

Bronx CB8 Environment & Sanitation Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Start Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Board Office – 5676 Riverdale Ave, Suite 100, Bronx, NY 10471

Meeting Recording

1. Welcome & Roll Call

a. Committee:

- i. Present: L. Spalter, D. Rowen, E. Hausman, R. Spalter, M. Lewis
- ii. Zoom: K. Argenti, C. Tepelus, Lloyd, Z. Sesan-Harrell, Jodi, Camelia
- iii. Absent: S. Froot

2. Chairperson's Report

b. See attached news articles relating to environmental and sanitation issues that were passed around during the meeting:

- i. <https://www.bxtimes.com/environmental-advocates-push-for-green-the-bronx-waste-initiative/>
- ii. <https://www.bxtimes.com/new-council-member-justin-sanchez-installs-60-trash-cans/>
- iii. Jerome Park Reservoir December 2025 Construction Newsletter (see attached)
- iv. DSNY Winter Weather Flyer (see attached)

3. Approval of Committee Minutes – November 19, 2025

c. Approved unanimously with the minor clarification of adding Bob Fanuzzi's last name on page two.

4. Unfinished Business

d. Updates on Hudson River PCB cleanup

- i. Karen reports that we are still awaiting the 5-year report and discussed a recent meeting between BCEQ and DEP regarding the Harlem River and the W. 254th Street project. The SWPPP being done by DDC remains in

progress. The committee hopes we can invite DDC to present their SWPPP once it's completed.

e. FY 2028 Budget Requests Early Discussion

i. While we await organization responses to our previous budget requests, new ideas were discussed, such as expense funding for filling the ~800 vacant positions at DEP to address the severe backlog of Universal Storm Water Rule (USWR) reviews.

1. Jodi points out that currently there is a hiring freeze coming down from the Mayor's Office, but Laura mentions there are always "hiring freezes" and that is not a reason we can't request changes.

ii. Laura recalls that in the past, some of our Council members used discretionary funding to fund litter clean-ups, something the committee should look into.

f. Better Bottles Bill next steps

i. As the new government session just began, the bills will be reintroduced under new numbers. The committee will check back next month to voice support for the newly numbered bills.

5. DSNY presentation on snow removal, etc

g. DSNY was not present at meeting, but that did not stop the committee from discussing sanitation and snow-removal issues and questions:

i. Who is responsible for shoveling snow on sidewalks of overpasses, such as over 87 and Henry Hudson Parkway?

ii. What is the process for ticketing property owners, especially for minor infractions such as not bringing bins in after collection?

1. Zainabu reports that she attended a recent Public Safety meeting to bring up the excessive and abusive number of Sanitation tickets she has received. She is advised to pass on information to her elected official and the Community Board office so we can follow up with DSNY.

2. Camelia asks that the rules be reviewed and posted in minutes (see attached PDF)

- iii. This chair feels that the rule to shovel sidewalks within 4 hours of snowfall ending is unfair to owner-occupied 1-3 family homes without a super or staff on hand to shovel. If snowfall ends at 8:30am, but someone has already had to leave for work, or is stuck inside helping their young child with their remote-learning day, there might not be an opportunity within 4 hours to shovel until later in the afternoon/evening.

6. Unfinished Business

- h. Jodi asks about NYC Bins, which are presently not available online directly from Otto anymore. I reached out to Otto, the company contracted to produce and sell the official NYC trash bins, and they said that while their online ordering is finished, the bins are available from all NYC Home Depot stores. Right now they only seem to have 35 and 45 gallon trash bins and the 13 gallon compost bins. Otto claimed that the smaller 25 gallon trash as well as blue and green recycling bins will be available from Home Depot soon. Otto also said deliveries for already-ordered bins will resume next month. Starting in June 2026 the official trash bins will be required for all buildings with 9 or fewer units when setting out regular trash. Compost bins are already necessary, while paper and recyclables can be set out in clear bags or in their own bins.

7. New Business

- i. Laura reports on an abandoned vehicle hearing on January 15th.

8. Adjournment at 8:15pm

'The Bronx is a beautiful place, it's just filthy' Environmental advocates push for 'Green the Bronx' waste initiative

By Keke Grant-Floyd

Posted on December 15, 2025



Beautiful Winston examines a vision board for the “Green the Bronx” initiative.

Photo by Keke Grant-Floyd

In early December, Bronx residents joined the Bronx Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB) – a community-driven environmental justice group – in Melrose to brainstorm ideas about how to improve the Bronx as part of their “Green the Bronx” initiative.

SWAB intends to directly involve Bronx residents in environmental issues that affect their neighborhoods like solid waste. Their contributions can influence how the Bronx is affected by the [2026 NYC Solid Waste Management Plan](#).

With their plan, SWAB wants to provide a framework for programs that will lead the city into the next era of waste reduction, reuse, recycling and resource recovery.

“There is a bill, Intro 696, that Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso is championing and it’s really about increasing the infrastructure for the organics processing, for composting,” said the chair of the Bronx SWAB, Dior St. Hillaire.

“What we plan to do with the new administration is to not only inform them around the environmental justice issues, so that they’re prioritized as we are dealing with some of these waste inequities in the Bronx, but also making sure that their administration is in support of cooperative development,” she added.

Waste inequities are against a backdrop of a long history of [environmental racism](#) in the South Bronx. The community serves an important role in improving their quality of life. According to the NYC Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA), NYC creates roughly 44 million pounds of garbage daily.

Get the Full Story

News, events, culture and more — delivered to you.

Enter Your Email Add [SIGN UP](#)

Communities in North Brooklyn, the South Bronx, Sunset Park and Southeast Queens are saturated with privately owned and operated waste transfer stations that manage citywide commercial waste. The stations in these communities of color have contributed to worsening asthma rates, heavy truck traffic, noise, pollution and odor, according to [NYC-EJA](#).

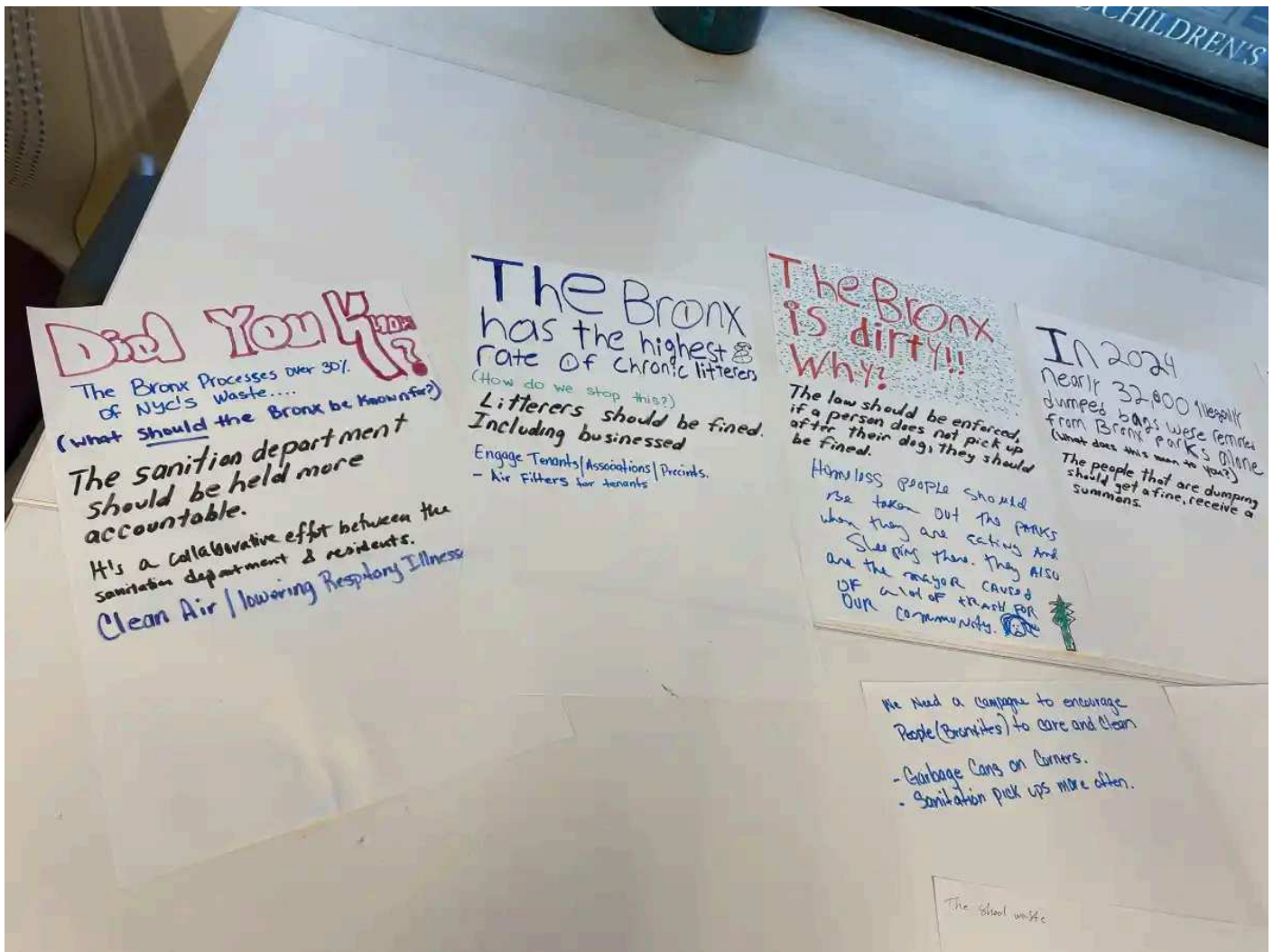
“I think it’s really bad in the Concourse, Yankee Stadium area. I see dumping a lot around the train by West Farms in the middle... around the corner to go on a highway,” St. Hillaire said.

“There’s a lot of illegal dumping there, but I also see trash piles sometimes with the NYCHA buildings. It really is just in the most random of places.”

St. Hillaire also mentioned that the worst trash pile she’s seen is in Hunts Point, which is heavily affected by the Cross Bronx Expressway.

A spokesperson for the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) told the Bronx Times that they are not responsible for picking up commercial trash, but that businesses are legally required to hire a private carter for trash pickup.

“This system is now safer, more efficient and more regulated in the Bronx effective Dec. 1 this year. This year, DSNY began implementing commercial waste reform – first in Central Queens and subsequently in the Bronx – creating a safer and more efficient collection system while providing higher quality service and reducing harmful environmental impacts.”



A filled in vision board at the “Green the Bronx” meeting.

Photo by Keke Grant-Floyd

Beautiful Winston, originally from Brooklyn, moved to the Bronx a few years ago. She’s a [community board 3 member](#), and she wanted to be a part of improving the Bronx.

“The Bronx is a beautiful place, it’s just filthy. They’re [developers] doing a lot of building, but they’re not doing any cleaning so I’m here to figure out what I can do to help clean up the Bronx and what the plans are for that,” Winston said.

“I’m mostly in the South Bronx here, and I could say actually the most pile up I’ve seen is in the building that I live in. We have a garage area that we come into and they pile up all the trash in that,” she said.

A spokesperson for DSNY told the Bronx Times that since November 2024, they have required “low-density residential buildings” to put their trash in sealed containers to help rid neighborhoods across the city of piles of smelly trash bags.

“And since then, rat complaints reported to 311 dropped for 12 consecutive months when compared to the same month one year prior,” the spokesperson said.

Argelia Ortiz, a lifelong Bronx resident, advocate and member of the environmental committee for Bronx community board 1 said that the sanitation department needs to be more consistent

with trash pickup in certain areas

“The worst trash pile up is right here on 149th Street in that square known as the Hub. I think it’s one of the worst venues. A lot of businesses will come and dump their trash there,” Ortiz said.

“Another dumpster is the Hunts Point market area. All kinds of traffic come through there, but nobody is cleaning it up. And that’s an area that gets a large amount of traffic. It literally stinks... the Yankee Stadium area, whenever there’s a game out there it’s horrendous. Why doesn’t sanitation make it their business to clean up the area more often? The neighborhood has to put up with it,” she added.

According to DSNY, the department has deployed 337 illegal dumping cameras in 2025, a 17% increase since 2024. The department has also impounded 417 illegal dumping vehicles.

The Bronx SWAB will continue to host similar meetings to keep residents informed and engaged about what’s going on with policy decisions.

“More people need to know we exist. If you care about these things, come join us because we’re actually building a Bronx zero waste center. Be a part of that legacy and change the narrative of our borough,” St. Hillaire said.

Reach Keke Grant-Floyd at keiwana.grantfloyd19@gmail.com. For more coverage, subscribe to our [newsletter](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)!

Council Member Justin Sanchez installs 60 trash cans as first act representing the South Bronx

By Kaylen Jackson

Posted on January 19, 2026



From left to right: Joetta Brown, CB3 Board Chair; Etta Ritter, District Manager, CB3; Cynthia Baez, CB2; Javier Medina, Southern Boulevard BID; Pedro Suarez, 3rd Avenue BID; and District 17 Council member Justin Sanchez participate in a ceremonial “first dump” into a new trash can.

Photo courtesy of Alex Krales

It started as a phrase blunt enough to make his grandmother “roll over in her grave.” Now it’s becoming a policy. Two weeks into his term, Council Member Justin Sanchez is already delivering on the phrase that defined his campaign, “Clean the damn streets.”

Standing at the corner of East 163rd Street and Intervale Avenue in Longwood, on Thursday, Jan. 15, Sanchez addressed residents, sanitation officials, and community leaders to announce the installation of more than 60 new street trash cans across District 17 – an early, visible action meant to fulfill the promise that powered his campaign.

“I represent the 17th Council District of the South Bronx, a place I’m proud to call home,” Sanchez said.

“The first thing you learn about growing up here in the South Bronx is that your environment shapes how you feel about yourself.”

For Sanchez, the absence of something as basic as a trash can is not a minor quality of life issue but a reflection of how communities are valued. What residents see on their way to school, to work, or to the corner store quietly communicates whether they are seen, cared for, or overlooked.

“In the South Bronx, litter is something that we see, that we touch, that we feel every single day,” he said.

“It’s on our sidewalks, it’s at our bus stops, it’s outside our homes and businesses. And when garbage piles up, it sends a message.”

Over time, Sanchez explained, that message erodes more than just physical space. Chronic litter affects mental health, physical health, and how residents perceive their own neighborhoods and how others perceive them too.

Get the Full Story

News, events, culture and more — delivered to you.

Enter Your Email Address

SIGN UP

It was a central reason he ran for office on a platform grounded in neighborhood pride, representation, and dignity.

“Here in the South Bronx, dignity starts with four simple words: clean the damn streets,” Sanchez said. “That’s not a slogan, it’s a standard.”

Those four words, he said, were with him everywhere during the campaign: on doorsteps, at bus stops, outside bodegas, and on block corners all across the district. For voters, this wasn’t abstract policy; it was their daily reality. And now, Sanchez said, it was the government’s job to respond.

“This is one of the simplest ways to show that the government can actually work for you,” he said.

Even though he’s only been in office for two weeks, Sanchez told the Bronx Times that he intends to follow through on the promises that got him elected.

The new rollout includes more than 60 new trash cans placed throughout the district, many along corridors that previously went blocks without a single place to dispose of trash. Sanchez described the initiative as a starting point rather than a cure-all.



Rachel Brown, founder and CEO of Jewish Matchmaking NY

Power Women with Victoria Schneps

00:00

00:00

SUBSCRIBE: [RSS](#) [iTunes](#) [Spotify](#) [Stitcher](#) [Amazon](#) [Google Play](#)



District 17 Council member Justin Sanchez addresses the crowd while announcing the installation of over 60 new street trash cans across the Bronx.

Photo by Kaylen Jackson.

Sanchez was joined by representatives from the Department of Sanitation, business improvement districts and community boards. Many emphasized that sanitation is foundational to nearly every other quality-of-life concern — from public health to economic vitality.

Javier Lojan, acting commissioner of the Department of Sanitation, emphasized that the effort was part of a broader strategy to allocate resources more efficiently while working within existing service routes.

Most of the new trash cans, Sanchez later confirmed, are being placed along routes already maintained by sanitation crews, allowing the department to sustain service without major disruption while planning for future expansion in the next fiscal year.

“We’re working with what we have available,” Sanchez said, “and coming next year, we hope to expand on what we’re already doing.”

The city currently maintains 23,000 corner litter baskets across all five boroughs, according to Vincent Gragnani, press secretary for the Department of Sanitation. Over time, baskets go missing and a survey of the Bronx identified several areas that should have more.

“These baskets help keep neighborhoods clean by giving pedestrians a place to dispose of ‘walking trash,’ like candy wrappers and coffee cups,” Gragnani said.

“To ensure that properly used litter baskets do not overflow, the Department of Sanitation is currently providing the highest level of service to litter baskets citywide.”

For local business leaders, cleaner streets aren’t just about appearances, they’re about business.

Javier Medina, executive director of the Southern Boulevard Business Improvement District, said visible trash discourages people from shopping, dining, or lingering in commercial corridors, which directly affects small businesses.

“When trash builds up on our streets, it affects how people feel,” Medina said. “If an area looks unclean, people are less likely to shop, dine, or spend money, which directly affects our local businesses and restaurants.”

The new containers, he said, would allow maintenance teams to work more efficiently, spending less time responding to overflowing street trash and more time improving overall conditions — a shift that benefits both residents and merchants.



District 17 Council member Justin Sanchez and Javier Medina of the Southern Boulevard BID talk on the street moments before the press conference begins.

Photo by Kaylen Jackson.

Community board leaders emphasized that clean streets go hand in hand with neighborhood pride and morale. Etta Ritter, district manager for Community Board 3, noted how chronic litter and illegal dumping affect the community.

“When we have dirty streets, it undermines community morale,” Ritter said. “Over time, these conditions affect neighborhood pride, public safety, and overall health. When residents see chronic litter, it sends a message that their community is being overlooked.”

Ritter described the installation of new trash cans as an important first step — one that provides residents with the tools they need to take pride in their blocks while reinforcing that their concerns are being addressed in a tangible way.

“Clean streets uplift communities,” she said. “Today marks an important step in the right direction.”

For residents like Ariel Burgos, a Longwood local, the issue feels both obvious and overdue.

Burgos said he regularly sees people throw trash on the street, not necessarily out of disregard, but because there simply isn’t anywhere to put it.

“There isn’t a trash can on every block,” Burgos said.

“You can walk pretty far sometimes and not see one, which makes it hard for some people to throw their trash away. I think more trash cans will create more opportunities for cleaner streets.”

Sanchez acknowledged that more trash cans alone won't fix everything. But argued that the initial absence of basic sanitation infrastructure made improvement nearly impossible.

“You can walk around like eight blocks in any direction in my district and not see a single trash can,” Sanchez said. “Then people wonder why the streets are littered. At its very essence, we have no place to put trash.”

For Councilmember Sanchez, the work doesn't stop with installing trash cans – it's about setting a new standard for how residents experience their neighborhoods and showing that the government can act on promises. Clean streets aren't a luxury, they're a sign that the South Bronx matters.

Kaylen Jackson is a contributing writer at the Bronx Times and a student at the NYU Graduate School of Journalism. For more coverage, subscribe to our [newsletter](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)!

Bronx, NY

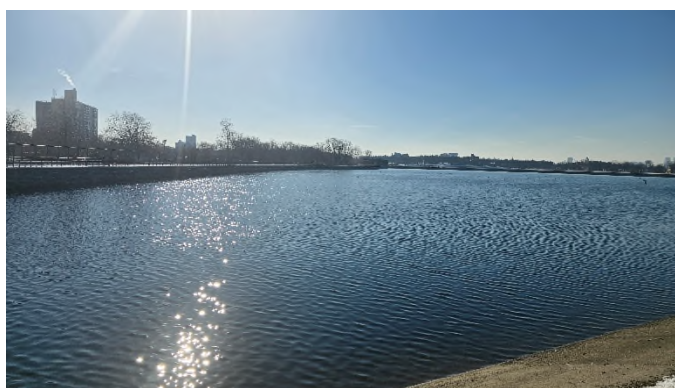
December 2025 Quarterly Update

Jerome Park Reservoir and Aqueduct Rehabilitation

3055 Goulden Avenue
Bronx, NY 10468

Project: JRAQ-REH

The Jerome Park Reservoir is a raw water reservoir supplying raw water to the Croton Filtration Plant. The primary purpose of the JRAQ-REH construction contract is to rehabilitate and upgrade components of the Jerome Park Reservoir and to maintain the reservoir in a state of good repair.



North Basin in operation

Project Scope

Construction of a Diversion Structure and filling the Old Croton Aqueduct (OCA) with Controlled Low Strength Material (CLSM), repair of leaks in the East Reservoir Wall, demolition of the existing fence along the East Reservoir Wall and construction of a new fence and guide rail, repair of the Lehman College Parking Lot retaining wall, repair of an existing rubble wall along the South Reservoir Access Road, repair and reinforcement of the North Basin Ramp, shotcrete repair of the North Basin inlet archway and wing walls, resetting of the East Reservoir Wall capstones, re-pointing of the East Reservoir Wall dimension stones, construction of a shotcrete armor wall along lower half of East Reservoir Wall (North and South Basins), and removal / replacement of the reservoir asphalt access roadways.

Contract Work Schedule

May 2021 to December 2027

Work Performed During the Period

- Completed punch list work for North Basin Armor Wall.
- Completed reconstruction of North Ramp.
- Continued restoration of East Road; Installation of asphalt binder course for East Road and top course around Gatehouse 5.
- Commenced reinstallation of capstones on Lehman College Wall.
- Commenced operation of North Basin on November 25th.
- Commenced draining of South Basin.

Upcoming Work Activities (Next 3 Months)

- Commence excavation of South Basin East roadway for grade beam and installation of sheeting.

Work Hours

- Regular work hours: 7:00 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday to Friday.
- 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM on Saturdays (only as necessary)

Community Impacts

During construction hours, you can expect the following:

- Intermittent elevated levels of noise.
- Delivery trucks to use construction entrances on Sedgwick Avenue (north end of reservoir) and West 197th Street (south end of reservoir). Flag persons will be utilized for maintenance and protection of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- Lower levels of water in South Basin.

Community Construction Liaison (CCL)

The DEP has assigned Robert Vargo, PE, CCM of Arcadis as the Community Construction Liaison (CCL) for this project. Please contact Robert Vargo for any project related inquiries/concerns.

Phone: (917) 567-6660

Email: Robert.Vargo@arcadis.com

CONQUER THE COLD



Winter in New York City can turn dangerous quickly so now is the time to prepare. Extreme cold, snow, ice, sleet, and freezing rain can shut down roads, cause power disruptions, and put lives at risk. As temperatures drop, the risk of fires and carbon monoxide poisoning rises.

Here's how to stay safe this winter:

Make a Plan

- Make a household emergency plan so everyone knows how to stay in touch and what to do.
- Be ready to shelter in place when it's unsafe to go outside; follow official travel bans.
- Use space heaters safely: Keep them at least three feet away from anything flammable. Always plug them directly into a wall outlet
- Never use your stove or oven to heat your home.
- Dress in warm layers and cover exposed skin during extreme cold.

Gather Supplies

- Build a stay-at-home kit for at least seven days. Include:
 - Non-perishable food, water, and basic sanitation items.
 - Medications and first aid supplies.
 - Warm clothing and blankets.
 - Flashlights, extra batteries, and power banks.
 - Extra water for drinking and sanitation in case plumbing freezes or service is disrupted.
 - Regularly check that your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working.
 - Use flameless candles for religious observances and flashlights during power outages to prevent fires.
 - Keep a fire extinguisher in your home.

Stay Informed

- Text NOTIFYNYC to 692-692 for emergency alerts. Then reply with your ZIP code. You can also visit: nyc.gov/notify to sign up.



- Check on neighbors, especially older adults, people with disabilities, and those living alone.
- Learn more about winter preparedness by visiting: on.nyc.gov/WinterWeather or scanning the QR code:



Spot the Signs of Frostbite & Hypothermia

Frostbite: pale, numb, or waxy skin and Hypothermia: shivering, confusion, or slurred speech.

Call 911 immediately if these symptoms appear.



Scan QR Code to
Download the
My Emergency Plan
on.nyc.gov/EmergencyPlan

NYCEM
New York City Emergency Management

**READY
NEW YORK**

NYC
Delivering for you.
Every day. Everywhere.

Collection Services for NYC Residents

We are committed to keeping New York City streets clean, safe, and healthy. Every day, we provide free collection of 24 million pounds of recyclables, trash, and compostable material.

Setout Times

As of **November 12, 2024**, single- and two-family homes, and buildings with up to 9 apartments are required to use bins with secure lids for trash set out.

Residential Buildings with 1-9 Units

- Place trash out after **6:00 PM** in a bin of 55 gallons or less with a secure lid

Residential Buildings with 10+ Units

- Place waste out after **6:00 PM** in a bin of 55 gallons or less with a secure lid, or
- Place waste out after **8:00 PM**, if putting bags directly on the curb

To ensure collection, ALL waste must be set out by midnight.

Learn more about residential waste containerization.

NOTE: There is no change to recycling service.

Missed Collection

You can report that your trash, recycling, or compost was not picked up starting at 8:00 AM the day after your collection day.

You CANNOT report missed collection if:

- Collections were suspended on that day due to a DSNY holiday, winter snow operation, or another event
- You did not set your waste out correctly
- You set your waste out on the wrong day or at the wrong time.

To report missed collection, call 311 or submit a complaint online.

Sidewalks and Gutters

Property owners must clean sidewalks (including areas like tree pits, grass strips, etc.) and gutter areas (18 inches from the curb into the street) along the building perimeter.

- If you fail to keep the sidewalks and gutters near your property clean and unobstructed, **you may be fined up to \$100.**

Litter and sweepings must be picked up and placed in bins with secure lids for collection. Public DSNY litter baskets may not be used for this purpose.

We inspect sidewalks during specific times of the day. Sidewalk cleaning enforcement times depend on the type of property.

Although enforcement agents will issue tickets for dirty sidewalks and gutters only during the specified time periods, they may issue tickets for all other violations at any time.

Our employees may not be obstructed when they are sweeping or cleaning a street or removing trash, recycling, snow, or ice. Violators may be fined.

Residential Properties

Residential property enforcement occurs during a 1-hour time period twice a day, 7 days a week.

Enforcement Hours

7 days a week:

- 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM
- 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Snow and Ice Removal from Sidewalks

Snow and ice on sidewalks can severely injure pedestrians. You must clear a path in the sidewalk in front of your building that is at least four feet wide to allow pedestrians to pass. Snow and ice must be removed from around fire hydrants and sidewalk curb-cuts and ramps.

If the snow or ice has become so frozen it cannot be removed, sidewalks should be strewn with granular material like salt or sand to improve traction and prevent slipping.

Snow and ice must be cleared from sidewalks within specific timeframes:

- Snowfall ends between 7:00 AM and 4:59 PM - **Clear within 4 hours**
- Snowfall ends between 5:00 PM and 8:59 PM - **Clear within 14 hours**
- Snowfall ends between 9:00 PM and 6:59 AM - **Clear sidewalks by 11:00 AM**

(If the snow stops falling at 7:00 PM, building owners/occupants must clear a path in the snow that is at least four feet wide, or salt or sand the sidewalk by 9:00 AM the following morning.)

- If you do not clear snow or ice from the sidewalk within the given timeframe, **you may be fined up to \$250.**

The sidewalk must be thoroughly cleaned as soon as the weather permits.

NOTE: DO NOT shovel, blow, or push snow into the street.

Animal Waste

Dog or other animal waste can be disposed of in your household trash, flushed down the toilet, or, if it is in a tied bag, discarded in a public litter basket.

DO NOT put animal waste, soiled bedding, or kitty litter into Curbside Composting or Recycling.

Dog owners and dog walkers are responsible for cleaning up dog waste in all public areas.

Property owners are responsible for keeping the public areas near their property clean. This includes:

- Sidewalks (including tree pits and grass strips)
- Gutter areas (18 inches from the curb into the street)
- Open front yards

You are responsible for removing animal waste in these areas, even if it does not belong to your pet or is from a wild animal. You may get a ticket for waste you should have picked up but didn't — even if you filed a complaint.

Report animal waste not picked up by a property owner.

Pooper Scooper Law

DSNY enforces the **Pooper Scooper Law** by investigating public areas with frequent complaints of people not picking up after their dogs.

- If you do not clean up after your dog, **you may be fined up to \$250.**

If you know a public area where people frequently fail to pick up after their dogs, you can request surveillance to catch the Pooper Scooper violators.

What you need

- Location of the public area where the offenses occur
- Dates and timeframes they occur
- Your contact information (we may contact you if they need more information)

What you can't report

- Guide dogs or other service animals
- Dogs urinating on public or private property

Report a location where dog walkers don't pick up after their dogs.

Learn more about reporting dog or animal waste in parks or on private property.