Valerie S. Mason
Chair

Ian McKnight
District Manager

505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com – Website
info@cb8m.com – E-Mail

The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Sanitation and Environment Committee
Tuesday, October 20, 2026 – 6:30 pm
This meeting was conducted via Zoom

Please note: The resolution contained in the committee minutes is a recommendation submitted by the committee co-chairs to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolution is discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.

MINUTES

CB8 Attendance: John McClement, Sarah Chu, Sahar Husain (co-chair), and Addeson Lehv (co-chair).

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 12

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

Item 1: Introduction on the MSWAB (Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board).

Katherine Finn and Jackie Ruggiero from the Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board (MSWAB) presented their work. MSWAB is having conversations with all Manhattan community boards to share what they are doing and to learn more about areas of interest for solid waste and zero-waste management in each community board district.

The outcome of these conversations is to use what they've gathered to update priorities for the following year and to determine new initiatives.

Katherine shared a slideshow describing the history of MSWAB, the composition of each board (like community boards, members are appointed by the Borough President), and background about the waste that New York is seeing. The slideshow is attached, but some highlights are below:

- New York City generates about 13 million tons of waste each year. Roughly 30% of that is residential waste.
- 97% of Manhattan's residential trash is burned by incinerators. This is one of the least effective ways to manage trash as it's more polluting than landfills. Further, most of the incinerators are in environmental justice communities.
- MSWAB engages with Manhattan through three main ways: (1) citizen engagement and education about waste systems, (2) policy education and outreach, and (3) a promotion of waste reduction strategies.
- Over the past year, MSWAB has been focused on increased diversion from trash to recycling or compost, zero waste sent to landfills or incinerators, and reducing private waste transfer stations in overburdened communities.
- MSWAB collaborated with its Brooklyn counterpart to create a Waste Data Tracking website.

Co-Chair Husain then opened the discussion to community board members and the public to hear how they could work with MSWAB. The discussion included (but was not limited to) the following points:

- Questions about MSWAB's views on the upcoming Empire bin containerization program. MSWAB is still in the process of looking at data to see whether the program would help with trash diversion. For example, the Empire bins are primarily for trash; however, since the boxes are a bit of a "black box," that may make it harder to check whether what's actually in the bin is trash, or whether some of the stuff there should actually be recycled.
- Questions about why the target diversion rate in New York City is only around 30% (which may be lower compared to other cities). MSWAB explained that the current waste management system is set up in a way to prioritize moving waste out of New York City as quickly and efficiently as possible—which may, in turn, contribute to the lower diversion rate.
- Concerns about the amount of trash created by Ouri's Market on 68th Street and Third Avenue. The establishment has made strides in rectifying the situation, but some residents feel more needs to be done.
- Concerns about garbage strewn on the streets between 61st and 62nd Streets on Third Avenue. There were also concerns and frustrations about garbage strewn about on Second Avenue and benches on the streets.
- Questions about the process for requesting new street corner trash bins. One or two are missing on 83rd Street and Third Avenue. MSWAB suggested going to Litter Basket Request and trying to request one there. Co-Chair Husain suggested that the board office may be able to highlight this issue, too.

Item 2: Discussion on DSNY facility underneath the arches of the Queensboro Bridge.

- Sean Basinski, a long-time resident of the Upper East Side, discussed a DSNY facility next to a vacant lot under the Queensboro Bridge. There are historic arches under the Queensboro Bridge. These have held many purposes over the years. For example, previously, there was a public market under the bridge. Now, on the east side of First Avenue, there is a chain supermarket, Trader Joe's, under the arches. On the west side of First Avenue, there is a DSNY facility under the arches.
- To the neighbors and Mr. Basinski, it does not seem like much is happening at the DSNY facility. Every now and then, there will be a car according to Mr. Basinski's accounts. Mr. Basinski later learned that this facility is where DSNY staff can park cars. Mr. Basinski emphasized that he respects DSNY's work and their ability to park their cars but believes it is fair to ask whether this is the optimal use of historic public space. He suggests a walkthrough or a call with DSNY might be a helpful next step.

Item 3: Old Business - None discussed.
Item 4: New Business - None discussed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 pm.

Sahar Husain and Addeson Lehv, Co-Chairs