

# DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

## JANUARY – 2024

**Mayor's Office Reported:** Mayor Eric Adams, New York City Police Department (NYPD) Commissioner Edward A. Caban, New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS) Commissioner Kevin D. Kim, and New York City Office of Nightlife (ONL) Executive Director Jeffrey Garcia recently announced the launch of "Coordinating a United Resolution with Establishments" (CURE) – a new process for NYPD, SBS, and ONL to improve public safety responses to nightlife establishments and more equitably engage with nightlife business owners.

The new CURE process replaces the NYPD's "Multi-Agency Response to Community Hotspots" (MARCH) – an initiative created by the Giuliani administration that conducted unannounced inspections of nightlife establishments in response to neighborhood complaints. The new CURE process requires precincts to establish direct, in-person communication with business owners and managers in conjunction with ONL, making them aware of potential violations and conditions of concern, and providing multiple opportunities for local business owners to correct issues before enforcement actions are taken. The transformative, engagement-first approach aligns with core pillars of Mayor Adams' "Rebuild, Renew, Reinvent: A Blueprint for New York City's Economic Recovery," augmenting the impact of other successful initiatives, such as "Small Business Forward," that save small businesses time and money while upholding public safety and health standards.

Under the former MARCH program, nightlife establishments – which include bars, restaurants, music venues, and dance clubs – could have faced unannounced, nighttime, multi-agency inspections led by the NYPD, and supported by a broad array of inspectors from the Fire Department of the City of New York, the New York City Departments of Buildings (DOB), the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), and the New York State Liquor Authority (SLA). Since 2020, 44 MARCH operations have included an average of 17 inspectors, resulting in major disruptions for local businesses and patrons. Just two MARCH inspections have been conducted since July 1, 2022.

CURE ensures that the only venues subject to significant enforcement action are those which have demonstrated a clear and intentional disregard for community concerns by failing to heed multiple opportunities for cooperation with the NYPD and non-enforcement personnel at ONL. The new initiative requires a series of steps to be taken at the precinct level in coordination with ONL, before inspections can be approved by the NYPD's Patrol Services Bureau, including in-

person daytime visits, written documentation of incidents of concern, and in-person meetings between business owners and local precinct officials.

As part of the new procedure, NYPD will not initiate city or state interagency inspections outside of the new CURE process. Only agencies relevant to issues observed at CURE-involved establishments may be included in joint-inspection operations with the NYPD, and only on an "as-needed" basis. This procedure does not limit NYPD from any necessary real-time response to address immediate public safety concerns. Furthermore, agencies that have previously participated in MARCH operations, such as the FDNY, DOB, DOHMH, DEP, and SLA will continue to maintain their regular independent inspection processes to maintain compliance and ensure safety.

**Department of Buildings Reported:** Mayor Adams and New York City Department of Buildings (DOB) Commissioner Jimmy Oddo recently took down New York City's longest-standing sidewalk shed at 409 Edgecombe Avenue, a city landmark, which had been up for 21 years. The safe removal of this shed comes after the city filed a criminal court case against the building's property managers for their repeated failure to repair the building. Through the "[Get Sheds Down](#)" plan, the Adams administration has expedited the removal of sidewalk construction sheds and scaffolding while reimagining the future of pedestrian protection in New York City.

Since Mayor Adams launched the "Get Sheds Down" plan in July 2023, there are over 500 fewer actively permitted sidewalk sheds in New York City – sheds that had covered nearly 11 miles of New York City sidewalks. Additionally, since the plan was announced, the city has removed 75 long-standing sheds (sheds that have been up for over five years) from the streets. For decades, the rules governing construction sheds have incentivized property owners to leave them up for long periods of time instead of completing the critical façade work that is often the reason that the shed is required.

The administration has already advanced multiple efforts as part of "Get Sheds Down." Earlier this year, DOB [released](#) technical guidance to help the industry understand revised rules and processes. DOB also issued a [Request for Proposal](#) to design firms looking for less obtrusive pedestrian protection, and is currently reviewing proposals received. Additionally, new rules went into effect allowing for art on sidewalk sheds and other temporary construction equipment.

The Adams administration is currently working with the New York City Council on legislation to allow for a wider variety of colors, improve oversight over shed construction and

maintenance, and enhance enforcement strategies. In the coming months, the city plans to file more criminal court cases against property owners who have failed to make repairs to their buildings and kept sidewalk sheds in place for years.

In the 20th century, 409 Edgecombe Avenue was an important site for Black political organizing, serving as a home to the NAACP and its executive secretaries, Walter White and Roy Wilkins, as well as W.E.B. DuBois and Thurgood Marshall. The shed at 409 Edgecombe Avenue was first erected in 2002 because of a local law requiring regular façade inspections for buildings over six stories. An engineer hired at the time by the owners found unsafe conditions around the brick and terra-cotta stone façade. For approximately 20 years, the property owner failed to make repairs, instead allowing the sidewalk shed to remain in place without work on the building progressing. In 2019, the city filed criminal charges against the building's management company to compel them to move forward with the long-delayed repairs. The repair work began in earnest after charges were filed and were recently completed.

**Department for the Aging (DFTA) Reported:** For five decades, the Department for the Aging's Older Adult Workforce Programs have supported New Yorkers who are unemployed or underemployed, find new opportunities where they can utilize their skills and knowledge.

With several workforce program opportunities, participants can determine what is best for them, in addition to receiving the training they need to contribute to the offices they work in.

**The programs are:**

1. **Older Adult Employment Program:** Provides training and assistance to older New Yorkers in securing a variety of employment opportunities through training and internships;
2. **Silver Corps:** An AmeriCorps program that provides older adults with volunteer assignments at a partner organization, training, and/or credentialing to help secure employment;
3. **Silver Stars:** Offers retired New York City civil servants part-time, temporary work assignments, where they can apply their skills and experience to continue serving the city;
4. **Civic Engagement Employment Service (ReServe)** Connects retirees aged 50 or older with part-time positions that allow them to remain active and serve their community. This program allows retirees to contribute their valuable skills and knowledge while also staying engaged;
5. **Foster Grandparent Program** Gives older adults the opportunity to give back to their communities by supporting youth through tutoring and providing emotional support;

If you would like information on any of these opportunities call Aging Connect at 212-AGING-NYC is (212-244-6469) and ask for employment services.

**The Department for the Aging (DFTA) contracts with local organizations to provide free legal services for older New Yorkers** without access to private representation under a program called the Legal Assistance for the Elderly Program. This program provides free legal services to older adults aged 60 years and older in all five boroughs, in multiple languages. The program aims to assist clients with a variety of legal issues including, but not limited to:

- Legal representation at administrative hearings or in court proceedings, which may include matters such as:
  - Housing issues, including landlord/tenant issues, foreclosure, home repair fraud, utility shut offs, or home ownership/real property;
  - Guardianship, or abuse or neglect cases; or
  - Consumer issues such as consumer fraud, credit card fraud, bankruptcy, or reverse mortgages;
- Assistance with public benefit applications, recertification's, and/or appeals; and
- Legal advice, counseling, and referrals.

Some of the scenarios in which older adults find themselves needing legal support through this program include those who are institutionalized or homebound, have chronic health problems, homeless or may become homeless, or are a victim of abuse, neglect or exploitation, or face language barriers.

Local organizations also provide public education to older adults about legal matters so they can be aware of their rights.

To find a legal services organization under the Legal Assistance for the Elderly Program, use NYC Aging's **Find Services locator** by clicking on "Legal Services" under the "Services" tab, or by calling Aging Connect at 212-AGING-NYC (212-244-6469) for more information.

### **Department of Transportation (DOT) Reported: Open Streets Application**

DOT works with community-based organizations, educational institutions, and business groups to execute Open Streets citywide. In coordination with community partners, DOT can also help to develop operational plans to manage the street for multiple uses, including outdoor dining, programming, and outdoor learning/recreation for schools. DOT works with partners and local stakeholders to ensure loading, deliveries, and emergency access is coordinated as part of the Open Streets' operations. The Open Streets application is for partners that want to manage their own Open Street. Returning partners may use previously submitted data based on their application ID for an even more streamlined application process. New partners must submit a full application.

The 2024 application features important deadlines partners should consider before applying:

- For Open Streets launching on or before June 30, 2024, the application deadline is January 31, 2024.
- For Open Streets launching on or after July 1, 2024, the deadline is March 1, 2024, which is also the deadline is also for any school applying for the 2024-2025 academic year.

For more information visit [nyc.gov/OpenStreets](https://nyc.gov/OpenStreets).

Applications should be submitted online using this link: <https://arcg.is/1mSSnb2>.

### **Public Space Programming Application**

DOT is inviting organizations to apply for the Public Space Programming Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Successful respondents chosen from the RFQ will be added to the 2024-2026 [Public Space Programming List](#). DOT's Public Space Programming initiative connects public spaces such as pedestrian plazas and Open Streets with local organizations that can provide positive, enriching programming and activities of all kinds. Public Space Programming brings arts, culture, fitness, and educational experiences to neighborhoods in need.

The 2024 application deadline is January 31, 2024.

For more information about the Public Space Programming initiative and application, please visit [nyc.gov/publicspaceprogramming](https://nyc.gov/publicspaceprogramming).

Applications should be submitted online using this link: <https://arcg.is/1LS5WH0>.

**Department of City Planning Reported:** The City Planning Commission will be hosting a public hearing on the Citywide - City of Yes: Economic Opportunity Zoning Text Amendment on January 24, 2024 in Person - City Planning Commission Hearing Room, Lower Concourse, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. A link to participate remotely will be posted one hour in advance of the meeting on [nyc.gov/engage](https://nyc.gov/engage).

If you are not able to attend in person or virtually you can also submit written testimony here: [City Planning Commission Public Hearing Comments \(nyc.gov\)](https://nyc.gov/cityplanning/publichearing/comments)

For more information regarding the proposal, please visit the Department of City Planning website here: [City of Yes for Economic Opportunities - DCP \(nyc.gov\)](https://nyc.gov/cityofyes/economicopportunities-dcp)

The City Planning Commission proposes to amend Chapter 5 of its rules to exempt certain housing and related actions from review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act and City Environmental Quality Review procedures.

The purpose of the amendment to the rules is to avoid unnecessary and time-consuming environmental analyses when the City Planning Commission considers proposed housing development up to a certain size, and accompanying small commercial developments, where those developments will not have significant adverse environmental impacts. These environmental analyses can take six to eight months to complete and cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, adding unnecessary costs and delay to the City's ability to address its housing crisis.

When and where is the Hearing? The City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed rule at 10:00 a.m. on February 7, 2024 at its hearing room at 120 Broadway, New York, New York. The public may attend the meeting person or remotely.

**Department of Sanitation Reported:** The New York City Department of Sanitation has announced **Christmas tree** collection guidance for NYC residents.

For residents in Manhattan, set out your **CLEAN trees** and wreaths with your other composting on your Curbside Composting collection day.

Before your Christmas trees and wreaths can be collected, you **MUST**:

- **Remove ALL** lights, ornaments and tinsel. Remove strands from trees and metal frames and wires from wreaths.
- Make sure they are **NOT** wrapped in ANY plastic or placed inside a plastic bag.
- Leave them at the curb between the designated dates (**January 5th-January 13th**)

Trees and wreaths are processed as other composting or chipped, mixed with leaves, and recycled into rich compost for NYC's parks, institutions and community gardens.

**For artificial trees,**

Take apart your tree to recycle the base and trunk (pole) with metal, glass, plastic and cartons on your recycling day. Remove all lights, ornaments and tinsel before placing at the curb. Otherwise, set it out as garbage on a regular collection day.

You can also use the evergreen boughs and branches from your Christmas tree as **mulch** to enrich the soil in your garden or street tree beds. Just cut off the smaller branches of your Christmas tree and remove the twigs from the evergreen boughs. Lay 3 to 4 inches of these trimmings over bare soil around street trees or in your garden. After removing branches for mulch, you can take your tree to **MulchFest** or leave it out for DSNY collection.

**Department of Social Services Reported:** On the night of **Tuesday, January 23rd, 2024**, NYC's Department of Social Services, the Human Resources Administration and the Department of Homeless Services will conduct its annual **Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE) survey**, a point-in-time survey undertaken each winter that helps the City estimate the number of unsheltered New Yorkers living on the street on one of the coldest nights of the year. Volunteers are needed on this day from approximately **10:00 PM-4:00 a.m. on the night of January 23rd.**

To learn more and to register, visit [nyc.gov/hope](https://nyc.gov/hope)

**ConEdison Reported:** Work Order at W. 133<sup>rd</sup> St. & St. Nicholas Ave. Mon. – Friday; 9am – 3 pm; what to expect: limited street parking, temporary lane/bike lane closure, and noise from generators.

**District Attorney's Office Reported:** The DA's Office announced by removing barriers to housing, jobs, and education, the Clean Slate Act makes communities safer and our legal system fairer. D.A. Bragg joined Assembly Member Catalina Cruz and State Senator Zellnor Myrie for a symposium discussing the public safety benefits of the newly signed Clean Slate Act!!

Join the Manhattan DA on January 24<sup>th</sup> for a community briefing in Harlem on the Clean Slate Act, which automatically clears eligible records for people who have completed their sentence and have remained crime-free.

**D.A.'s Office recently announced the following indictments:**

A man who allegedly hit a 28-year-old with a plank of wood and shoved him onto the subway tracks at a Lower Manhattan train station;  
Brittan Jones was indicted for shoving an 85-year-old man onto the subway tracks at the Rockefeller Center station

**Upcoming Events/Announcement(s):**

MCB9 is hosting a Public Hearing on the Mayor's proposed "City of Yes" Zoning for Economic Opportunity Text Amendment. This proposed change to zoning for the city is significant with 18 proposals and 1200 pages of text. Please submit your questions in advance and learn more by scanning the QR code on the *attached Flyer* or on the following "ONLINE PUBLIC FEEDBACK FORM: [tinyurl.com/msvksfc](http://tinyurl.com/msvksfc).

**Did You Know?**

If you Qualify to Freeze Your Rent or Get a Homeowner Tax Exemption. Get free help in freezing your rent from Mayor's Office of Public Engagement learn more at <http://nyc/FreezeYourRent>. Eligible New Yorkers with disabilities or over age 62 can stop their rent from increasing with New York City's Rent Freeze program at [Housing Benefits for Older New Yorkers and New Yorkers with Disabilities \(nyc.gov\)](#) or call the Rent Freeze Hotline at 929-252-7242. (see attached Flyer)

**Employment Opportunities:**

**Congressman Espaillat is hosting a Career Fair on Saturday, January 13th** at SCAN Harbor Johnson Center, located at 1833 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10029, 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Held annually, the career fair for New York's 13th congressional district is a great opportunity for job seekers or individuals looking to network, build career skills, and development their resumes.

All events require [RSVP](#) prior to attendance.

**Ladders for Leaders** is a nationally recognized program that offers outstanding high school and college students **ages 16-24** the opportunity to participate in paid professional summer internships with leading corporations, non-profit organizations and government agencies in NYC. It is a component of NYC's Summer Youth Employment Program.

**Apply here: [2024 Summer Youth Employment Program \(SYEP\) Application \(nycsyep.com\)](#)**

The deadline is **01/21/2024**. For questions, contact Community Connect at **800-246-4646**.

**New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) is hiring emergency shovelers** to clear snow and ice from bus stops, crosswalks, and hydrants across the five boroughs. Shovelers work on a per-diem schedule starting at \$18 an hour. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, eligible to work in the United States, and able to perform heavy physical labor. Register for an application appointment at [nyc.gov/snow](https://nyc.gov/snow).

Respectfully Submitted by:

Eutha Prince  
District Manager  
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