

November, 2020 District Manager's Report

Agency Reports:

DOT Reported: Mayor de Blasio recently announced the Open Storefronts Program. The NYC Department of Transportation (DOT), in consultation with Small Business Services (SBS), Department of Sanitation (DSNY), Department of Buildings (DOB) and the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) will administer this recovery program that allows ground-floor storefront businesses to temporarily conduct retail activity on sidewalks directly in front of their business, or on roadways in the Open Streets: Restaurants program. Open Storefronts is available from October 30 to December 31, 2020.

Overview:

The Open Storefronts program assists existing ground-floor storefront businesses who want to use outdoor areas on a temporary basis. The program allows eligible businesses to conduct activity on sidewalks, on roadways in the [Open Streets: Restaurants](#) program, or a combination of both. In addition to businesses engaged in retail trade, repair stores, personal care services, and dry-cleaning and laundry services are able to use outdoor space for seating, queuing, or display of dry goods.

Siting Criteria for Sidewalks

- Objects placed on sidewalk must be up against the wall of the business or as close as possible;
- Sidewalk objects and activities may not exceed business frontage;
- Must leave an 8' clear path for pedestrians. Eligible businesses who can currently display merchandise as-of-right or with a stoop line stand license can continue to do so under existing regulations and do not need to certify under Open Storefronts for the existing eligible merchandise;
- Must conduct eligible activities and place outdoor objects no more than 5' from the property line (i.e. from external facing wall of the business);
- Outdoor objects must be at least 3' from the adjacent restaurants, or 1' away from other businesses participating in the Open Storefronts program;
- Outdoor objects and goods cannot block subway grates, fire hydrants, utility hardware, Siamese water connection, bus stop waiting areas, subway entrances, and fire exits. Vault entrances not exclusively accessible by the business can only be blocked in coordination with other tenants. Objects cannot block doors, including entry and exit doors to other spaces, and cannot block driveways or garage entrances unless they are used exclusively by the business participating in the Open Storefronts program;
- For clear path purposes, parking meters, traffic signs and tree pits with flush gratings (without tree guards) are exempt. All other above-grade structures are considered obstructions;
- Merchandise placed outside cannot exceed 5' in height above the level of the sidewalk;
- Collapsible tents and umbrellas with weighted base must have at least two (2) sides open and must be installed per manufacturer's instructions. A single area or area of combined / tied together tents and umbrellas should not exceed 400 square feet in size;

- Tents and umbrellas should not be used during inclement weather such as high wind condition. [Sign up for DOB's Weather Advisory Subscription](#);
- Outdoor objects and goods, including tents and umbrellas, must be provided by applicant and must be removed from the sidewalk when a business is closed, excluding stoop line stands (in line with current regulation). Permanent structures cannot be built or placed on the sidewalk;
- Hours of operation will be normal business hours;

Siting Criteria for Eligible Businesses on Open Streets: Restaurants Corridors

- Applicant must provide emergency lane of 15'. Where this is not possible on a given roadway, organizations must get approval from NYC DOT and FDNY to ensure emergency access at all times;
- Eligible businesses may conduct eligible activities on roadway up to the 15' emergency lane for the duration of the temporary street closure;
- Bike lanes may be included in the 15' designated emergency lane;
- Roadway objects must be sited at least 15' from a hydrant and 8' from a crosswalk;
- Roadway objects may not be placed beyond width of business frontage;
- Individual businesses must delineate their footprint with some type of barrier element, although these must be removed at the end of each day;
- Outdoor objects and goods must be provided by applicant and must be removed from the expanded zone at the end of each day;
- Merchandise placed outside cannot exceed 5' in height above the level of the sidewalk;
- Hours of operation will be normal business hours unless they exceed Open Streets Restaurants limitations, in which case those limitations will apply;
- Collapsible tents and umbrellas with weighted base must have at least 2 sides open and must be installed per manufacturer's instructions. A single area or area of combined / tied together tents or umbrellas should not exceed 400 square feet in size;
- Tents and umbrellas should not be used during inclement weather such as high wind condition. [Sign up for DOB's Weather Advisory Subscription](#);
- Other than barriers, permanent structures cannot be built or placed on the roadway;

Apply Online:

NYC is allowing businesses to self-certify that they meet program requirements. Submitting an application is an acknowledgement that the establishment understands and agrees to all applicable terms and conditions and all applicable laws and guidance. If an establishment is not compliant, the City may revoke or suspend its authorization at any time during the program period.

NYC DOT may immediately revise, terminate or suspend, for a period of time and without prior notice, the outdoor area usage based on valid complaints, lack of ADA access, need for repairs, or for any other reason.

For help completing the application, please call the **SBS Hotline: 888-SBS-4NYC** (888-727-4692).

NYC Open Storefronts Program Application:

<https://nycopensestorefront.s3.amazonaws.com/index.html>

DOT is hosting the program content and application. For more information on the Open Storefronts Program, please visit: nyc.gov/OpenStorefronts.

Updates to the Open Restaurants Program:

On September 25, 2020, [NYC announced that the popular Open Restaurants program will be made permanent](#), and restaurants will be permitted to use heating and enclosures, and expand seating to adjacent properties with neighbors' consent. Specific guidance is forthcoming. The City will work with the City Council to make the regulatory changes necessary to make the program permanent.

Adjacent Properties:

- ✓ The City will allow restaurants to expand seating to the frontage of adjacent properties, as long as the adjacent property owners formally agree to the use of the space for a specified period of time and commit not to charge a fee for its use;
- ✓ The City will work with the State Liquor Authority (SLA) on any requirements associated with extending alcohol service to the expanded seating in front of adjacent properties;
- ✓ In early October, NYC DOT issued a template agreement and provide instructions on how to file the agreements;
- ✓ Adjacent properties may not be used prior to the release of official instructions and formal agreements;

Heating:

- ✓ As cooler weather arrives, the City will allow restaurants to incorporate heating elements into their outdoor dining setups;
- ✓ Electrical heaters will be allowed on both sidewalk and roadway;
- ✓ Propane and natural gas heaters will be allowed on sidewalks only; they will remain prohibited in roadway seating;
- ✓ Propane will require a permit from FDNY and compliance with FDNY regulations for outdoor use, handling and secure outdoor tank storage overnight;
- ✓ Official guidance on what will be considered approved installation and use of heating elements will be released before the end of September, and restaurants are prohibited from installing heating elements until guidelines are released and followed;

Tents:

- ✓ Restaurants will also be permitted to use tent enclosures to keep diners warm;
- ✓ In partial tent enclosures, at least 50% of the tent's side wall surface area must remain open and electrical heaters are allowed;
- ✓ In full tent enclosures, the tent's side walls may be closed but occupancy limitations will be capped at 25% of capacity, and indoor dining guidelines must be followed; electrical heaters will also be allowed;
- ✓ Enclosed structures, such as plastic domes, will be allowed for individual parties and must have adequate ventilation to allow for air circulation;

Roadway Safety:

- ✓ As the program's duration will now continue through the winter months, and winter weather creates potential for inclement weather to impact road conditions, the City will engage the restaurant industry and other stakeholders to develop additional safety features to further strengthen roadway barriers;
- ✓ To ensure timely implementation, the City will require restaurant owners to comply with new safety features by November 15, 2020;
- ✓ In addition, significant snow events may necessitate the temporary removal of some barriers from the roadway.

HRA Reported: Broadband Access for Students - HRA announced the City will install WiFi in the individual family units in all DHS shelters for families with children and HRA shelters for domestic violence survivors to ensure that students have access to the tools they need to support remote learning. This initiative will be implemented centrally through DoITT. Companies installing the connectivity at shelter locations are prioritizing those locations with reported connectivity issues.

In addition, for those commercial hotel locations where HRA is providing temporary shelter while they continue to transition out of commercial hotels, HRA will be working with hotel shelter providers to add WiFi services to the service agreements with these hotels.

HRA also reported, families with children in DHS and HRA shelters now have a dedicated Department of Education (DOE) IT helpline to troubleshoot connectivity issues and other DOE iPad-related challenges. Families living in shelter have been notified of this new service which is available Monday – Friday at 718-935-5100, option 5. This is serving as an interim solution while installation of internet services is being rolled out to the family shelters. Students using DOE-issued iPads can report problems with connectivity and devices may be swapped out for service with an alternate cellular carrier.

Shelter providers are prepared to assist clients in reaching out to the DOE helpdesk for assistance.

HEAP Benefit -The 2020-2021 HEAP benefit season will be open from November 2, 2020 through March 15, 2021. Recipients of HEAP benefits may receive one regular HEAP benefit per program year to help pay for heating costs. Eligibility and benefits are based on income, household size, the primary heating source, and the presence of a household member who is under age 6, is age 60 or older or has a permanent disability. Regular benefits for households that pay directly for heat based on actual usage are paid directly to the vendor that supplies the household's primary source of heat. HEAP recipients can use HEAP approval letters as documentation to support Con Ed reduced rate programs and Verizon Lifeline.

A household may be eligible for a regular benefit if:

- Clients and/or household members are United States Citizens or qualified immigrants and
- The household's gross monthly income is at or below the current income guides or
- The applicant is
 - in receipt of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits or
 - in receipt of Temporary Assistance or
 - in receipt of Code A Supplemental Security Income (SSI Living Alone)

To apply, please contact 212-331-3126. Applications will soon be available on ACCESS HRA* to download and mail back to HRA. There is no need to come in to a Center. The completed application can be mailed back to HRA at:

NYC DSS/HRA/HEAP
PO Box 1401
Church Street Station
New York, NY 10008

*Please note, the HEAP application cannot be submitted through ACCESS HRA.

Information can be found here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/energy-assistance.page>

Manhattan DA's Office Reported: Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance, Jr. and the New York City Police Department hosted a gun buyback event at Bethel Gospel Assembly in Harlem today. The buyback received a total of 48 guns from approximately 40 members of the community.

The buyback offered community members the opportunity to anonymously turn in their firearms in exchange for prepaid gift cards. Individuals received \$200 for handguns and assault rifles and \$25 for rifles, shotguns, and air guns. The recovered weapons include: 19 revolvers, 17 pistols, four rifles, one shotgun and seven other guns. All volunteers and attendees were required to wear masks, and social distancing measures were in place.

Despite limitations on in-person engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Manhattan

District Attorney's Office continues to address and prevent gun violence and create safe opportunities for youth engagement. The Office's Community Partnerships and Crime Strategies Units, in collaboration with government and community partners, coordinates virtual and in-person conversations to increase trust and raise awareness with communities most impacted by gun violence. Additionally, the Office's signature [Saturday Night Lights](#) programs remained operational, offering remote health and fitness programming, including: at-home fitness training, games, and conversations with sports trainers.

DEPARTMENT OF Sanitation Reported:

PLASTIC BAG BAN STARTED OCTOBER 19TH enforcement of the New York State Plastic Bag Ban and Paper Bag Fee BEGAN. Stores will be penalized for distributing single use plastic bags and must collect a 5-cent fee on paper bags. Visit nyc.gov/bags for more info.

Collection Schedule during Snow Season – there will be multiple collection trucks scheduled at night. The affected areas are Section 92 (North of W. 125th St.) and Section 93 (North of W. 144th St., R/S/D)

- Monday during the Midnight to 8 A.M. shift, Section 93 will be Collected. The service area is: W. 144th Street, RSD – Amsterdam Avenue and W. 146th St RSD – Amsterdam Avenue.
- Monday during the 4 P.M. – Midnight shift, two trucks are scheduled to run:
Section 92- the area of W. 125th Street – W. 135th Street, Broadway – Claremont Avenue
Section 93- the area of W. 147th Street – W. 149th Street, Amsterdam Avenue – Broadway
- Tuesday during the Midnight to 8 A.M. shift, Section 93 will be Collected. The service area is: W. 150th Street, Amsterdam Avenue – Edgecombe Avenue, W. 142nd Street, Amsterdam Avenue – Convent Avenue, Edgecombe Avenue & St. Nicholas Avenue, W. 141st Street – W. 150th Street.
- Tuesday during the 4 P.M. – Midnight shift, one truck in Section 92. The service area is: W. 135th Street, Amsterdam Avenue – St. Nicholas Terrace, W. 139th Street to W. 141st Street, Amsterdam Avenue – Broadway.
- Wednesday during the Midnight to 8 A.M. shift, Section 93 will be Collected. The service area is: W. 144th Street, RSD – Amsterdam Avenue and W. 146th St RSD – Amsterdam Avenue.
- Wednesday during the 4 P.M. – Midnight shift, two trucks are scheduled to run:
Section 92- the area of W. 125th Street – W. 135th Street, Broadway – Claremont Avenue
Section 93- the area of W. 147th Street – W. 149th Street, Amsterdam Avenue – Broadway.

- Thursday during the Midnight to 8 A.M. shift, Section 93 will be Collected. The service area is: W. 150th Street, Amsterdam Avenue – Edgecombe Avenue, W. 142nd Street, Amsterdam Avenue – Convent Avenue, Edgecombe Avenue & St. Nicholas Avenue, W. 141st Street – W. 150th Street.
- Friday during the Midnight to 8 A.M. shift, Section 93 will be Collected. The service area is: W. 144th Street, RSD – Amsterdam Avenue and W. 146th St RSD – Amsterdam Avenue.
- Friday during the 4 P.M. – Midnight shift, two trucks are scheduled to run:
Section 92- the area of W. 125th Street – W. 135th Street, Broadway – Claremont Avenue
Section 93- the area of W. 147th Street – W. 149th Street, Amsterdam Avenue – Broadway
- Saturday during the Midnight to 8 A.M. shift, Section 93 will be Collected. The service area is: W. 150th Street, Amsterdam Avenue – Edgecombe Avenue, W. 142nd Street, Amsterdam Avenue – Convent Avenue, Edgecombe Avenue & St. Nicholas Avenue, W. 141st Street – W. 150th Street.

Health Department Reported: NYC Health and Hospitals recently announced a series of free virtual health insurance workshops to prepare New Yorkers for the upcoming open-enrollment periods. Collaborating with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the workshops will help the general public, community and faith-based organizations, and caregivers understand health insurance options available as they prepare for the open-enrollment periods for Medicare and New York State of Health – the State’s official online marketplace. The workshops will also be available to NYC Health + Hospitals financial counselors, physicians, nurses and social workers so they can assist their patients in navigating the health insurance portals. This is the seventh consecutive year NYC Health + Hospitals and CMS are partnering to bring free workshops to communities across New York City, but the first time these workshops will be virtual to allow wide participation while keeping everyone safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. The collaboration with CMS builds on the City’s commitment of Guaranteed Care, ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to affordable, high-quality care.

Health insurance specialists from CMS will provide updates on Medicare parts A, B, C, and D, Medicaid basics, preventive services, enrollment assistance and resources for the uninsured, and more. Workshops are open to community partners, faith-based organizations, caregivers, community members, and NYC Health and Hospitals’ staff.

Below is the schedule of the workshops:

Wednesday, November 18, 2020, 3:00 P.M – 5:30 P.M.

Please visit Eventbrite and register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nyc-health-hospitals-cms-health-insurance-101-virtual-workshop-tickets-125407203321>

The next open enrollment period for New York State of Health, when residents will be able to either change their insurance plan, or enroll in health insurance for the first time, will start on November 1, 2020. For people with Medicare, annual enrollment period began as of October 15, 2020 and ends December 7, 2020. During this time, people with Medicare can select a Medicare Advantage plan or prescription drug plan. They can also switch plans if they are already enrolled.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Eutha R. Prince
District Manager