

# December, 2014 District Manager's Report

## Highlights from the BSC Meeting (11/21/14)

**Residential Organic Collection Program:** The NYC Department of Sanitation collects yard waste, food scraps, and food-soiled paper every week from pilot area homes. Residents outside the pilot areas can still compost their food waste at a neighborhood food waste drop-off site.

**How to Participate in Organics Collection:** Starter kits will be delivered to households in pilot area. The kit includes the brown organics bin and a small kitchen container, along with detailed program information.

One and two family homes receive 13-gallon bins; buildings with 3 to 9 units receive 21 gallon bins. Apartment buildings with 10 or more units must apply to participate at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycwasteless/html/contact/enrollmentform.shtml>, since logistics are different.

Participating residents can follow these steps:

1. Separate organic waste from your trash and other recyclables:
  - ✓ Collect your food scraps and food-soiled paper from kitchen container, or any container or bag;
  - ✓ Store your container or bag in a convenient place, like on the countertop, under the sink, or in the freezer;
2. Empty organic waste into your brown bin, if you choose to line your outdoor bin, use acceptable bags and liners
3. Set out brown bin and yard waste at the curb for collection

Tips for Managing Organic Waste:

1. Maintaining your Kitchen Collector:
  - ✓ One of the most effective ways to prevent insects (and odor) is to store food scraps in your freezer or refrigerator before discarding them in your brown bin (this prevents food waste from rotting);
  - ✓ Inside your home, empty and wash your kitchen collector regularly. The free one provided by DSNY is dishwasher safe
  - ✓ Wrap meat and seafood scraps and wet organic materials in newspaper or paper towels;
  - ✓ Clean out the refrigerator the day before collection, rather than the day after.

**DSNY Promotion:**

**DSNY's efforts to inform residents about the Organics Collection and the pilot include the following:**

- ❖ Mailers and door hangers delivered to participating households;
- ❖ Posters hung in local businesses;
- ❖ Meetings with elected officials;
- ❖ Presenting at community meetings;
- ❖ Info. tables at local venues and events

For further info visit DSNY's website at [www.nyc.gov/dsny](http://www.nyc.gov/dsny).

**DSNY Collection Service during the Holidays (Christmas and New Year's):**

No Garbage, Recycling or Organics Collection or Street Cleaning on Christmas Day , Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and New Year's Day, Thursday January 1<sup>st</sup>

In observance of Christmas Day and New Year's Day, there will be no garbage, recycling or organics collection, or street cleaning on Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition, all DSNY administrative offices will be closed on those days.

Residents normally receiving Thursday recycling collection should not place their materials out at curbside until Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup> after 4 p.m. for collection on Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> because of the consecutive Thursday holidays.

Residents who normally receive Thursday refuse and organics collection should place their materials out at curbside Thursday evening after 4 p.m. Most residents will have their refuse collected a day or two after the holiday, however, some residents may not receive service until their next scheduled collection day. Thursday Organics will be collected on Friday after both holidays.

**Snow Removal Program:**

Recruitment has begun for emergency snow laborers for the upcoming snow season. Snow laborers are per diem workers who are called upon to remove snow and ice citywide from bus stops, crosswalks, fire hydrants and step streets in the City after heavy snowfalls. Individuals can register at DSNY garages or select Department of Transportation locations.

The list of DSNY garage locations can be found at the following link:

[www.nyc.gov/html/dsny/html/about/garage.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dsny/html/about/garage.shtml). The pay rate begins at \$12 per hour, and increases to \$18 after the first 40 hours in the week. For more information, and DOT locations review the following Press Release: [www.nyc.gov/html/dsny/html/pr2014/102214.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dsny/html/pr2014/102214.shtml).

**The Second Vice-Chair and DM attended** a Meet and Greet with the Commissioner of (DCA) Department of Consumer Affairs Julie Menin: A Conversation with Manhattan Community Boards and Borough President Gale Brewer was held on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The following was discussed in a PowerPoint Presentation:

#### **OVERVIEW:**

The Department of Consumer Affairs has four (4) major functions:

- Consumer Protection
- Labor
- Small Businesses
- Financial Empowerment

#### **INVESTIGATIONS:**

- **Sightseeing Buses:** A wide-ranging investigation of the sightseeing tour bus industry, Issuing subpoenas to all 14 companies licensed to operate in New York City, asking for important records;
- **Used Car Loans:** An unprecedented investigation was held into used car loans arranged by dealers, through subpoenas to Santander, one of the region's fastest growing banks;
- **Used Car Dealers:** Investigation into the scale of unrepaired recalled vehicles through subpoenas to 200 local dealers.

#### **PAID SICK LEAVE:**

- As of July 30, 2014, employees have the right to use sick leave for the care and treatment of themselves or a family member;
- DCA has docketed 287 valid complaints since April 1<sup>st</sup>;
- DCA has 6 outreach staff who speak Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Bengali, Russian, and Haitian Creole;
- DCA is mandated to provide materials in 7 languages, but has made materials available in 26 languages on its website;

## **LABOR:**

**LIVING WAGE:** On September 30, 2014, Mayor de Blasio issued an Executive Order raising the “Living Wage” in the New York City and dramatically expanding the number of employers who must pay these higher wages to their employees. Under the Order, not only are recipients of City subsidies required to pay the Living Wage, but so are their tenants, subtenants and contractors.

**TRANSIT BENEFITS:** On October 20, 2014, Mayor de Blasio enacted Intro 295-A, which requires NYC companies with 20 or more full-time employees to offer per-tax transit benefits.

## **SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF PACKAGE:**

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Reduce the number of violations for small businesses;
- Reduce the cost of violations for small businesses;
- Expand outreach and education

In FY2015, DCA’s goal is to reduce fines by \$5million.

### **REFORMS THAT REDUCE FINES:**

- Reduction in number of counts per violation type
- Reduction in amounts offered a settlement
- Implementation of Cure Law:
  - **“Curable Violations”**  
The Cure Law, which went into effect June 30, 2014, means businesses can correct many first-time, signage violations. When a business receives its first “curable” violation, it now has 30 days to correct the violation, self-certify that it has done so, and avoid paying a fine.
  - **Additional Warnings**

### **REFORMS PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY AND FAIRNESS:**

- **Inspection Checklists**
  - The 41 most common inspector checklists are now available online, and many of them are available in Spanish, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, Bengali, and Arabic
- **Inspections in preferred language**
  - Businesses can request that their DCA inspection be conducted in the language of their choice utilizing a translator over a cell phone
- **Reforms designed to Educate Small Business:**
  - Increase the number of frequency of Open Houses;
  - DCA Inspector available in the Licensing Center daily to answer questions and guide businesses on how to avoid fines;
  - Legal Ombudsman will be dedicated to answering questions for businesses and helping them navigate complicated rules

**OFFICE OF FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT:**

- **FREE** professional, confidential, one-on-one financial counseling
- Available to anyone who lives or works in NYC (age 18+)
- The City's 30 Financial Empowerment Centers are operated by five non-profit organizations

Since 2009, the Centers have:

- Completed more than 50,000 counseling sessions
- Helped New Yorkers accumulate more than \$3 million in savings
- Reduced \$19 million in debt

Access to Banking:

- NYC Direct Deposit – Free checking accounts to employees who directly deposit their pay checks has been established since 2011 approximately 8,500 employees have opened accounts

**TAX CREDIT CAMPAIGN:** In 2009, OFE launched the Tax Credit Campaign in partnership with Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and community providers (VITA)

- Safe and affordable tax filing options include:
  - FREE tax preparation by a certified volunteer
  - In-person VITA
  - Virtual VITA
  - FREE online tax preparation
  - Self Preparation
  - Assisted Self preparation

Since 2009, nearly 400,000 EITC returns have been filed for free at partner VITA sites, generating more than \$600 million in refunds while avoiding more than \$100 million tax preparation fees.

**Agency Updates:**

FDNY is providing CPR Training sessions across the five boroughs. The FDNY Mobile CPR Unit will host bystander CPR Training sessions at your location for groups of 15 or more.

**What FDNY offers:**

- Basic instruction on how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED)
- Certified FDNY EMS instructors
- Compressions-only mannequins and “watch-while-practice” DVD instruction
- Convenient locations throughout the New York City
- Parting gifts: key fobs with CPR instructions and access to the Life Saver app, which guides users through the CPR process, locates nearby AEDs, and keeps beats for 105 compressions per minute (available for I Phone & Android)

In addition to the Grant Program for private properties, DEP has a large capital construction program that builds green infrastructure on city-owned property such as streets and sidewalks, schools, and parkland. DEP also has in place storm-water management regulations for new developments and redevelopments. Over the next two decades, DEP is planning for \$1.5 billion in public funding, and another \$900 million in funding connected to new development or redevelopment, for targeted green infrastructure installations, as well as approximately \$2.9 billion in cost-effective grey infrastructure upgrades, to significantly reduce overflows and further improve the health of local waterways. For further information visit website at: [www.nyc.gov/dep](http://www.nyc.gov/dep).

DEP is pleased to announce the 2014 Toilet Replacement Program for qualified multi-family property owners. Participants receive a \$125 instant rebate on each new EPA WaterSense-labeled high-efficiency toilet purchased through DEP.

Eligible property owners can apply to participate in the 2014 Toilet Replacement Program using our user-friendly online application process, go to [www.nyc.gov/dep](http://www.nyc.gov/dep) and login to your my DEP account. (See attached brochure)

**Upcoming Events and Useful Information:**

**New York African Chorus Ensemble Inc.**

The Gathering VIII - Dialogue and Concert

Saturday, December 20th, 2014

IS. 210/21st Century Academy for Community Leadership

501-503 West 152nd Street (on Amsterdam Avenue)

4:00 p.m.

**For more information contact Joyce at (212) 862-4858 or Gloria at (212) 368-5444**

**The New York City Department of Sanitation**

NYC Recycles

Starting January 2015 it's illegal to discard electronics in the trash

For more information visit [www.nyc.gov/recycle](http://www.nyc.gov/recycle) or call 311

**Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement (HCCI)**

**Homebuyer Education Seminar Series**

Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Dr. Muriel Petioni Plaza

203 West 146<sup>th</sup> Street

(Between Frederick Douglas Boulevard and Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard)

6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

**For more information contact Rev. Dr. Charles Butler (212) 281-4887 ext. 231 or Willy Ramos at (212) 281-4887 ext. 206 (See attached Flyer)**

**Citizens Committee For New York City**

Community Improvement Project

Grant Application Information Sessions (see attached)

Application due Monday, January 26, 2015

**For more information contact Tehmina via telephone at (212) 822-9563 or via email at [tbrohi@citizensnyc.org](mailto:tbrohi@citizensnyc.org)**

**Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer is offering:**

Capital Grants Applications will be available early 2015

If you have any question regarding the capital grant process, please contact Sam Levine, First Deputy of Budget at [slevine@manhattanbp.nyc.gov](mailto:slevine@manhattanbp.nyc.gov) or call (212) 669-4814

For complete summary of the guidelines, please review the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) <http://www.nyc.gov/html/capgrants/downloads/exhibit1guidelines.pdf>

**Wishing EVERYONE a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!!!**

Respectfully Submitted,

Eutha Prince  
District Manger  
MCB9  
12/18/14

