

December, 2018 District Manager's Report

Agency Reports:

Patrol Borough Manhattan North: What you need to know about the NYPD's "New Marijuana Enforcement Policy"

- ✓ **Smoking marijuana in Public OR possessing any amount of marijuana in public view is still illegal in New York City. You can be arrested and charged with a crime;**
- ✓ **Under the NYPD's new marijuana enforcement policy, smoking marijuana in public or possessing up to 25 grams of marijuana in public view for personal use may result in a summons rather than an arrest, if you are eligible;**
- ✓ **You may still be arrested for smoking marijuana in public if you are on probation, parole, are a known violent offender, or if your behavior is an immediate threat to public safety.**

DEP Reported: North River WWTP Title V facility permit has expired. The Title V facility permit is a permit issued by State DEC to the wastewater treatment plants and other major facilities with air emissions. With the air permit State DEC, going by the equipment and process/activities with the plant, DEC lays a plan/regulations, correspondence, review process for DEP to follow. DEP installs the air monitors, hires consultants designing and operating the system, DEP provides all the air quality monitoring network information to State DEC before implementation and during the operations/maintenance for their approval. Basically the air permit stipulates to DEP what air emissions/emission units need to be monitored, date collection to have State DEC review and enforcement if DEP does not meet their standard conditions (i.e. H₂S which is hydrogen sulfide, which is a common odor associated with treatment plants; this equipment includes new equipment, and ongoing construction in the plant.

The new DEP application for air permit, replacing the previous air permit conditions, DEP has proposed to State DEC the removal of the H₂S monitoring network in the community, discontinuing the operation of 3 community H₂S monitoring stations and keeping only the 4 H₂S monitoring stations inside the plant. Along with DEP's request they have provided State DEC with data, and documentation supporting their request. DEP has agreed to attend the board's General Board Meeting on Thursday, December 20th to discuss this process further.

Sanitation Reported: FOAM BAN Mayor de Blasio announced that New York City's ban on single-use foam products will go into effect by **January 1, 2019**, following the dismissal of a lawsuit preventing the implementation of the ban. This means that food service establishments, stores, mobile food commissaries and manufacturers may not possess, sell, or offer for use single-service Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) foam food service articles or loose fill packaging, such as "packing peanuts" in New York City beginning in 2019. The de Blasio administration will work with businesses to ensure they understand the law and help them transition to new materials to replace foam products.

Banned Items:

- Polystyrene foam single-service items including cups, bowls, plates, take-out containers, and trays.
- Polystyrene loose fill packaging, commonly known as packing peanuts.

Exceptions:

- Expanded polystyrene containers used for prepackaged food that have been filled and sealed prior to receipt by the food service establishment, mobile food commissary, or store.
- Expanded polystyrene containers used to store raw meat, pork, fish, seafood or poultry sold from a butcher case or similar retail appliance.

Note: Foam blocks used as protective packaging in shipping are not covered under this law.

Affected Businesses: This ban affects any business that sells or uses EPS and is located or operates within any of the five boroughs of New York City.

Small businesses with less than \$500,000 in gross income for the most recent tax year and non-profits may apply for hardship exemptions from the Department of Small Business Services (SBS) if they can prove that the purchase of alternative products not composed of EPS would create a financial hardship. SBS will begin accepting applications for hardship waivers in fall 2018. For more information, please visit nyc.gov/foamwaiver.

Alternatives: There are many alternative packaging options available including aluminum, rigid plastics, uncoated paper, glass, and compostable items. DSNY encourages everyone to explore and use reusable, returnable and/or refillable containers. Contact your packaging distributor about alternatives to foam products.

Effective January 1, 2019 businesses, nonprofits and agencies can no longer sell or use any expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam items, such as single-service items like cups, bowls, plates, takeout containers, and trays or loose fill packaging, aka “packing peanuts”.

Please help DSNY spread the word about this new regulation by sharing our social media posts from @NYCzerowaste and @NYCSanitation, using #foambannyc and #foamfreenyc and alerting your business contacts via newsletter using the language below.

Beginning **January 1, 2019**, certain expanded polystyrene (EPS) items will be banned from sale, distribution, or use in New York City. For more information, visit nyc.gov/foamban.

Small businesses not part of a chain with less than \$500,000 in gross income for the most recent tax year and non-profit corporations may apply for hardship exemptions from the Department of Small Business Services. For more information, visit nyc.gov/foamwaiver.

Visit nyc.gov/dsnybusinessresources to access free educational materials, trainings, and site visits. Email questions to commercialprograms@dsny.nyc.gov.

Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Reported: Parks Commissioner Mitch Silver hosted the groundbreaking ceremony for the “Parks Without Borders” project in Jackie Robinson Park, on Wednesday, November 28, at 11 a.m. inside the park at Bradhurst Avenue between West 145th and West 146th Streets.

The purpose of this “Parks Without Borders” project is to improve the park to make it more welcoming and accessible. The first phase will entail rebuilding the stairway and repaving the path leading from West 145th Street and Edgecombe Avenue to Bradhurst Avenue and creating welcoming entrances at both ends.

The project also includes reopening the entrance and rebuilding the stairway at the north end of the park near West 155th Street, paving a new path with seating and lighting, repairing another stairway down the hill near Bradhurst Avenue and upgrading the plaza at West 152nd Street.

Improvements also will be made on the upper level of the park along Edgecombe Avenue south of West 150th Street. The 6-foot chain-link fence will be replaced with a 4-foot decorative steel fence, new benches will be installed, the tree beds will be expanded and the entrance at W. 149th Street will be improved.

The overall project will last for 15 months and will be phased to minimize the impact on the park and inconvenience to the public. When completed, it should make a real difference in both the appearance and usefulness of the park to the community.

ConEdison Reported: Beware of Scammers: Scammers are out there pretending to be from Con Edison. Don't be a victim. Beware of these common scams.

Smart Meter Scams: The latest scams involve smart meters.

- We DO NOT require deposits for installation of a smart meter.
- We also do not accept Bitcoin as payment for products and services.

Phone Scams: In one of the most prevalent phone scams, a caller may:

- Pretend to be from Con Edison. They may even manipulate your caller ID to display Con Edison's name.
- Threaten to turn off your power or gas within an hour.
- Demand immediate payment—often by prepaid debit card.

Door-to-Door Scams: When someone comes to your door claiming to be from Con Edison, ask for credentials. It's not rude, it's safe.

How to Recognize Our Employees: Here's how to tell a real Con Edison employee from a fake one.

- An employee will readily prove their identity. An imposter won't.
- An employee will wear a photo ID with their name and employee number.

- An employee will gladly give you their supervisor's name, the unique "ticket" number assigned to your job, and ask you to call 1-800-75-CONED ([1-800-752-6633](tel:1-800-752-6633)) to verify their identity.

Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Reported: To help prepare New Yorkers ahead of the official start of the 2018 winter season, the New York City Emergency Management Department and New York Cares distributed more than 300 winter coats at the Salvation Army in Harlem. New York City Emergency Management and New York Cares also collaborated to release a [Public Service Announcement](#) (PSA) highlighting the importance of winter weather preparation and providing information on donating coats to New Yorkers in need. This is part of NYC Emergency Management's initiative to help inform New Yorkers about winter preparedness ahead of the official start of the winter season, December 21.

Each year, the New York City Emergency Management Department collects new and gently used coats to donate to the New York Cares Coat Drive. This year, New York Cares aims to collect and distribute more than 130,000 coats, which is estimated to be only a fraction of the total need for coats that exists throughout the city. Through December 31, individuals can donate new or gently used, freshly laundered coats at hundreds of locations throughout the five boroughs including all NYC Police Precincts, nearly two hundred Greater New York Automobile Dealers Association (GNYADA) locations, and major transit hubs. For a full list of drop-off sites and other ways to keep New Yorkers warm, visit newyorkcares.org/coat-drive. New Yorkers can also participate in the 2018 New York Cares Coat Drive by texting the word "COAT" to 41444 to donate \$20, or in increments of \$20, to help purchase and deliver new coats to New Yorkers.

To ensure that New Yorkers are prepared for the upcoming winter season, New York Cares and New York City Emergency Management also partnered to release a new [Public Service Announcement](#) (PSA). The PSA gives New Yorkers information on how they can donate coats as well as shares tips on how individuals can prepare for the upcoming winter season. The PSA will debut on Taxi TV on December 10, and will air on NYC Media, including WNYE-TV and WNYE-FM 91.5, throughout the winter season. New Yorkers can also view the PSA on NYC Emergency Management's social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, or at NYC.gov/emergencymanagement. The PSA is available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

About New York Cares: New York Cares is the largest volunteer network in the city. Last year, nearly 65,000 New Yorkers made the city a better place by volunteering in New York Cares programs at about 1,300 nonprofits and schools - improving education, meeting immediate needs, and revitalizing public spaces. For more information, visit newyorkcares.org.

Tips to prepare for winter weather: Make sure your [household disaster plan](#) is ready and all members of your household are familiar with how to contact one another in an emergency.

- Winterize your [Go Bag](#), by adding a blanket, warm socks and gloves.
- Your [emergency supply kit](#) should be fully stocked to allow you to sustain yourself for up to three days without power, or in the event you are unable to travel far from home. You may wish to include additional items such as extra blankets, additional warm

- clothing, and a battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio to monitor weather conditions during a storm.

Winterize Your Home:

- Install storm shutters, doors and windows; clean out gutters, repair any roof leaks, and have a contractor check the stability of your roof in the event of a large accumulation of snow.
- Insulate walls and attic. Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows. Install storm windows, or cover windows with plastic from the inside.
- Have safe emergency heating equipment available. For residences with functioning fireplaces, keep an ample supply of wood.
- Install and check batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Make sure you have sufficient heating fuel; you may have difficulty obtaining fuel in the immediate aftermath of a bad storm.
- Service snow removal equipment, and have rock salt on hand to melt ice on walk ways. Kitty litter can be used to generate temporary traction.

Winterize Your Car - Make sure to have a mechanic check the following items on your vehicle:

- Battery
- Antifreeze
- Windshield wipers and washer fluid
- Ignition system
- Thermostat
- Lights (headlamps and hazard lights)
- Exhaust system, heater, brakes, defroster
- Oil level (if necessary, replace oil with a winter oil or SAE 10w/30 variety)

Assemble an emergency supply kit for your vehicle, and consider adding the following items for winter conditions:

- Blankets, sleeping bags, extra newspapers for insulation.
- Plastic bags (for sanitation).
- Extra mittens, socks, scarves and hat, rain gear and extra clothes.
- Sack of sand or kitty litter for gaining traction under wheels, small shovel.
- Set of tire chains or traction mats.
- Working jack and lug wrench, spare tire.
- Windshield scraper, broom.
- Small tools (pliers, wrench, screwdriver).
- Booster cables.
- Brightly colored cloth to use as a flag, flares or reflective triangles.

NYC Emergency Management Watch Command will issue a Cold Weather Alert (Code Blue) on all temperatures that drops to 32° F or below, including wind-chill.

- A Code Blue Weather Emergency notice will be issued when the temperature drops to 32 degrees Fahrenheit or less between 4 p.m. and 8 a.m., including National Weather Service calculations for wind chill values. No one who is reasonably believed to be homeless and seeking shelter in New York City during a Code Blue will be denied. Should an individual who appears to be homeless and in need out in the cold, please call 311 and an outreach team will be dispatched to offer assistance;
- During Code Blue DHS will focus on helping the most vulnerable -- people currently residing on the streets—by redoubling efforts citywide—and that includes doubling the size of our outreach teams, making regular, repeated contact with individuals on the streets to offer supports and services, including shelter, and closely coordinating borough-level Code Blue efforts directly with sister City agencies, like NYPD, DSNY, and the Parks Department 24 hours a day during inclement weather, no matter what, to ensure we're meeting all New Yorkers in need with resources where they are.
- During Code Blue weather emergencies, we work 24/7 to connect homeless New Yorkers with the following resources:
 - Shelters: During a Code Blue, shelter is available system-wide to accommodate anyone who is reasonably believed to be homeless and is brought to a shelter by outreach teams. Accommodations are also available for walk-ins. During a Code Blue period, families found eligible for shelter are not expected to transition from their conditional placement into their official shelter placement until the following day.
 - Drop-in centers: All drop-in centers are open 24-hours per day, including when Code Blue procedures are in effect, and will assist as many people as possible for the duration of the emergency. Drop-in staff and the dedicated outreach teams they work closely with each and every day can also make arrangements for homeless individuals at other citywide facilities, including shelters, safe havens, and stabilization beds.
 - Safe havens and stabilization beds: Chronically homeless individuals may be transported directly to these low-threshold housing options.
 - Street homeless outreach: Teams will contact vulnerable individuals on their Code Blue Priority Lists a minimum of once every four (4) hours beginning at 8 p.m. during Code Blue Alerts and once every two (2) hours beginning at 8 p.m. for Enhanced Code Blue Alerts to encourage them to accept services, including transport to a safe place and a shelter placement. DHS coordinates borough-level Code Blue efforts directly with partner City agencies, including but not limited to NYPD, DSNY, and the Parks Department.
- Code Blue periods last from 4pm to 8am, but when there are Code Blue periods on successive days, we maintain Code Blue street homeless outreach protocols in the interim daytime hours between 8am and 4pm. No one who is reasonably believed to be homeless and seeking shelter in New York City during a Code Blue will be denied.

- And during Enhanced Code Blue, we increase frequency of contact with vulnerable clients, revisiting them at least every two hours to offer resources and encourage them to accept transport to a safe place—and as long as conditions remain extreme (i.e. wind chill is 20 or conditions are blizzard-like), we operate under Enhanced Code Blue protocols

Department of Buildings (DOB) Reported: Homeowners Night held every Tuesday, 4p.m. – 7p.m. If you are a homeowner, tenant, small business owner or building manager, DOB encourages you to visit your local borough office where Department of Buildings staff can answer your questions and provide the information you need to:

- Plan for a home renovation or construction project
- Address an open violation on your property
- Obtain more information and records about a property
- Use our online resources including DOB NOW and the Buildings Information System (BIS)

Permits, construction codes, zoning regulations, sign offs, certificates of occupancy, place of assembly, equipment installations, violations and civil penalties are just a few of the things DOB can assist you with.

MBPO Reported: Applications for Manhattan Community Board Membership is now open: MBPO is looking for passionate and engaged New Yorkers who are dedicated to making a difference in their neighborhoods. Community Boards play an important role in shaping the character of our city. If you live or work in one of Manhattan's Community Boards, you're eligible to apply for the 2019-2021 class of board members!

You can apply online here or complete a paper application (downloadable here as a PDF). The online application must be completed in one sitting, so I suggest you read over the application first and prepare your answers offline. All applications are due by 5:00 pm on Friday, February 8, 2019. After you apply, the MBPO will contact you about next steps in the screening and interview process. Appointments will be issued in the spring, 2019.

DID YOU KNOW?

CITYarts is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization that engages youth with professional artists in the creation of public art, including murals and mosaics. Through this creative process, CITYarts empowers, educates, and connects youth locally and around the world to become active participants in realizing their potential and transforming their communities.

CITYarts is looking for new locations to start mural projects with local youth within the community, led by professional artists. CITYarts is sharing with our neighborhood a questionnaire. You are encouraged to share questionnaire with community to help CITYarts identify walls for community.

Click here to view some of the local projects they've completed in various parts of New York City. Each of their murals is linked to a specific program that focuses on an important topic.

Please feel free to email info@cityart.org for any questions. Additionally, you can call CITYarts at (212) 966-0377. The office is open Monday-Friday from 9:30 am - 5:30 pm. *(See attached Flyer)*

NYC Businesses are required by law to separate their organic waste.

The NYC Department of Sanitation recently adopted new business organics rules. If a business meets the minimum requirements outlined below, they must comply with the business organics rules.

Establishments covered by Business Organics Rules:

As of August 15, 2018

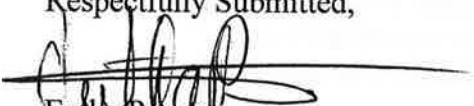
- Food service establishments with a floor area of at least 15,000 sq. feet;
- Food service establishments that are part of a chain of 100 or more locations in NYC
Retail food stores with a floor area of at least 25,000 sq. feet;
- Food manufacturers with a floor area of at least 25,000 sq. feet; Food wholesalers with floor area of at least 20,000 sq. feet
- Arenas and stadiums with a seating capacity of at least 15,000 people;

Sidewalk Obstruction:

Sidewalk areas must be kept free from any obstruction that could impede pedestrian traffic. Obstructions may include, but are not limited to, refuse, refuse containers, merchandise, bins, racks, coin-operated rides, sandwich or A-frame signs, over-extended sidewalk displays/stands, ATMs, ice machines and acrylic enclosures, etc.

Stores are permitted to have outside displays of merchandise. The items displayed must consist of goods which are available for sale inside the store and all sales must occur inside the premise. Structures for merchandise displayed outside the store may extend **NO MORE THAN 3 FEET INTO THE SIDEWALK FROM THE BUILDING LINE AND NO HIGHER THAN 5 FEET**. However, streets that are designated “zero sidewalk display streets” may not have any displays placed on the sidewalks. To find out if a street is a “zero sidewalk display street,” please call 311.

Respectfully Submitted,



Eutha Prince

District Manager

12/20/18

DON'T FALL FOR SCAMMERS PRETENDING TO BE CON EDISON.

Don't become a victim.

In one of the most common scams, a caller may:



Pretend to be from Con Edison. (Your Caller ID may even display Con Edison's name.)



Threaten to turn off power or natural gas service to your home or business within an hour.



Demand immediate payment – often by prepaid debit card.

Suspect a scammer? Here's what to do:



1. Hang up.
2. Call the police or 1-800-75-CONED (26633).



And remember, if someone knocks on your door saying they are from Con Edison, call us for verification.



Neighborhood Questionnaire

Please complete this neighborhood questionnaire with the information on the community and wall that you recommend CITYarts to consider for creating a mural or mosaic. Send it via email to: projects@cityarts.org.

Mission:

CITYarts is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has engaged youth and professional artists in the creation of public art, including murals and mosaics since 1989. Through this creative process, CITYarts empowers, educates, and connects youth locally and around the world to become active participants in realizing their potential and transforming their communities.

About CITYarts:

Since 1989, CITYarts has created over 320 projects that have transformed communities and impacted over 100,000 kids, collaborated with more than 500 artists, partnered with over 1,500 sponsors, and engaged over 500,000 volunteers in the process. CITYarts projects frequently focus on community revitalization by galvanizing businesses, schools, and community organizations into developing youth programs and constructing playgrounds and gardens.

Name: _____ Job/ Title: _____

Address: _____ ZIP _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

1. Have you noticed any blank walls or empty lots in your neighborhood that cries for attention? Good sites can help neighborhood revitalization by engaging youth in the creation of murals or mosaics. If so, please list a location and a contact person.

Address: _____ Size of Wall _____

Contact person: _____ email/ phone: _____

Please send or attach pictures of wall.

2. Check the following programs and facilities that are available in your community:

Youth programs Senior Programs Anti-Drug Programs Anti-Crime Housing Rehabilitation
 Homeless Services Community Gardening Community Health Food

Distribution

Recreational Facility Middle School High School

3. Do you have any public art projects in your neighborhood? _____

4. Please provide us with any additional information that might help us with securing funding, possible collaborators, and material donations. _____

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP!

