

Dog Waste Cleanup: Doggie Bag Legislation Proposal

Excessive Dog Waste: A UES Quality-of-Life Issue

- **May 24, 2023** – Gathered **residents** for a meeting with **Council Member Julie Menin** to address the UES dog waste problem
- **Feb 28, 2024** – Menin introduced **legislation** requiring **DSNY** to install & refill **dog waste bag dispensers** on public litter baskets
- **Current Status** – Progress has been **slow**; **DOT opposes** dispensers on street furniture, despite **DSNY maintaining** them
- A **community petition** has begun ([2 Care](#) with 110 local signatures and counting).
- **Next Steps** – Menin's office remains **committed** to the cause
- **We request a resolution** by Community Board 8 on this matter

File #:

Int 0281-2024

Version: *

Name:

Requiring the department of sanitation to install and fill dog waste bag dispensers on public litter baskets.

Type:

Introduction

Status:

Laid Over in Committee

Committee:

[Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management](#)

On agenda:

2/28/2024

Law number:

Title:

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the department of sanitation to install and fill **dog waste** bag dispensers on public litter baskets

Sponsors:

[Julie Menin](#), [Gale A. Brewer](#), [Farah N. Louis](#), [Alexa Avilés](#), [James F. Gennaro](#), [Lynn C. Schulman](#), [Crystal Hudson](#), [Rafael Salamanca, Jr.](#), [Shahana K. Hanif](#), [Frank Morano](#)

Council Member Sponsors:

10

Summary:

This bill would require the Department of Sanitation to install and regularly fill dog waste bag dispensers on or next to all public litter baskets on city streets. This bill would also require the Department of Sanitation to work with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to conduct a public awareness campaign to educate the public on the negative public health consequences associated with dog waste.

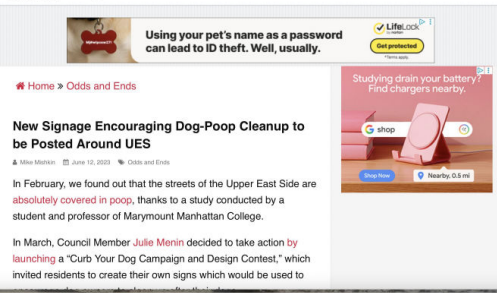
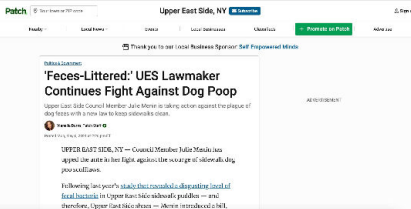
Attachments:

1. [Summary of Int. No. 281](#), 2. [Int. No. 281](#), 3. [February 28, 2024 - Stated Meeting Agenda](#), 4. [Hearing Transcript - Stated Meeting 2-28-24](#), 5. [Committee Report 5/1/24](#), 6. [Hearing Testimony 5/1/24](#), 7. [Hearing Transcript 5/1/24](#), 8. [Minutes of the Stated Meeting - February 28, 2024](#)

Date ▾	Ver.	Prime Sponsor	Action By	Action	Result	Action Details	Meeting Details	Multimedia
5/1/2024	*	Julie Menin	Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management	Hearing Held by Committee		Action details	Meeting details	Not available
5/1/2024	*	Julie Menin	Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management	Laid Over by Committee		Action details	Meeting details	Not available
2/28/2024	*	Julie Menin	City Council	Referred to Comm by Council		Action details	Meeting details	Not available
2/28/2024	*	Julie Menin	City Council	Introduced by Council		Action details	Meeting details	Not available

<https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6557702&GUID=F4F4CDAB-3829-4F61-9AAE-DD6CEBE915E0&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=dog+waste>

Media Coverage

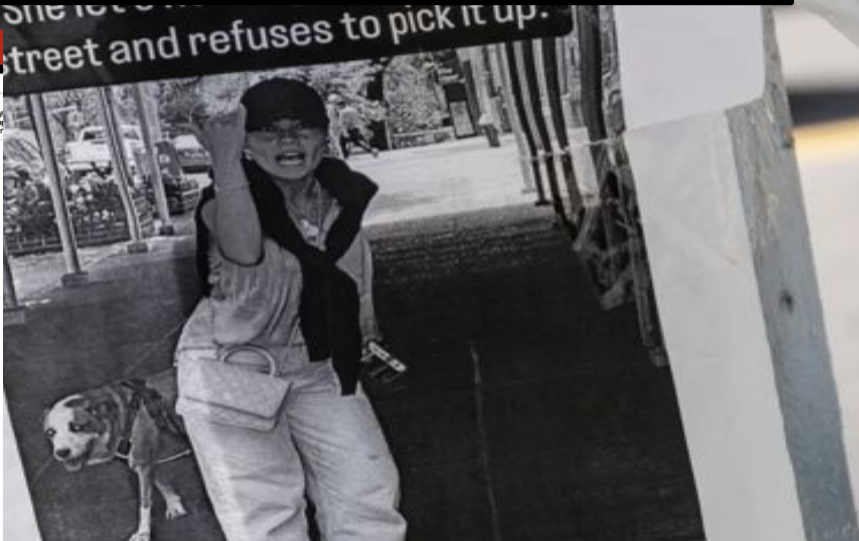


METRO

Mystery NYC s-t stirrer refuses to pick up dog's poop on UES, fuming neighbors plaster her pic all over town

By Kevin Sheehan and Natalie O'Neill
Published Sep. 3, 2025, 1:13 p.m. ET

1.2K Comments



Upper East Side residents are upset over the amount of dog poop in their neighborhood. James Messerschmidt for NY Post



DogTime

Dog Breeds Dog Training

AMAZING CARE STARTS WITH AMAZING NURSES. Apps Today



(Photo Credit: organdromaz / Getty Images)

FEATURE

Dog Poop Problem Stinking Up New York's Upper East Side

JANUARY 31, 2024 BY MILKHA MULLANDRA

New York City's Upper East Side Neighborhood has long been known for its posh homes and affluent residents. However, lately, it's become rather infamous for its filthy sidewalks littered with dog poop.

Dog Waste: Health Hazards & Rodent Issues:

- **Dog waste = health risk** despite dogs being “man’s best friend”
- **Can cause:** infections, parasites, allergies, skin rashes
- **Dangerous germs:** Giardia, E. coli, Staph, Cryptosporidium, Campylobacter, Helicobacter
- **High-risk groups:** kids (hand-to-mouth, play in soiled areas), immunocompromised, frequent outdoor visitors
- **Neighborhood concern:** contaminated areas affect all residents
- **Rodent attraction:** nutrients in dog waste (fats & proteins) can contribute to a rat problem, especially with other food sources
- **Proper disposal:** essential to reduce illness, including from **antibiotic-resistant bacteria**

City Disagreements = Legislative Delay

- **Progress stalled:** Disagreement between **Sanitation Dept.** (DSNY) and **Transportation Dept.** (DOT) over dispenser locations (trash cans vs. bus stop benches)
- **Menin's stance:** City is responsible for installing dispensers, especially in high-need areas; "bare minimum expectation"
- **Parks Dept. response:** Declined interview; said new dispensers installed when residents or officials raise concerns

Citywide Complaints: Statistics

New York City dogs produce an estimated **27,000 tons of waste annually**, much of which is ending up on sidewalks despite the city's pooper-scooper law.

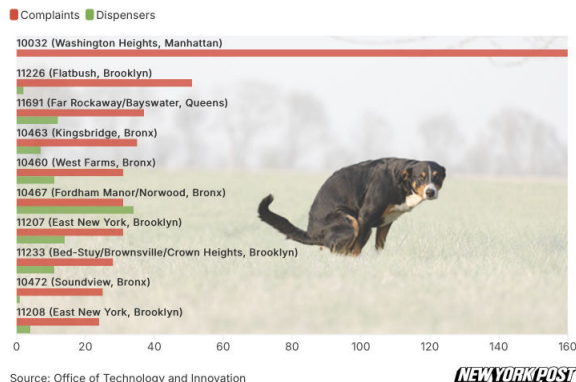
311 complaints about dog waste are rising:

1,622 in H1 2025 (vs. 1,426 in 2024, 1,392 in 2023)

Bag dispenser access matters:

- Since 2017, NYC has added about 1,100 dispensers. ZIP codes with more dispensers generally have fewer complaints.
- **51 ZIP codes have none**, including 10032, which has the highest complaints

Dog Poop 311 Complaints vs. Bag Dispensers by ZIP code



Here's a look at NYC's top 10 scat-scattered spots.

- 3rd party ad content
- Washington Heights, Manhattan (10032); 160 complaints; 0 dispensers
 - Flatbush, Brooklyn (11226); 51 complaints; 2 dispensers
 - Far Rockaway/Bayswater, Queens (11691); 37 complaints; 12 dispensers
 - Kingsbridge, Bronx (10463); 35 complaints; 7 dispensers
 - West Farms, Bronx (10460); 31 complaints; 11 dispensers
 - Fordham Manor/Norwood, Bronx (10467); 31 complaints; 14 dispensers
 - East New York, Brooklyn (11207); 31 complaints; 14 dispensers
 - Bed-Stuy/Brownsville/Crown Heights, Brooklyn (11233); 28 complaints; 11 dispensers
 - Soundview, Bronx (10472); 25 complaints; 1 dispenser
 - East New York, Brooklyn (11208); 24 complaints; 4 dispensers.

In the first half of 2025, the city received over 1,600 complaints about dog waste left out in the street. The 10032 ZIP code in Washington Heights had the most complaints. But the neighborhood has no public dog waste bag dispensers.

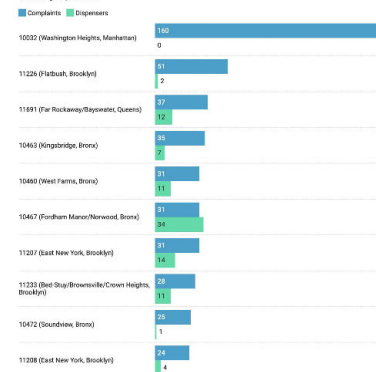


Chart: Joe Hong - Source: Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI) - Get the data - Created with Datawrapper

Source: [Gothamist](#) - July 28th 2025.

- **Community push:** residents want more trash cans & bag dispensers – “no excuse” for neglect
- **Legislation stalled:** Menin’s bill for dispensers on all public trash cans held up over installation disputes
- **Enforcement gap:** \$250 fines exist, but only **8 tickets** issued in 2 years
- **Key insight:** social pressure helps, but **accessible infrastructure** (bags + trash cans) is essential
- **Boston example:** freestanding bag-and-bin stations show how easy access reduces sidewalk waste
- **Advocates’ view:** many owners are careless, but the city could **drastically improve conditions** by making cleanup easier

Summary

- Expand access to dog waste bags → reduce sidewalk waste and keep it contained
- Advance legislation to install & refill dispensers on public litter baskets
- NYC DOT open to continued discussions with DSNY, pending review of infrastructure impacts

Our Resolution Goals

- We'd like to request **Community Board support** for the legislation
- Rally **local elected officials** to stand with us
- Build **strong community momentum** through [petition signatures](#) and visible backing