

Memorandum

From: Dr. Richard Lipsky

To: Concerned Retailers

Subject: City Council Hearing on Commercial Waste Study – June, 21, 2004

Date: 6/8/04

As my pervious memo highlights, the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) commissioned a study of the commercial waste stream. The study completely ignored any analysis of the important waste issues that effect food retailers. Issues such as the impact of weight-based rate hikes, the public health consequences of indoor trash storage resulting from the department's own Operation Dumpster, and the potential benefits derived from the legalization of food waste disposers, are nowhere to be found in the DSNY sponsored report.

Secondly, the actual focus of the report should be seen by food retailers as frightening evidence of bad things on the horizon. What DSNY envisions is the construction of seven marine waste transfer stations. These facilities, city-owned but privately operated, will eventually be used to accommodate both commercial and residential waste. The likelihood is that most existing alternative transfer stations will be closed and the city will essentially re-create the same kind of garbage cartel that Mayor Giuliani dramatically busted up eight years ago.

Once this happens, there will be no checks and balances in the commercial waste disposal system to prevent the inevitable and continual escalation of garbage disposal costs for food retailers. In fact, heavy food waste will be functional to the system because of its ability to act as a cash cow for the financial maintenance of the City's transfer stations infrastructure.

Why This Hearing is Important

We need a large and vocal turnout for this June, 21st hearing for the following reasons:

1. Expose the Negligence and Malfeasance of DSNY- For submitting a report that ignores the real important issues of waste removal for food retailers and one that outlines a bleak future for our stores;
2. Support for Intro 220- A bill that would legalize food waste disposers and allow foods stores to reduce disposal costs and improve the environments of the neighborhoods they do business in; and
3. Demonstrate Unity- Show the councilmembers that we want their support and we refuse to allow the city to continue to victimize us with rising garbage disposed costs.