



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR
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JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

March 10, 2022

Hon. Erik Bottcher
New York City Council
224 W. 30th Street, Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001

Edward Grayson
Commissioner
NYC Department of Sanitation
125 Worth Street
New York, NY 10013

Re: Dog Waste

Dear Councilmember Bottcher & Commissioner Grayson,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) requests the Department of Sanitation explore a renewed campaign encouraging City residents to clean up after their dogs. There has been an observed increase of dog waste on our streets and sidewalks contributing to the dirtiness of our public spaces.

At its March 2nd Full Board meeting by a vote of 40 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions and 0 present but not eligible, MCB4 votes in favor of action to curb this objectionable behavior.

Our streets and sidewalks are dirtier, and the dog feces pedestrians have to navigate is an added element having deleterious effects on our health and well-being. We request enforcement of New York State Public Health Law §1310¹ requiring anyone in custody or control of a dog to remove any feces left by his or her dog on any sidewalk, gutter, street, or other public area.

We also request DSNY and Councilmember Bottcher explore a meaningful public ad campaign educating the public on the responsibility of dog ownership, in this regard. We suggest including local artists and groups to produce inventive ways to broadcast the message to clean up after your dog, which have been effective in other locales.²

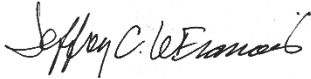
¹ <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/PBH/1310>

² <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/marylander/outreach/pages/scoop%20the%20poop.aspx>

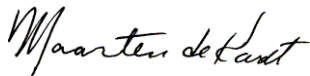
With over 500,000 dogs in NYC pre-pandemic and dog ownership growing exponentially during COVID, our dog waste problem has grown with it. This is not just an unsightly problem but a health one, as well. Pet waste carries bacteria and viruses which contribute pollutants to both urban waterways and our air, which, quite frankly, stinks.

Knowing Councilmember Bottcher's interest in advocating for a healthier sanitation program, we recommend a "scoop the poop" campaign be included.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey LeFrancois
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Maarten deKadt
Co-chair
Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee



Leslie Boghosian Murphy
Co-chair
Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee