



The City of New York
Borough of Queens



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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

DEP/Sanitation Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, January 23, 2019
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Community Board 8 Office
197-15 Hillside Avenue
Hollis, NY 11423

Kevin Forrestal, DEP / Sanitation Committee Chair

Board Members: James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Mohammed Tohin

Also in attendance: Nicholas Circharo, DSNY Assistant Director, Community Affairs
Keith A. Morgan, Resident
Marie Adam-Ovide, Community Board 8 District Manager
Jatna Reyes, Community Board 8 Staff

Mr. Forrestal called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Each attendee introduced him/herself.

Purpose:

This meeting will be more concerned with the Sanitation side of this Committee. It will involve a discussion about proliferation of advertisements illegally affixed on NYC utility poles (*i.e.* *Cash4Cars* etc.), enforcement and policies.

Kevin Forrestal: Mr. Forrestal began by stating that there seems to be a rampant disregard concerning enforcement on posting. These posters appear everywhere; sometimes on living trees, lampposts, stop signs, etc. Sometimes they appear very high and make removal difficult.

John Gebhard: *[to Mr. Forrestal] – Do you make a distinction between the ones that are commercial printing about the buying of cars and the ones that are having a yard sale or renting an apartment?*

Answer: *[Kevin Forrestal]* – No. I personally don't. The law does not make that distinction.

Nicholas Circharo: stated that the only postings that can be allowed are: official City of New York work orders for work on trees, on the street, or when the New York City Police Department (NYPD) has an event and requests no parking.

Kevin Forrestal: To [Mr. Circharo] – generally they disappear after the work or the event is over. The concern we have is that there is a lot of commercial activity and, in some cases, it is doing harm (*i.e. on trees, cleanliness of the neighborhood*). There are substantial fines that, if imposed, I think would make a real deterrent. The ability to use rebuttable presumption with the identity information of the poster is valuable.

Nicholas Circharo: Mr. Circharo gave a brief outline of the process of enforcement on illegal posting. The first step is running the 311 complaints into the system (*calling 311 to report the condition for illegal posting*). He stated that in 2018 there were only twelve (12) complaints called into 311 for Community Board 8. In 2017, there were only thirty-three (33) unlike in Districts 3 & 4 where there are hundreds of complaints filed in a year. The DSNY posting unit is not very large; their enforcement unit, in general, is not very large. It's driven heavily by 311 complaints, like NYPD's. If there are a lot of complaints coming from a District, it warrants a lot more enforcement resources.

Marc A. Haken: [To Mr. Circharo] – *Are you telling us that the squeaky wheel gets oiled?*

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – It does. The 311 system does help in that regard. These were the only twelve (12) complaints we got. I printed it out with the locations. This would be the first thing to do. I would say, when we are looking at those numbers on 311. When he spoke with the District Super and looking at those numbers, he would assume that there isn't a large issue with illegal posting. What you guys are seeing in the actual District is what's more important.

Nicholas Circharo: The enforcement is not as easy it once was a couple of years ago.

Marc A. Haken: *May I stop you for a minute. You told me about reporting. What about reports that come through the Community Board office to you. Are they counted separate?*

Answer: [Kevin Forrestal] – They still are. They go through the 311 system also.

DM Adam-Ovide: Before we go on, I just want to say, this past year in 2018, one of our Council Members has been doing clean-up and a lot of our complaints have gone to their office.

Nicholas Circharo – To [DM Adam-Ovide] – *What are they? Wildcats?*

Answer: [DM Adam-Ovide] – Yes.

Nicholas Circharo – In all honesty, we are having this issue with Council Member Moya in Q3 & Q4 which are probably the worst Districts in the City in terms of illegal posting. The enforcement aspect is not as useful as it once was maybe two or three years ago. They had a negative court ruling on their process. Originally, they were just able to mail the fines if a valid address or telephone number with an address was on the poster (*i.e. if there were 100 posters with an address, they were able to send the fines all at once to the same address*). They ruled against this policy and forced them to write a warning letter first. This is a common thing amongst other cities. They have the same warning period, too, for illegal posting in Philadelphia. It is something that the legal team has advised based on their warning period. They have ten (10) days to remove all of the posting once the warning letter is issued. If the postings aren't removed during this period, a summons is issued based on the number of posters that are out there. Sometimes this doesn't work as phone numbers and addresses of the posting are constantly changed. He explained that a lot of Council Members are fighting this, trying to figure out if there is something that can be done legislatively. DSNY is fully supporting changing this so that they don't have to do the warning period.

John Gebhard: To [Mr. Circharo] – *Do you have any indication or knowledge of the people putting these things up? Are they getting money? Do these things produce results? I mean they must, since they are putting them up.*

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – Most of the business that are the worst are: Cash4Cars, We Buy Houses. They are basically preying on these vulnerable neighborhoods, usually low-income neighborhoods. We also see a lot of illegal conversions and illegal real estate companies that are

not legit. The posters are renting out illegally converted houses which, luckily for us, we can report to the Department of Buildings (DOB) and there is a much heavier fine if the DOB inspector finds a code violation. DSNY has been working on this with Anthony Iuliano from DOB.

Nicholas Circharo: Stated that working with DOB on this has been very successful. The agency's team goes out to these locations. They do not have a very big team and sometimes the people do not want to meet at the location, they want to meet somewhere else or they are showing you a different thing. Despite this, they have had success. Their biggest success was in District 12. Over the summer, they organized that every single Saturday, they had a group of volunteers and they will just remove the posters down. Council Member Moya is looking to do the same thing. Combining this with DOB and maybe the media, this can be some sort of deterrent for those people not to do it again. Speaking with the representative from Philadelphia today, he also learned that there are websites hiring people to put up posters (*i.e. craigslist*). They also did mini grants for community groups in relation to posting, this is something the agency is looking to do again. If you are a registered community group, they would basically give you \$0.50 per sign up to \$250. They had over 9,000 signs pulled down. Obviously, here in NYC we have more than 9,000 signs. Council Members have funded similar things like this for the agency.

Michael Hannibal: *To [Mr. Circharo] – Can you walk me through a process if you can? If I have someone in my neighborhood that calls 311 now, they get a confirmation number, is that information sent to your department? What happens after that?*

Answer: *[Mr. Circharo] – This is why is good to put the complaints into 311. It works better if the Community Board puts it in and sends it to me and I'll send the location for enforcement directly. If you just want them to be pulled down, which I think is the more efficient way for them to just be removed and forget about the fines they will get. The process is that they get the warning. We have to wait two weeks to see if they take them down. If they don't, they can get a \$25 fine. What's that going to do for them? I can just say to the District or to enforcement, "Can you send illegal posting to take this down?" I can have the unit take them down faster.*

Kevin Forrestal: *To [Mr. Circharo] – I am interested in enforcement because if the people that are putting it up are not getting fined for it, for us it would basically be like cleaning up a public bathroom. It will be done over and over again. It is also according to the handbook. The minimum fine is \$75, then \$200 is for the first fine. The decision that you said that has to have a warning, do you know what that case was?*

Answer: *[Mr. Circharo] – I can find out for you.*

I can see where somebody said you can have some sort of warning but in addition to giving a warning, I think it will be ideal to run a campaign kind of thing, like "If you do this, it is against the law and you will be fined" "Don't drink and drive" kind of thing.

Answer: *[Mr. Circharo] – As an agency, we did put out a Request for Proposal (RFP). It is a marketing base company. I do not know where we are with it exactly but it was a lot for campaigns around (*i.e. anti-littering, picking up after your dog etc.*).*

DM Adam-Ovide: *To [Mr. Circharo] – Is the City planning on going back to the courts?*

Answer: *[Mr. Circharo] – Yes. We have been fighting the decision. Just recently, they learned that in Philadelphia the first fine is \$300 and it goes up to \$2,000. We had them send us their legislation to share with the team and see if we can figure out how their system lets them have a more severe fine with their warning process and if there is any way we can have that here with our administrative law judges.*

Kevin Forrestal: *To [Mr. Circharo] – I don't think it is the administrative law judges. I think maybe the City and its legal team needs to fight this.*

Nicholas Circharo: The process has to be made easier though. The number of summonses issued went down dramatically the year after that decision was made.

Kevin Forrestal: *To [Mr. Circharo] – I don't think enforcement should be based on a 311 complaint or a Community Board call. If we have to change the fines to make them payable to do it, if you have people out [Sanitation Police] and if they are looking for it. This is not something they are out there looking for, this is something that needs to be identified.*

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – Posting has its own specific unit. The guys that are out doing the enforcement during routing times, they also look for illegal signs but their main focus will be cleanliness related issues (*i.e. cleaning of sidewalks, littering, illegal dumping etc.*). Posting is definitely on their radar but because we have a posting unit separately, it might not be the main focus.

What is the personnel level of the posting unit?

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – It is not very high. I think there might be ten (10) people for the whole City.

These posters are all over the place. If the fines are enforceable maybe we can have a stop to this and if they are not, maybe this might be something we will have to have our Elected Officials and others look at.

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – A lot of these guys are smart. The “Cash4Cars” and the “We Buy Houses” almost exclusively telephone numbers without addresses and makes it almost impossible to send them a warning letter for us to begin with the process.

Nicholas Circharo: stated that the things these people are doing are much rewarded. If they pay someone \$100 to put posters up and they actually buy the house or the car, it is ten (10) times more.

Marc A. Haken: *To [Mr. Circharo] – My key concern in regards to this is that we know it is not enforceable. We can sit here and talk about it all night. These signs, especially the ones that are high above, are hard to reach. They are 20 ft. to 25 ft. high.*

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – Yes, DOT handles the signs high above.

The coordination that's supposed to exist between Sanitation and DOT. I live close by here. There is a shopping center on Hillside Avenue and 202nd Street. There are signs posted high above all the time. I call it in once a week. The ones that I cannot remove. Two, three months later, one or two are still up there and once removed they are back up again within days. We have dedicated basket pick up, can they look up and see if there is a sign up there and write down to have it removed?

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – The guys who pick up the garbage, their job that day is to pick up trash and that's what they'll do. There are section supervisors who are responsible for doing things like that. The district super is also responsible for monitoring the 311 complaints and driving around the district. As to the guys who are picking up trash, we have to make sure they complete their route, do it on time and make sure the trash is disposed of on time.

So why can't the section supervisors be supervised to ensure that they are doing that particular task?

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – They are doing that. Some things are under other agencies' jurisdictions. They are less likely to mark that down because it is not work for them (*i.e. If it is a sign located high on a pole, it is Dot's responsibility*).

But the report goes into Sanitation.

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – If the report goes into us, they'll go out and if it is 25 ft. up, it gets re-directed to DOT. The best way to get these postings off quickly, is calling 311 and forwarding the 311 complaint number to DOT. The 311 system is the system we want to use to keep track of all incoming complaints. The Community Boards have the contacts with all of those offices and can get it done. We would like to have these numbers on record, that way we know if we need more people, more resources and things like that.

DM Adam-Ovide: *To [Mr. Circharo] – So, I shouldn't send my list to Councilman Barry Grodenchik's office? I should file the 311 complaint first? I want to know because going to*

Grodenchik office has been working for us. They only have one portion of the District, the other portion does not have Wildcats.

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – Well, he has Wildcats. The other side of the district where he does not have Wildcats, you can share it with us. It's great that they are taking care of it. I'll just say that, that pile of money might not be here next year. That discretionary funding, the clean-up initiative is part of the things that I do. You never know year to year.

Marc A. Haken: To [Mr. Circharo] – We, the Community Board, fill a role in that part also.

When we have our Budget Hearings and you would come to us and say we would like A,B,C and we discuss it and we decide, yea that's vital to us. Then, we are another soldier in the army; it is us as a Community Board who go and say to our City Councilmen what we want for our district.

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – The past couple of years, when the clean-up initiative started, the City has been in a surplus almost every single year. The clean-up initiative went from like \$60,000 a member to \$200,000 a member last year. I would say if something happens where we were in a deficit and you had to cut back, we tend to go back to the essential services of the City (the programs that there is discretionary funding for).

Michael Hannibal: To [Mr. Circharo] – I have two questions for you. What is Wildcats?

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – Wildcats is like a Doe Fund. They are all not-for-profit groups. They hire, I would say, former people who were in prison and couldn't get jobs. They perform cleaning similar to what the businesses should be doing. They would bag garbage. They won't remove it but will bag it, would clean-up vacant lots (*those we are allowed to get on*). They'll also do poster removals, snow removal, graffiti removal etc.

Now, we don't have that here?

DM Adam-Ovide: To [Mr. Hannibal] – No. Not on your side.

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – Your City Council Members, if they have funding, they can use it for that.

DM Adam-Ovide – [To Mr. Circharo] – Rory Lancman does not do the clean-up for posting. He does garbage clean-up.

Marc A. Haken – [To Mr. Hannibal] – This is our version of the Doe Fund.

Nicholas Circharo – The Doe Fund got pushed out. Wildcats started employing homeless and paying people more. The Doe Fund had some issues with how much they were actually paying. There were of couple bad press stories. All of a sudden, other groups came and ended up taking the vast majority of the fund.

Michael Hannibal – [To Mr. Circharo] – You said there are 10 enforcers for the entire New York City?

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – I believe. I can get the exact number. It is actually on the Budget Consultation report. I'll get it for you though.

The reason I am asking for that is, if I am in Forest Hills, I know they have a covenant or something. Certain rules and regulations like you can't park there and all the other stuff.

John Gebhard – [To Mr. Hannibal] – That's all Forest Hills.

Michael Hannibal – [To Mr. Circharo] – Is that something that keeps the posters down? Having that type of posting, because there is an actual sign that said, "\$25-\$200 fine". You can't barely walk in that area without seeing these signs. I barely see posting or anything of that nature around there. I am wondering if that is something that is visible for areas like ours, to put like stronger signs would help alleviate this condition since you don't have enough enforcers?

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – Probably, 10 years ago that the Sanitation Department stopped putting up these types of signs. The Department of Transportation decided that they wanted to get rid of

what they deemed non-essential signs (i.e. No Standing, No Parking etc. on meters or poles). Both agencies stated that it wasn't working well, so they cut the signage. We haven't had signs since. ***There are private companies that have made signage in certain places. I am not sure. If you want to put signs on a City pole you have to seek approval. People have made up signs and have put it on their businesses or on their lawns.***

Marc A. Haken – [To Mr. Circharo] – ***In all Forest Hills Gardens, they are not City poles. The community owns the poles. They are a private community.***

Answer: [Mr. Forrestal] – Yes. They also pay for snow removal and things like that. A section of Whitestone also has that. It is a major task, you are taking over the City's role.

Nicholas Circharo – There could be some strategic locations where you can put signage on something that might be private. In Staten Island there is a row of businesses where there was illegal dumping and they all put signs on their buildings. We let them use our fines information and our logo to make it look more official. If there is an area that is very egregious, it might be worth approaching some of the businesses to see if they can put something like that up in a spot that is visible. DOT doesn't really want to put anything on the poles.

DM Adam-Ovide – [To Mr. Circharo] – There is no light at the end of the tunnel? There is no hope that one day we will be able to have the signs for cleaning up after the dogs. I think because New York is such an immigrant City, people come from all over the world. That means they won't have the same rules that we have here. Who is going to tell them that they are not allowed to do this [leave the poop on the ground]? I don't want to blame it on immigrants as a whole but even children of immigrants for example, they have a little dog, and do they know that they are not supposed to do this? You know, there are no signs.

John Gebhard – ***They have to be more visionary. A huge portion of the population of the greater New York City is functionally illiterate.***

Answer: [DM Adam-Ovide] – Yes. They should definitely have signs for that.

Nicholas Circharo – ***We are looking to get similar to the Bioswales how they have these things that go into the garden beds that you put in signs, like “pick up after your dog”.***

Answer: [Marc Haken] – We are very familiar with Bioswales.

The quote we got was very expensive, like \$9 a sign. It was just a crazy amount for the quantity we were going to order. We were going to order like 50,000 of them. It turned out to be really expensive. We are trying to get some new quotes. This was something that I took up, because of getting so many of picking up after your dog complaints. We made those little like dog bones and brought them out to some events that had the bags in them. We were just giving them out. We are trying to figure out some sort of creative way we can use signage that is not on the poles and hopefully not \$10 a sign. We are trying to go through some different vendors to see which one is cheaper.

Kevin Forrestal – [To Mr. Circharo] – ***Do you have universal signs? You don't need words because the other problem is language. Especially if you are talking about approaching many different languages.***

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – Yes, it is very difficult. At least, with a picture of the dog and like \$200 fine on it. It might register. A lot of times we see in a lot of spots, that the signage that remains up is useful in some spots, especially with illegal dumping. We actually have it for signage that have faded away, we have stickers that we can put on the sign so you can still display the message.

Michael Hannibal – [To Mr. Circharo] – We going to need some of those.

Kevin Forrestal – [To Mr. Circharo] – Based on what you said, I just had a thought. There is a new committee that just established “The Complete Count Committee”. It is bringing a very large number of communities together. We may be able to see if I can potentially have some sort of

orientation to newcomers to this country and explain to them that this is some customs you will encounter and we would like you to maintain your heritage and traditions but there should be some assimilations into the laws.

Keith A. Morgan (Resident) – They used to do that back in the days. They used to put that in a package for the ones that were coming aboard. When I was a young man, they had the Sanitation data posted. There were police on corners and they were doing their job. Now, nobody cares. They don't do their job.

Mohammed Tohin – The neighborhood I live, you hardly going to see an immigrant. You will see dog poop everywhere. You hardly going to see the most immigrant with dogs, you're going to see maybe 2% immigrant owning dogs. The people come here, they definitely know the rules. Ignorance is everywhere, whether immigrants or born here. So please, you know.

John Gebhard – My point was that there are so many languages, it is hard to address.

DM Adam-Ovide – [To Mr. Tohin] – What I wanted to explain Mohammed is that for example, when I came here to this country, as an immigrant, as a child, they had these posters. My parents saw these posters, I didn't have a dog but I had the posters that said these were the rules. So, I can only imagine how I would know, if my parents came here; and I came here and have I never seen these posters. If I don't have them in my country of origin, how am I to know as someone who was new to this country what the rules are. That was my point. We have so many rules in New York City. That is why from time to time I put them on my newsletter, hoping that people will know about them. When you move here from somewhere else, we don't have a book that said, these are going to be all the rules to follow in New York City, read up. I have this book about DSNY Rules & Regulations in the office, must people don't know it exist. They have it online, but if you don't know that this exist, you won't even go online to look for it. I am not blaming the immigrants, by any means.

Kevin Forrestal – *When we come on to this Board, it was mandatory that every two years we have to sit in an orientation. If someone comes in from a totally different culture, I think it will be beneficial not necessarily to talk about dog dirt but about the whole process of government.*

Answer: [Mohammed Tohin] – The problem is that we don't have enough signs.

Yes, and other things that we can do outreach in. If I go and speak, somebody comes from the City. What I am thinking is not having the City do the orientation but the various groups that represent other people, speak to their own people. If you speak to people from your community it will be far more effective, then if I speak to them. If I speak to people that are more cultural aligned with me, it will be more receptive. It's just a thought.

Marc A. Haken – [To Mr. Circharo] – I think that we all agree, that signs are beneficial. You mentioned something before. In Canada, there are non-verbal signs. Forget about words, to use international signs and inter-fight for that.

Answer: [Kevin Forrestal] – Yes, they are universal signs.

Nicholas Circharo – I think a lot of Community Boards will be on board with this type of signage.

Answer: [Mr. Haken] – Let's start a crusade. Mr. Chair [to Mr. Forrestal] can you put something together to send to every Community Board in the City with that idea.

Michael Hannibal – *Just emphasize my point. When we use to have walk on walk lights (street lights). All of a sudden, it is a radiated man or a hand or something. People are not even using text anymore, the signs will be more of an addition to dog tail that type of process. Just that there has to be clever.*

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – I think it could possibly start small, like each Community Board gets 15 signs and you put them up and DOT can make it acceptable.

Marc A. Haken – Like Mr. Circharo mentioned before, people are people. They can be reached through fines, which means you generate more inspectors, you need more money. On a global perspective, we are seeing some minute. To us over here, is a selected bottle. I think that the non-verbal signage is a major battle.

Michael Hannibal – *[To Mr. Circharo] – I just want to go over something you said earlier about the scams of these posters. One thought that came in my mind, you’re saying that if you call and there is some transaction going on, was there any thought in doing something like this, where someone who is an enforcer goes out there and puts a face to all these illegal posting activity.*

Answer: *[Mr. Circharo] – If we gather the person and we meet them, we will still have to issue them a warning letter because that is the procedure. We still have to give 10 days to remove it. Sometimes you would call back and the number is no longer in service.*

Nicholas Circharo – Mr. Circharo stated that he would like to have a list of all the locations that have illegal postings currently so that he can have them removed as soon as possible. They will remove the ones they can remove. He mentioned that what is working with Council Member Grodenchik and Wildcats is great but obviously they won’t receive any fines. He will contact Grodenchik’s office to check on the locations they have to see if the locations Wildcats have gone to, are locations that are on their radar and they have sent warning letters. For the other side of the District that does not have Wildcat, he believes removing them is the most effective way of just getting them down. He requested that 311 complaints be filed and locations be sent to him so he can routed out for removal.

DM Adam-Ovide – *[To Mr. Circharo] – The City cannot just go and remove them?*

Answer: *[Mr. Circharo] – We can go out there and remove them but we can’t do the enforcement aspect of it. The quicker they come down, the message they get that the postings won’t stay up for a long time.*

James Gallagher Jr. – *[To Mr. Circharo] – The 12 locations you mentioned that were submitted in 2018 for illegal posting, can you share that with us?*

Answer: *[Mr. Circharo] – Yea, sure. I will email you a copy. I’ll also get you copies of the book of codes since the one you guys have is old.*

Kevin Forrestal – *[To Mr. Circharo] – When you get back to the office can you let them know to request more funding for posting.*

Answer: *[Mr. Circharo] – We have gotten a lot for requests about funding during the Budget Consultations from different Community Boards. I will take this back and let them know. Our enforcement unit wants this.*

One of the things I can say from speaking in Civic groups is that our people are getting tired of saying, “you have to call this in” and they don’t see results.

DM Adam-Ovide – Sometimes when they call us, they don’t give us enough information. They’ll tell you, “The signs are all over Utopia Parkway” but won’t specify the location. Marc Haken is really good at giving us specific locations where illegal postings are located.

Kevin Forrestal – *Thanked Mr. Circharo for coming to this meeting. He mentioned to everyone that that after the November 2018 snow storm, he thinks there was an overreaction on salting the streets. The amount of salt on the street is going to cause electrical problems.*

Answer: *[Mr. Circharo] – I would love if the Community Board can write a letter to the mayor and the Commissioner on this.*

I will do that. Do I have concurrence from the committee that we send this letter?

Marc A. Haken made a motion in agreement to send a letter to the Mayor’s Office and the Commissioner of the Department of Sanitation in regards to the over salting of streets on the last snowstorm in November 2018 seconded by, Michael Hannibal.

Voted in favor: 6

Voted Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Board Members who voted in favor: Kevin Forrestal, John Gebhard, Michael Hannibal, Marc A. Haken, James Gallagher Jr. and Mohammed Tohin.

Board Members who voted against: None

DM Adam-Ovide – *Stated that a lady spoke to them last night at a meeting showing how she disposed of three paintings (art work). She received a violation, first of all, they said it was sheet rock and it wasn't. If you have paintings that can't really fit in your can, how are you suppose to get rid of them? She received a violation in the morning and another one in the afternoon.*

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – Rule of thumb is, everything loose should be tighten up. This may be the reason why she received the violation.

She fought the tickets, one she won and the other one she lost. They said that the reason why she received a violation was because the painting was sheet rock. She clearly showed in the picture that it was not. I don't know who the judge was.

Michael Hannibal – *I am in an RI zone. Wexford Terrace has multiple dwellings around. The things that he sees that are put out in the multi-dwelling for disposals, he can never put them in front of his home because he would receive a violation (i.e. exercise bike, furniture etc.).*

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – Certain items have to be picked up through a bulk collection pick up. You can submit a request at: www.nyc.gov/bulk.

James Gallagher Jr. – [To Mr. Circharo] – Community Board 11 in their newsletter for January, they mentioned about organic pick-up. They are thinking of having it twice a week, is that possible? Or is that going to be a new norm?

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – No. A lot of them were going hybrid because of the bulk issue in general. When there was organic collection on both days we would have to have the split truck and there was a lot of stuff that couldn't fit. I don't think they are on two day pick up I am not sure. Most Districts that were on a two-day pick up went on one-day pick up (*for the organics collection*).

Kevin Forrestal – [To Mr. Circharo] – How is the bulk going?

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – Since they change to hybrid, much better.

What about as far as getting to the potential of what they would like to recycle? I mean the brown bins usually fill-up quickly.

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – We are capturing as much as we can now, but we go by that this is a voluntary program. For yard waste, you can have your bin if it's too small.

John Gebhard – [To Mr. Circharo] – Does the City has a policy on garbage disposal in the sink.

Answer: [Mr. Circharo] – No. I don't know if DEP has an issue with that.

Answer: [Mr. Forrestal] – It's illegal. I believe there is a regulation.

DM Adam-Ovide – I don't think so. The Fire Department has them.

Mr. Forrestal thanked everyone for coming to this meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jatna Reyes, Community Board 8 Staff

February 6, 2019