

District Manager's Report

January - 2026

Summary Table of NYC Commissioners (Jan 2026)

<u>Agency / Office</u>	<u>Commissioner (or Head)</u>
Department of Transportation	Mike Flynn
Housing Preservation & Development	Dina Levy
Fire Department (FDNY)	Lillian Bonsignore
Consumer & Worker Protection	Sam Levine
Office of Mass Engagement	Tascha Van Auken
Mayor's Office to Protect Tenants	Cea Weaver
Police Department (retained)	

DOT Reported:

NYC DOT works with community-based organizations, educational institutions, and business groups to execute Open Streets citywide. In coordination with community partners, NYC DOT can also assist in developing operational plans to manage streets for multiple uses, including outdoor dining, programming, and outdoor learning/recreation for schools. NYC 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.

The 2026 application features important deadlines partners should consider before applying:

- For the first time this year all Open Streets proposed to launch in 2026 as a Limited Local Access or Full Closure, the application deadline is January 31, 2026.

New for 2026, Application deadlines for School Open Streets have changed:

- For Schools applying for an Open Street proposed to launch during the summer of 2026, before the start of the 2026-2027 academic year, the application deadline is January 31, 2026.
- For Open Streets proposed to launch at the beginning of the 2026-2027 academic year, there is an extended deadline of March 31, 2026.

For more information visit nyc.gov/OpenStreets. Applications should be submitted online through the Open Streets 2026 Application.

DSS Reported:

On the evening of **Tuesday, January 27, 2026**, for the Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE) survey. Your help in conducting this survey is essential to strengthening DSS's ability to deliver effective and efficient services to this group of particularly vulnerable New Yorkers. Most people volunteer in their own neighborhoods, and the HOPE survey is an important time to connect with constituents on a project to help those in need.

From approximately 10:00 PM to 4:00 AM, the night of the 27th, volunteers will fan out across the five boroughs to canvass neighborhoods to observe the number of people experiencing street homelessness. Just one night of your time will help them collect information that is critical to their efforts to move New Yorkers from the streets and into safe, stable environments.

DSS encourages you to sign up and join them. In addition, DSS is asking you to reach out to your networks and constituents to encourage them to help in these efforts as well. For further info, please click the following link: nyc.gov/hope.

DSNY Reported:

The New York City Department of Sanitation announced that it has transitioned its operations to its annual "Winter Schedule" with additional employees working overnight hours to allow for quicker and more effective snow operations work.

When snow is not in the forecast, Sanitation Workers scheduled for the night shift are frequently assigned to cleaning or collection duties, and as a result, residents may notice their trash, compost, and recycling collected at a slightly different time. **To ensure material is collected, residents are reminded to set material out by midnight on their scheduled day.**

This winter staffing is in addition to previously scheduled night work - all part of ongoing efforts to decrease the time that material sits on the streets to create a cleaner City with fewer rats. The winter schedule generally lasts at least through mid-April, but the Department will re-evaluate in the weeks and months to come.

The Department of Sanitation has a frontline defense of more than 700 salt spreaders dispatched at the first sign of frozen precipitation. Once two inches of snow has fallen on the City's streets and highways, the Department can deploy its more than 2,000 plow-equipped trucks to clear snow and ice. The Department is responsible for more than 19,000 lane-miles of roadway in the City. For further information on Sanitation services, call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/sanitation.

FDNY Reported:

The Fire Safety Education Program is working to eliminate residential fire deaths in New York City by teaching the public how to prevent fires and stay safe. Fire deaths have steadily declined over the years, and research shows that strong public education plays a key role in saving lives.

FDNY instructors provide ongoing education with a focus on the City's most vulnerable and at-risk communities. The program offers presentations at schools and community centers, visits to firehouses and EMS stations, hands-on learning through the Mobile Fire Safety Experience Trailer, outreach at community events and appearances by FDNY safety mascots to reinforce important fire and life safety messages.

FDNY Fire Safety Education Unit is specially trained to provide public education and community outreach presentations. To help ensure your request can be accommodated, please submit it at least two weeks in advance.

FDNY's mission is to promote the importance of fire and life safety education by teaching the public critical, life-saving strategies focused on fire prevention. FDNY deliver this education through presentations and informational table set-ups. Please note that they do not conduct training sessions or hands-on demonstrations.

For further info. and to request a Presentation, please click the following link: <https://www.fdnysmart.org/programs/safety/>

The Get Alarmed NYC program helps save lives by providing free smoke alarm installation and home fire safety education to residents across the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island. It is reported that working smoke alarms reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by about 60%.

As of August 2025, the FDNY, the FDNY Foundation, and the American Red Cross partnered to distribute and install thousands of free smoke alarms. New York City residents must submit their installation requests online at the following site: <https://www.fdnysmart.org/programs/safety/>.

Event Announcements/Employment Opportunities:

Call for Artists: Uptown Arts Stroll Poster Contest:

The 24th Uptown Arts Stroll poster contest is underway, submissions will be accepted through March 15th for the Grand prize \$2,000; second place \$1,000; 3rd prize \$500. Info & entry form can be obtained at <https://www.nomaany.org/poster-contest/>

Did you know?

Volunteers are needed for the Mulchfest 2026 Help NYC Parks chip Christmas trees, dropped off by residents of the neighborhood, and spread the woodchips in NYC gardens as a protective layer for plant roots during the winter.

Volunteers will help move trees to the woodchopper, remove any ornaments, strings, or bases from trees, and break down wreathes. Along with some hands-on work spreading mulch, this event will take place on

Saturday, January 10, 2026, 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. at the Fort Greene Visitor Center at the Fort Greene Park Northeast Entrance at Myrtle Ave & Washington Park, Brooklyn, NY 11205

Billboard advertising is prohibited under NYS Law. Recent amendments to the Packaging, Labeling, Marketing, and Advertising (PLMA) regulations provide details concerning these topics, including billboard advertising.

What Licensees Need to Know:

- Billboard advertising is prohibited under the law and regulations
- Billboard advertising includes outdoor signage larger than 55 square feet when located more than 100 yards from a licensed premises, or larger than 16 square feet when located more than 100 yards from a licensed premises.
- Billboards should be removed by February 24, 2026

After February 24, OCM will take additional steps to bring licensees into compliance with the billboard.

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps cover heating and cooling costs and prevents utility shutoffs.

Applications for the 2025 - 2026 winter heating season are now open for BOTH the *regular* and *emergency* benefit, and are distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

HEAP Applications close on April 7, 2026, or when funds run out.

To apply today for *regular benefit*, visit [ACCESS HRA](#), or click on link <https://access.nyc.gov/programs/home-energy-assistance-program-heap/#how-it-works> for more information.

To apply today for *emergency benefit*, call the DSS One Number at 718-557-1399 or apply in person at a HEAP office or Outreach location near you.

The Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement (HERR) benefit helps eligible homeowners repair or replace their furnace, boiler, and other direct heating equipment needed to keep their home's main heating source working. HERR is only given to eligible applicants once every ten years.

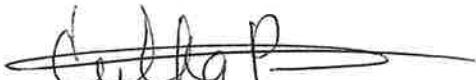
How much is the HERR benefit? HERR benefit amounts are based on the actual cost to repair or replace a furnace, boiler, and/or other essential heating equipment, up to \$4,000 for a repair and \$8,000 for a replacement.

To Apply:

If you need a copy of the application mailed to you, or need additional help, please call the following DSS One Number: 718-557-1399 or click link below:

https://www.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/energy-assistance.page?utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-nUUnW1MxBSHqM1y2aRC_mny6tpcdGQvyq9ODRZimvfNX8M-14SfWskI-ikzZ-G7Wsgfej2Y4I8pzho-FVsuljVLzkA&_hsmi=392439047&utm_content=392439047&utm_source=hs_email

Respectfully Submitted by,


Ethna Prince
District Manager
01/15/26

