

SoHo Broadway District Management Association, Inc.  
Community Roundtable – April 20, 2023

## **Meeting Minutes**

Pursuant to a written notice via email, website, and social media, members of the public attended an information session (Community Roundtable) organized by the SoHo Broadway District Management Association, Inc. (dba SoHo Broadway Initiative) on Thursday, April 20, 2023 remotely via Zoom at 8:30 a.m.

Executive Director Mark Dicus welcomed attendees, introduced SBI staff (himself, Brandon Zwagerman, Dan Hogle), acknowledged Board Members in attendance (President James Cavello, Pete Davies, Michele Varian)

James offered brief welcoming remarks.

Mark introduced staff from the NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY): Jonathan Viguers, Assistant Commissioner of Outreach, and Greg Anderson, Deputy Commissioner for Policy and Strategic Initiatives.

Jonathan gave an overview of two key DSNY initiatives:

- Waste Setout Times changed 4/1/2023. NYC had previously had earliest setout time in nation; rat mitigation and sidewalk cleanliness are 2 driving reasons for change.
  - Residents have 2 options for set-out: place waste/recycling out after 6 p.m. in secure container w/ lid or after 8 p.m. if placing bags directly on curb.
  - Businesses have 2 options for set-out: place waste/recycling out as early as one hour before closing in secure container w/ lid or after 8 p.m. if placing bags directly on curb. Containers to be removed from curb by time business opens.
  - One month grace period on enforcement, until 5/1/23. Written warnings issued instead of summonses until that date.
- Composting.
  - Curbside composting expanding citywide, to begin Manhattan 10/7/2024. Can use any bin with a secure lid, label with composting decal.

Q&A from attendees with DSNY staff.

- Question about where either waste or compost bins could be stored if no place inside building. Bins can also be kept within 3 feet of building line. DSNY will also expanding Smart Bins for compost drop-off (150 bins to be added to Manhattan this summer).
- Question about cardboard and container recycling. Bundled cardboard can go out when other waste goes out, other recycling also out same time.

- Recycling, trash, compost follows same time rules.
- Question about enforcement. DSNY has increased efforts regarding dirty sidewalks and improper setouts. Number of summons have increased significantly this year. Will see if possible to get more enforcement visits to district.
  - Question about what should be done with bins after they are emptied. Carters encouraged to place bins back on curb where they found them. No rules about it, but best practices is to label bins. Business can discuss other approaches with carter (e.g. securing).
  - Question from business with small retail space which closes 5 p.m., has no space to store containers inside, can't meet new rules. Those are the rules; can place bags out after 8 or container within 3 feet of property line outdoors. Recommend conversation with carter to find solutions.
  - Question about how Clean Curbs pilots going. Have had success in wide range of BID sizes and locations across city.
  - Request for DSNY contact info to ask questions after call: [jviguers@dsny.nyc.gov](mailto:jviguers@dsny.nyc.gov) (or contact SBI to connect you)
  - Question about status of street vending enforcement that was recently moved to DSNY, how to report. 311 calls about improper vending now go to DSNY; still rolling out approach.
  - Question about whether building owners were consulted about new setout time rules, or piloted. Challenging issues of labor cost and storage. There was a hearing about public rule change. DSNY was in touch w/ REBNY and others before it went into place. Have held over 70 info sessions. Implemented grace period after we heard feedback. Piloted with LIC Partnership and Times Square Alliance.

Mark Dicus thanked Jonathan and Greg and ended meeting with general BID update:

- Spring cleaning campaign ongoing, cleaning graffiti, painting public assets.
- New spring plantings in 15 planters.
- Stores that have opened since last roundtable: 260 Sample Sale (466 Broadway), Badichi (444 Broome), Dolce Vita (489 Broadway), House of Cannabis (427 Broadway), The ReShop (423 Broadway), Timberland (550 Broadway)-relocated, Steve Madden (494 Broadway)-relocated
- Stores coming soon: APL (568 Broadway), Armani Exchange (536 Broadway), Bibliotheque (54 Mercer), Fila (565 Broadway), Herschel (543 Broadway), Mangia (590 Broadway), Pandora Jewelry (577 Broadway)

Q&A:

- Comment from commercial property owner about considerably greater expense due to DSNY set out time changes, DSNY should know constituents unhappy and there is pushback.
- Question about other City efforts re: rodent control. New rat czar appointed, staff will inquire re: tactics being employed.