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Gale A. Brewer, Borough President

October 12, 2021

Edward Grayson, Commissioner
NYC Department of Sanitation
44 Beaver Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10004

Dear Commissioner Grayson:

I write as a long-time supporter of composting and as someone who shares the Department of Sanitation's vision of diverting food scraps from New York City's waste stream.

In June, when DSNY began outreach in advance of restarting the curbside organics collection program, I promptly scheduled a briefing for my staff and invited members of DSNY's staff to present at the July Manhattan Borough Service Cabinet meeting before all 12 Manhattan Community Boards (CBs). I also held the "Think Outside the Trash" composting workshop in August during which a DSNY staff member explained the building enrollment process and participated in a panel discussion. Since August, members of my staff have promoted the program and shared the sign-up link at CB meetings, at community events, and via MBPO's newsletters and social media posts.

I along with Manhattan's 12 CBs and the Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board (MSWAB) stand ready to partner with DSNY's organics outreach team and request the following:

- Building enrollment data for each Manhattan Community District. My office and several CBs were informed that DSNY does not have a set number for activating a district. While I understand this rationale for creating efficient pickup routes, transparency with respect to enrollment numbers is crucial for identifying where to target resources for on-the-ground actions that my office, CBs, and MSWAB are ready to conduct.
- DSNY's long-term goals for curbside organics collection.
 - What is DSNY's projection for overall tonnage of organics collected in FY22 and in outgoing fiscal years, both citywide and in Manhattan?
 - What is the number of additional routes, households, and community districts DSNY anticipates it can serve with current funding by the end of FY22, including locations in Manhattan that may expect to receive service?
- Review of "dropped" signups. A co-op Board member received DSNY's confirmation email in August when he enrolled his building. However, when my office inquired, DSNY's staff did not find this building on record as having signed up. This is concerning both for the building's ability to participate in the program and for the district to be properly counted. What is DSNY's strategy for identifying buildings that were accidentally dropped?
- A breakdown of DSNY's organics program outreach. I am heartened that DSNY has been allotted \$5.6 million in new funding in FY22 for outreach for curbside composting. Many Manhattanites have shown me the DSNY composting mailer they received, and DSNY's organics outreach team continues to connect with resident leaders and building

managers to promote the program. Can you please provide a summary of how the \$5.6 million is being spent across outreach strategies (e.g., mass mailing, media expenditures, direct engagement)? This will help inform my office and our partners on contributions we could make to fill any gaps in funding or capacity.

Manhattanites are eager to begin curbside organics collection. Through working together on community outreach, I believe expanding curbside organics collection into Manhattan districts is achievable by the end of the year. I look forward to receiving your response and the requested information to better reach all districts in the borough.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gale A. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President

cc: Bridget Anderson, DSNY Deputy Commissioner of Recycling and Sustainability
Tammy Meltzer, Chair, Manhattan Community Board 1
Jeannine Kiely, Chair, Manhattan Community Board 2
Alysha Lewis-Coleman, Chair, Manhattan Community Board 3
Lowell Kern, Chair, Manhattan Community Board 4
Vikki Barbero, Chair, Manhattan Community Board 5
Kyle Athayde, Chair, Manhattan Community Board 6
Steven Brown, Chair, Manhattan Community Board 7
Russell Squire, Chair, Manhattan Community Board 8
Barry Weinberg, Chair, Manhattan Community Board 9
Cicely Harris, Chair, Manhattan Community Board 10
Nilsa Orama, Chair, Manhattan Community Board 11
Eleazar Bueno, Chair, Manhattan Community Board 12
Matthew Civello, Chair, Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board