Business Integrity Commission Public Hearing October 18, 2017

TRANSCRIPT OF THE HEARING
REGARDING MAXIMUM RATES CHARGED BY A
LICENSE FOR THE COLLECTION, REMOVAL, DISPOSAL,
OR RECYCLING OF TRADE WASTE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2017
10:00 A.M.
100 CHURCH STREET
2ND FLOOR,
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007

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4	HEARING CONVENED AT 10:11 A.M.
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7	PRESENT:
8	DANIEL D. BROWNELL,
Commissioner/Chairman 9	Commissioner/Chairman
10	SAL ARRONA Director of Policy
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Business Integrity Commission Public Hearing October 18, 2017

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2	MR. BROWNELL: So why don't we start in
3	the front row.
4	MR. CHANGARIS: Steve Changaris, National
5	Waste and Recycling Association, with the
6	Chapter.
7	MR. MOSS: Andy Moss, Waste Connections.
8	MR. BERGAMINI: Ron Bergamini, Action
9	Carting.
10	MR. TOSCANO: Thomas Toscano from Mr. T
11	Carting.
12	MS. KIM: Jean Kim, TLM Associates,
13	representing Action Carting.
14	MS. MARJOMAN: Amy Marjoman, Recycle Track
15	Systems.
16	MS. SHORT: Anna Short, Align.
17	MR. DRIT: Mark Drit, RoHo Compost.
18	MS. FERNANDEZ: Shakira Fernandez, RoHo
19	Compost.
20	MR. BLAND: Justin Bland, Department of
21	Sanitation.
22	MR. NIASSE: Elha Niasse, No More Junk.
23	MR. BROWNELL: Okay. So, why don't we do
24	this. I'll read my remarks. We have a few
25	people that want to speak. Obviously, the rate

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cap is the topic. And the BIC people, maybe not those people, will stay around afterwards, because we would actually like to speak to some of the people about some of the other issues.

And obviously, you have issues to speak about.

But obviously, the reason why we are here now, is because of the rate cap.

Good morning. My name is Dan Brownell. Ι am the Commissioner and Chair of the New York City Integrity Commission, otherwise known as Thank you for attending today's meeting. BIC is conducting this hearing as required under the rules of the City of New York. must hold a public hearing every odd year before October 31st, regarding the maximum rates charged by the private trade waste carters for collection, removal and disposal of trade waste, also known as the "rate cap." published the hearing notice in the City Record on September 18, 2017. We also disseminated a copy of the notice via e-mail to all New York City local elected officials, all 59 community board managers, several media organizations in the City and other interested parties. Lastly,

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we made available a copy of the hearing notice on BIC's website.

Today's hearing gives the interested parties, including trade waste carters and the customers they service, an opportunity to present their positions on the rate cap, so that the Commission may gain a better understanding of the current state of the commercial trade waste industry and how the current rate cap impacts the industry.

The New York City Rules state some of the factors that BIC may consider when evaluating the rate cap, which include: The Producer Price Index, commonly referred to as the PPI, available data on the trade waste industry, and any other factors that may be relevant to assessing a fair and reasonable return to licensees and the protection of customers from unreasonable charges. The rules also state that the proponents of a change in the rate cap must, "bear the burden of demonstrating, on an industry-wide basis, that existing rates are inconsistent with the standards for maximum rates." Thus, we are here to listen to you

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with regard to this issue. We hope that your statements will be supported by studies, and other forms of empirical data.

The first issue at hand is the viability of the current rate which was put in place in 2016. According to the data reported by the licensed carters in the quarterly Customer Register, the majority of commercial customers are charged well below the current rate cap, and in fact, a large majority are still charging customers below the current 2016 rate cap. And I realize that's not the only issue here.

The Commission is also aware of the arguments raised by the private carters that a healthy and robust, competitive industry, does not need to be artificially controlled via a rate cap, and that the private carters are not charging their commercial customers at the rate cap. The trade waste hauling industry is experiencing changes now and will continue to do so in the coming years. Any decision with respect to the rate cap must take into account these changes.

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For example, some of the recent changes affecting the industry are the new commercial recycling rules and the new commercial organics collection rules. Additionally, we understand that some private carters are already making capital investments to their fleets in order to comply with the vehicle emission law which goes into effect the beginning of 2020. Taken together, these new standards will require private trade waste carters and their customers to work together to meet the City's sustainability goals.

This hearing is not the end of our fact-gathering process on this issue. We will continue to have more discussions with interested parties after this hearing. We look forward to continuing to work with the industry through the Trade Waste Advisory Board. After we have gathered all pertinent information, we will then be in a position to decide how to adjust the rate cap, if at all.

A court reporter is present today and will record the hearing. The hearing is also being video recorded. You may present an oral

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statement or submit written comments. BIC will carefully consider all the comments it receives today at the hearing and all written comments it receives until November 18 of 2017.

We will begin calling those whose wish to speak this morning in the order in which you have signed in. Please state your full name and the company or organization that you represent.

Is there anybody that would like to speak that is sort of on a time constraint? We will start with that. We don't have that many speakers. I don't think it's going to take that long. Otherwise, I will just go based on the order in which people signed in.

Sal, who is first?

MR. ARRONA: The first speaker is Thomas Toscano from Mr. T Carting.

MR. BROWNELL: So what we would ask is if you would speak clear, speak a little slower than you think you should. Because that way, it's amplified. It will be just easier to understand. All right. Come on up.

MR. TOSCANO: Good morning everyone. I am

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Thomas N. Toscano, currently the CFO and soon to be CEO of Mr. T. Carting Corp. I am also a licensed attorney, and I am very familiar with the regulations of the carting industry.

As has been stated at the prior rate cap hearings and this one, the New York City market for waste and recycling services is nearly perfectly competitive. Customers can and do solicit many bids and change carters freely. The days of no customer choice due to the cartels are long gone and will not return, unless franchising is implemented. In fact, the BIC has told the industry that a very small percentage of customers are even at the rate cap. There is no better argument than that for its elimination.

I know the next question, and that is, why we need a raise if many customers are not even at the rate cap? The reasons are twofold.

First, New York City is continuing to increase regulations and recycling requirements imposed on the carters. These regulations include requiring all trucks to be 2007 emission compliant by 2020. This regulation itself cost

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my company over \$8 million, most of which was borrowed in truck notes.

Second, the recycling regulations require us to put more trucks on the road. Simultaneously, the recycling commodities prices that we receive have recently collapsed, causing a significant loss in revenue for the very same commodities we are being asked to This drop in prices was partially recycle. caused by and exacerbated by the requirement that we collect glass, which no one in this region seems to have an outlet for. In short, the carters are being asked to collect glass, have it contaminate the other commodities (that reduces their sale price), reduce the life of the recycling equipment that separates the commodities for sale (again increasing costs), just to throw it out at the end of the process. In addition, the City is now ramping up its organics recycling requirements, necessitating further investments by the carters. Everything I just described to you has not had its full economic impact yet, as most of these developments are recent.

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While all of these new regulations are being implemented and carters are being asked to invest, the City is strongly pushing an effort to franchise the industry. A company that invests to comply with these regulations may lose its entire business if a franchise plan is adopted. To balance the equities in what the City is asking, these companies need to be given the opportunity to recoup the investments that are due to these requirements. History shows us that it is highly unlikely that this discussion on the rate cap will be had again for the next two years. Carters need maximum flexibility and pricing to cover the regulatory and commodity contingencies they will likely face over these next two years. Ideally, the rate cap should be eliminated. Alternatively, it should be raised by more than 20 percent.

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Thank you.

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MR. ARRONA: Our next speaker is Steve Changaris from the New York City NWRA Chapter.

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MR. CHANGARIS: Good morning,

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Mr. Commissioner, members of the staff and

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guests. My name is Steve Changaris. I am the New York City Chapter Director for the National Waste and Recycling Association. We work with the private carting companies, landfills, etc. that manage and help take care of the City's waste.

What I would like to do is, you know, say that, you know -- just a little bit of the overview. I have four key points. We have written testimonies we have already submitted for the record. You know, we have hard working men and women in this industry. There has to be a face put on this. This is a rate cap that supports an industry that does a vital service. We serve upwards of 200,000 commercial entities in the City, and it takes a lot of effort to keep the trucks running, the employees paid, and the companies in business tomorrow to be of service to bring on new equipment and new programs to benefit the marketplace and to fulfill the directives of the Department of Sanitation and the City Council as it comes to -- and of BIC, as it comes to solid waste in the City, and recycling.

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As I mentioned, we have four key points.

As my predecessor before me and as the association has stated out the position, over time, it's boilerplate for us now. And we encourage for the rate cap removal entirely.

We believe it's a system that was put in place many years ago. It's unnecessary today. The most important thing in the marketplace today is the fitness and integrity held by the industry. Because of the licensing and the background check that BIC does, and the oversight of the market, when you have good companies going good things in the marketplace, you don't have to worry about price gouging and other things like that.

So, we believe -- and I think even so with the former Commissioners and others who have done work in this place, recognizes that the rate cap has outlived its usefulness. So we encourage that to go away.

It's ironic, because as much as we talk about the rate cap going away, I am now going to offer a new idea for the Commission to think about. And then I am going to go on to make a

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another case, which is interesting as well. But the new idea for this testimony is a concept that the Commission install a minimum The premise of, you know, first off, as we have said, we are not keen on any kind of economic regulation of the marketplace. But if the -- if the situation in the City is such that we cannot move away from it, we would think that the Commission should pay some attention to installing a minimum rate. the reason for this is because we are very concerned about not being able to recoup the basic cost of running a business in the City There are so many pressures going on today between the legislature, the regulatory and in the marketplace, that we are not sure that all the costs are fully being accounted for when we are servicing the customer. not sure all the licensees are fully accounting for the cost of servicing the customers. if they are not properly charging for these services at a minimum rate, then they are not able to properly capitalize their business and reinvest in their business to be here tomorrow.

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And that's a little bit of the conflict, because we know a lot of companies are doing that, and we are very aware -- we are very concerned about this impact of charging below what is a minimally reasonable number to provide service in this City.

So, you know -- and as much as we have made the case to remove the rate cap and we have added another rate tool to install a minimum rate that you can't charge below for the collection of trade waste, we are now going to discuss, you know, a rate cap bump. We are going to put on the table a request for a 20 percent increase. The rationale for this is that we are at a very capital intensive stage of change. We are bringing on new trucks that meet the new standards of the emission rules of the City. And whether we are buying new trucks or whether we are retrofitting existing inventories, those are all added costs and pushing the envelope below the ability -- our ability to pay for it.

The other thing that fits into this general request for the 20 percent bump, is

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what's mentioned by other speakers and mentioned by other to follow -- the new retro-recycling organics initiatives. already putting more trucks on the road to meet the harmonization requirements of the regulations. And we not only have the 400 or so accounts, or the 300 accounts that are currently collecting organics, but we have every expectation to believe that the Department of Sanitation is going to push that envelope further in the coming months. are going to have to provide more of that service to more of our customers. believe those two things alone are enough, between the truck and the capital expenditures and then the additional requirements of the licensees to work with our customers. Those two alone justify the bump. But we also wanted to make sure we pointed out in the testimony, there is a whole list of boilerplate costs between tolls, gas, labor, helpers, drivers mechanics, across the board. And they always seem to be going up. And we would like to encourage the Commission to pay attention to

those kinds of costs as they go into considering a rate bump for the group.

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The other one that we wanted to mention today -- and we will call it by name, the Chinese National Sword Program. That's a recycling initiative. It's a new Chinese initiative that is going to create new heightened import restrictions on our export of recyclables to that important market. And it challenges our whole scheme in how we view our management or recyclables. It's not -- it's two questions here. We are struggling with the concern of making our recyclables clean enough to meet these really restricted standards. then, if we can't do that, we are faced with the dilemma of what we are going to do if we can't meet that standard. And that brings all kinds of unknowns and makes the business logics very uncomfortable. We don't know if these materials are going to be a further expense to clean them up more to meet the standards. don't know if we are going to have to subsidize the creation of a new market. We don't know how much more it's going to cost to work with

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our customers, and generators to make sure that they produce quality recyclables that we can process. We don't know the cost of the equipment that it's going to take to clean up the recyclables to get them to these new standards. And then, of course, the worst of all cost is if we can't move these recyclables at all. How do we manage them if we have to dispose of them?

So we are working hard to understand the China Sword and the new Chinese recyclable import restrictions. You know, intensely now, we are gearing up -- right now, the Chinese are very involved in a domestic political development. But the next rationale for us is the issuance of import licenses. And no one doubts that there are going to be issues. We just don't know the quantity and -- how many will be issues. And we are going to monitor that for the weeks to come and as the import policy kicks in, full bore on July -- on January 1st of next year, you know, anything goes. We are very concerned as an industry.

So we appreciate the Commission's review

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of the rate cap. We hope this Commission will take into account all these unknowns and see to it that the industry can get this 20 percent rate cap increase, so that we can continue to work and provide our services to our customers in the City of New York.

Thank you.

MR. BROWNELL: Thank you.

MR. ARRONA: Thank you, Steve.

The next speaker is Ron Bergamini from Action Carting.

MR. BERGAMINI: Thank you everyone. Good morning. My name is Ron Bergamini. I am a CEO of Action Environmental Group. That's the parent company to Action Carting here in New York. It's the City's largest private hauler. I am very proud to be part of this industry that performs such a vital service. There are many professionals, I can assure you, in this industry, that care deeply about the service that they provide - from the driver to the board member. And this commitment and dedication is critical to meet the growing complexity of the industry, and it does get

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more complex.

Today, competition is thriving, and the customer has more choices than ever.

Accordingly, there is no need for a rate cap.

The City of New York, particularly the Business Integrity Commission, frankly, should think about, and deserves a lot of credit for where the industry is now. The rate cap was a reasonable concept at one point. However, we believe that time has passed.

I've testified at a handful of these proceedings over the years. Today is different, in my view, because of the change we are seeing in the last couple years, and we are about to see in the next few. Which is why the repeal of the rate cap is timely. But think about this, starting two years ago and moving forward over the next two years at least, we are facing unprecedented challenges, as was alluded to, on what accountants like to call "cap ex." And that is buying more collection vehicles and equipment. A garbage truck today costs an excess of \$300,000. And it costs that much because the trucks are better, and we want

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them better. We added a lot of equipment to them. We added better safety. And in fact, the City, rightly so, is imposing these higher emission standards. These rules are well intentioned, but they are putting major financial constraints on the industry. Big, small companies, it doesn't matter. We have always supported these rules. legislature, we sported them. In fact, we think they should apply to all trucks. But the challenge is, someone has to pay for this. Collectively, we have to pay for this. cannot ask companies to adapt stricter environmental standards and not pass on the The customers understand that. I think cost. the residents understand that. Think of the cars that we drive. The fuel has always gotten better. In the last 20 years it keeps getting better, and we pay more for them. That analogy works here. The difference is, we are required to get rid of old trucks. We don't get to choose to and have them fade off. As a consequence of that, our company, our cap ex cost will be 70 percent higher than last year,

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this year and next year. To give that a little context, over 50 percent of our earnings goes back to cap ex. That's not sustainable. industry should be about 30 percent, and even that's high. But now, we are well over 50. The City has passed new commercial recycling laws. We have always supported them. But the cost of recycling is often more. In today's market, it's considerably more as Tom and Steve alluded to. The results of this new law, we have to put more trucks on the road. Putting aside the environmental irony there, these trucks require more drivers, helpers, mechanics. We pay people middle class wages. We at the industry pay people middle class We want to continue to do that and we don't want to be handcuffed as to what we can pay those folks. When you are forced to look for people that aren't of a quality you want, performance and safety suffer.

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The new and growing organic recycling program also imposes additional cost.

According to the Citizens Budget Committee, which for full disclosure, I am a trustee, but

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I had nothing to do or very little to do with the report, "Can we have our cake and compost it too?"

On February, 2016, the City will spend on residential compost \$177 to \$251 million annually. Surely, we are going to spend more money as well. To be clear, I am not advocating against the organic program, not at all. It's worthwhile. I am saying, "You cannot compost and have your cake too."

Someone has to pay for it. And you hear a lot about not enough composting infrastructure in the City. Without flexibility and pricing, I think it's unlikely that we are going to get that.

So public officials, elected officials have been talking about great change in the industry. I see that. I don't see an industry where that is not happening. There's breathtaking technological change everywhere. This industry is embracing that -- on board computing, cameras in trucks. These are good things. The Safety Committee that I am lucky enough to be on, we are talking about these things. We want these. But it costs more money. It results in better service and safer

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roads for New York City.

So my suggestion is to keep regulating the industry smartly, as I think has been done. The rate cap is not needed. And the alternative should be substantially increased. We all want top-notch environmentally stable equipment, safer work conditions. Allow us to provide this. This is a world class City. My personal favorite City, notwithstanding the traffic I was in to get here today. So help us. The industry has grown tremendously. It's full of professionals who want to provide better service. But it's all going to cost more money.

Thank you.

MR. ARRONA: Thank you, Ron.

The next speaker is Andrew Moss from Waste Connections.

MR. MOSS: Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to appear here today. I am Andrew Moss of Waste Connections. Waste Connections is the only New York Stock Exchange listed, publicly owned company that collects garbage and recyclables in New York City. We

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are the third largest solid waste management company in North America. We operate in 39 states, and five provinces in Canada, and not one of these North American jurisdictions, be it state, province, county, city, town, village, is a rate we charge a customer in any way in an open market system, limited by a governmental agency.

In all these non-franchised markets, vigorous competition between corporations creates the natural incentive to provide customers with high quality service at an affordable rate. If someone does not like the service we provide or the price we charge, they can simply look for another service provider.

Market forces drive customer and company behavior. The rate cap has two main distorting effects. As everyone is aware, it costs money to pay our workers and buy our trucks. It's not a secret that this money comes from our customers who pay for our service. If one customer's price is limited by regulation as to how much he can be charged, another customer's price may then be distorted to help subsidize

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that capped customer.

The other distorting effect is recycling. Excluding what you have heard about China today, historically, recycled goods have more value than garbage. If we are allowed to charge market rates for garbage, there would be a natural incentive to recycle more and your recovery rates for recycled items would rise as a consequence.

There are other aspects of the rate cap
that impact our ability to provide specialized
customer service. For instance, we cannot
charge for specialized services such as weekend
or holiday collections. While the customer
cannot be billed for these extra days, we still
pay our workers double or triple time their hourly
rate. And if a customer requires us to go into
their building to bring the garbage out to the
curb, we cannot charge for this extra service
either. This hard rate cap stifles innovation
and promotes marketplace inefficiencies. A
customer cannot be charged extra for a paper
rather than an e-mailed invoice, which is the
practice of many other industries. A customer

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also cannot be charged extra for sending a hand collector to receive his or her payment.

Finally, the rate cap does not allow for line item charges, such as fuel surcharges that other transportation industries charge their customers. As an industry, we are already required to have our invoices approved by the Commission. The answer should be to let us line item all our services, and let the customers decide what they need and what they want to pay for. Disclosure and flexibility are the answer, not a hard rate cap.

As you've also heard, there are a number of other operating costs that we experience.

We provide good paying -- good paying jobs for our hard-working union employees. Their wages, as per our collective bargaining agreements, have increased 4.0 percent in the last two years. Along with good wages, we provide medical, dental, vision, life and disability insurance for our non-union employees. Medical insurance is scheduled to increase by 15 percent in 2018. And for our union employees, our welfare fund contributions have increased

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by 5 percent from 2015 to 2016. And an additional also 22.5 percent for the period from 2016 to 2017. Our pension fund contributions have also increased. All in all, our union benefits increased 7.74 percent over the two-year period since the last increase.

As Steve Changaris has mentioned, tolls, postage, other expenses, day-to-day operations, have gone up.

But as you have heard here today, trucks, the capital cost, the need to put the trucks on road. The cost of a 32-yard rear-load packer has increased as well, over the last two years. Now, we are paying over \$370,000 for a new packer truck in 2017.

As we have stated on our company website, and BIC Safety Symposiums for Waste

Connections, safety is our number one corporate value. That is why on every new truck we purchase, we add additional safety features that cost more than a simple garbage truck, and as Ron mentioned, we think every licensed carter should have on their equipment as well.

Our trucks are mounted with high intensity

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lighting packages and side guards, Qwik-Tip automated loading systems, which will save on the wear and tear of our workers. And while we believe these safety investments and the training in their usage are vital in what we know is a dangerous -- very dangerous occupation, there is only one way to pay for these improvements, and that is through the rates we charge our customers.

And as you have also heard today,
Regulatory Compliance, Local Law 145, as the
Commission is aware, which requires 2007
emissions standards for all commercial waste
vehicles by 2020, has resulted in an
accelerated capital investment for our company,
and all companies, I would imagine, to meet
this mandate. At a cost of over 370,000 per
truck -- I am just going to run through a
little math here -- if a company is -- so a
company, when it puts a truck on the road, has
to pay wages, fuel, insurance, disposal. And
after all those expenses are paid, what's left
is your cash flow. It's your EBIDA number.
It's your earnings before interest payments,

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depreciation, taxes and amortization. For a healthy company that's making 15 percent, some are making 10 percent -- so for 370,000 if you are at 10 percent, you have got to earn \$3.7 million in revenue to pay for that new truck. If you are doing 15 percent, it's 2 and a half million in gross sales. That's -- and again, that's all for equipment. And again, these expenses are -- that's a tremendous amount of capital investment that's going on to meet these emission mandates. That's a lot of new revenue that has to be generated to pay for these trucks. There is no other way to do it.

The other regulatory increases, as well, the recycling regulations, we are going -- we have added one recycling route. We are going to have to add a second one. Again, these recycling routes, they are expenses without associated revenue, and that's more -- again, that's -- you can multiply -- you can just add a zero to the expense at the end. That's how much revenue you need to recoup those expenses.

Again, if you are doing 10 percent on \$400,000, you need to do \$4 million in revenue,

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just to get back to where you were.

A lot has changed in the City. Vision
Zero has lowered the speed limit from 30 to 25
miles per hour. That's a 20 percent reduction.
While we endorse Vision Zero's goal of reducing traffic deaths to zero, the resulting speed reduction has meant an increase in the time a truck spends on its routes collecting garbage.
Additional bike lanes, traffic at night is now the -- traditionally, garbage trucks go out at night because there was less traffic. Now it's just as crowded at night as it is during the daytime. So everything has led to -- increased safety awareness, longer routes, increased cost, again, without associated revenue to go with it.

So, organic collection again, is looking at -- there is a hearing later this month on organic collection. That should be expanded. But due to its heavy weight, organic waste collection is an expensive service, and should either have a separate rate or not be regulated at all.

As the Commission is aware, we are not

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allowed to charge for specialized containers unless we provide it for the service. Compost is collected in either 64 or 35 gallon toters which cost approximately \$100 per unit and only have a two year life expectancy. At 200 pounds a toter, the maximum we can charge by weight is \$24.76. Organic collection requires specialized trucks that cannot be used for regular waste or recycling collection, due to the material's high moisture content.

Furthermore, because organic stops are so scattered and specialized, route density that is ordinarily found in garbage and recycling routes cannot be realized. When these factors are combined with high disposal and operating costs, there is little to no incentive to expand the service beyond what is otherwise mandated. We only offer this service as an add-on for customers that request it as part of their overall service. For us, as things stand today, it is not a market we are looking to grow.

I did not mention this, but 35 percent of our customers are at the rate cap. So, for us,

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we believe it is a substantial number. These customers, frankly, have no incentive to produce less garbage, since they cannot be charged an additional fee. If the rate is allowed to increase, they may decide to become more diligent about recycling. Of course, they are always free to seek another carter to serve them at a lower cost. The result is a more efficient market place.

As my testimony has hopefully shown, not only has our operating cost risen, but there is a dramatic need to spend money on new equipment. There is only one way to pay for this equipment, and that's through what the customer pays to us.

It's time for the rate cap either to be eliminated or substantially increased.

I am happy to provide the Commission with any documentation I have discussed here today. Thank you for your time and your consideration.

MR. ARRONA: Thank you, Andy.

Our next speaker is Vandra from Vokashi.

Vandra, did you bring any written testimony?

MS. THORBURN: It's on my phone. I am

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going to e-mail it to you.

So, my name is Vandra and I have a small compost collection service. You may remember. I started about seven or eight years ago and I started in the home, as a household collection. But I developed, actually, through the sort of co-working (sic) spaces. They were the first sort of small business to come on and take my services. So in a way, my business has grown to the providing of service to the kitchenettes in offices. So I try very hard, and I don't service any restaurants or any of the -- what I think are the traditional compost, you know, trash routes that you do. I just want to make that disclaimer.

However, it is -- my testimony is really quite short, really. And the -- it has to do with the rate hike. And I sort of support lifting it, actually. I think it should be lifted. But my particular reading of Section 502 has to do with the third part. Rate one is 18 dollars. Rate two is 12, and rate three is exempt. So am I in the exempt waste, you know, grease and the C and D and stuff like that?

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And so, what I would like to propose is that organics be considered as one of the exempt waste lines. So that it, in fact, gives us a space to do the sort of necessary piloting and research and alternatives to handling the organics world. And I personally think that we want to find more small, medium, community-based composting initiatives.

By the way, I do all my composting at Marine Park Golf Course at the end of Flatbush Avenue. Over the years they have allowed me to sort of grow my composting station. So if you want to come out and take a round of golf, you can come and have a little look at my composting as well.

And so, anyways, I really want to urge us to be thinking about other ways of managing locally our compost collections. And I am also in here and I have been speaking to other small compost players about the need to develop a micro-hauling -- a micro-hauling industry to manage the organics collection. And at the end of the day, I would really like to see the rules and regulations actually allow for some

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exchange between the micro-haulers and the commercial hauling industry.

I think that's it. Thanks.

MR. ARRONA: Thank you, Vandra.

At this point, those are all the speakers who had signed up in advance. Is there anyone else in the room who wishes to speak at this time?

MR. BROWNELL: Anybody else? So, the whole rate cap is far from a black and white issue. It never has been. There is no question that things have changed in the 20-plus years that it was created. As much data as you can provide us, because we know the PPI alone is not sufficient. As I said in my remarks, between the new emission rules which of course the industry already has to be geared up and starting to get ready for, you know. compliance has to be by January of 2020 and of course the recycling rules. There are really lots of things to talk about. One of the -- so we are going to do what we need to do. As I said, provide us with whatever you can provide us. Because certainly, our objective is not to be unnecessarily

and overly burdensome to the industry.

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Obviously, there is a concern, of course, to be fair to the consumers. You know, Vandra, the whole issue of composting, you are not the only one to suggest that. And that may very well be a great idea. And so as I said, we will do what we need to do in the short term with regard to this. I think there is no question, maybe not so much in a hearing format which is a little bit of a stiff structure. But certainly sort of a round table discussion including Council Member Reynoso, whose committee we report to, is certainly going to have some ideas and input on this. Certainly, Kathryn Garcia from Sanitation and others from the Department of Sanitation have their own thoughts and ideas. I think that's, you know, a productive thing to do, you know, to start throwing out all the other issues we have got within the next year, to really sit down and look at that. As I said, that is somewhat different than what we are going to be doing in a short term. And in a short term, as much data as you can provide us, we would really

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appreciate.

So if there is nothing further, I want to close that -- this hearing to sort of a formal aspect of this hearing.

Just very quickly, since we have people here from the community and the industry. Everybody knows, of course, as of October --August 1st, the recycling rules are now being enforced. Sanitation has done a terrific job, you know, mainly focusing on the generators. We focus on the industry. Just in the last three days, we have observed three different carting companies that have illegally commingled the garbage -- nobody here. So we will be putting together the rest of the evidence and writing up violations for those. But what we need, since we are small -- the thing that we really rely on and we have gotten some, are tips from people in the community. If you are aware of a carting company that is not following the rules -- so if you see a business, you know, not properly separating things out and putting them out on the street and then the carter comes along and just throws

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it all in the back of the truck, we would really appreciate it if you would let us know. We are going to put on our website -- and Sal is the initial person that you'll speak with. You can give us the complaint anonymously if you like. We would prefer that you give us a name and contact person, because then we can get back to you. If we have further questions, we can ask you. I promise you that you will never be exposed to anyone as having been the person that provided the information. what we will do with your information is do our own investigation, where essentially you are not necessary. If the carter, you know, wants to adjudicate the violation and go to oath, you won't be a witness. We won't need to use your photographs if you took photographs, or your videos if you took that with your phone. can do that all ourselves. But otherwise, what we are stuck with is going out and trolling the streets and following carters randomly. And of a certain sense, a lot of carters, you know, are really doing this properly. It just really helps us to focus our limited resources on the

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carters that are not following the rules. so -- and I throw that out to the carters as If your people see another company that's not following the rules, provide us with that information. I mean, why should you be expending the time and energy to do it properly when somebody else is just, you know, not doing it? And that's the only way these rules are going to work. So I implore you to do that. We are all in this together, in terms of improving recycling in the City. As much help as we can get from the public, we appreciate. And the other advantage of giving us your name and contact information, is when we get done with our investigation, we will call you back and tell you the results of our investigation, so that you know, because you should know. again, I throw that out there and really make that request that as much information as you can provide us -- and by the way, with regard to a generator, which Sanitation really focuses on, you can either tell us and we will tell Sanitation, or they are on Sanitation's website. There are people there to focus on --

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because again, well, they have more resources.

Resources are still tight. And so, it just
helps everybody to do this as efficiently as
possible.

Is there anything else? Again, this is now -- the hearing is over. Is there any other issue that anybody wants to talk about, either now or later? We are always free and happy to talk to people about any concerns or issues you have. Yes.

ATTENDEE: Is this tip line that you are mentioning available on BIC's website already?

MR. BROWNELL: It is. I think it's up already on the website. Sal is the guy --

MR. ARRONA: It's already on the website.

MR. BROWNELL: And again, you don't have to tell us your name if you don't want to. We are very good at, first of all, keeping you out of it, in terms of being exposed. And please tell other people that you know. If somebody says, you know, there is this thing with this carter -- whatever, please encourage them to give us a call.

MR. TOSCANO: Quick question on the rate

1 2 Is there a timeline as to when they think cap. 3 they are going to finish the review? MR. BROWNELL: Well, we put --4 5 November 18th is the deadline. Obviously, that's a soft deadline. If somebody needs a 6 7 couple more days, we are always happy to get 8 more information. I think -- when did we do it 9 in 2016? By January? Yeah, it's other than --10 I can't really give you a hard and fast date on that. 11 12 Any other questions or concerns of people? 13 And again, we have a website. We are always 14 happy to even hear complaints about us. 15 one of the ways we get better. 16 So, anything, we are always happy to do 17 that. All right. Thanks very much everybody. 18 (Time noted: 10:59 a.m.) 19 20 2.1 22 2.3 24 25

1 2 3 CERTIFICATE 4 5 STATE OF NEW YORK) 6 :SS 7 COUNTY OF QUEENS) 8 9 I, Antonette Gordon-Salmon, a Notary Public within and for the State of New York, do 10 11 hereby certify: 12 I reported the proceedings in the 13 within-entitled matter, and that the within 14 transcript is a true record of such proceedings to the best of my ability. 15 16 I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or 17 18 marriage; and that I am in no way interested in the 19 outcome of this matter. 2.0 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of October, 2017. 21 22 23 2.4 TE GORDON-SALMON 25

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