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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Environment and Sanitation Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 23, 2021 - 6:30PM
This meeting was conducted remotely via Zoom

Please note: The resolutions contained in the committee minutes are recommendations submitted by the committee chair to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolutions are discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.

MINUTES

Resolution for Approval: Item 1

1. The Environment and Sanitation committee invited Marissa Yanni, Department of Sanitation's (DSNY) Community Coordinator to answer concerns about the sanitation conditions in our community.

Ms. Yanni agreed that sanitation enforcement has lagged because the Department is assisting Department of Transportation with the Open Streets program, and the need for snow removal.

DSNY received kudos for their efficient snow removal. Ms. Yanni explained that the department salts streets as soon as snow begins. Trucks are lined up waiting to start cleaning, which begins after two inches of snowfall. Critical streets are plowed first. Narrow streets need to be plowed with smaller equipment. Bike lanes and walkways are cleared after the snow has stopped, with the requirement that building owners also clear walkways.

There were several concerns from the community:

Assembly member Rebecca Seawright's office relayed constituents concerns about trash pickup during snow removal. Ms. Yanni explained that there has to be a lot of catchup because clearing snow is the priority. Also, due to COVID, if anyone in the garage is infected, the garage must be closed and cleaned, which also causes a slowdown of pickup. She was asked to urge the Department to continue garbage pickup and clear the snow at the same time.

There was much discussion about the public trash cans. The can doors are not closed, hinges are broken, the inner plastic bins are not replaced properly nor cleaned, causing an overflow of garbage, and increase in rodents. We asked that DSNY evaluate the type of cans they use to make sure they are working properly, cleaned, and excess refuse swept.

Funding cuts has caused Sunday pickup to be suspended, resulting in overflowing cans. East 86 Street is a heavily used commercial thoroughway, and the suspension of pickup has caused the streets to be dirty. Mid-block cans were installed on that street but DSNY removed them. We urged the DSNY to resume Sunday pickup, especially on main streets.

Pooper scooper laws are not enforced. Ms. Yanni said that responsibility is with the dog owner, and the building owners must also keep the streets clean. We urged for more enforcement.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: Public trash cans along the streets of the upper eastside are overflowing, the can doors are not closed, the hinges are broken, the plastic bins are not replaced nor cleaned, causing an overflow of garbage, and increase in rodents, and

WHEREAS: East 86 Street is a major commercial thruway that has seen an increase of garbage since Sunday pickup has been eliminated, and

WHEREAS: Trash is not picked up when sanitation trucks are used to plow, garbage accumulates on the streets, therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8 Manhattan urges DSNY makes certain that trash bins are emptied and cleaned, replaced properly, and excess refuse is swept, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 8 Manhattan urges DSNY to fix or replace faulty bins, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 8 Manhattan urges DSNY to restore Sunday pickup, especially on commercial streets such as East 86 Street, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 8 Manhattan requests that DSNY continue trash pickup while performing snow plowing.

Vote: 7-0-0

In favor: Alida Camp, Ed Hartzog, Barbara Rudder, Lynne Strong-Shinozaki, Russell Squire, Cos Spagnoletti, Marco Tamayo

Further to questions at the meeting, DSNY responded:

Marissa sent the following in follow earlier this week.

- A response letter was sent to AM Seawright's office
- Baskets are not left open by Sanitation Workers, there are a lot of homeless individuals that look through these baskets on a constant basis. Supervisors and Sanitation Workers close them on a constant basis.
- Supervisors constantly survey corner baskets in the area they are assigned to work in. We do not wait for complaints from the public before we inspect corner litter baskets.
- Corner basket collection schedule for 1st and 2nd Avenues between 72nd and 92nd Streets
 - Monday and Friday- 12 AM- 8 AM shift
 - Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday- 5 AM- 1 PM shift

Cos Spagnoletti and Barbara Rudder, Co-Chairs