



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BOROUGH OF THE BRONX
COMMUNITY BOARD 7**



HON. VANESSA L. GIBSON, BOROUGH PRESIDENT YAJAIRA ARIAS, CHAIRPERSON KARLA CABRERA CARRERA, DISTRICT
MANAGER

ENVIRONMENT & SANITATION COMMITTEE

Chair:	Betty Arce
Meeting Date:	September 12, 2023
Meeting Time:	6:30 pm
Meeting Location:	Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center, 3225 Reservoir Oval E, Bronx, NY 10467
Members In Attendance:	✓ Betty Arce ✓ Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky ✓ Jean Hill ✓ Rosalie Leslie ✓ Gwendolyn Thomas-Steed ___ Lowell Green ✓ Hugo Gonzalez
Minutes done by:	Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky

Minutes:

- I. Meeting Guidelines were read**
- II. Introductions/Attendance-**
 - A. Lowell Green had an excused absence
 - B. Chair explained the importance of joint committee meetings. We met with the Public Safety & Quality of Life committee to discuss joint concerns. There were many areas where the issues overlapped. The Public & QOL life committee was held first.
- III. Minutes:** The minutes from the 6/6/23 meeting were reviewed and approved.
- IV. Follow-up from previous month: re: FY2024 Capital & Expense Responses**
 - A. Chair will prepare a chart to clearly outline budget issues that have been requested.
- V. New Business**
 - A. Dept. of Environmental Protection, DEP**
 - a. The Department of Consumer Affairs is now called the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection. This is the agency that is involved with licensing the car washing businesses in NYC.



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- b. A surprise visit had been planned to assess these mobile car wash operations along Webster Avenue but none of the operations were present, leading to the conclusion that the car washes at the location had the proper permits.
- c. Effie Ardizonne, DEP informed the chair that there is a new incentive for Home owners who go on auto-pay for their water bills. It is a one-time discount of \$100.

B. Dept of Sanitation, DSNY

- a. A surprise visit had been planned to assess these mobile car wash operations along Webster Avenue but none of the operations were present, leading to the conclusion that the car washes at the location had been forewarned because they lacked the proper permits
- b. Mandated Composting is rolling out in NYC. Queens has it already and Brooklyn is getting it now.
- c. A handout” Mandatory Composting is Coming to New York City: What You Need to Know” was distributed to all attendees
 - i. The Bronx will be rolling out in October 2024.
 - ii. It was reported that Tracy Towers has Organic Composting Bins but that the community was not aware of it until now.

1. Questions:

- a. Will there be a separate truck for Organic Recycling?
Yes. Bags for Organic Recycling such as plastic or paper can be used, even if they are not “compostable.” The Organics will be picked up weekly, the same day other recyclables are pick-up but in a different truck. Meat and bones can be included as well as paper products that have food on them. Attendees reported that they thought this could



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really help cut down on the rat problem. It was reported at the Mosholu/Bedford monthly meeting that the calls to 311 for rat sightings have gone down significantly, since the hours to take out the garbage have moved to a later hour. A handout” Mandatory Composting is Coming to New York City: What You Need to Know” was given out to all attendees. The Chair, Ms. Arce will ensure that the listing of Compost Bins in our Board is up to date. It will also be updated on the Community Board website.

2. Graffiti reports/concerns:

- a. DSNY-Steve Caruso is now in charge of graffiti removal in NYC. Call 311 to report areas for graffiti removal. Sirio Guerino will call 311 for the wall near Lehman College that has a graffiti problem. It was pointed out that although this is a city owned location, calls must still be made to 311. The chair also advised to call or email the Board and her with the report number as well as the location.

VI. Discussion on Next Agenda

- A. The chair suggested a roundtable discussion on a topic of interest to the committee. Ideas are welcome.

VII. Adjournment-The meeting adjourned at 8PM. It was agreed that the next committee will meet in November.