



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR
424 W. 33rd Street, Suite 580 New York, NY 10001
tel: 212-736-4536
www.mcb4.nyc

Lowell D. Kern
Chair

Jesse Bodine
District Manager

November 4, 2021

William Castro
Manhattan Commissioner
Department of Parks + Recreation
Arsenal West, 24 West 61st Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10023

Re: Composting Protocols

Dear Commissioner Castro:

The Waterfront, Parks, and Environment Committee of Manhattan Community Board 4 recently learned that leaves, branches, garden clippings, and other organic matter are not composted by the Parks Department. Instead, the organic debris is stuffed into black plastic trash bags and sent to the landfill.

Pictures are attached for your reference from DeWitt Clinton Park, taken on September 15, 2021.

This is inappropriate and counterintuitive to what the Parks Department should be doing with organic matter: composting and repurposing it for the betterment of the City's Parks and for the environment. It is likely to also be cost saving as each year the Parks Department needs to spend on mulch and fertilizer, both of which can be created by reusing tree and garden waste.

MCB4 notes that Hudson River Park has a robust composting program of its organic waste, as does the Central Park and Riverside Park Conservancies.

At its Full Board meeting on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, MCD4 voted 43 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 Present-Not-Eligible, 0 abstaining to ask the following:

1. What materials does NYC DPR compost?
2. Why do any organic materials from NYC Parks make their way to the landfill?
3. Approximately how much organic matter is created each year by NYC Parks, as our trees are trimmed, gardens cut back, and parks maintained?

Climate change is not an issue for the future, but one we are dealing with today. Every City agency must do its part to help green the City, and the Parks Department can start by composting Parks' organics waste.

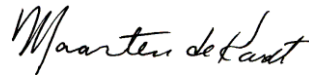
Thank you,



Lowell D. Kern
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Jeffrey LeFrancois
Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks, & Environment Committee



Maarten deKadt
Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee

Enclosure

cc: Hon. Linda B. Rosenthal, NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Corey Johnson, NYC Council Speaker
Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President



