

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:	November 6, 2024
Meeting Time:	6:30 pm
Meeting Location:	<u>Mosholu Montefiore Community Center</u> 3450 Dekalb Ave, Bronx, NY 10467
Members In Attendance:	✓ Betty Arce ✓ Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky ✓ Jean Hill ✓ Rosalie Leslie ✓ Lowell Green ✓ Gwen Thomas-Steed ✓ Johanna Jackson
Minutes done by:	Betty Arce

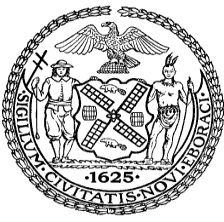
Minutes:

- I. Guidelines & Code of Conduct for the meeting were read**
- II. Introductions & Attendance was taken - Quorum met**
- III. Review of Previous Minutes - Minutes approved**
- IV. New Business**
 - A. Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) - Presentation from Effie Ardizonne, Bronx Borough Commissioner**
 - 1. Effie began her presentation with a reminder that NYC is under a drought watch due to lack of rain. Residents are alerted to conserve as much water as possible. See tips page:
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/dep/water/water-saving-tips.page>
 - 2. Rainfall Ready NYC – <https://bit.ly/3UxER2o>
 - a) Provides information for homeowners to protect their homes from flooding and sewer backups during rainfall events.
 - 3. Flood Preparedness – <https://bit.ly/3UxTwdS>
 - a) Climate change is causing more sudden and powerful storms that are bringing more intense rainfall to NYC. The National Oceanic and

THIS MEETING’S MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT:

229-A EAST 204TH STREET ♦ BRONX, NY 10458 ♦ PHONE: (718) 933-5650

E-MAIL: KCABRERACARRERA@CB.NYC.GOV ♦ WEBSITE: WWW.NYC.GOV/BRONXCB7



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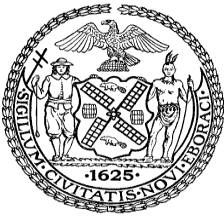
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Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has reclassified NYC as a “humid subtropical” climate.

- b) The Bronx was particularly hard hit by the August 6th, 2024 rainstorm with rainfall amounts between 4 and 5.4 inches in 24 hours.
- c) Types of flooding
 - (1) Street flooding is caused by blocked catch basins. Before major storms, DEP sends staff to inspect catch basins in flood prone areas to make sure they are clean and working properly.
 - (2) Coastal flooding where in coastal areas, high tides combined with storm surge can send tidal water back into the sewer system. This creates overflows from manholes, catch basins, and basement connections.
 - (3) Groundwater flooding is where the ground becomes saturated and water will find penetration points such a crack in the foundation wall or a leaking floor drain.
 - (4) Sewer backups where during heavy rainstorms, the sewer system gets overwhelmed when the amount of water produced by a storm is greater than the capacity of the pipes.
- d) DEP oversees a broad citywide effort to better manage stormwater to prevent flooding and improve the health of our local waterways. Initiatives include the following:
 - (1) Building new separate sewers to reduce street flooding. DEP recently completed a citywide hydraulic model of all 7,500 miles of sewers.
 - (2) Porous pavement is a special roadway paving designed to absorb and drain rainwater. DEP uses this primarily in residential areas. As of 2023, over 3 miles of porous pavement have been installed and 10 more miles will be added in the Bronx.



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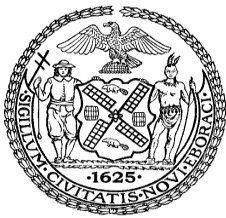


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- (3) Floodnet Sensors detect and monitor street flooding in real-time and relay life-saving information to city agencies. Sensors have been installed in flood prone areas in the Bronx. www.floodnet.nyc
- (4) Unified Stormwater Rule which prioritizes the use of green infrastructure in new and redeveloped properties.
- (5) Green infrastructure collects stormwater before it can enter the sewer system or cause local flooding.
- (6) Cloudburst hubs features a network of stormwater management interventions to mitigate flooding and fortify neighborhoods against climate change
- (7) The Blue Belt Program preserves natural drainage corridors and entrances to perform their functions of conveying, storing and filtering stormwater.

B. Dept. of Sanitation (DSNY) - Presentations by Joseph Ottamenelli–
<https://bit.ly/3C9ZKKA>

1. **Waste Containerization** - Beginning November 12, 2024, all trash must be set out in a bin (55 gallons or less) with a secure lid. However, starting in June 2026, all New Yorkers must use an Official NYC bin. The NYC Bin comes with a 10-year warranty.
 - a) This rule applies to:
 - (1) 1 and 2 family homes
 - (2) Buildings with up to 9 apartments
 - b) DSNY will issue warnings between 11/12/24 through 1/2/25. After this warning period, fines will be issued beginning at \$50 and increasing up to \$300.
 - c) Property owners and building managers should ensure there are enough bins to accommodate all trash in sealed NYC Bins. If a property owner has



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more trash that can fit in a bin, they need to ensure they have sufficient bins to accommodate all trash.

2. Curbside Composting - Residents must separate leaf and yard waste, food scraps, and food-soiled paper from trash. The rule is mandatory. Weekly collection began on October 6th, 2024 and composting is collected every week on recycling day. Residents can place composting in any labeled bin, 55 gallons or less, with a secure lid. Residents can get a free label at nyc.gov/CompostingBinDecal.

a) Residents can join a virtual session on the following dates to learn more about curbside composting.

(1) November 21st -

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/4c519a48-5bbf-45e3-9290-c475bf374796@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>

(2) December 12th -

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/66da9281-e3b9-425d-9c0b-5d44cd083a98@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>

b) Residents can also watch a recorded info session below-

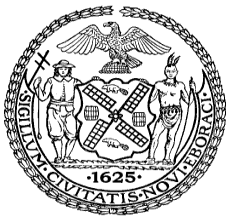
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rguc7A7Jcl4>

c) Sessions will also be geared to property managers, superintendents, board members and owners on November 21st, 6pm - 6:45 pm. Register below.

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/bdd6f89e-b719-42e5-88d3-fb44fd8bf799@32f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b-15da66513bef>

3. Business Fines for Cleaning Violations – Fines for cleanliness violations have increased

a) Businesses are required to keep sidewalks and gutter areas clean. Failure to do so will result in escalating fines for repeat offenses within a 12-month period. Fines begin at \$50 and go up to \$500.



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C. Board members and community residents expressed concerns about what happens if a brown bin or trash bin purchased through DSNY is stolen.

1. Each bin has a barcode and residents can report it to the NYPD as stolen property. However, stolen bins will not be replaced and the owner will need to purchase a new bin to remain compliant with the rules. Owners are advised to write their address on each bin.

D. When asked if trash can be placed directly into the bins, Mr. Ottamenelli clarified that **trash must be placed in black plastic bags. Do not put trash directly into the bins.** A community resident advised that this should be added to any future communications, as this was not indicated on any printed or online information.

V. **Next Meeting Date:** January 7, 2025

VI. **Discussion on Next Agenda - TBD**

VII. **Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.**