



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

LOWELL D. KERN
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

July 24, 2020

Kathryn Garcia
Commissioner
NYC Department of Sanitation
59 Maiden Lane, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Re: Trash Placement and Collection

Dear Commissioner Garcia,

At its July 22nd Full Board meeting, Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4), by a vote of 44 in favor, 3 against, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, requests that the Department of Sanitation of New York City (DSNY) affirm and publish that trash bags may be deposited on the street side of a curb, as long as they do not impede vehicular traffic, and further affirm and publish that DSNY will NOT issue citations for such placement.

MCB4 has become increasingly concerned about the volume of garbage bags that overwhelm our sidewalks on trash days. Sidewalks have become so encumbered that there is insufficient room for pedestrians to pass one another, a problem now exacerbated by the pandemic. The severe cuts in the sanitation budget will cause the volume of trash for the remaining collection days to increase.

DSNY's regulation for the placement of trash bags requires that they be located "curbside"¹. This makes it clear that the bags can legally be located on either side of the curb, that is, either on the sidewalk side or on the street side. Nonetheless, in our attempts to encourage building owners to use the street side of the curb, and not the sidewalk, we have found that, based on previous citations from DSNY, they are fearful of doing so.

¹ § 16-1-01 - Curbside collection. "Curbside collection" means collection service where building solid waste and/or designated recyclable material collected by the Department is placed at the curbside of such building.

Many large commercial buildings already put garbage in the parking lane. This practice would be equally if not more beneficial on residential streets and avenues where the need for distancing is most acute.

We further request your assistance to select shared locations in the parking lane of a test block where we could pilot this street-side placement.

Sincerely,



Lowell Kern
Chair
Manhattan Community
Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning
Committee

cc: Hon. Jerry Nadler, U.S. Congressman
Hon. Brad Hoylman, U.S. Senator
Hon. Richard Gottfried, NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Linda Rosenthal, NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon Corey Johnson, New York City Council Speaker
Hon. Antonio Reynoso, Councilmember, Chair of Sanitation Committee