



Long Island City Business Improvement District

DSNY Rules Hearing

Relating to Entities Engaging in Cleaning Services

February 10, 2025

My name is Angel Hart and I am writing on behalf of the Long Island City Business Improvement District. I want to start off by emphasizing that we have worked in very close partnership with the NYC Department of Sanitation for over twenty years, since our BID was formed in 2005. We appreciate all of the work that the agency does to keep the city clean, and we especially appreciate the relationship we have built with our local DSNY operations team from Queens District 1 and 2. While we also support the agency's intention of getting bags off of the street for rat mitigation and general sidewalk cleanliness, we do not support these newly proposed rules for containerization. This unfunded mandate burdens BIDs and other community organizations that supplement the City's sanitation services to containerize public trash without providing any financial support and flexibility. These overhauling rules do not follow in line with the partnership we have built and may result in the inability for many BIDs to continue their supplemental sanitation programs as they stand.

After our recent expansion in January 2025, the Long Island City BID now covers the biggest geographic area of any other BID In NYC. Over 50% of our budget goes towards sanitation services, which includes sidewalk sweeping, bagging and replacing public trash from corner bins, graffiti removals and additional salting and snow shoveling as needed. This past year we bagged over 45,000 bags of trash for DSNY collection from our 115 corner bins throughout the district - this number will likely double with our newly expanded district. The agency has suggested a few options for BIDs to comply including the following: invest in on street containers for garbage storage such as Metrostor or Citibins, purchase wheely bins to collect and move trash around the district, pay for hauling to local garages and/or some combination of the above. These suggestions are not only extremely expensive, and therefore nearly impossible to comply with, but they also require major operational changes that are only exacerbated in our district due to the sheer size and distance our team already must travel to operate as is. None of the suggested options would fully allow us to keep all bags off the street without financial support to do so.

This proposed bill is an unfair one size fits all attempt to punish BIDs for the work we do to supplement City sanitation services across NYC. If DSNY expects us to comply with these rules by August 1st they need to provide more flexibility and/or financial support for this program. To

honor our shared goal of keeping NYC commercial corridors clean, we are happy to work collaboratively with DSNY for a solution that will work best for our BID individually. However, we oppose the Rule as drafted. We thank you for your consideration.