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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Sanitation and Environment Committee
Thursday, February 19, 2026 – 6:30 pm
This meeting was conducted via Zoom

Minutes

CB8 Attendance: Danielle Avissar, Lori Bores, Sahar Husain (co-chair), and Addeson Lehv (co-chair).

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 18

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Item 1: Discussion of sidewalk cleanliness near the MET Museum.

Co-Chair Lehv described the initial catalyst for the conversation was that individuals were feeding birds near the MET Museum. This ultimately dirties the sidewalk and attracts birds, thereby leading to increased bird waste on streets. He then opened the conversation to a more general discussion with neighborhood constituents, committee members, and Brice Peyre from City Council Member Virginia Maloney's office about sidewalk cleanliness and particularly animal waste on the sidewalk. Peyre asked these stakeholders to flag issues related to this topic and to consider how to address these issues.

The subsequent discussion included (but was not limited to) the following (organized in roughly chronological order):

- CB8 Member Danielle Avissar expressed concern about the speed (or lack thereof) of snow removal on the Upper East Side following the January 2026 snowstorm. Co-Chair Lehv suggested the board office reach out to the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) and encouraged her to continue calling 311.
- One member of the public expressed concern about dog owners not picking up dog waste, especially following the snowstorm. She also expressed concern about bird feeding at the East 72nd Street cul-de-sac, which leads to birds brooding in windows and doormen having to clean up the streets. She suggested increased penalties for those who do not clean up after their pet or those who feed the birds. In addition, she suggested an increase in pet licensing, paired with educational programs to encourage owners to be mindful of pet waste.
- Peyre explained that Council Member Maloney's office has been in contact with DSNY. He explained that he would bring this up with Council Member Maloney about the idea of increasing the amount of the fine. However, he explained the issue is challenging because officials need to: (1) catch the dog in the act, and (2) catch the dog owner walking away.
- Co-Chair Sahar Husain suggested that there be an increase in public education efforts to encourage pet owners to pick up waste. She suggested a flyer that could be distributed at local veterinary offices. Peyre agreed that this could be helpful, and suggested he'd talk to DSNY to

get informational flyers on the mobile electronic kiosks and get "earned media" around the issue. CB8 Member Lori Bores also agreed that flyers in veterinary offices would be helpful.

- Two other members of the public, who are landlords, suggested that landlords, property owners, and building owners discuss animal maintenance with tenants and educate them about local sanitation rules. They suggested the city let landlords know that they share the responsibility in ensuring clean, animal waste-free streets. This could potentially even take the form of a fine.
- CB8 Member Bores suggested writing an article to raise awareness about this issue, particularly why there is an increase in unclean dog waste on the street following snowstorms.

Co-Chair Lehv concluded the conversation by highlighting the three themes that emerged from the discussion and next steps to each:

1. Addressing dog waste and putting together some sort of information pamphlet that could be distributed to dog owners, veterinary offices, landlords, etc.
2. Addressing bird waste and pushing for increased enforcement on the street to prevent bird feeding. Indeed, perhaps just two weeks of enforcement in an area where there is a lot of bird feeding might break the cycle of birds returning to the area for food.
3. Addressing the speed of the snow removal after the January 2026 snowstorm and having the board office reach out to DSNY about expediting that process.

Item 2: Presentation by Professor Solecki on the new Campus + Community Environmental Sustainability Partnership (CCESP) Program at Hunter College.

Professor Solecki explained that the purpose of the new Campus + Community Environmental Sustainability Partnership is to connect the environmental work at Hunter College with its local community. Hunter College seeks to connect the resources of institutions of higher education with the interests of local residents, thereby improving the lives of these residents. Hunter College hopes to foster long-term relationships with the neighborhood in a sustained way through programmatic engagement.

These programmatic efforts would focus on environmental sustainability, including quality of life issues, economic development, and natural hazards. The aim of the program is to foster co-benefits for both Hunter College students and the neighborhood. Potential problems include undergraduate capstone research projects, class projects, work with community-based organizations, and community training sessions led by Hunter faculty. The idea is to have continuity: students could work on documenting a sanitation issue in the neighborhood, and future students can continue to work on this same project. That is, rather than the project ending when a student graduates, for example, future students can continue to work on the project, thus creating a database or policy proposals for Hunter College affiliates and local community members to use.

Item 3: Old Business - None discussed.

Item 4: New Business - None discussed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 pm.

Sahar Husain and Addeson Lehv, Co-Chairs