



My name is Elizabeth Lovejoy, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Bay Ridge 5th Avenue Business Improvement District (BID) in Brooklyn. Our BID operates with an annual assessment of \$534,000 and employs two full-time staff members. A significant portion of our budget—43%—is dedicated to supplemental sanitation services, ensuring that our commercial corridor remains clean and inviting for businesses, residents, and visitors. Our dedicated sanitation team of three works tirelessly daily to maintain a high standard of cleanliness.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the BID operates on a break-even budget, often relying on additional funding sources such as grants to enhance programming and offset operational costs. In 2022, we secured a nearly \$20,000 grant from the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) for waste management initiatives, which enabled us to acquire containers. We do not oppose containerization—in fact, we welcome it. However, to continue containerization efforts, additional funding is necessary.

DSNY has repeatedly referred to waste left for pickup in business districts as “BID Bags.” We strongly disagree. Much of this refuse results from improper dumping and should be classified as public trash. BIDs do not create the waste—we manage it, ensuring that sidewalks and curbs remain clean rather than littered with trash.

BIDs play a vital role in supporting DSNY by funding and managing supplemental sanitation services. Now, it's time for DSNY to reciprocate by implementing a more equitable and sustainable waste management solution—one that acknowledges the unique needs and challenges of diverse commercial districts.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Elizabeth Lovejoy

Elizabeth Lovejoy
Executive Director
Bay Ridge 5th Avenue Business Improvement District