



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

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*Honorable Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President*

**MS. EVONNE CAPERS**  
**Board Chairperson**

**MR. JOHN SANCHEZ**  
**District Manager**

**Sanitation Committee Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Maria Latimer, Committee Chairperson

The Sanitation Committee Meeting met on Thursday, March 18, 2021 via Zoom Audio and Video Conferencing. The following members were present: Virginia Bird, Matthew Martinez, and Rosa Peraza.

The following item was discussed:

- Department of Sanitation on their Zero Waste Initiative

The Department of Sanitation informed us about their Zero Waste Initiative in relation to the carryout bags. The single-use plastic bags are banned with limited exceptions. The State's Department of Environmental Protection began enforcing the law and regulations on October 19, 2020. A task force was created to analyze the impact of single-use plastic bags and issued a report that shows that residents use 23 billion plastic bags annually and costs the City more than \$12 million annually to dispose of the bags. These bags do not biodegrade and persist for years. Any retailer that is required to collect New York State sales tax (with limited exceptions) will not be able to provide plastic carryout bags. In New York City, businesses covered under the ban must charge five cents for paper bags. However, those on SNAP or WIC are exempt from being charged the fee. The fee will go to the Department of Finance and Taxation, where three cents will go to the state's environmental conservation and two cents will go towards the distribution of reusable bags. Businesses can choose to recycle through their vendor bags, sell to businesses out of state, or if businesses operate out of state, send them to those out of state establishments. We were also informed us that there are a series of "exempt bags" that the Department of Environmental Conservation detailed in its regulations to implement the law — like plastic bags for takeout food or prescriptions of the pharmacy. There are exempt uses like using them to solely contain prescription bags regardless of location of where it is being provided. Retailers who violate the law get a warning for their first violation, then a \$250 fine after the warning and for violations after that in the same calendar year, penalties are \$500. The Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of Agriculture and Markets and the Attorney General enforce the law but the Department of Sanitation is just promoting it not enforcing it. Businesses are still allowed to sell plastic bags in bulk quantities. Residents can get a reusable bag at [nyc.gov/bags](http://nyc.gov/bags).

*Vacant,*  
*City Council Member, 15<sup>th</sup> Council District*

*Honorable Rafael Salamanca Jr.,*  
*City Council Member, 17<sup>th</sup> Council District*