

2022 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 2022 Annual Report to the Mayor of the City of New York, the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Speaker of the New York City Council.

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

2022 Agenda

During 2022, the Board discussed comparative data regarding the number of active permits pre- and post- Covid, the number of a food borne illness complaints pre- and post-Covid, and the top ten violations.

DOHMH has been proactive in sending e-blasts containing helpful information to restaurant operators and sharing these with the Board.

The DOHMH Public Health Sanitarians inspecting food service establishments have been recognized as upholding their oath of office. There have not been any complaints or concerns brought forth in any meeting in 2022 regarding inspectors’ ethics or professionalism, even as the DOHMH divisions are playing catch up seven (7) days a week due to the lockdowns in March 2020-August 2021.

Inspector Natalia Simon, with the Compliance Division, was recognized in one of the meetings as potentially saving lives by identifying extremely high CO emissions during a compliance inspection in lower Manhattan that resulted in an immediate closure.

Recommendations for 2023

The Board is comprised of highly educated members who can assist the DOHMH with any special projects, such as developing emergency action plans for imminent health hazards such as fires, floods, water, and electrical long-term interruptions. Operators as well as Public Health Sanitarians would benefit greatly if a comprehensive action plan was developed and made available online.

Members of this Board are still interested in finding additional reductions in fines with an opportunity to submit corrective actions for cure violations.

Respectfully submitted,
Members of the Food Service Establishment Advisory Board