



CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4**

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**JESSICA CHAIT**  
Chair

**JESSE BODINE**  
District Manager

December 10, 2025

Javier Lojan  
Acting Commissioner  
NYC Department of Sanitation  
59 Maiden Lane, 5<sup>th</sup> Fl  
New York, NY 10038

**Re: DSNY Presentation to Manhattan Community Board 4**

Dear Acting Commissioner Lojan,

Manhattan Community Board 4's (MCB4) Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee extends a great thank you to Frank Lettera, Department of Sanitation (DSNY) Assistant Chief, Officer of the Commissioner and Stephen Caruso, DSNY City Wide Public Affairs Officer, for attending our November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. The combination of both a fantastic presentation and a trouble shooting question and answer period provided the committee with a better comprehension of DSNY services in our district and what we can expect in the near future.

By a Full Board vote of 47 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions and 0 present not eligible, MCB4 approves the following comments.

MCB4 greatly appreciates the recent addition of a corner basket pickup "gap truck" at WPE's request. This truck now services Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen from 11am - 7pm Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays, recognizing the overflowing baskets in our district and added at the discretion of DSNY in response to WPE's ask. As DSNY relayed, since the addition of this truck, 311 complaints of overcapacity corner trash bins have been considerably less. MCB4 hopes DSNY acknowledges the positive impact this gap truck service is having and requests it also service the other four days of the week.

The number one reason for overflowing corner garbage is private trash being dumped by the public baskets. This is prohibited but difficult to enforce without video or still picture evidence. The most successful enforcement mechanism for illegal dumping or prohibited disposal, so far, is DSNY camera recordings. The department is looking into a feasible camera proposal to widen

their enforcement capabilities. MCB4 will be interested in a follow-up discussion on implementing this approach in our district.

Street trash is another main sanitation problem in our district, especially on the Avenues. Currently, property owners are responsible for keeping their sidewalks and curbsides clean with extremely limited hours available for enforcement of infractions. We support DSNY's advocacy in broadening the time their officers may patrol with the ultimate objective of keeping our streets free of trash. We look forward to having a discussion of what future city legislation addressing that will look like.

Right now, the corner baskets with swing outs are proving to be troublesome, finding too many of the doors dangerously open and the inside basket tampered with. We applaud DSNY recognizing this problem and their attempt to fix it by retrofitting these baskets with updated magnets to hold the doors in place. During our discussion, Assistant Chief Lettera offered the advantages of wire baskets, which may be a better option in some areas. They are easier to maintain and replace, don't create unnecessary sidewalk obstructions and are no less attractive than what we have now. MCB4 would like to defer to Assistant Chief Lettera's expertise and consider the option of replacement wire baskets where contextually appropriate. We would also like to have at least 2 corner baskets at each intersection.

MCB4 is looking forward to examining DSNY's recent Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). We hope to connect to your Bureau of Recycling and Sustainability for a follow-up presentation on questions and issues more appropriate for them.

We appreciate Assistant Chief Frank Lettera and City-Wide Public Affairs Officer Stephen Caruso's agreement to continue to participate in this tremendously helpful conversation by attending MCB4 WPE meetings biannually.

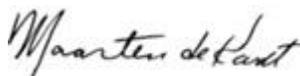
Sincerely,



Jessica Chait  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board 4



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



Maarten deKadt  
Co-Chair  
Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee

CC: Hon. Gale Brewer, NYC Council Member  
Hon. Erik Bottcher, NYC Council Member