



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

*The City of New York*  
*Borough of Queens*

**Community Board 8**

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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

**DEP/Sanitation Committee Meeting**

DATE:	November 17, 2025
Committee Members Present:	Mohammed Tohin, DEP/Sanitation Committee Chair, and John Gebhard.
Committee Members Absent:	Ahsan Habib and Mohammad Rahman.
Other Board Members Present:	Saaif Alam, and Mohammed 'Delwar' Islam.
Others in attendance:	Antonio Whitaker, Simone Zito, and DM Marie Adam-Ovide.

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DEP/Sanitation Committee Chairperson Mohammed Tohin called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. He then asked the board members and speakers to introduce themselves.

*Marissa Yanni was unable to attend the meeting due to a conflict. Antonio Whitaker presented.*

**Antonio Whitaker, Assistant Director of Community Affairs of the Department of Sanitation**

The presentation is the same presentation that is given to local businesses. The first ten slides in the presentation give an overview of what the commercial waste zone program is. The last ten slides are specific to businesses. This is Phase 3 of the rollout for commercial waste zones. There are hundreds of private carter businesses servicing the entire city. In CB8, there are 29 different private carting organizations that service businesses in this district. DSNY is working on streamlining the system to make it fair, equitable and cheaper for businesses to get their waste serviced.

The commercial waste zones have several benefits. In CB8, one of the benefits is going down from 29 different private carting organizations to three. Last year DSNY began their ten-phase rollout that started in Queens Central - CB 3, 6 and some of 5. On January 1, 2026, the customer sign-up period will begin. This period begins the process of reaching out to businesses and having them reach out to the private carters that are going to be assigned to Queens Northeast. CB 8, 7 and 11 are in Queens Northeast. All contracts between carter & business must be signed by February 28, 2026. To see specifics for the timeline for each cohort, you can visit [nyc.gov/cwz](http://nyc.gov/cwz). If a business does not have a signed contract effective March 1, 2026, they will be assigned a carter at the maximum rate and minimum frequency. There will be an option for businesses to look at the other two carters and negotiate a contract.

If you are a business, there are five steps to selecting a CWZ-approved carter and signing a new contract. Step one is to assess your waste to determine your service needs. The carter is required to conduct a Waste Survey to confirm what the business actually produces. The business can also conduct a waste audit or request one from the carter or a Business Integrity Commission (BIC) licensed broker.

**Marie Adam-Ovide – Is that costly?**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – It depends on the needs of the business. If they are a larger business that generates a lot of trash and needs daily pick-up, they would pay more for their garbage pick-up.

**Marie Adam-Ovide – I was talking about the survey?**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – It is sliding scale. I am not sure what the price is, but it varies.

The second step is for businesses to identify what zone they are in to be sure they are communicating with the right carter. The three carters that one the bid for Queens Northeast are Crown, Boro-Wide, Royal. The third step is to use the calculator on the CWZ website to compare the maximum monthly rates carters may charge for collection costs and additional fees. Recycling and organics collection must be provided at a discounted rate compared to trash collection. The fourth step is for businesses to negotiate all terms before signing. This includes contact length, renewal clauses, pricing structure, and any additional fees. The final step is to sign a written service agreement with a zone-authorized carter for refuse and recycling. If businesses do not select a carter, DSNY will automatically assign one at the maximum allowable rate and minimum allowable service. There is a 30-day grace period after March 1<sup>st</sup> to change their chosen carter before penalties may apply.

Once businesses are officially enrolled in the commercial waste zone, their carter will give them a green carter decal that must be displayed in the establishments window. There is a limited number of businesses that may qualify to be exempt from hiring a private carter. They include city-managed properties and non-profits and professional offices in residential businesses. If they qualify, they must submit a request and wait up to 1 – 2 weeks for DSNY approval. If denied, they will need to contract with a private carter. To check if you qualify for an exception nonprofits can go to [on.nyc.gov/request-collection-service](http://on.nyc.gov/request-collection-service), professional offices can visit [on.nyc.gov/DSNY-profee](http://on.nyc.gov/DSNY-profee).

**John Gebhard – What happens to the trucks that were eliminated?**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – The 26 carting services that did not win the bidding contract are not going to be able to operate within Queens Northeast. The three carting services that I had mentioned, Crown, Boro-Wide, and Royal, were the three services that won the bid.

**John Gebhard – What happens to the ones who did not win the bid?**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – I do not know what is going to happen to them because they did not win the contract. When DSNY renegotiates the contract in a couple of years with all the carting services, I would assume there will be some movement and services. A lot of those other carting services are probably not legit.

**John Gebhard – All carters have to dispose what they collect at a city regulated place.**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – A vast majority of private carters have their own facilities. They do not dump at any DSNY garage. DSNY garages are only for residential trash. Some of the private carter facilities are in NY and some are not.

**Marie Adam-Ovide – I understand that we had 29 carters serving our area. Now we are down to three. That means they are not serving here. Is it possible that some of them may have gotten other areas within the city they can service? If that is not the case, there will now be 26 carter businesses going out of business and laying off people.**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – I do not know. We had to implement this system because it was mandated by law. If those other carter services did not win that contract, then they would have to seek business elsewhere. We are only concerned with the people who won the contracts.

**Mohammed ‘Delwar’ Islam – Right now, I am working with Midland.**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – Midland was not one of the three services that was chosen.

**Mohammed ‘Delwar’ Islam – Does that mean they can charge whatever they want?**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – As a business owner, eventually you will get a notification from DSNY alerting you to chose one of the three carting services. You can negotiate your price with them. Based on your business individual needs, the price will reflect that.

**Mohammed ‘Delwar’ Islam – Eliminating the many options to three is tough. They will charge whatever they want.**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – It is up to the individual business owner to negotiate with these three carters.

**John Gebhard – Are there any limits to what they can charge?**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – I can not recall the specific amount. It varies per business. Larger businesses that generate more trash will obviously pay more. I do not have the specifics in terms of what it would actually cost.

**John Gebhard – If there is no ceiling or cap, it is an exercise in futility. It still comes down to them charging whatever they want, and you either take it or leave it.**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – There are still three different options. Our commercial waste division would know about there being a ceiling.

**John Gebhard – If the law was given by the City Council, what is their purpose in putting this program in place?**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – There are hundreds of different carting companies in the city. This particular service has been controlled by a few individuals. This was a way to streamline that process to make it transparent. There were a lot of businesses that were paying for services that they did not need. This standardizes the process.

**John Gebhard – I can see a black market for these green stickers.**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – You can see a black market anywhere; however, we have to start somewhere and by law we have to do this.

**Marie Adam-Ovide –I fail to see how from 29 to 3 would be competitive. It seems like less competition. I understand that it is better in terms of the traffic and noise. When you said they were bidding for the contract, I wanted to hear that they were bidding to offer the city the lowest price.**

**Response** [Mohammed ‘Delwar’ Islam] – I see the three companies ganging up to increase their price. People will have no choice but to take it or leave it.

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – If people are concerned, we have already implemented this in Queens Central. It is going well. We have not received any complaints about it. If business owners and community members are concerned, they should definitely let their Council Members know. We have a few scheduled webinars before this gets implemented. I suggest you go on the website to check and voice your concerns.

**John Gebhard – If the city is issuing a contract, what is the city getting in return?**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – It is more of a concession. Business owners would have to enter into a contract with one of the carters. The city has provided a concession to these particular entities to provide that service.

**John Gebhard – You can have a concession with no price cap.**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – The price can be less. Businesses won’t know until they begin the process.

**John Gebhard – If there is a calculator, there must be a price cap.**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – Overall, this is a good thing for businesses. There will probably be some outliers.

**Mohammed ‘Delwar’ Islam – You being the Assistant Director of Community Affairs, how do business owners who do not have the access to come to you get answers? When you come, we ask you many questions that you do not have the answer to.**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – I do not know how technologically savvy people are, but folks can contact our commercial waste division.

**Saaif Alam – For group trainings, my civic association has people who speak multiple languages. Are there group training courses offered in different languages?**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – We currently offer it in English and Spanish. This is because we currently have staff who speak English and Spanish. I will see if we can also do Bangla. The group training is specifically for business.

**Mohammed Tohin – Even though you do not have a Bangla translator, is there any way you can come and explain this rollout to the business community? We can pick a date.**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – Let me know when the next scheduled meeting is. We will try to have someone. There has been a request to do educational outreach to folks on Hillside Avenue. We have our flyers in Bangla now.

*The committee then discussed follow-up issues from June 20, 2025's meeting.*

**Mohammed Tohin – During the last committee meeting, there were complaints about people blocking the sidewalk on Hillside Avenue. I went today and there are still unlicensed vendors on the sidewalk. There is also a commercial truck on the corner of 167<sup>th</sup> Street.**

**Question** [Marie Adam-Ovide] – Are they vending?

**Response** [Mohammed Tohin] – They park there overnight.

**Answer** [Marie Adam-Ovide] – Then the complaint has to go to NYPD.

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – If it is a commercial truck, then they have plates. Does it move or does it just stay there?

**Response** [Mohammed Tohin] – It stays there.

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – Then it goes to the 107<sup>th</sup> Precinct since it has plates.

**Mohammed Tohin – There is a supermarket called Premium Supermarket. They sell clothes.**

**Response** [Antonio Whitaker] – What are the cross streets?

**Answer** [Mohammed Tohin] – 168<sup>th</sup> Street

**Answer** [Marie Adam-Ovide] – The location is 168-07 Hillside Avenue.

**Mohammed Tohin – Another location is 168-23 Hillside Avenue.**

**Response** [Antonio Whitaker] – Are people vending in front of the location?

**Answer** [Mohammed Tohin] – Yes.

**Response** [Antonio Whitaker] – Is it a food vendor or clothes?

**Answer** [Mohammed Tohin] – Clothes.

**Mohammed Tohin – There is also garbage everywhere in front of 168-25 Hillside Avenue. Also, the food carts are taking up space on the sidewalk. There is one on every street.**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – If they are licensed, they have the right vend. They would have follow certain rules and be within a certain distance away from the curb, intersection, and a brick-and-mortar business. If they follow those three rules and they are licensed, there is not much DSNY can do. If they are unlicensed, we can take everything and issue a summons to the person vending without a proper license.

**Mohammed Tohin – What about the sign they put in front of their store?**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – That is an A-frame. Stores can have them out in front of their stores up to three feet past their property line. When they put it way out to block the sidewalk, they can be summonsed for that.

**Answer** [Marie Adam-Ovide] – DSNY is never going to be able to issue the summons for that because they are doing this after 6 p.m. when the agency is not around. That is the whole issue. I am not sure if this is something sanitation needs to rethink about scheduling or going to each community board on a rotation in the evening. This is the only way.

**Mohammed Tohin – We still did not make any progress since the last meeting. Everything is still the same and people are upset about it.**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – Continue to report what you are seeing to Marie. She will continue to reach out to us. Vending is not going away no matter how much you want it to. I just want to put that out there. So long as people are willing to buy, someone is going to sell it. DSNY only does civil enforcement. We only issue tickets, summonses, and issue confiscations if the person is unlicensed. Legally our hands are tied. Residents may see a slowdown since it is getting colder. It will ramp up again in mid-April early May.

**Saaif Alam – On September 30<sup>th</sup>, we did a walk through with the business owners.**

**Answer** [Marie Adam-Ovide] – The walkthrough we are discussing is different. He is aware of that walk through since he was present. The walkthrough we are talking about is to speak with the businesses about what they are required to do in terms of the stickers. It was discussed last time that many business owners do not know that they are required to have a sticker and carting. DSNY wanted to wait until they were about to implement this new carting system for this to occur.

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – I would like to conduct that business walkthrough now that we have the translated flyer.

**Mohammed ‘Delwar’ Islam** – Many communities hurt because they do not speak the language. Often, business owners are not there, and they have other people who do not speak the language. The message is usually given to the person who is there and not given to the owner/right authority. During our last walkthrough, we said that majority of the first-floor businesses have their own pick-up. A lot of the second floor, which used to be residential, is now commercial. Majority of those businesses do not have pick-up, so they rely on the street corner to dump their garbage. If there was some enforcement, that would change. Secondly, from 170<sup>th</sup> Street – 160<sup>th</sup> Street, they know what time sanitation comes so they come after hours. If sanitation could switch their work schedule and have someone who speaks their language to provide community awareness it be of benefit. When DOT did the bus lane, businesses are hurting.

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – For the second part of the walkthrough, I was hoping you would come to help me translate. I would not want to do this without you. Let Marie and I know when you are available so we can all go and you can help translate.

**Response** [Saaif Alam] – Mr. Sadiq emailed us and is open to having the walkthrough in December. That will be before the holidays.

**Response** [Mohammed Tohin] – Also include me so that I know what is going on.

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – Whenever everyone is available, I will make myself available.

**Mohammed ‘Delwar’ Islam** – As a follow-up to the last walkthrough, we requested to have trash cans on the corner of the street. Not many have been put in place.

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – I will speak with the local district. There are a few, but there has been some hesitancy from the Department.

**Response** [Mohammed ‘Delwar’ Islam] – I would suggest Parsons Blvd. to 172<sup>nd</sup> Street. I would skip a few blocks and place trash cans between 178<sup>th</sup> Street and 179<sup>th</sup> Street. Also, I see people dumping household garbage and construction material on the sidewalk. How do you address that?

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – If you see that, let us know. Dumping is a big issue for us.

**Simone Zito** – When was the last time a walkthrough was conducted?

**Answer** [Marie Adam-Ovide] – It was done by Saaif civic group.

**Answer** [Saaif Alam] – It was on Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Simone Zito** – Who attended the walkthrough?

**Answer** [Saaif Alam] – A representative from the Borough President’s office, Henry from Council Member James Gennaro, Marie Adam-Ovide, business owners, and members of the press.

**Response** [Simone Zito] – I would like to be included in the next walkthrough. We have a quality-of-life director.

**Answer** [Saaif Alam] – I will get back to everyone via email.

**Response** [Marie Adam-Ovide] – You should provide multiple dates. The walkthrough will be intended to let businesses know what the requirements are for carting.

**Antonio Whitaker** – Do you know if these businesses on the second floor are legal or not?

**Response** [Marie Adam-Ovide] – They may be licensed, but they are not up there legally.

**Response** [Mohammed ‘Delwar’ Islam] – They are legitimate businesses with licenses, but the conversion is not legal.

**Response** [Marie Adam-Ovide] – There is no legal conversion. We are supposed to get a list of addresses and give it to DOB. We need to give them each individual address.

**Mohammed Tohin** – The carters are going to be used for the commercial businesses, what about the vendors? What are the rules for them?

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – If they are unlicensed, obviously, they are doing it without the proper permits. For licensed vendors, they are supposed to take their garbage with them to their commissaries. They are not allowed to put their trash on the curb at a DSNY basket.

**Response** [Mohammed Tohin] – What happens when they take it?

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – Their commissaries, have facilities. Every night, licensed vendors are supposed to go to their commissaries to stock up on food, clean their tools, replenish their generators, and get portable water. There is no timeframe for them to do that. They just need to do it at some point during the day. The illegal vendors are an issue. If we happen to be at the location, we can issue them a summons and take everything.

**Simone Zito** – What about nonprofits that do not have a brick and mortar but provides services out of a U-Hall or van? There are a few nonprofits that I have come across that are not registered.

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – If you know of any locations, please send them.

**Response** [Simone Zito] – I was wondering if there are any penalties or fines since DSNY usually picks up their trash.

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – It sounds like they have a relationship with the superintendent from that garage.

Nonprofits that have brick and mortar can sign-up for a DSNY pick-up service. For mobile nonprofits, we would have to look into that.

**Mohammed Tohin** – **Do you have any updates regarding the center medians for 2026?**

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – We have not released what we are going to do yet. We are still ascertaining whether or not the weed killing solution is working. In some areas it is. In other areas it is not.

**Response** [Marie Adam-Ovide] – I heard that salt and vinegar kill weeds.

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – We are trying to figure out what the best solutions are.

**Response** [Marie Adam-Ovide] – I am happy that you came to us early on; however, there are some areas that had to wait until the fall to get taken care of. We want to see the locations on a schedule throughout the spring.

**Saaif Alam** – **Parts of Jamaica Hill has issues with the weeds. My executive committee tells me that there are weeds on 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 159<sup>th</sup> Street and 164<sup>th</sup> Street. If possible, we would like to touch base with you in 2026.**

**Response** [Marie Adam-Ovide] – We would like to have a plan before the rainy season. We do not want to wait until April and May to figure out a plan. Queens Boulevard, Union Turnpike, Main Street, Hillside Avenue, Francis Lewis Boulevard, and Parsons Boulevard. You know those areas.

**Answer** [Antonio Whitaker] – Queens East has more medians than any other part in the city. We always start here first.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Soleil Griffin-Green, CB8 Staff  
December 1, 2025