



Donovan Richards
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Community Board No. 2

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Danielle Brecker
Chairperson

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May 15, 2023

Jessica Tisch
Commissioner
New York City Department of Sanitation Commissioner
59 Maiden Lane
New York, New York 10038

Joshua Goodman
Deputy Commissioner, Public Affairs & Customer Experience
New York City Department of Sanitation
59 Maiden Lane
New York, New York 10038

Ydanis Rodriguez
Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

Nicole Garcia
Queens Borough Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
120-55 Queens Blvd. Room 285
Kew Gardens, New York 11424

RE: Re: The CB2Q Environment, Parks, and Recreation Committee passed a resolution at the April 27th meeting requesting an expansion of the residential trash container pilot to CB2Q, prioritizing locations with narrow sidewalks and large numbers of 311 rodent complaints.

Dear Commissioner Tisch, Commissioner Rodriguez, Commissioner Garcia and Deputy Commissioner Goodman:

The Community Board 2 Queens Environment, Parks, and Recreation Committee passed a resolution at the April 27, 2023 meeting requesting an expansion of the residential trash container pilot to CB2Q, prioritizing locations with narrow sidewalks and large numbers of 311 rodent complaints.

“Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth”

The resolution (full text attached) requests that DSNY and DOT collaborate on a major reimagining of the process of staging and collecting residential trash. Staging trash on sidewalks creates safety and sanitation hazards, including impassable sidewalks, rat infestations and dangerous conditions for DSNY workers. Sanitation trucks idling at every building on a street also blocks traffic and generates harmful emissions.

The resolution followed presentations by Clare Miflin of the Center for Zero Waste Design and Christine Berthet, executive director of CHEKPEDS and co-chair of CB4M's Transportation Committee. Both presentations showed examples of systems that can be implemented by NYC agencies, compatible with the range of residential building sizes and streetscapes in CB2Q. The current containerization pilot, as seen in Hell's Kitchen, can be replicated throughout the city with the present truck fleet and labor force, and necessary investments in supplemental cleaning crews to sanitize the bins after collection.

Committee members cited the frequent difficulties people with physical disabilities and parents with strollers face navigating sidewalks obstructed by trash piles and agreed that on-street containers can alleviate these accessibility challenges. There was also consensus that frequent rodent sightings must be addressed through smarter trash management with locked rat-proof containers.

Thank you for your time and attention to the future of trash in NYC. We look forward to working with both agencies on this transition and implementation.

Sincerely,



Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager
Community Board 2

DMK/mag

- Cc: Honorable Grace Meng, US Congress
Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez, US Congress
Honorable Michael Gianaris, NY State Senate
Honorable Kristen Gonzalez, NY State Senate
Honorable Jessica Ramos, NY State Senate
Honorable Juan Ardila, NYS Assembly
Honorable Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, NYS Assembly
Honorable Zohran Mamdani, NYS Assembly
Honorable Steven Raga, NYS Assembly
Honorable Robert Holden, NYC Council Member
Honorable Shekar Krishman, NYC Council Member
Honorable Julie Won, NYC Council Member
Honorable Donovan Richards, Queens Borough President

Danielle Brecker, Chairperson, Community Board 2
Laura Shepard, Chair, Environment, Parks & Recreation Committee

CBQ Trash Containerization Resolution



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Trash containerization

***Summary:** This resolution requests that DSNY and DOT collaborate on a major reimagining of the process of staging and collecting residential trash. Staging trash on sidewalks creates safety and sanitation hazards, including impassable sidewalks, rat infestations and dangerous conditions for DSNY workers. Sanitation trucks idling at every building on a street also blocks traffic and generates harmful emissions.*

WHEREAS:

- New York City has long neglected the problem of staging trash for pickup by DSNY. Considerations of trash storage, seen as a transitory concern, do not appear in the City's Street Design Manual, the City's "comprehensive resource for street design standards and policies." This lack of careful planning for the disposal of urban waste results in the rat-infested, haphazard trash piles painfully familiar to every New Yorker.
- These conditions negatively affect New Yorkers' quality of life, forcing pedestrians to walk on sidewalks jammed with bags of trash. On trash day, some sidewalks are reduced to such a narrow width that people with strollers, wheelchairs and walkers can't navigate the sidewalk, pushing people into the street or out of their way. Trash in plastic bags on the sidewalk attract rats who rip open bags, thereby causing trash to spill out all over the sidewalk and increasing the rat population.
- DSNY's current collection method involves door-to-door pickup to each building in the city several times a week. Its trucks travel as much as 50 million miles a year, blocking traffic, idling and causing other cars to idle, releasing significant levels of greenhouse gas and other harmful emissions.
- DSNY's current methods also result in frequent occupational injuries for sanitation workers and for building employees handling trash packed in flimsy bags rather than solid bins. Sanitation workers are three times as likely to die on the job as police officers.
- Many different organizations have proposed improvements to the current system, to address issues of health, equity and quality of life. Most of these proposals redistribute space at the curb, replacing a few parked cars with space for neighboring buildings to aggregate their trash in a contained, single location to prepare for pickup. DSNY trucks would need to only make one or two stops per street, rather than dozens. These containers could also be fitted with automated lifting devices, increasing the speed and safety of collection.

"Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth"

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED THAT Queens Community Board 2 requests that

- **DSNY acknowledge the urgent need for change by investing in large-scale trash containerization pilots with the intention of system-wide transformation**
- **In the short term, DSNY work with DOT to claim space at the curbside, replacing some free parking with shared, off-sidewalk trash corrals on streets in [CB] where sidewalk trash creates a hazard, as reported by community members.**
- **CB2 requests that the agencies prioritize streets with large numbers of rodent complaints and narrow sidewalks.**