

**Environmental Committee  
Community Board Ten  
December 3, 2008**

**Present:** Greg Ahl, Kevin Peter Carroll, Anna DeMetz, Ron Gross, Mary Nolan, Larry Stelter, Fran Volla-Marone, Dean Rasinya, CB10 Chair

**Excused:** Allen Bortnick,, Tim Cross, Scott Klein, Mary Ann Walsh

**Absent:** Stella Kokolis

A quorum was met.

Susan Tirotta, a representative from Assemblywoman Jenelle Hyer-Spencer's office, Stephanie Giovino and Barbara Albanese, both representatives from the office Councilman Vincent Gentile's office, Iggy Terranova, from Dept. of Sanitation, and Eric Rouda were also present.

**Meeting Location:** Community Board 10 Office

The Meeting commenced at 7:30 p.m.

There were 3 items that were discussed at the meeting:

1. **Corner Baskets**
2. **Flyers**
3. **Enforcement – 68<sup>th</sup> and 69<sup>th</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. to Ridge Blvd.**

1. **Corner Baskets**

Iggy Terranova, from Department of Sanitation, was in attendance.

Corner Basket Pick-Ups – The 2<sup>nd</sup> pick-up on Sundays was discontinued. By Monday morning, the corners are a mess. The committee discussed approaching Councilman Gentile about the problem. Asking for discretionary funds was not the right direction, but asking for help to get it back in the budget, without hurting other items was the direction to go. All Community Boards in the city have had cutbacks. A motion was made to request that the Councilman try to get it back in the budget. This was one of CB10's budget priorities. Motion passed.

Last month, I noticed the corner basket on 69<sup>th</sup> Stret and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue was missing. This corner in front of the pizza shop was always overflowing. When it was not there, the corner was garbage free for three weeks until the basket was replaced. Iggy Terranova said Brooklyn 10 has more baskets stolen than any other district in Brooklyn. Keep your eye out for missing baskets.

We discussed testing the removal of all four baskets on a busy corner to see what happens to all the garbage. The committee discussed it with Iggy, and felt that the majority of people will not litter. A few households are throwing their bags of garbage into the basket, filling it up, and then people just throw their discards on top of it, usually ending up on the ground. We will pick a corner in the spring, and see what develops. CB11 is also planning to try this.

## 2. Flyers

The scourge of the flyers goes on. A new small business opened and made the mistake of putting our flyers on light poles. The City wrote tickets on two days. Two weeks later, the business received 116 summons, for a fine total of \$8,700.00. The new business is on the brink of failing. It somehow seems so unfair. They said if they had received one summons, they would have immediately taken them down. It seems that it is OK for the City to delay sending summons, and in this case costing a new small business \$8,700.00 in fines. Yet, the City seems unable to stop the moving companies from plastering flyers all over the City, because of their lack of ability to collect the fines.

It seems that CB11 is also frustrated by the lack of collecting on these fines. Iggy said that the moving companies hide behind pre-paid cell phones. This is the loop hole.

Stings have not exposed the owners. When ticketed, they fail to show up in court. One woman living in an apartment in Staten Island went and told the courts that she did not have a business. The Judge checked it out, and found her correct, and then proceeded to throw out all 60 summons. Her grandson was using her address.

There are many businesses doing the exact same thing. No one company is responsible. The Environmental Control Board didn't believe the Department of Sanitation, and threw out all the summons.

The Dept. of Sanitation's legal division has approached the Environmental Control Board about the lack of success in collecting, and the stopping of this offense. Since it is not a criminal problem, but a civil one with no interest or penalties, they lack a method of collecting.

We need to convince our elected officials in the City Council to come up with a fix to this problem. More often than not, politicians respond to complaints from the offenders for the unfair enforcement, and force Dept. of Sanitation to back down. If the City does not collect on these summons, then they will continue to put up flyers.

**3. Enforcement – 68<sup>th</sup> and 69<sup>th</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. to Ridge Blvd.**

Due to complaints from people about garbage, in all its form, a walk-through was conducted, and verbal warnings were issued. A second follow-up walk-through, along with the distribution of pamphlets about regulation for the home or business owners was completed. As of today, nothing has changed. When the holiday season winds down after January 1<sup>st</sup>, Sanitation will then commence issuing violation summons.

Hopefully, people will respond with just one ticket issued. If they do not clean up their areas, additional summons will be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Ahl  
Environmental Committee, Chair