

# DAILY NEWS

## BE OUR GUEST

By ED CARFERO

### A simple way to reduce city garbage

*Let some restaurants and food shops try garbage disposers*

**T**he Bloomberg administration has unveiled the latest version of its plan for the disposal of commercial and residential garbage, and the essence of it can be summarized with an old song title: "Keep On Truckin'."

The plan fails to observe the principle of Occam's razor: The best solution is almost always the simplest. In the case of commercial garbage, simplicity lies in reducing the waste. And the simplest solution for commercial waste is legalizing commercial food waste disposers.

Over a year ago, the mayor made it clear that 500,000 yearly garbage truck trips through the city streets on the way to transfer stations and out-of-state landfills was unacceptable. Now the city appears to believe that reopening a marine transfer station on the Hudson River at W. 59th St. for commercial garbage will eliminate the problem. But the plan will fall far short of this goal.

First, a number of carters have interests in their own transfer stations and will be resistant to jeopardizing their profit margins. If the city decides to mandate the use of 59th St., years of litigation could follow.

If commercial use of the waste disposer were legalized, it would quite possibly eliminate over 75% of the city's 14,000 daily tons of commercial garbage by disposing of organic material and increasing garbage that can be recycled.

The use of commercial disposers also would address the growing rat epidemic. Outdoor storage of garbage is prohibited on the grounds that it is a magnet for vermin. But it makes no sense to force stores and restaurants to store the garbage inside. Disposers would help the city in its efforts to reduce the rodent and insect population.

The administration opposes City Council Intro 220, which would legalize commercial disposers, saying it would overwhelm the wastewater treatment system. The argument, however, doesn't hold water.

In the 1990s, city bureaucrats used the same alarmist talk to oppose residential use of disposers. The Council mandated a pilot project that was so successful, residential disposers were legalized.

Let's do a pilot program for commercial food waste disposers. The potential benefits are so significant that we cannot allow the alarmists to cause legislative gridlock while the city's streets continue to be polluted by hundreds of thousands of noisome garbage trucks every year.

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