

# FY 2018 Borough Budget Consultations

## Manhattan - Department of Environmental Protection

Meeting Date 9/6/2016

### AGENDA ITEM 1 : Air Pollution

What are the budget and staffing levels devoted to monitoring and enforcing air pollution in FY 2017 and expected for FY 2018?

#### AGENCY RESPONSE:

- DEP Air & Noise Inspectors/Staffing: 57
- DEP Air & Noise Manhattan Day Time Inspectors, Monday – Friday, 6 AM – 6 PM: 12 (including supervisors)
- DEP Air & Noise Night Unit responds to complaints in all boroughs Monday – Friday 6PM – 2AM 12 (including supervisors)
- DEP Air & Noise Late Night Unit, newly added, also responds to complaints in all boroughs, Monday – Friday, 8PM – 4AM, 4 inspectors/1 supervisor
- DEP Air & Noise Early Morning Construction Unit, newly added, also responds to complaints in all boroughs, Tuesday- Saturday 6AM - 2PM, 6 Inspectors/1 Supervisor.
- Weekend inspections will be augmented by staff working overtime based on complaint volume and time of day.

#### MEETING NOTES:

##### COMMENTS:

how are staff allocated?

Manhattan coordinator position is funded tax levy

after-hours noise complaints vary by district, but are across the board an issue. These complaints are not reflect in open data, why?

DEP: Whenever a complaint is lodged, it generates a complaint number and DEP uses certain codes to update complaints. For whatever reason (appears to an issue with the legacy tool) Open data is not capturing DEP's "closure" codes.

DEP does not have specific staffing for repairs and whatnot. For a broken catch basin, for example, DEP would assess the damage, and if it can be fixed in-house, they will, if not, DEP will contract the work.

##### NOTES:

Follow up on why DEP closures codes are not properly reflected in Open Data.

DEP feel they are inspected complaints (even though it is not properly reflected in open data), but with after-hours permits, there are additional checks DEP has to complete prior to inspecting/closing tickets. If there is no permit on file, DEP shuts things down immediately.

### AGENDA ITEM 2 : Air Quality Enforcement

What level of funding is needed to effectively enforce air quality regulations?

#### AGENCY RESPONSE:

NYC DEP has the existing resources to efficiently enforce the air codes.

## **MEETING NOTES:**

### **COMMENTS:**

EPA monitors state and city in compliance with Clean Air Act

### **NOTES:**

## **AGENDA ITEM 3 : Idling**

What resources have been allocated to enforcement of the idling law in FY17 and projected FY18 budget? Will funding for the idling unit be restored?

### **AGENCY RESPONSE:**

- NYC DEP Air & Noise Unit receives & responds to 311 vehicle idling complaints. In addition to DEP's educational outreach initiatives.
- During Asthma Awareness Month (May), DEP steps up education and enforcement efforts. Whereas DEP staff targets Neighborhoods with high rates of asthma, truck & bus traffic and near schools and distributes literature to parents, teachers and bus drivers at elementary schools. DEP also sends out inspectors to enforce city Local Law 5, which limits idling in school zones to one minute. Drivers observed illegally idling will be issued a warning for a first offense and a \$350 fine for subsequent offenses.
- There has never been an "Idling Unit" in DEP's Bureau of Environmental Compliance. All idling complaints are addressed by Air & Noise inspectors.

## **MEETING NOTES:**

### **COMMENTS:**

What are the total number of idling incidents by district? DEP: its in the handout

### **NOTES:**

## **AGENDA ITEM 4 : Tunnel Air Quality**

What specifically are the budget and staffing levels for DEP efforts to monitor and improve air quality around the approaches to the Holland, Lincoln, and Queens Midtown Tunnels and along the Trans-Manhattan Expressway in FY 2017 and expected for FY 2018?

### **AGENCY RESPONSE:**

NY State DEC maintains the air quality monitoring network required by US EPA. Please refer the question to State DOT.

## **MEETING NOTES:**

### **COMMENTS:**

DEP monitors fleets they have control over, the capacity to monitor other fleets will increase in 2020

### **NOTES:**

## **AGENDA ITEM 5 : Funding for Street Flooding**

What level of funding is needed to see measurable impacts against street flooding?

## **AGENCY RESPONSE:**

Our DEP annual Programmatic Catch basin cleaning began in July of 2016, DEP has increased inspection of all 148,000 of its catch basins from once every three years to once every year. If the basin is found to be in need of cleaning and/or repair, DEP will perform the necessary work. We will also continue to respond to 311 complaints about clogged or broken catch basins.

## **MEETING NOTES:**

### **COMMENTS:**

### **NOTES:**

## **AGENDA ITEM 6 : Stormwater Flooding**

What funding and tools are available to mitigate stormwater flooding in streets, crosswalks and on corners?

## **AGENCY RESPONSE:**

- Day to day, DEP works to keep our system up and running efficiently. We clean and maintain our sewer and drainage systems to keep them in a state of good repair. At the same time, we plan and build both traditional infrastructure and implement best management practices for managing storm water and wastewater.
- Increased inspections, our annual Programmatic Catch basin cleaning program inspects all 148,000 catch basins once every year.
- DEP also has various outreach, education programs such as our grease prevention program.
- Discharges of grease (cooking oil) into the sewer system from restaurants and other food related establishments can block sewers, causing backups and bypasses. To ensure proper disposal of grease, and prevent sewer backups, the City requires by law that grease generating establishments correctly install, operate and maintain properly sized grease interceptors. Special DEP staff inspect these establishments to make sure that the required equipment is installed and working properly. DEP has initiated an educational program to address grease discharges from the over 21,000 restaurants in New York City. The Grease Response Education and Strategic Enforcement Program approaches the problem with a combination of education materials, including foreign language material, which are distributed to restaurants in target areas. Sewer blockages can also be caused by grease and oil improperly disposed of in kitchen sinks and toilets in homes and apartments.

## **MEETING NOTES:**

### **COMMENTS:**

How are baby wipes related to impacts on storm water? DEP: anything flushed funnels into one (combined) sewer system. Gravity based sewer system, once flushed...materials flow into plant.

### **NOTES:**

## **AGENDA ITEM 7 : Manhattan Stormwater Management**

Considering that green infrastructure for stormwater management (ie. Bioswales, rain gardens) is being built by the thousands in Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Queens, is similarly flood prone Manhattan the next area to start implementing and optimizing these tools?

## **AGENCY RESPONSE:**

- Green Infrastructure like bioswales cannot be used as an effective tool for flood mitigation, because both underground infrastructure and geotechnical requirements limit where they can be built and make it difficult to target

areas that are flood prone.

- DEP GI projects are in Priority CSO Tributary Areas, meaning areas where we need to reduce combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in order to improve water quality in NYC’s waterbodies and waterways. The water absorbed by the bioswales we build in the other boroughs will reduce the total amount of stormwater that enters the sewer system, and by that measure in total, reduce the occurrence of CSO events.
- The island of Manhattan has only one wastewater treatment plant, North River, in Harlem, and the geotechnical conditions including the close proximity of bedrock to surface in many parts of Manhattan, are not conducive to building bioswales to a scale that would effectively mitigate CSOs.

**MEETING NOTES:**

**COMMENTS:**

**NOTES:**

**AGENDA ITEM 8 : Green Infrastructure**

Considering a rate of impervious cover significantly higher than the city average of 72%, does the DEP have plans and funding to implement green infrastructure to manage stormwater in Manhattan?

**AGENCY RESPONSE:**

see response to question #7

**MEETING NOTES:**

**COMMENTS:**

There is a Green-water grant program coming online, DEP to provide more information

**NOTES:**

follow up on said grant program

**AGENDA ITEM 9 : Budget Priorities**

What budget priorities would DEP like for CBs to help them advocate for during the FY 2018 budget process?

**AGENCY RESPONSE:**

DEP’s water and sewer-related operations are funded by water and sewer rate money, including our capital program, so it does not request tax levy funds for its infrastructure through the budget consultation process. DEP’s air, noise and asbestos programs however, are funded by City tax levy.

**MEETING NOTES:**

**COMMENTS:**

CBs can help send folks to DEP water board hearings, so that folks are more aware of the process and how fees/prices are formulated.

**NOTES:**

## **AGENDA ITEM 10 : Budgeting Process**

Please explain any particular features of your budgeting process that CB's should take into account when formulating their requests.

### **AGENCY RESPONSE:**

DEP's water and sewer-related operations are funded by water and sewer rate money, including our capital program, so it does not request tax levy funds for its infrastructure through the budget consultation process. DEP's air, noise and asbestos programs however, are funded by City tax levy.

### **MEETING NOTES:**

#### **COMMENTS:**

#### **NOTES:**