

2021 Annual Report of The Food Service Establishment Advisory Board

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

The Board would like to thank the staff of DOHMH for their work in coordinating the meetings and their professionalism throughout.

This year was the second year of the COVID-19 public health emergency. It still impacted every aspect of our lives, but the Board continued to meet quarterly. Many neighborhood restaurants closed permanently while some new restaurants opened. The Board provided information to DOHMH about the challenges the industry continued to face navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. Board members also assisted with providing a list of food service operators to participate in an inspector training session.

DOHMH shared guidance materials and sought feedback from the Board on ways to support the industry to reopen with COVID-19 mitigation measures in place. The Department also provided information on the most common violations observed during inspections.

While there is a very committed small group of members, there is an overall problem of continued low attendance from Board members. Nevertheless, the committed members strongly believe the meetings should continue and are important and informative. New members should be appointed to fill vacancies.

Respectfully submitted,

Members of the Food Service Establishment Advisory Board