

## **2023 Annual Report of The Food Service Establishment Advisory Board**

Pursuant to Local Law 91 of 2013, which created the Food Establishment Service Advisory Board (the “Board”), the members of the Board hereby submit their 2023 Annual Report to the Mayor of the City of New York, the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Speaker of the New York City Council.

The Board would like to thank the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Department), especially Magda Desdunes, Ombudsperson, for their work in coordinating our meetings and sending out agendas and supporting documents, including various data members have requested throughout the year.

During 2023, the Board discussed a wide-ranging number of issues of concern to the industry. These issues were always met with helpful and frank comments from the Department. Moreover, in 2023 the Board was also asked to provide feedback to the Department on issues of concern to them. This two-way flow of ideas and discussions is exactly why the Board was established.

Again in 2023 we discussed topics still of concern from 2022 such as comparative data regarding the number of active permits pre- and post-COVID, the number of food borne illness complaints pre- and post-COVID, the dollar amount of violations issued, and the top ten violations.

The Department has been proactive in sending e-blasts containing helpful information to restaurant operators and sharing these with the Board. Board members from restaurant organizations such as the NYC Hospitality Alliance and the NYS Restaurant Association in turn disseminated these blasts to their members, thus amplifying the messages and information.

A standard agenda item for each meeting, as required by the authorizing statute, is a review of the top ten violations issued by the Department. The Board noted that both the top ten violations and their percentages of the overall number of violations rarely change in any significant way, year after year. The Board asked the Department to further analyze why that is and determine if any adjustments need to be made to the rules or to industry training.

This is the final annual report of the Board as the statute has sunset the Board. We are extremely pleased to report however that the Department will continue the Board without a Local Law mandate and asked the members if they were willing to continue to volunteer. Clearly the Department has found the Board to be helpful and as a result, the members fully agreed to continue its meetings.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Members of the Food Service Establishment Advisory Board*