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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 12, 2021

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Press Release #21-18

www.nyc.gov/sanitation

NYC Sanitation and Business Integrity Commission Propose Rules to Make Commercial Waste Industry Safer

The NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) and the NYC Business Integrity Commission (BIC) today announced proposed rules to promote public safety and protect workers in New York City's trade waste industry. The proposed rules, published today in the City Record, mandate safer vehicles and operations in the sector. Since 2010, trucks operated by trade waste companies have killed at least 51 people and injured more than 400 others on New York City streets. These rules are issued under authority created by a package of reform and safety laws signed by Mayor Bill de Blasio in November 2019.

"The private carting industry has been stuck in a race to the bottom, and cutting corners threatens industry workers as well as the public. These rules take a big step toward making the industry safer and stop the free-for-all of large private carting trucks going up and down our streets. They are an important step toward realizing the goals of Commercial Waste Zones and meaningful reform," said Edward Grayson, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Sanitation.

"BIC's new safety rules – together with the Commercial Waste Zone-related rules – are the next step in making the trade waste industry safer. BIC's new rules require safer trucks and safer driving for all private carters in NYC. These rules also provide BIC with additional tools to further increase enforcement on the streets and make the City safer for pedestrians, cyclists and other road users," said Noah D. Genel, Commissioner and Chair of the New York City Business Integrity Commission.

"One of the primary goals of the commercial waste zones program is to finally deliver safety protections to the workers in the private carting industry," said Council Member Antonio Reynoso. "Too often during my tenure as Chair of the Sanitation Committee, I have witnessed the tragic consequences that resulted from a complete lack of safety protocols among many private carters. The safety rules released today by DSNY and BIC will go a long way toward ensuring workers in the industry are given the tools they need to conduct their work safely. I look forward to continuing to collaborate with both workers and the City to ensure that private carting comes off the list of being one of the most dangerous occupations in our City."

The BIC rules, which will apply immediately to all trade waste companies and their vehicles, are designed to improve street safety for all street users by improving vehicle safety, holding companies accountable for their drivers' repeated traffic safety violations, and requiring driver

and helper training. The rules will also require all vehicles to pass twice-yearly safety inspections by qualified inspectors as well as daily inspections by vehicle operators. The rules will require the installation of crossover mirrors on the front of all vehicles with a conventional cab configuration within a specified weight rating to allow drivers to better see pedestrians and other vulnerable road users.

The DSNY rules incorporate the components of the BIC rules and set additional requirements for vehicles operating under the City's Commercial Waste Zone program. These requirements include backup cameras and alarms, auxiliary lighting to illuminate the area around the truck at night, higher visibility "cab-over" designs, and GPS systems for vehicle tracking and alerts. These rules will take effect with the implementation of the Commercial Waste Zones program and will phase in over time.

The hearing on these rules will take place via WebEx on April 13, 2021. The rules and specific information on how to join the hearing can be seen [here](#).

The rules also support the City's Vision Zero goal. Another Vision Zero initiative, Local Law 56 of 2015 requires all trade waste vehicles to have side guards installed by January 1, 2024. These crucial devices can prevent pedestrians, cyclists, and other vulnerable road users from falling under a truck's wheels while turning, and their widespread adoption will save countless lives.

Signed into law by Mayor de Blasio in 2019, Commercial Waste Zones will reduce truck traffic associated with commercial waste collection by 50 percent, eliminating millions of heavy-duty truck miles from NYC streets every year, while strengthening service standards and allowing for customer choice. The program is the result of years of planning, analysis, and stakeholder engagement and will create a safe and efficient commercial waste collection system that advances the City's Green New Deal and zero waste goals while providing high-quality, low-cost service to NYC businesses.

The DSNY rule is the third in a series of rules outlining performance standards for companies operating under Commercial Waste Zones and represents another step toward full implementation of this vital program. In November, DSNY issued the first part of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to select private carters to operate within each of the zones. Responses to Part 1 of the RFP were received by February 19, 2021, and DSNY expects to issue Part 2 of the RFP in late spring. Read more about this program at nyc.gov/commercialwaste.

About the New York City Department of Sanitation

The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) keeps New York City healthy, safe and clean by collecting, recycling and disposing of waste, cleaning streets and vacant lots, and clearing snow and ice. The Department operates 59 district garages and manages a fleet of more than 2,000 rear-loading collection trucks, 450 mechanical brooms and 705 salt spreaders. The Department clears litter, snow and ice from approximately 6,500 miles of City streets and removes debris from vacant lots as well as abandoned vehicles from City streets.

About the New York City Business Integrity Commission

The Business Integrity Commission is a law enforcement and regulatory agency that regulates the trade waste industry and the public wholesale markets in New York City. BIC's mission includes keeping organized crime and other forms of corruption out of BIC's regulated industries and ensuring that all licensees and registrants possess good character, honesty and integrity. In November 2019, BIC's authority expanded to include traffic safety in the trade waste industry, particularly to improve safety on the City's streets for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, in alignment with Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero initiative.