



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

330 West 42nd Street, 26th floor New York, NY 10036
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512
www.nyc.gov/mcb4

Burt Lazarin
Chair

Jesse R. Bodine
District Manager

August 1st, 2019

CHEKPEDS
348 West 38th Street, 12B
New York, NY, 10018

Re: CHEKPEDS Pilot TOSS Program

Dear CHEKPEDS Leadership,

At the regularly scheduled meeting of the Arts, Culture, Education & Street Life Committee (ACES) of Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) held on July 8, 2019, the committee voted unanimously, with one vote Present Not Eligible, to support the Chelsea-Hells Kitchen Coalition for Pedestrian Safety (CHEKPEDS)¹ Trash Off the Sidewalk Space (TOSS) proposal for a pilot program in response to a Request For Expression of Interest (RFEI) regarding containerized refuse and recycling from the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY). This letter includes the recommendations of MCB4 and was approved at the July 24, 2019 Full Board meeting with 18 in favor, 11 against, 2 abstaining and 4 present but not eligible to vote.

Background

Manhattan Community District 4 (MCD4) encompasses the neighborhoods of Chelsea, Hudson Yards, Hells Kitchen, and Clinton. The trash and recycling bags piled on our sidewalks to await pick-up create a variety of very serious issues in our district and across the city. Most importantly, the fact that DSNY employees must navigate between parked cars that obscure visibility while dragging heavy bags of trash and recycling to deposit them into trucks that are continuously starting and stopping is contributing to the alarmingly high rate of injuries and fatalities among sanitation workers.² Stacks of trash and recycling bags also obstruct pedestrian traffic, in particular for the handicapped, delivery people/USPS staff, and for parents with strollers, among others. (A problem that is exacerbated on streets with narrow sidewalk space and/or outside large residential and commercial buildings that produce substantial stacks of waste and recycling.) Additionally, the piles of garbage and recycling bags are unsightly and contribute to the vermin issues that we experience city-wide.

¹ CHEKPEDS is a registered 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization. Board Members, Christine Berthet, Jeffrey LeFrancois, Allen Oster, Martin Treat, and David Warren are members of CHEKPEDS. All members recused themselves from presenting to CB4 and voting on this topic.

² <https://www.wastedive.com/news/gov-cuomo-signs-law-expanding-death-benefits-for-nyc-sanitation-worker-fam/513166/>

As stated on DSNY website³, DSNY, in partnership with the Department of Transportation (DOT), is seeking creative solutions for containerized refuse and recycling that will:

- increase waste diversion, including by reduction, reuse, and recycling
- reduce the volume of consolidated material set out on City sidewalks
- reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with waste collection; and/or
- improve the cleanliness of City streets and sidewalks

The determination of how long the pilot would last, its budget, and restrictions will be determined after a review of the proposals.

CHEKPEDS and TOSS Pilot Program

The TOSS pilot program that CHEKPEDS proposes is an opportunity to test out and learn about a better approach to trash and recycling pick-up. If implemented at scale, their solution could mitigate the safety issues being experienced by sanitation workers and could help solve the pedestrian traffic, aesthetic and vermin issues created by leaving trash and recycling on the sidewalk while awaiting pickup. A summary of the project's proposal is enclosed in this letter.

Through TOSS, CHEKPEDS would test out relocating the trash and recycling bags from our sidewalks into corrals. These corrals would be located in what are currently parking spaces on the streets, making the sidewalks more accessible for everyone by repurposing space that is currently used by one person, family or business at a time for private vehicle storage. A switch to corrals would also enable garbage trucks to stop at a small number of specific points on each block for sanitation workers to load trash and recycling. This would reduce the amount trucks start and stop. It would also eliminate the need for carrying bags between parked cars where visibility can be obstructed. Together, those shifts would likely reduce the number of injuries and fatalities among city sanitation workers. Transferring trash and recycling from a small number of corrals on a given street, rather than picking up bags from in front of every home and business, would also streamline the transfer into trucks, likely increasing pick-up efficiency for DSNY as well.

Pilot

The CHEKPEDS pilot design of TOSS is informed by approaches to this solution for garbage and recycling collection that have been successful around the world. The pilot would consist of three phases and include tests at three sites. Each site has a different profile to study the impact of corrals in a range of contexts.

Pilot Design:

Sites:

1. W. 45th Street between 9th and 10th Avenues, typical lower-rise residential
2. 9th Avenue between 41st and 42nd Street, lower-rise residential/ground floor commercial
3. W. 41st Street between 8th and 9th Avenue, high-rise residential

Phases:

1. Corrals would be introduced and initially used for recyclables only.
2. After users have acclimated to using the corrals, waste bags would be deposited too.
3. Enclosed containers would be added to store waste and recycling (DSNY would specify container type and phase 3 could happen contemporaneously with phase 2).

³ <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/site/our-work/containerized-waste-rfei>

As part of the pilot, the corrals would be regularly cleaned by an inexpensive service. They would not obstruct regular street cleaning, similar to other installations in former street parking spaces like bike docks.

Like any other pilot, the goal would be to test, learn and inform a potential long-term solution that could be scaled. MCB4 is supportive of this initiative as an opportunity to learn about how corrals could be introduced in our district and the city. However, we there are factors we believe would be important to consider if this initiative is scaled in the future.

Long-term Considerations:

If this pilot is successful and TOSS is rolled out more widely, there are several factors we would encourage CHEKPEDS and the DSNY to consider and collect community feedback on before expanding the initiative:

- **Access** - Ensuring only residents and building superintendents could access the corrals so they are used for their intended purpose of recycling/trash storage for pick-up.
- **Aesthetics** - Using exterior materials and a design that would help to beautify -- or at least would not detract from -- the appearance of our streets.
- **Location selection** - Developing an approach to determining where corrals would be located that incorporates community input meaningfully and is both equitable and practical.

Conclusion:

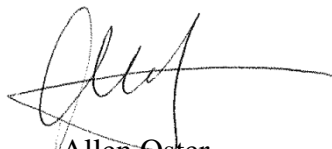
Eliminating bags of trash and recycling from being deposited and stacked on sidewalks is a problem that many cities in the US and around the world have already solved. We are hopeful this pilot could be an important step toward a solution in our district and across the city.

Thank you for considering these comments. MCB4 would like to acknowledge DSNY's initiative in putting out this REFI to address such an important issue. We also look forward to continued involvement if the pilot is implemented, and as input is collected if this initiative is ultimately scaled up throughout our district and the city.

Sincerely,



Burt Lazarin
Chair
Community Board 4



Allen Oster
Co-Chair
ACES Committee

[signed 8/1/19]
Inge Ivchenko
Co-Chair
ACES Comittee

Enclosure

cc: NYC DSNY
Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker, City Council
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President



OUR MEMBERS • 9th

Avenue Association • 43rd Street Block Association • 44SW • 44th Street Block Association • 45th Street Block Association • 46th Street Block Association • 47/48th Street Block Association • 48th Street Block Association • 55th Street Block Association • 344-348 West 38th Street Tenants Corp. • Actors Temple Theater • American Home Hardware & More • Baryshnikov Arts Center • Basilica • Brazil Brazil • Chimichurri Grill • Clinton Housing Development Corp • Costa del Sol • Cupcake Café • Delphinium Home • Domus • Econolodge • Empire Tailors & Cleaners • Times Square • Galaxy Diner • Hartley House • Hell's Kitchen Neighborhood Association • Housing Conservation Coordinators • Hudson Crossing Tenants Association • International Foods • Manhattan Plaza • Metro Bicycle Stores • New Dramatists • Nice N Natural • Orion Condominium • Piccinini Brothers • Il Punto • PetsNYC.com Poseidon Bakery • Project FIND • R/GA • Revolution Rickshaws • Rockrose Development • Sea Breeze • Sunnyside Records • Smiley's • Sonja Wagner Gallery • Costa del Sol • St. Lukes Theater • Studio LLC • Tagine • Tartare • The Ritz • The Piano Factory • Thrift & New Shoppe • Trattoria Pesce Pasta • Urban Affiliates • Vintner Wine Market

www.chekped.com

May 20, 2019

NYC Department of Sanitation

Re: NYC Pilot for Public Realm Refuse and Recycling Solutions

We appreciate the opportunity to submit our response to the RFEI.

The Chelsea-Hell's Kitchen Coalition for Pedestrian Safety (CHEKPEDS) is a non-profit organization that focuses on pedestrian safety and quality of life. In recent years, the lack of sidewalk space has become an issue for our members, especially for those with disabilities, as more deliveries and higher building density are causing the volume of waste to increase significantly and obstruct the pedestrian right-of-way.

Our submission, a project called TOSS (Trash Off the Sidewalk Space), would free up 100% of the sidewalk space that is presently used by waste waiting to be picked up.

Since its inception in 2005, CHEKPEDS has been a leader in urban design and better use of street space. In particular, we have been very successful at converting parking spaces to uses that benefit all street users.

In 2010 at our request, DOT installed neckdowns on 41st Street and 9th Avenue; in 2012 we installed three bike corrals on 9th Avenue by swapping parking spaces; the following year, we converted motorcycle parking to a plaza; in 2014, at our request, the DOT converted 15 parking spaces into a plaza (the Canoe, at 36th Street between 9th and Dyer Avenues); in 2016, with the help of a developer and the DOT, we expanded the sidewalk on 8th Avenue between 42nd and 43rd Streets to accommodate pedestrian volumes. We have been strong advocates of Street Seats in the City, where parking space is converted into public seating: more than eight Street Seats are now installed in our neighborhood.

As part of our focus to free up pedestrian spaces, we'd like the City to remove garbage obstructions from the sidewalks. The overnight stacking of waste bags on narrow sidewalks makes the passage challenging for pedestrians, and next to impossible for people with disabilities. It is critical

CHEKPEDS is a coalition of over 1,500 businesses, individuals, and institutions dedicated to pedestrian safety in Chelsea, Clinton and Hell's Kitchen, on the West side of Manhattan and the sponsor of the 9th Avenue Renaissance project. excom@chekped.com
Chelsea, Clinton/Hell's Kitchen Coalition for Pedestrian Safety | 348 west 38th Street, New York, NY 10018 | (646) 623 2689 |

to find ways to remove these weekly obstructions from our overcrowded sidewalks.

In our first efforts with Manhattan Community Board 4, we convinced developers to redesign their waste systems so that the waste is compacted and it remains inside the building until collection. We are now working on changing the City Zoning laws to require developers to include sufficient waste space and compacting equipment inside their buildings.

Now, our member, the West 45th Street block association, uses the Mathews Palmer park to host trash reduction and recycling efforts like regular Stop 'N' Swap events. On May 20th, it will launch the official pilot of DSNY Brown Bin Collection at that park.

We thank you in advance for considering our submission.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signatures of C. Berthet and M. Treat in black ink.

C. Berthet, co-founder

M. Treat, co-founder

Our contact information:

CHEKPEDS Inc.
348 West 38th Street, Suite 12B
New York, NY 10018
Contact: Christine Berthet
Phone: 212-239-2917
Email: excom@chekpeds.com
Web Site: www.chekpeds.com