COMMISSION DIRECTIVE

To all licensees and registrants:

On July 17, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 crisis, Mayor Bill de Blasio extended the Open Restaurants Program, announcing 26 additional locations of the program that combines the Open Restaurants and Open Streets programs. The Open Restaurants Program gives nearly 9,000 participating restaurants until October 2020 to serve diners in safe, socially-distant, outdoor spaces. To date, 47 corridors throughout the five boroughs have been opened to pedestrians and approved for expanded street dining on car-free streets. The streets will be open to pedestrian traffic and emergency vehicles. The selected corridors will be closed to motorists on Fridays from 5-11 P.M., and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 11 P.M.

Pedestrians and cyclists can use the roadbed of each open street. No through traffic will be permitted except for limited access for local deliveries, pick-ups/drop-offs, necessary city service vehicles, and emergency vehicles. Permitted drivers are alerted to be vigilant and to drive no faster than 5 MPH along these streets.

All licensees and registrants are hereby directed to complete waste collection in the affected areas between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Customers in the affected areas should also be notified that service may be interrupted or altered accordingly; licensees and registrants should communicate with their customers to ensure waste is collected in an orderly fashion. Business Integrity Commission (BIC) enforcement agents will be patrolling the affected areas to ensure compliance with this directive. For more information regarding the Open Restaurants Program, please visit the Department of Transportation website at: https://www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/pedestrians/openrestaurants.shtml#map.

A map of the affected areas can be located at: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ba953db7d541423a8e67ae1cf52bc698. You are hereby directed to review this list of affected areas thoroughly for sections that include your company’s work sites or pick-up routes. Please note, this list may not be all-inclusive.

Additionally, licensees collecting waste from restaurants that have reopened – including those operating as part of the Open Restaurants Program – should encourage those restaurants to resume waste collection services to ensure that waste is properly collected and does not accumulate.
Failure to comply with this directive may result in administrative penalties and/or fines up to $10,000. See 17 RCNY 1-09. Failure to comply with this directive may also affect your company’s licensing or registration status with BIC.

Sincerely,

Noah D. Genel
Commissioner and Chair