



sanitation

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NYC Sanitation and Council Member Robert Holden Crack Down on Illegal Dumping

Illegal Dumping Creates Possibly Unhealthy, Unsafe Conditions; If Caught, Can Lead to Vehicle Impoundment and Hefty Fines

Using information provided by Council Member Robert Holden's office, the New York City Department of Sanitation's Enforcement Division conducted numerous investigations into illegal dumping in Liberty Park, Glendale in Queens and was able to nab six offenders in a period of two weeks.

Illegal dumping occurs when someone removes material such as trash bags, construction debris, or appliances from a vehicle, and leaves it on public or private property. Both the vehicle owner and driver are legally responsible for dumping. Fines for the vehicle owner range from \$4,000 to \$18,000, and the vehicles used may be impounded.

"Now more than ever we depend on our partnership with City residents to help us keep the city clean," said **Sanitation Commissioner Kathryn Garcia**. "We are thankful to the Councilmember for bringing these locations to our attention. If anyone sees illegal dumping, please contact 311. There's even a reward program available with a financial award to the tipster."

"Illegal dumping has been a problem in my district for a very long time because we have a lot of open spaces surrounding parks, cemeteries and railroad tracks," said **Council Member Robert Holden**. "But the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting budget crisis have made matters even worse. I am grateful to Commissioner Garcia and the Sanitation Police Officers who have been responsive to our neighborhood's complaints during this time, and I urge everyone to do their part to stop illegal dumping and respect our city."

The recent work by members of Sanitation's Enforcement team, including Sanitation Police Officers, include:

- Officers conducting surveillance on Cypress Hills Street observed a vehicle pull in between two large trucks. The respondent exited the vehicle, opened the rear passenger side door and dumped one cubic yard of black bags containing household waste and a chandelier.

- Officers conducting surveillance on Cypress Avenue noticed a vehicle pulled over directly behind their car. They witnessed the driver exit his vehicle, begin to remove black bags, and place them on a grassy area on the street.

- While already assisting with impoundment of a vehicle, a Sanitation Officer observed two respondents exit a truck and illegally dump a mattress and box spring on a grassy area on Cypress Avenue.

Residents looking to dispose of items should use the Department's collection service. The Department will collect many household items during their regularly scheduled service, including mattresses. Find out how to get rid of certain items and confirm your collection day at nyc.gov/sanitation. Businesses looking to dispose of items must use a private carter.

Residents witnessing illegal dumping should contact 311 or go to <https://portal.311.nyc.gov/article/?kanumber=KA-02097> to file a report. Residents may also be eligible for a financial award if they provide information about illegal dumping that leads to a fine or civil penalty.

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.