgeable about local service needs.

This year's Manhattan agendas have three sections:

I. As Agencies continue to recover from the COVID 19 period to provide full services and relief funds from the Federal Government to states and municipalities begins to wind down:

1. What changes in federal funding have been instituted for FY 23? Will those changes continue into FY 24? What portion or percentage of the FY 22 and FY 23 budgets consisted of non-recurring federal funding?
2. What, if any, programs are affected by a change (decrease or increase) or end of COVID relief funds for FY 23?
3. What is the overall budget increase or decrease for FY 23 adopted budget compared to FY22 budget? Does the Agency anticipate a budget shortfall for FY 23, FY 24 or further out years after the non-recurring federal funding has been exhausted?
4. How will funding allocations be adjusted for impacts of inflation for fy 23 and what is planned for fy24?

II. Then, the agenda continues with Community Boards asking about program funding.

1. What programs will see a significant increase or decrease in funding overall? To what extent, if any, is the increase or decrease in funding related to non-recurring federal funding allocations?
2. Which programs will be new or eliminated entirely?
3. What are your benchmarks for new and existing programs and what are your benchmarks/key performance indicators for measuring success?
4. What are your priorities, operational goals, and capital goals for FY23 and projected priorities, operational goals, and capital goals for FY24?

III. Lastly, the agendas include Boards' requests on district-specific budget questions. We request that the agency respond in writing, but have any further discussions on these items with the Community Boards outside of the consultation.

Please provide written responses or even a PowerPoint presentation that we can use to fully and accurately educate our Board Members.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

In FY2022, the total Department budget was \$2.05 billion, including \$1.56 billion in City funds. The remainder was largely federal funds provided either through FEMA for COVID-response activities or via the federal stimulus bill to replace City tax levy funds. In FY2023, the total Department budget is \$1.88 billion, including \$1.85 billion in City funds, reflecting a drastically lower allocation of federal funds. Historically, the Department budget has almost entirely relied on City tax levy funds rather than other sources.

DSNY is working with OMB to account for any cost increases associated with inflation as part of our financial planning exercises.

The FY23 budget includes unprecedented levels of funding for cleanliness initiatives as part of the City's commitment to clean up our streets following COVID-19 budget cuts and support our City's economic recovery. These include:

- **\$22 Million** in new funding for litter basket service, baskets to be emptied approximately 50,000 more times per week citywide. This means more service than ever, fewer overflowing baskets, and less trash on the sidewalk.
- **\$7.5 Million** for Precision Cleaning Initiatives — targeted work that addresses conditions like illegal dumping and persistent littering. Anyone who knows an area in need of precision cleaning is encouraged to call 311; this funding means calls can get results faster than ever before.
- **\$4.5 Million** for cleaning of vacant lots — allowing a return to pre-pandemic staffing levels at the DSNY Lot Cleaning Unit. This funding will stop vacant lots across the city — largely located in traditionally underserved neighborhoods — from turning into de facto dumps and will make the city's recovery more equitable.

This funding builds on previous funding and initiatives announced in the Executive budget:

- The return of full pre-pandemic street sweeping.
- A five-borough pilot on containerization of waste, keeping bags of trash off the sidewalks and testing what works to improve aesthetics and reduce opportunities for pests to feed.
- New equipment and staff for sweeping protected bike lanes at least once per week.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [2]: Vehicles and Equipment

- 1. What is the current inventory of vehicles and equipment in the Manhattan districts?
- 2. Please provide an update of any equipment purchases made in FY 2022 and anticipated acquisitions in FY 2023.
 - a. Are these purchases for replacement vehicles or new vehicles?
- 3. Last year, you reported that “cuts to DSNY’s capital budget caused you to delay the purchase of core fleet, including collection trucks, dual bins and salt spreaders.” Meanwhile, the fleet continues to age and is more costly to maintain.
 - b. Can you update us on how close DSNY is to returning to a regular buy cycle for capital fleet?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

Currently Manhattan has over 700 vehicles in its inventory.

Collection Trucks	Dual Bin Trucks	EZ-Packs	Roll On/Roll Offs	Vans	Passenger Cars	4X4s
299	18	21	20	9	20	69

The Department added 15 brand new rear loaders in FY 2023 for replacements of older vehicles.

The cuts to DSNY’s capital budget over the past 2 years have caused delays to the purchase of replacements for many of DSNY’s core fleets. These delays have increased the average age of DSNY’s fleet beyond the targeted lifespan. As the fleet continues to age, it is a given that it will become more costly to maintain, both in OTPS and OT.

Beginning in FY 23, DSNY funding has been partially restored. DSNY continues to monitor and prioritize the most critical need of vehicles and adjust as necessary.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [3]: Open Restaurant Program

Open Restaurants has created a number of problems that have yet to be resolved in the third year of the program. This has caused garbage all over impacted districts, lack of separation of residential and commercial trash, rats. There needs to be a plan to address these problems now during the Temporary Open Restaurant program and before the permanent program begins.

1. Please describe how the Temporary Open Restaurant Program has impacted the DSNY budget in FY 2022 and how you anticipate it being impacted in FY 2023 and, possibly, in FY 2024.
2. The many structures built in the roadbed under the Open Restaurant Program created unique challenges for the DSNY. Please explain how DSNY met these challenges, whether through allotment of funds, reassignment of its workers or changes to its policies (such as additional enforcement or education).
3. Can you tell us the number of violations that were issued to establishments as a result of the Open Restaurant Program?
4. Clean curb/containerized trash would seem to be a partial answer to the garbage issues exacerbated by the Open Restaurant Program. When will this program be available in all districts?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

DSNY recognizes that Open Restaurants have been an important tool to help restaurants survive and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. DSNY regularly monitors Open Restaurant areas and conducts enforcement or supplemental cleaning as required. DSNY also works with DOT to remove abandoned sheds that have become a blight on our neighborhoods. DSNY will continue to work with DOT and other partner agencies to ensure that the permanent program includes regulations and safeguards regarding street cleanliness and sanitation services.

Open Restaurants poses cleaning challenges due to restricting curb access for our mechanical brooms and blocking catch basins. Ultimately the building owners and business owners are still responsible for keeping their sidewalks and 18 inches into the street clean. DSNY recently partnered with DOT and Parks in removing abandoned dining structures.

We issue violations for dirty sidewalk, failure to clean 18 inches into the street and dirty area. We do not have a specific breakdown of these violations issued to Open Restaurants areas.

DSNY is currently working on a five-borough pilot of waste containerization, beginning in Times Square in Manhattan. We will have pilot projects installed by the end of the calendar year. We are also advancing our first residential pilot of the clean curbs initiative, which will launch later this year.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [4]: Mechanical Brooms

1. Has funding for mechanical broom operations in Manhattan been restored in FY 2023 and are changes anticipated in FY 2024.
2. Has the number of mechanical brooms assigned to Manhattan and the number of mechanical broom shifts been restored to pre-Covid 19 levels? What is the current level of mechanical broom service in Manhattan?
3. Are all mechanical brooms in Manhattan now equipped with GPS systems, as you stated they would be last year?
4. The Open Restaurant Program prevents the mechanical brooms from accessing the curb at locations where there are outdoor structures built on the roadbed. Since the business owner is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of the streets and sidewalks, can you tell us how many violations were issued to business owners in Manhattan for failing to maintain the required level of cleanliness in FY 22?
 - a. Have DSNY Enforcement Agents been trained to identify and are they instructed to write summonses for debris that builds up under the roadbed platforms that are part of many Open Restaurant structures?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

1. Yes, mechanical broom operations have been restored to pre pandemic levels, and we ask all New Yorkers to move their cars during Alternate Side Parking so that we have curb accessibility to get the streets clean.
2. Yes, full ASP Restoration went into effect July 5th, 2023. There are 251 mechanical brooms are assigned weekly.
3. Yes, all mechanical brooms citywide are equipped with GPS systems.

4. We issue violations for dirty sidewalk, failure to clean 18 inches into the street and dirty area. The table below shows the total number of these violations issued in Manhattan and Citywide during FY22. Our Sanitation Enforcement Agents are trained on the various rules and regulations which they are tasked to enforce.

FY 2022	Dirt Sidewalk/Failure to Clean 18"	Dirty Area
Manhattan	4809	1805
Citywide	14,470	5,720

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [5]: Staffing

1. What are the current and projected staffing levels in Manhattan, including the assignment of Sanitation enforcement agents and Sanitation police?
2. Last year, you told us that you had approvals to hire up to a full headcount for both Sanitation Police and Sanitation Enforcement Agents. Is the headcount in Manhattan currently fully staffed?
3. Will funding be available to maintain the DSNY headcount in FY 24?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

1. DSNY’s Bureau of Cleaning and Collection in Manhattan has the following
 - 1 Borough Chief
 - 6 Deputy Chiefs
 - 22 General Superintendents
 - 158 Supervisors
 - 1136 Sanitation Workers

Our Enforcement is currently budgeted for 192 citywide, including 37 in Manhattan. Sanitation Police are budgeted at 80 citywide, also including Manhattan.

Enforcement’s headcount is down by 33 citywide. Sanitation Police is down by 13 from FY 2023.

The budgeted headcount is as follows:

Enforcement Unit = 192	Sanitation Police = 80
Captains = 3	Inspectors = 3
Lieutenants = 10	Lieutenants = 16
Sergeants = 34	Police Officers = 61
SEAs = 112	
Manhattan Enforcement	
Captain = 1	
Lieutenants = 2	
Sergeants = 7	
SEAs = 27	

2. We added additional classes of both Sanitation Police and Sanitation Enforcement agents earlier this year. Due to recruitment issues, we were not able to get to full headcount. We are currently in the process of hiring both Sanitation Police officers and Sanitation Enforcement agents to meet these needs.

3. We are working with our partners at OMB to discuss appropriate levels of staffing for the agency.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [6]: Adopt-A-Basket Program

1. Last year, you reported that the number of participants in the Adopt-A-Basket Program had decreased to 441 from the previous year's 512 participants, which was already a dramatic decrease from the year before.

- a. Please describe the resources that DSNY has invested in this program, including the staff time devoted to outreach and any other forms of engagement to expand the program?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

District officers routinely approach corner businesses to conduct educational outreach on the Adopt-A-Basket program. DSNY Public Affairs has aggressively messaged on multiple social media outlets information about the program and Community Affairs has conducted walking tours with community leaders and elected officials to raise awareness about the program. The borough of Manhattan signed up 97 new participants in the last 12 months. We currently have 425 participants in the program.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [7]: Street Recycling Programs

Please update us on the status of the Street Recycling Basket initiative.

1. How many recycling baskets are currently deployed in Manhattan?
 - a. How does this number compare to the previous fiscal year?
 - b. Do you anticipate the number of baskets will increase or decrease in FY 2024?

2. Last year, you stated that although public space recycling bins are prone to contamination, “providing New Yorkers with additional opportunities to properly recycle is clearly a success.” You also stated that the PSRRs “are an important communications and messaging tool” to promote recycling.
 - a. Has DSNY tracked the tonnage collected from these baskets and the amount of revenue that has resulted from these collections?
 - b. Considering the continuing contamination problem, are there really any serious metrics by which this program can be considered a success?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

The table below includes the number of recycling baskets of each type currently deployed in Manhattan.

Commodity	FY 2022	FY 2023
Paper	166	115
M&G	174	123

As the Commissioner recently testified in front of City Council, these bins do not produce a meaningful amount of recyclable material due to high contamination. It is better to reduce litter, keeping this material off our streets and out of our waterways, while encouraging New Yorkers to recycle at home – where the vast majority of recyclable material exists anyway.

We currently evaluating the siting of Public Space Recycling baskets, particularly where there is not an associated trash basket as contamination is highest there. We are not adding additional Public Space Recycling baskets at this time.

The Public Space Recycling baskets are serviced with the neighborhood recycling routes preventing DSNY from understanding their tonnage separately.

Any site with high levels of contamination will be evaluated for removal or relocation. This program is most successful in locations where we have dedicated partners, including in BIDs, near educational institutions and other community institutions, to help manage the level of contamination and ensure the baskets are properly used.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [8]: E-Waste Programs

1. Please update us on the eCycleNYC program? Last year, you stated that 4,536 residential buildings were enrolled in Manhattan.
 - a. What is the current number?
 - b. What resources are being expended to expand the program in FY 2024?
2. Have funds been allocated to restore the curbside e-waste pick-up program?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

1. 6,054 residential buildings are currently enrolled in the program.
 - a. Since ecycleNYC is a no-cost contract, there is no budget associated with the program. We are planning on broadening our outreach efforts to enroll more buildings
2. Funds were allocated for FY2023 to restore curbside e-waste pickup program in Staten Island only.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [9]: Street Baskets

1. Can you describe the current status of basket collection in Manhattan?
 - a. What level of service has been funded in FY 2023?
 - b. Do you anticipate that funding for basket collection will be fully restored or increased in FY 2024?
2. What is the current number of baskets in Manhattan?
 - a. Can you brief us on the types of baskets currently being used by the DSNY (i.e. wire, high-end, PSR, compactor, other)?
 - b. Has this number changed since last fiscal year?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

1A. Every basket is currently being serviced at least 1 time a day with all commercial corridors in Manhattan being serviced at least 2 times a day. In FY23, Manhattan has 356 weekly trucks assigned compared to FY22, 262 weekly trucks.

B. We are currently at the highest level of litter basket service in the City’s history, and this service is working, with a drastic decline in overflowing basket complaints. We are continuing to monitor the remaining complaints and deploying resources as able.

2.

Wire	4095
Hi-End	525
PSR	1822
Compactor	28
BID	2057
BID Compactor	554
Total	9081

B. There was only a small decrease of 49 baskets for the entire borough.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [10]: Snow Removal

1. While the snow budget is established as a rolling average of the previous five years, what is the current FY 2023 snow removal budget and what is the projected snow removal budget for FY 2024?
2. Please provide an update on the Snow Removal Program in Manhattan, including the deployment of vehicles, snow-melters, and Sanitation workers?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

1. The snow budget is established in the New York City Charter as a rolling average of actual expenses from the previous five years. The snow budget naturally fluctuates with the seasonal variations in snowstorms. DSNY is confident that we will have adequate resources to fight snow in the upcoming winter. The FY23 snow budget as adopted is \$96.2 million. The current projected snow budget for FY24 is \$98.6 million.
2. In accordance with the borough snow plan, the allocated snow equipment and sanitation workers for Manhattan are:

Manhattan Snow Equipment

Large Spreader	Utility Haulster	Plowable Trucks	Front End Loaders	Plow Blades Assigned	V-Plows Assigned	Skid Steers	Snow Melter Small
68	15	342	47	988	12	16	8

Manhattan Personnel Assignments

District	Address	Sanitation Workers
Borough Office	427 East 87 th Street	
Manhattan 1	353 Spring Street	40
Manhattan 2	353 Spring Street	60
Manhattan 3	South Street – Pier 36	70
Manhattan 4	780-786 12 th Avenue	58
Manhattan 5	353 Spring Street	52
Manhattan 6	South Street – Pier 36	64
Manhattan 7	780-786 12 th Avenue	76
Manhattan 8	423 West 215 th Street	70
Manhattan 9	125 East 149 th Street - BX	64
Manhattan 10	110 East 131 st Street	52
Manhattan 11	343 East 99 th Street	58
Manhattan 12	301 West 215 th Street	92
	Total	756

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [11]: Curbside Collection NYC Organics

1. DSNY reported last year that it would start rolling out the curbside composting program in October 2021 on a rolling basis, based on demand.

- a. What is the current status of the curbside composting program in Manhattan?
- b. What funding has been allocated in FY 2023 and FY 2024?
- c. Have dedicated funds been allocated for a re-education program?

3. What funding has been allocated in FY 2023 to operate food scrap drop-off and community composting sites? In FY 2024?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

There are two (2) districts with curbside composting service in Manhattan, chosen based on highest percentage of signups in eligible districts. Those districts are:

- Manhattan 6 comprising Stuy Town & Peter Cooper Village, Midtown East and Murray Hill.
- Manhattan 7 comprising Manhattan Valley, Upper West Side and Lincoln Square.

In FY23, DSNY is funded to continue service in these districts. DSNY continues to add additional buildings in these districts who sign up for the program.

This fall, DSNY is rolling out the largest-ever expansion of our curbside composting program to every household in Queens.

Baseline funding for food scrap drop-off sites and community composting was doubled in the FY23 executive budget, from \$3.5 million to \$7 million per year. This includes funding for food scrap drop offs, mid-scale compost educational facilities and community compost training and education.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [12]: SAFE Disposal

1. What funds have been allocated to SAFE disposal events in FY 2023 and FY 2024?
2. How many SAFE disposal events were in Manhattan and did each community board have at least one?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

SAFE Disposal events are funded at \$2,600,000 for both fiscal year 23 and 24.

In FY2022 and again in FY2023, DSNY is offering two SAFE events per borough each year. This year, the fall event took place last Sunday at Union Square (MN5) and the spring event took place at Columbia University Teacher's College (MN9). Mailers for these events are sent to every household in Manhattan.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [13]: Pedestrian Safety

1. What is the current status of collection trucks with sideguards to enhance pedestrian safety? How many trucks in the Manhattan fleet have them? How many do not?
2. Will funding continue to be allocated to retrofit all applicable heavy-duty units by 2024?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

Currently DSNY has completed the install of sideguards onto Department vehicles. Any vehicles that are currently out for repairs and do not have sideguards installed will be installed prior to be put into service.

DSNY currently has no funding for additional sideguard retrofit installations. All new vehicles required to have sideguards will be purchased with factory installed sideguards.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [14]: DonateNYC

1. The DonateNYC program successfully abetted the delivery of food and clothing to New Yorkers in need during the Covid-19 pandemic. Please provide an update on the status of the program. How many partners are currently participating and how many are based in Manhattan?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

DonateNYC is operational and diverting waste from landfills!

- FY22 donateNYC tonnage FROM Manhattan orgs: 10.15 tons
- FY22 donateNYC tonnage TO Manhattan orgs: 13.05 tons

The number of partners continues to fluctuate as many nonprofits were affected by the pandemic. Nevertheless, partners diverted 39,607.4 tons in FY22

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [15]: District specific

1. What is the status of the 2nd ramp for the 91st marine transfer station?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

Design was placed on hold due to the pandemic. There is funding of \$961,000 for design and \$18.7 million for construction; however, the project is not fully funded.

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS: