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Commissioner

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October 7, 2019

Honorable Bill de Blasio
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall, New York NY, 10007

Honorable Corey Johnson
Speaker of the New York City Council
105 East 116th Street
New York, NY 10029

Re: City Council Reporting Requirements Pursuant to Local Law 48 of 2015

Dear Mayor de Blasio and Speaker Johnson:

This letter is submitted pursuant to the requirements of Local Law 48 of 2015 (LL48/15). LL48/15 is an amendment to Section 24-503(f) of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, which requires all catch basins within the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) jurisdiction to be inspected annually and catch basins to be unclogged or repaired within nine days of inspection or receipt of a complaint about a clogged or malfunctioning catch basin. The requirements of 24-503(f) are effective for a three-year period beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2019.

Prior to LL48/15, DEP inspected catch basins on a three-year programmatic cycle. This new law has required DEP to acquire additional resources and staff in order to accelerate to an annual inspection cycle. In addition to DEP's programmatic catch basin inspection program, DEP also responds to complaints of clogged and/or malfunctioning basins received through the City's 311 system and performs cleanings and repairs as needed.

The intent of this letter is to provide specific information required by Section 24-503(f) that states, "The commissioner of environmental protection shall submit semiannual reports to the mayor and the speaker of the council regarding the inspection, maintenance and repair of catch basins within the jurisdiction of the commissioner, disaggregated by community district... Such reports shall include the number of catch basins inspected, the number of clogged or malfunctioning catch basins identified, the number of catch basins unclogged or repaired, whether the inspection was in response to a complaint, and the response time for resolution of any complaint. Catch basins not unclogged or repaired within nine days after an inspection or the receipt of a complaint shall be identified in the semiannual report."

The following table summarizes DEP's compliance per LL48/15 during the period from January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019. Please also see the attached report, which disaggregates these numbers by community district.

1/1/2019 – 6/30/2019	Programmatic	Complaint-Based	Total
Number of Catch Basins (CBs) Inspected	86,940	2,352	89,292
Number CBs Identified as Non-Functioning	1,813	1,149	2,962
Number of Non-Functioning CBs Repaired	1,787	1,142	2,929
Number CBs Repaired after the Nine-Day Target	315	131	446

DEP's average response time for resolution of catch basin complaints was 8.6 days for this reporting period. Out of the 2,962 catch basins identified as non-functional during inspection, 33 are pending work to make them functional (backlog). Three of these basins are inaccessible due to obstructions (car on top of basin, street construction, etc.) and 12 require capital repairs. The remaining 18 are open for various other reasons.

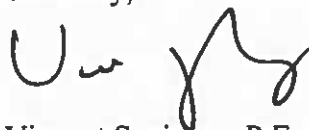
As this six-month cycle completes the third year, one-year statistics have also been compiled:

7/1/2018 – 6/30/2019	Programmatic	Complaint-Driven	Total
Number of Catch Basins (CB) Inspected	148,782	4,246	153,028
Number CB Identified as Non-Functioning	2,686	1,614	4,300
Number of Non-Functioning CB Repaired	2,602	1,594	4,196
Number CB Repaired after the Nine Day Target	573	233	806

DEP again met the requirement to inspect all catch basins in one year. Approximately 3% of the catch basins were identified as non-functioning. Less than 1% of the catch basins were repaired after the nine-day target.

If you have any questions or comments concerning any of the information provided in this semi-annual report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Uw' followed by a stylized flourish.

Vincent Sapienza, P.E.

c: Honorable Costa Constantinides, Chairman, Committee on Environmental Protection,
New York City Council
Honorable Donovan Richards, Council Member
Honorable Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate