



THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Mayor Bill de Blasio  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

At this morning's budget hearing, Department of Sanitation Commissioner Kathryn Garcia testified that DSNY recently sent a set of contracts to Comptroller Stringer's office for approval. These contracts would allow for increased organic waste processing at certain waste transfer stations in the city to support the Department's expansion of its curbside organics collection program pursuant to Local Law 77.

While we wholeheartedly support the organics program as an important component of the City's overall goal to send zero waste to landfills by 2030, **we must ask that your office place a hold on any contracts** that would increase the amount of waste sent to communities that are already overburdened by waste processing facilities.

As you know, the majority of the city's private waste transfer stations and permitted processing capacity is currently located in four community districts: Brooklyn Community District 1, Bronx Community Districts 1 and 2, and Queens Community District 12. Twenty-six of the city's 38 private transfer stations are located in these communities. Collectively, they have 80% of the City's total permitted waste capacity and handle 70% of the trash processed in New York City. The rest of the City *combined* receives only 25%.

The excess truck traffic that results means that residents in these communities are exposed to high levels of air and noise pollution, suffer the effects of breathing polluted air, and are forced to navigate dangerous streets. This is coupled with increased costs to the City; for example, asthma rates in the South Bronx are 8 times the national average, and Williamsburg has the highest rates of child asthma hospitalization in the borough. According to a 2014 report by State Comptroller

Thomas DiNapoli, New York's asthma-related Medicaid expenditures are on the rise, and have topped \$1.3 billion for medical costs and lost productivity.

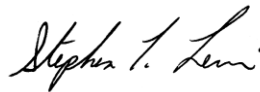
Since 1989, the NYC Charter has required a "fair share" analysis when siting waste transfer facilities on City land, yet City contracts with existing waste facilities may be approved with no such analysis. The result is a waste processing system that remains anything but "fair." We strongly believe that the City should respect the spirit of that provision and not allow even more waste to come into these four overburdened districts.

For these reasons, we ask that you hold any pending contracts for organics processing at facilities located in the four identified communities. We look forward to working with DSNY to identify alternative locations, and to supporting the expansion of the curbside organics program.

Sincerely,



Antonio Reynoso  
Chair, Committee on Sanitation  
& Solid Waste Management  
34<sup>th</sup> District



Stephen Levin  
33<sup>rd</sup> District



I. Daneek Miller  
27<sup>th</sup> District



Rafael Salamanca  
17<sup>th</sup> District

CC: Comptroller Scott Stringer  
Department of Sanitation Commissioner Kathryn Garcia