



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Christine L. Haider Chairperson / **Susan Seinfeld** District Manager

April 4, 2016

Resolution Regarding the Use of Fracking Wastewater in the City of New York

Whereas, The process of hydraulic fracturing, a.k.a. fracking, used in natural gas extraction, produces millions of gallons of wastewater that contains corrosive salts, carcinogens such as benzene and other chemicals, and radioactive material,

Whereas, there are 14 wastewater treatment plants owned and operated by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, and a number of privately owned wastewater treatment plants in the City of New York,

Whereas, wastewater treatment plants release effluent residue back into the surface water of the City of New York,

Whereas, wastewater treatment plants are not able to remove all chemicals and toxins from fracking wastewater,

Whereas, wastewater and other waste products produced by fracking during the natural gas extraction process is hazardous, even if treated,

Whereas, fracking wastewater has been disposed of in some areas by treating and discharging into surface waters, by storage in open pits, and by underground injection.

Whereas, disposing of fracking wastewater has created environmental problems by use of the above three methods of disposal including seepage into aquifers and other water supply sources, and causing underground earthquakes,

Whereas, in some municipalities, treated fracking wastewater is used for de-icing, snow removal and roadwork construction,

Whereas, Council Member Stephen Levin is sponsoring New York City Council Intro. 446, which would ban the discharge, disposal, sale and/or use of fracking wastewater and other related waste products in the City of New York,

Therefore, be it resolved that Queens Community Board 11:

- 1) Supports the passage of Intro. 446, sponsored by Council Member Stephen Levin.
- 2) Supports the levying of substantial fines and penalties to those violating this legislation, once it is enacted, to levels that are appropriate and punitive.
- 3) Supports the provision proposed in the legislation that would ban the use of fracking wastewater, even if it is treated, on New York City roads for de-icing, snow removal and roadwork construction.
- 4) Will contact local Council Members Vallone, Koo and Grodenchik to ask them to sign on as cosponsors of Intro. 446.
- 5) Will send copies of this resolution to all Queens Community Boards and Queens Elected Officials as well as the Mayor, the Public Advocate, the City Comptroller and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.