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PUBLIC HEARING ON
THE COMPREHENSIVE COMMERCIAL WASTE
MANAGEMENT STUDY

-----X

209 Joralemon Street
Brooklyn, New York

November 18, 2002
7:10 P.M.

MINUTES of PUBLIC HEARING, held at
the above-mentioned time and place before
Stefanie Gerber, a Notary Public of the State
of New York.

1

2 A P P E A R A N C E S:

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4 PANEL MEMBERS:

5 Harry Szarpanski, Assistant Commissioner,

6 Department of Sanitation

7 Steven Lawitts, Deputy Commissioner,

8 Department of Sanitation

9 Sarah Dolinar, Department of Sanitation

10 Joyce Mariani, HDR Engineering

11 Walter Czwartacky, Department of

12 Sanitation

13 Robert Michel, Urbitran Associates

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MR. SZARPANSKI: Okay,

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everybody. We're going to get started.

4

Good evening. My name is Harry

5

Szarpanski. I'm the Assistant

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Commissioner for the Bureau of Long-term

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Export with the New York City Department

8

of Sanitation.

9

I welcome the opportunity to appear

10

before you tonight to let you know about

11

the comprehensive study on commercial

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waste management in the City of New

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York. The study will be undertaken by

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the Department with the assistance of our

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solid waste management plan consultant,

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Henningson, Durham & Richardson, also

17

known as HDR.

18

I am joined by representatives of

19

HDR, the HDR team. We have Joyce Mariani

20

and Robert Michel as well as Steven

21

Lawitts, the Deputy Commissioner for

22

Administration with the Department of

23

Sanitation, and Sarah Dolinar and Walter

24

Czwartacky of my staff.

25

My comments tonight will be brief.

1

2 The real focus of this public meeting is
3 your comments on commercial waste
4 management issues that affect your
5 communities.

6 In a nutshell, the commercial waste
7 study will move forward in the following
8 way. The Department, through HDR, will
9 develop a scope and conduct a study. The
10 broad outlines of the study are set forth
11 in the Administrative Code as it was
12 amended by Local Law 74 of 2000. If you
13 are not familiar with it, a copy of Local
14 Law 74 is available as a handout
15 tonight.

16 Also available tonight are copies
17 of a preliminary report, issued by the
18 Department in June of this year, which
19 contains the data necessary to perform
20 the analyses required in the commercial
21 waste study.

22 The commercial waste study will
23 perform the tasks outlined in Local Law
24 74, including analysis of the
25 effectiveness of procedures and criteria

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2 for the issuance and/or renewal of
3 operating permits for putrescible and
4 non-putrescible solid waste transfer
5 stations in minimizing potential adverse
6 environmental, economic and public health
7 impacts on the communities in which they
8 are located; the manner in which
9 regulations relating to transfer station
10 operations, private carter and long-haul
11 transport vehicles are enforced; the
12 means and potential effects of limiting
13 the number and capacity of transfer
14 stations in the city; the size and type
15 of vehicles that should be authorized to
16 transport solid waste to or from transfer
17 stations and fuel-type requirements for
18 such vehicles; whether transfer stations
19 and city-owned marine transfer stations
20 should receive and process both
21 residential and commercial solid waste
22 and the options for transporting such
23 solid waste to and from such transfer
24 stations, including an analysis of
25 potential adverse impacts; and potential

1

2 adverse impacts on communities in which
3 large numbers of transfer stations are
4 located.

5

6 As part of the study, the
7 Department and the HDR team are required
8 to and will solicit and consider the
9 views of the elected officials, the
10 city-wide recycling advisory and borough
11 solid waste advisory boards and the
12 public, including residents of the
13 affected communities, environmental
14 advocacy organizations, transfer station
15 operators, private carters, business
16 entities and academicians, and respond to
17 substantive issues raised.

18

19 To obtain these views, we have
20 scheduled a public meeting in each
21 borough as well as a meeting with the
22 Citywide Recycling Advisory Board and the
23 five borough Solid Waste Advisory
24 Boards. We will also reach out to the
25 other groups listed above.

26

27 We will conduct these outreach
28 efforts between now and December 16. For

1

2 this reason, we ask that we receive all
3 written comments that you would like to
4 be considered as part of the scoping
5 process on or before 5:00 p.m. on Monday,
6 December 16.

7 All written comments should be
8 mailed or faxed to me at 44 Beaver
9 Street, 12th floor, New York, New York
10 10004, and the fax number is
11 212-269-0788. This contact information
12 has been printed on the comment and
13 question cards that are available here
14 tonight.

15 Based on all the comments received,
16 HDR is expected to complete the draft
17 scope for the study by the end of
18 December. The draft scope will appear on
19 Sanitation's web-site and a comment
20 period will be established to obtain
21 comments on the draft scope that will be
22 considered before a final scope is posted
23 on the web-site.

24 The study itself and an
25 accompanying report are expected to be

1

2 completed in March of 2004 and issued to
3 the Mayor and City Council. It's
4 important to note that the commercial
5 waste study will be designed to meet a
6 number of planning goals.

7 The study will enable the city to
8 assess and plan for management of both
9 the residential and commercial waste
10 streams and will assist the Department in
11 developing a new solid waste management
12 plan. Equally important will be the
13 recommendations developed in the report
14 on ways to minimize the potential adverse
15 impacts on the city's residential and
16 business communities and the
17 environment.

18 So we can hear everyone who wants
19 to speak tonight, we ask you to keep your
20 comments brief, we would love to hear
21 from everyone, and we ask you to keep
22 your statements to three minutes.

23 If you do not wish to speak but
24 would like to provide us with written
25 comments, please complete one of the

1

2 comment cards we have provided for your
3 use.

4

5 We have a stenographer keeping the
6 record of the testimony, so please state
7 your name clearly. Elected officials
8 will have an opportunity to speak first.
9 Thank you for coming out tonight, and I
10 will call now on the first speaker.

11

12

13 The first speaker is Ronald J.
14 Dillon.

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26 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name
27 is Ronald J. Dillon. I'm the president
28 of the Concerned Homeowners Association,
29 and I have a number of issues with this
30 study. The first one is, I question the
31 appropriateness of the Department of
32 Sanitation conducting the study.

33

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40 The agency in the past has actively
41 engaged in fraud. It approves
42 submissions containing fraudulent
43 information. It impedes the enforcement
44 of regulations by other city agencies.
45 It impedes the enforcement of regulations
46 by state agencies.

1

2 The agency itself engages in
3 illegal acts such as using streets and
4 sidewalks as tipping floors, illegally
5 operating their vehicles and otherwise
6 operating their vehicles illegally. And
7 the agency refuses to accept notices of
8 violations from the citizens.

9 The second issue is that transfer
10 stations are not some holy thing in
11 themselves. They're use group 18
12 facilities that are covered by zoning,
13 and there are specific zoning protections
14 given to certain communities such as
15 those in light manufacturing areas.

16 There are performance standards
17 that these transfer stations do not meet
18 that the Department of Sanitation allows
19 to operate in violation of those
20 performance standards.

21 Another issue is, when I was
22 looking at the maps and listening to your
23 comments, are the type of transfer
24 stations that you are talking about.
25 You're limiting it to two types of

1

2 transfer stations, putrescible and
3 non-putrescible, and the non-putrescible
4 are, I guess are C&Ds and clean fill.

5 There are other transfer stations.

6 There are other transfer stations that
7 the states give registrations for, which
8 are the recycling transfer stations.

9 There are the transfer stations that the
10 Department of Sanitation calls compost
11 stations. These are all transfer
12 stations.

13 I'm not sure what the arbitrary
14 definition of demarcation is. I know the
15 state says that the ones they registered
16 are supposed to have less impact than
17 those that they permit, but in fact they
18 do not in terms of truck traffic and
19 other impacts.

20 So when I look at the transfer
21 stations in my community, it looks like
22 you have two transfer stations. There's
23 no indication of the multiple recycling
24 transfer stations. There's no indication
25 of the compost transfer stations.

1

2 There's no indication of the other waste
3 activity that has happened in my
4 community.

5 There is no indication of the two
6 super fund sites in my community.

7 There's no indication of the brown field
8 sites in my community. And if you put
9 all of these things into the maps, it
10 creates a totally different picture.

11 Another issue we have with the
12 transfer stations are the changes that
13 are allowed by administrative action.
14 Our experience is that recycling transfer
15 stations were changed from recycling to
16 putrescible purely as an administrative
17 action. The amount of waste that can be
18 handled is changed purely by
19 administrative action. And what happens
20 is companies go in for the least amount
21 that they can get and then change it
22 later, which gets to the issue of
23 notification.

24 There is no notification to the
25 community, and when the community finds

1

2 out after the fact that something has
3 happened, the Department of Sanitation
4 comes back and said well, you had a
5 notification period. There was no
6 notification period.

7

8 In fact, as to the Department of
9 Sanitation, we are an association that
10 has communicated monthly with the
11 Department of Sanitation. We were not
12 even given the courtesy of the
13 notification of this meeting.

14

15 All transfer station activity has
16 to take place off of public
17 thoroughfares. Right now you have
18 idling, queuing, tipping on public
19 sidewalks and streets. This is -- the
20 state regulations, when you look at how
21 the state describes the transfer station
22 activities, all of it is supposed to take
23 place off of public thoroughfares.

24

25 And the last thing is an issue of
environmental justice. One of the
Department's transfer station was
taken -- which was a transfer station

1

2 dealing with compost waste, was taken
3 from an economically advantaged,
4 non-minority community and transferred,
5 without public comment, into waterfront
6 park land without any notification into a
7 minority community without going to --
8 without any public comment.

9

And I believe -- oh, the last
10 issue, the grandfather of the illegal
11 transfer stations. The first transfer
12 station, there was no regulations. The
13 businesses just opened up, as indicated
14 in one of the publications you put out,
15 the transfer stations arose because of
16 the Department's desire to stop the rate
17 of fill in Fresh Kills without consent
18 and raise the tipping fees for these
19 commercial operators, who then went out
20 and just found any land, opened up a
21 transfer station, without any permits
22 were later told they needed to get
23 permits, which were practically all
24 automatically given, and now just about
25 any regulation, the siting regulations,

1

2 every regulation says they're illegal but
3 the Department says well, it's tough luck
4 for the community because we already gave
5 them the permit and they're
6 grandfathered.

7

8 How if they are illegal when they
9 were started and they're illegal now, how
10 do they get to be grandfathered? Thank
11 you.

12

13 MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you for
14 your comments. Can I ask you, you did
15 not mention which community you were
16 referring to?

17

18 SPEAKER: The Old Mill Creek
19 community, which is listed on your map in
20 the southeastern part of Brooklyn where
21 you have only two transfer stations, and
22 I can show you there are at least seven
23 or eight sites that have handled or do
24 handle waste. Sorry, I'm not used to
25 people actually asking me questions.

26

27 MR. SZARPANSKI: Well, this is
28 important. If you could also -- some of
29 the issues that you referred to, can you

1

2 also write to us and give us the
3 specifics about them.

4 SPEAKER: I prepared a response.

5 MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you very
6 much. All right. Our next speaker is
7 Buddy Scotto.

8 SPEAKER: I'm president of
9 Carroll Gardens Association, and I have
10 two local non-profit development
11 corporations, both centered in South
12 Brooklyn, in and around the Gowanus
13 Canal.

14 I had no intention of speaking
15 tonight. I was coming tonight, today,
16 this evening for the special purpose of
17 just listening because there is a great
18 deal of anger that's out there, and I'm
19 sure you're aware of it, and we've got a
20 monstrous problem on our hands, all of us
21 in the City of New York, certainly should
22 feel that it is our problem.

23 I think that there should be a
24 little bit more education getting out
25 there, particularly with what city

1
2 organizations can do to lend a hand as
3 best we can. If indeed we can work hand
4 in hand with the agencies to try to get
5 things done things, such as we have been
6 told, for instance, that sanitation men
7 should be going into area waste and
8 getting garbage out of the area and
9 getting back any receptacles back inside
10 that area way.

11 But the people decided we can leave
12 it out for them and we would get it back
13 in and that would be okay with us, and
14 that was the way that we could
15 participate. We don't think that there
16 are enough sanitation men, and therefore
17 maybe we can fill some of this gap going
18 from three men on the truck to two men on
19 the truck. We notice that there was a
20 difference in the delivery of services
21 there.

22 As far as transfer stations are
23 concerned, Red Hook is absolutely wild
24 because of the lack of discipline on the
25 part of these people running those

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2 transfer stations. They were a horrible
3 mess. Now, we know we're going from a
4 high tech -- we're going from a heavily
5 industrial manufacturing society to a
6 high tech service oriented economy, and
7 hopefully there's some technology out
8 there that could help.

9

I know that we got word originally
10 that incinerators were a horror and
11 nobody trusted incineration, and they
12 were told, though, that the technology
13 had arrived and that incineration would
14 be safe and the emissions would be
15 controlled, but the lack of faith on the
16 part of the community as to maintaining
17 the equipment, so they came down heavy
18 against the possibility of incineration.

19

The other instance that I would
20 like to bring up that I am, are coming
21 right off the top of my head as you can
22 tell, is the fact that if we're handling
23 our own garbage, we're willing to work
24 with you I think a little bit more
25 cooperatively, but when we think that we

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2 have to take on Manhattan's garbage
3 and/or Queens' or somebody else's
4 garbage, and that makes it very difficult
5 and stirs a lot of anger in the
6 community.

7 If we can zero in that everybody
8 has to take care of its own and has the
9 responsibility to working with and indeed
10 there is a way of working with our local
11 sanitation people, I think that would
12 help a little bit.

13 Some of our linear shopping
14 streets, the commercial people on the
15 block, they have been told recently that
16 they can't store the garbage on the
17 sidewalk in their little bins or
18 containers. The Sanitation Department
19 says they will be fined heavily for doing
20 that.

21 They can't keep the garbage inside
22 the store because the Health Department
23 will not allow them to do that, and right
24 now they're in quite a fix. They don't
25 know what to do with this garbage, and

1

2 they have just recently been given a 60
3 day extension --

4 SPEAKER: 90.

5 SPEAKER: -- or a 90 day
6 extension. They don't know what to do
7 with this. We have a crisis in the city,
8 no doubt about it. The Sanitation
9 Department is at odds with itself and
10 with an irate community.

11 Somebody should be doing some kind
12 of public relation work to get us
13 together so we can all share this burden
14 and do something about it, and we should
15 get as much education as we can about new
16 technology that might be able to handle
17 this.

18 And if there are incinerators that
19 are safe and we believe that they can be
20 maintained appropriately, we would
21 probably be willing to go along with
22 that. That would take time, though.
23 It's an educational, public relations
24 kind of job that I think has to be done.

25 The sanitation men themselves are

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2 getting angry out on the street because
3 the public is angry, and all that does is
4 make the job so much more difficult. So
5 we're just kind of hoping, and I was kind
6 of hoping coming here tonight that I was
7 going to start hearing something
8 positively that's going to be done to
9 deal with this problem.

10 And like I say, the change in the
11 economy is here. That means there are
12 areas where we might find acceptable for
13 storage areas, industrial parks that
14 don't impinge on residential
15 neighborhoods.

16 There are neighborhoods now that
17 are changing, going from what was
18 formerly heavy shipping such as Red Hook
19 to manufacturing, now going to
20 recreational, access to the waterfront,
21 so there's a great deal of care that has
22 to be done on which communities you are
23 going to go into because of aspirations
24 that people have now about getting a
25 better quality of life. Thank you.

1

2 MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you for
3 your comments. Our next speaker, Persis
4 Luke.

5 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name
6 is Persis Luke. I'm the environmental
7 specialist for Borough President Marty
8 Markowitz. Borough President Marty
9 Markowitz is actually on vacation this
10 week, otherwise he would be here
11 himself. So I am here to deliver his
12 comments.

13 I would like to thank the
14 Department of Sanitation for this
15 opportunity to present our concerns
16 regarding the state of commercial waste
17 collection, handling and disposal in New
18 York City, and specifically how the
19 current system affects Brooklyn
20 neighborhoods.

21 I do not need to remind you that
22 Brooklyn handles a grossly
23 disproportionate amount of commercial
24 waste in only a handful of communities.
25 Most of our solid waste woes are due to

1

2 the handling of commercial waste and not
3 residential waste.

4

5 The neighborhoods of Greenpoint,
6 Williamsburg, Sunset Park, Red Hook and
7 the East New York neighborhoods are home
8 to the majority of commercial waste
9 transfer stations. According to the
10 commercial waste management study, the
11 preliminary draft that was issued in June
12 of this year, Brooklyn handles more than
13 50 percent of all the commercial
14 putrescible solid waste and close to 50
15 percent of all commercial,
16 non-putrescible waste at their land based
17 transfer stations.

18

19 This is completely unacceptable and
20 clearly does not honor the city's
21 intended practice of fair share.

22

23 Finally, before I get into the
24 specific community impacts I believe that
25 the commercial waste management study
would be more meaningful when analyzed in
conjunction with the results of the
commercial waste composition study which

1

2 was proposed last year.

3

4 We all know that one thing that can
5 make a major impact on commercial waste
6 volume is waste prevention and
7 diversion. We are not doing a very good
8 job in identifying, encouraging and
9 enforcing commercial recycling.

9

10 I will now highlight the major
11 impacts related to the collection,
12 transport, transfer and disposal of
13 commercial solid waste that affects our
14 neighborhoods. I know that private
15 hauling isn't probably covered in this
16 hearing, but enforcement of private
17 haulers is not adequate in the area of
18 truck emissions, truck inspections and
19 sanitary practices.

19

20 Rotting garbage is frequently left
21 on driveways, sidewalks adjacent to
22 commercial establishments. Carters must
23 be more accountable. We have a growing
24 rodent problem in many commercial, retail
25 areas, which usually coincides with
inadequate commercial collection

1

2 practices.

3

4 Transport. I'm sure you will hear
5 from many other groups tonight, the
6 transportation of commercial waste erodes
7 the quality of life in many
8 neighborhoods. Since Fresh Kills was
9 closed to commercial tipping and the
10 interim contracts were implemented,
11 neighborhoods in Greenpoint,
12 Williamsburg, Sunset Park, Red Hook and
13 East New York are literally overrun by
14 truck traffic.

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All of these trucks create diesel
emissions, which have been shown to
contribute to asthma, respiratory and
cardiovascular illness. Furthermore,
diesel emissions are being scrutinized in
the scientific community as probable
carcinogens. One of the objectives of
the study must be to develop ways to
reduce diesel truck emissions in our
community. This is paramount to the
health of our communities.

Second major point in the

1

2 transportation section is trucks
3 consistently travel on non-truck routes
4 causing infrastructure damage and unsafe
5 conditions for pedestrians and legal
6 vehicles. I would like the study to
7 address the use of non-truck routes by
8 carters and long-haul waste carriers.

9 Waste transfer stations. The use
10 of the marine transfer stations must be
11 included as equally feasible alternatives
12 for the export of commercial solid
13 waste. For the reasons stated above, we
14 can no longer rely on land based transfer
15 stations to carry our solid waste out of
16 the city. It is my understanding that
17 the MTSS have the capacity to handle not
18 only residential but a significant
19 portion of the commercial waste as well.

20 Land based truck transfer stations
21 create unhealthy and unsafe conditions
22 for surrounding communities by creating
23 conditions that produce excess truck
24 traffic and resultant diesel pollution,
25 excessive and unlawful idling or poor

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2 truck scheduling, queuing of trucks on
3 sidewalks and double-parked in streets
4 impeding the safe flow of traffic and
5 pedestrians, for both traffic and
6 pedestrians, dust, noise, slime and
7 leachate release into the streets and on
8 to the sidewalks, operating over
9 capacity, creation of public health
10 vectors and traffic accidents and
11 violations involving waste trucks in
12 Districts one, five, six and seven.

13 All of these parameters must be
14 studied in terms of their impact on
15 public health and public safety.
16 Possible techniques for reducing the
17 amount of waste trucked out of our city
18 should be analyzed. This would include
19 increasing the rates of recycling at the
20 transfer station, investigating
21 commercial food composting, and
22 degreasing and dewatering as alternate
23 techniques, which would positively reduce
24 the amount of putrescible waste that is
25 transported out of the city.

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The status of the DOS siting regulations has been unclear for several years. For commercial -- for transfer stations. An analysis of current and/or proposed siting regulations should be included in the study. A trend analysis of transfer station operating violations should also be included.

Finally, export and disposal. Export of commercial and residential waste is placing stress on local streets and contributing to unsafe conditions in our neighborhoods. I would suggest that the following items be considered in the commercial waste study as related to export and disposal:

Examine trends in landfill disposal costs and provide projections of costs for the next five to 10 years; include a truck study specific to long haul transfer trucks including analysis of infrastructure stress, accidents and diesel emissions.

In closing, I hope the advent and

1
2 completion of the study will help the
3 Department and the city uncover ways to
4 reduce not only the generation of
5 commercial waste but significantly
6 mitigate the impact of commercial waste
7 handling on our neighborhoods into a more
8 equitable solution. The processing of
9 commercial waste has been a long-term and
10 very costly burden for many Brooklyn
11 communities. Thank you.

12 MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you for
13 your comments. Our next speaker is Nancy
14 Walby.

15 SPEAKER: Hi. Good evening.
16 Good evening, Mr. Szarpanski. My name is
17 Nancy Walby. I am vice chair of the
18 Brooklyn Solid Waste Advisory Board. And
19 thank you for this opportunity to make
20 comments on or allow us to give comments
21 on the commercial waste management issues
22 that effect Brooklyn's communities, and
23 right now I would like to follow up
24 primarily with some recommendations that
25 we have on ways to address potentially

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2 adverse impacts on the Brooklyn
3 neighborhoods.

4

5 And we hope that the commercial
6 waste study will be comprehensive enough
7 to develop a new solid waste management
8 plan that includes residential,
9 institutional and commercial waste. Some
10 of them right now I am reading from
11 sketchy notes and will submit these in
12 writing for the 16th.

13

14 I have a list of issues that have
15 negative impacts on Brooklyn communities,
16 but I think you have heard plenty of
17 those in the past, so I'm just going to
18 really focus in on some recommendations
19 that we have, and some of which I heard
20 from your short presentation you are
21 planning already, but let me go through
22 them anyway.

23

24 One is certainly we would like you
25 to see the completion of the waste
26 characterization study that would help to
27 develop commercial recycling
28 initiatives. We would like to see an

1

2 extensive traffic study, which would
3 include vehicles traveling through the
4 streets, sitting parked, sitting idling
5 or queued.

6 This would include an analysis of,
7 you know, the truck routes, congestion
8 and accidents for neighbors. Associated
9 with that, truck emissions study, which
10 would include emissions from Packer
11 trucks, the DOS Packer trucks and the
12 long waste haulers, perhaps a feasibility
13 study for fuel alternatives in trucks
14 retrofitted for these alternative fuels,
15 and also might include an analysis of
16 current truck emissions, the regulations
17 and their compliance.

18 A noise study for truck traffic and
19 transfer station operation. We would
20 like to see a study for odors for
21 transfer station operation. I guess you
22 can talk to their neighbors.

23 A study of violations of
24 regulations. This would include not only
25 vehicle violations but also transfer --

1

2 violations by transfer stations, and this
3 would be a study by type of violation,
4 number of recurring violations by a
5 business date and patterns to the
6 violations in an effort to see if, really
7 where the problem is, what could be done
8 to remedy that problem.

9

Public health effects due to
10 concentration of waste transfer stations
11 in small geographic areas, especially in
12 Community Boards one and two where most
13 of the transfer stations are located. An
14 analysis of residential and commercial
15 complaints by area. I guess this would
16 go along with talking to the neighbors
17 about odors and noise.

18

We would like to see some truck --
19 this isn't worded very well -- transfer
20 stations -- we would like to see some
21 recommendations on how transfer stations
22 and truck traffic can better be
23 regulated.

24

We would also like to see something
25 called a, what we call a Sunset clause.

1

2 If the -- and that would entail, if the
3 transfer station does not comply with
4 current regulations or whatever
5 regulations are in effect within a
6 certain time frame, for example, three
7 years, if they don't correct their
8 violation, then it must go through a
9 re-permitting process or be closed.

10 And this recommendation comes from
11 the fact that it is our understanding
12 that many transfer stations continue to
13 operate even though they are continually
14 violating or do not correct the problem.

15 We would like to see a study in the
16 scope of information that transfer
17 stations are required to submit to the
18 DOS. For example, tonnages. You know,
19 is this adequate, perhaps there are,
20 there is other information that they
21 could submit to help the Department of
22 Sanitation monitor the transfer
23 stations.

24 We would like to see the potential
25 use of marine transfer stations for

1

2 commercial waste, or rather we would like
3 to see the marine transfer stations take
4 care of commercial waste. We would also,
5 with that a full cost effective study
6 might be done regarding that.

7

8 Perhaps the current rate structure
9 can be studied that would be based on a
10 volume pickup and weight rather than
11 tipping. What's meant by this was with
12 the, would the rate structure better
13 be -- I don't know what he meant.

13

Sorry.

14

15 I think just take a look at the
16 rate structures based it would -- would
17 it be better based on a volume as opposed
18 to a weight unit price and the
19 implications this would have for
20 profitability and competition in the
21 private carting industry in New York
City.

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23 I would like the study to provide
24 an analysis of projected out of state
25 landfill fees and including increased
taxes, projected increases in taxes.

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2 Perhaps study the geographic distribution
3 of private carters within New York City
4 to determine if a bid, quote, bid system
5 of franchising areas would be feasible.

6 We think this might be an
7 interesting alternative to having a small
8 area serviced by many carters. It might
9 reduce noise, it might -- because, you
10 know, for example, four or five carters
11 have to service a small geographic area,
12 and if they're on different schedules,
13 then it just increases the emissions and
14 the noise in that area. If this
15 franchising idea was looked at, perhaps
16 it might help reduce that.

17 We also think -- some other ideas
18 we had, like we thought that a prorated
19 regulations for recycling might encourage
20 the bio diesel industry. Something else,
21 dewatering and degreasing putrescible
22 waste might help to decrease the volume
23 and of course the weight of the
24 putrescible waste. We would like for you
25 to look at that.

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And lastly, we would like to see the studied option of waste to energy facilities, waste to energy technologies or facilities. That would exclude the traditional incineration and include gasification as a commercial waste disposal. And we will put this in more understandable form, and thank you very much.

MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you. Our next speaker is Sal Cantelini.

SPEAKER: You done good. You pronounced that right.

MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you.

SPEAKER: My name is Sal Cantelini. I'm a long resident of the and Greenpoint section of Brooklyn. I have been an activist in Greenpoint against truck and trailer traffic coming through residential streets. I'm also the founder of SOS, Save Our Streets. I am also a member of OUTRAGE against the traffic and truck driving coming through residential streets.

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It seems one morning we woke up and we found out we had new neighbors, Waste Management. Waste Management gave birth to trucks and trailers, huge trucks and trailers, hauling garbage through our streets, residential streets, tree lined streets, ignoring signs, no through truck traffic except for local deliveries, also ignoring red lights at the corners, stop signs and pedestrians. Pedestrians don't exist anymore.

We took a truck survey, which I have a copy here to present to you. Okay? Sorry. OUTRAGE's traffic committee headed by Joe Reimer and myself completed a truck survey this summer using interns and community volunteers.

We documented about 42 trucks an hour going through residential streets and surrounding streets. It seems that these trucks are not getting smaller. They're getting bigger. These cabs on these trailers look like two room apartments with showers. They're huge.

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2 And they're coming down our streets,
3 residential streets, shaking our
4 buildings, ignoring people. The drivers
5 just don't give a damn. That's it.

6 To me there are no more drivers on
7 the road. They're all kamikaze pilots.
8 We'd really like to understand, to get an
9 impact of our community, we believe that
10 the following needs to happen. You need
11 to hold a hearing in our community with
12 ample notice and publicity so residents
13 can readily attend. I thank you and hope
14 you consider our proposals.

15 MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you. Our
16 next speaker is Alison Cordero.

17 SPEAKER: Good evening. I'm here
18 tonight representing OUTRAGE, which is --
19 I hope I can get the name straight
20 because it sounds great -- but it's
21 Williamsburg, Greenpoint Organizations
22 United for Trash Reduction and Garbage
23 Equity, which is really a response to all
24 the stuff that Sal, who is one of our
25 members, was just talking about.

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2 You can look at that map and see
3 well, you can talk about well, there's
4 one here, one here and one here. We've
5 got 16 right there up in the upper
6 right-hand corner. That's Williamsburg,
7 Greenpoint. We're inundated. And that's
8 why I think our first demand in the
9 process of this study is you need to come
10 out to our community, and we will have a
11 room with a lot more people than are here
12 tonight, and you can hear about what the
13 impact is on our community.

14 We want you to make sure you give
15 ample notice to our elected officials, to
16 our community residents, to our community
17 groups so that they can come out and
18 present to you what they know and what
19 they have seen and not what the
20 Department is recording has happened.
21 This process is obviously long overdue.
22 This Department has failed to plan for
23 commercial waste for way too long, and I
24 congratulate you on finally getting
25 here. But it's awful late.

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As Sal ample documented better than I can, the impact on our communities are disastrous. I'm here today with just two of our over 20 community group members. In addition to Sal, we have Tatiana (inaudible) from the concerned (inaudible) and Mrs. Venus Bonnett from Cooper Park, which is a New York City Housing Authority. She's from the Park Residents Association, which is right between two truck routes.

A number of our members could not be here tonight including Ray Cars who had to stay home with his kids. So -- and we've been very frustrated, frankly, with the Department. I have to say that. We have submitted numerous requests to the Department, and we don't even get the courtesy of an answer, which I have to say is not the case with the State DEC. But how somehow the Department is too busy after 9-11, that's their excuse that's listed for more than a year. It's now more than a year. We

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2 now want to know what's happening with
3 our formal request because, frankly, we
4 don't trust this Department of
5 Sanitation.

6 We are going to be looking at and
7 checking this process every step of the
8 way. We are going to be asking our local
9 officials, the Brooklyn Delegation and
10 the City Council on the budget cuts, so I
11 know they couldn't be here but they would
12 be here if they could.

13 I know some of our state elected
14 officials didn't receive ample notice to
15 be here or what they would consider to be
16 proper research testimony, and I think
17 you have to consider that. We are the
18 single most heavily impacted community in
19 Brooklyn and you need to listen to us.

20 You need to extend your scope of
21 process deadlines. You better be sure
22 you will hear from us because otherwise
23 you will hear from us by other means.

24 You know, we are far and away the
25 worst impacted community in Brooklyn, and

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2 we need both legally and morally to
3 consider that. So that's the message I
4 am here today to convey from the
5 residents of OUTRAGE. You will get the
6 written testimony that says all the nice
7 things we think you should consider.

8 You have our truck survey. We went
9 out and had senior citizens stand in the
10 heat and count trucks, because somehow
11 the City of New York couldn't figure out
12 in however many years it's been since
13 they cancelled the last truck survey a
14 way to count trucks on street corners in
15 Brooklyn, you know, and document what
16 everybody in our communities are seeing,
17 their cracking foundations and the
18 garbage on the streets and the leaking
19 garbage out of trucks in front of new
20 partnership homes on Seigel Street.

21 And the two trucks a minute, I
22 think we counted two trucks a minute on
23 Vandervoort, one truck a minute on
24 Metropolitan, one truck a minute on
25 Meeker and four trucks a minute in the

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2 four other locations. Right, Sal? I
3 mean, that's outrageous. That's totally
4 outrageous.

5 And sometimes it slows down a
6 little bit, and sometimes, frankly, it's
7 probably worse than that. Then of course
8 the trucks stand and park, as other
9 people have talked about, leak stuff on
10 sidewalks. We have talked about --
11 obviously you have to look at the impact
12 of diesel, obviously you have to look at
13 alternatives. But first of all, you have
14 to look at the fact that you cannot
15 concentrate the amount of garbage trucks
16 you are concentrating in one community.

17 And you need to find ways, to start
18 finding ways of moving it out soon. You
19 need to shut down transfer stations that
20 have been operating under consent
21 orders. Never mind grandfathered.
22 That's one problem that somebody raised.
23 But you got two transfer stations that
24 have been operating under consent order
25 since 1980 something because on -- I

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2 don't have all the details here, but
3 that's outrageous. That's totally
4 outrageous.

5 And it's only because your
6 Department can't put the attention on
7 finding a better way to do things and
8 doesn't want, frankly, to listen to
9 communities. That's been amply
10 demonstrated. I'm not sure you would be
11 here today if we hadn't pushed through
12 the demand for a commercial waste study.

13 The sense we got then was you
14 wanted to deal with residential waste,
15 and then when that problem was solved,
16 maybe you would look at commercial
17 waste. So I wanted to remind people of
18 that. The only reason we are here today
19 is because, frankly, we forced you to do
20 what the people of the City of New York
21 and the City Council for whom you work.

22 We are going to be here with a very
23 large tax increase one way or another,
24 which pays your salaries, and I hope you
25 remember that, and I hope you pay some

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2 serious attention to that because
3 otherwise this process is going to be a
4 sham and a fraud as the so-called
5 planning process or lack of planning
6 process has been for the last decade, and
7 it's going to become a major political
8 liability for the Department in a tight
9 budget situation.

10 And the Department is going to have
11 to look much more seriously at what it's
12 doing. So I hope this process -- I'm
13 hoping that things will change. I'm
14 hoping that this is a new day. I'm
15 hoping that the Department will not
16 operate in what has become its business
17 as usual manner of ignoring and dumping
18 on communities.

19 And dumping in particular, as
20 somebody said, on poor working class
21 communities and not looking at what the
22 impacts are and other economic
23 development issues and other issues as
24 Buddy Scotto pointed out.

25 I think you guys have a big

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2 cultural change to make if you are really
3 going to come up with a commercial waste
4 study that means something and that isn't
5 just another nice big stack of paper that
6 you pay somebody, I guess these guys, a
7 lot of money to do, a lot of our money.

8 And obviously our elected officials
9 are going to be looking at this.

10 Obviously our Borough President is going
11 to be looking at it and making a lot of
12 noise. We are very grateful Persis that
13 he is good at making noise, and you will
14 be hearing from us.

15 And obviously Brooklyn in general
16 is generally the worst impacted borough.
17 We're tired of taking Manhattan's
18 garbage, and I know you people work in
19 Manhattan, some of you I guess live in
20 Manhattan, but we're tired of it. We're
21 really tired of it.

22 And I don't know, maybe we should
23 see -- this is a nice courtroom, but, you
24 know, I mean, Staten Island -- Brooklyn
25 would be the fourth largest city in the

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2 United States, so we deserve more than
3 just another hearing. We deserve a very
4 serious hearing and series of hearings
5 and series of tours.

6 We want you to go out with people
7 like Sal that know what's going on in the
8 streets out there, that know when the
9 transfer stations leave their doors up
10 and what the impacts are. We want you to
11 be out there at 3 o'clock in the morning
12 when our people are coming home from work
13 in the hospitals and in the city and
14 doing the work for the city and have to
15 deal with transfer stations, have to deal
16 with the rats running across their
17 street.

18 So we want some serious, serious
19 attention to this issue. And if we don't
20 see that forthcoming from the study, no
21 matter how many pieces of paper you
22 produce, you're going to have to make a
23 lot more noise than we've made.

24 MR. SZARPANSKI: We hear you.

25 Thank you very much. Our next speaker is

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2 Tracey Pasluszny.

3 SPEAKER: Hello. Good evening.

4 I'm here from, representing Assemblywoman

5 Joan Millman from the 52nd Assembly

6 District, so that covers a lot of Carroll

7 Gardens and Red Hook, Brooklyn Heights,

8 and the development of Red Hook are major

9 concerns of ours. I'm mostly here just

10 to listen and to take back information to

11 the Assemblywoman. If anyone here has

12 any concerns they would like that the

13 Assemblywoman to be made aware of, the

14 office is located at 341 Smith Street.

15 The phone number there is

16 718-246-4889, and we will be following

17 the study and be continually advised of

18 it. So thank you.

19 MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you very

20 much. Our next speaker is, I'm having

21 difficulty reading it, is it Adam

22 Perlmutter?

23 SPEAKER: Yes, it is.

24 MR. SZARPANSKI: I thought it was

25 you. I'm sorry.

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2 SPEAKER: Good evening. My name
3 is Adam Perlmutter. I am a resident of
4 Greenpoint, Brooklyn, and I am also the
5 president of a synagogue in Greenpoint
6 and a board member of Community Board one
7 and Greenpoint Waterfront Association,
8 which is a coalition of 41 local
9 community organizations, parks and
10 planning issues on the parks waterfront.

11 I'm just going to speak
12 extemporaneously about some issues
13 dealing with solid waste because it is an
14 issue that's extremely important to our
15 community.

16 First I want to commend you for
17 being here. I know you have come under a
18 lot of criticism for the solid waste
19 problems that we have in Brooklyn, and I
20 know to a large degree you are here
21 because of pressure put on the City
22 Council in developing a solid waste plan
23 through OUTRAGE and through our
24 community, to address the issue of
25 commercial waste because, frankly, unless

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2 they address the issue of commercial
3 waste, they're not addressing the solid
4 waste problems we have in New York City.

5 We know from the information you
6 provided us and from other information
7 that commercial waste comprises about
8 two-thirds of the solid waste in New York
9 City. The problem in our community, and
10 Sal talks about waking up one morning and
11 suddenly seeing all of these commercial
12 waste transfer stations in his
13 neighborhood and wondering where they
14 came from.

15 We know they came from the fact in
16 the late '80s a decision was made to
17 raise the tipping fees in Staten Island,
18 and the result of that has been a
19 disastrous impact on our community and
20 the South Bronx because commercial waste
21 haulers saw an opportunity to be able to
22 process waste and moved into our
23 communities.

24 So to a large degree the Department
25 of Sanitation is a bit, they're the

1
2 proverbial gods following the circus and
3 the elephants trying to fix what seems to
4 be solution to the eventual closure of
5 Fresh Kills but what in fact has caused
6 an even more terrible problem for
7 residents because the interim solution
8 has created such rampant truck traffic in
9 the communities that the health impacts
10 have been devastating as well as the
11 (inaudible) have been devastating.

12 So I think what I would like to
13 say, what I would like to recommend are
14 not really what should happen with the
15 study, but I would like to address some
16 things that I hope you will try to focus
17 on, have the study achieve by the time
18 it's done because unless the study
19 realizes these goals, I don't really
20 think you are going to be addressing the
21 problems with commercial waste in our
22 communities.

23 The first is that the study has to
24 come up with a commercial solid waste
25 plan. It must address the issue of the

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2 fact that interim land based transfer
3 stations are not a solution for New York
4 City and cannot be tolerated as a way of
5 removing commercial waste from the city.
6 You have basically taken the commercial
7 waste problem and multiplied it
8 exponentially by requiring two truck
9 trips for every truckload of garbage
10 that's getting out of the city.

11 So what I want to say is that the
12 study has to recommend that rail and
13 barge are the solutions for getting
14 garbage out of New York City. That has
15 to be coupled with the recommendation
16 that with rail and barge disposal, waste
17 transfer stations are shut down in New
18 York City.

19 New York City has to get out of the
20 business of being a place for massive
21 commercial waste transfer. It's
22 outrageous that we have so many in
23 Greenpoint, Williamsburg and it's
24 outrageous that we have so many in the
25 South Bronx.

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2 Somebody talked before about the
3 aspirations of communities for
4 waterfronts in our neighborhoods and
5 redeveloping and requiring and
6 re-accessing our waterfront. That's
7 going to come at the cost of rezoning of
8 heavy, industrial land along our
9 waterfront and because of that it's
10 incumbent upon the city to realize that
11 with an ever shrinking supply of
12 industrial land, it needs to find out a
13 more efficient way to remove commercial
14 waste from the city, to put waste
15 transfer companies out of the waste
16 transfer business in New York City, to
17 make that land available for other uses
18 where they're not going to be able to
19 occupy things like the East River
20 waterfront and Greenpoint, Williamsburg.

21 Another thing is that incineration
22 is not going to be a solution. And I'm
23 going to tell you right now that if this
24 study comes out with any recommendation
25 for incineration, it will be over my dead

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2 body, and I think there are other people
3 in this room that agree with me on that
4 subject.

5 Incineration in our city is not
6 going to be a way to get rid of
7 commercial waste. We're going to have to
8 find landfills elsewhere, either upstate
9 or out of state, to eventually dispose of
10 this stuff, get rid of it. We're
11 obviously going to have to return to
12 recycling. The Mayor did an enormous
13 injustice in the recycling movement in
14 the city by cutting back on it the way he
15 did. Basically I think he did -- this is
16 one of those situations like two steps
17 forward and one step back, but basically
18 he took five steps back in recycling
19 because recycling is a matter of state of
20 mind, and the Mayor basically said to New
21 Yorkers, don't worry about it, it's not
22 an important issue, and it really is an
23 important issue. And I think he did a
24 disservice to the Department of
25 Sanitation by cutting the recycling

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2 program the way he did.

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Finally, I would very much like to see the Department of Sanitation take an initiative to start putting commercial waste figures on the internet. My community for a long time has struggled with trying to understand the exact scope of the problem that we have.

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It's very nice that we finally have this report, but beforehand we would have to make a Freedom of Information Request for that information, and we shouldn't have to as tax payers. That information should be posted on the internet so we can access it, so we can see and confirm the fact that our community is processing a great lion's share of the city's commercial waste.

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There's no reason why we should have to grope around in the dark for that information, especially in the modern age of the internet. That information should be posted, and I think it would be incumbent upon the Department of

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2 Sanitation to embrace that concept and to
3 work to make that a reality.

4 Finally, I just want to say that,
5 you know, that the city's done a
6 wonderful thing with residential waste by
7 going for self-sufficiency. I think that
8 there are ways to improve on it. I think
9 that -- and it may be very difficult to
10 do, but I think that to a certain degree,
11 instead of looking at borough
12 self-sufficiency, we should look at
13 creating regions that are in close
14 proximity to marine transfer stations.

15 So, for example, in our community
16 and in Brooklyn, while we have a waste
17 transfer station in Greenpoint, a marine
18 transfer station in Greenpoint, it might
19 be more efficient to cut down emissions
20 by taking some of that burden from Queens
21 as opposed to somewhere deep in Brooklyn,
22 coming all the way up to Greenpoint.

23 Yes, I would really suggest that as
24 part of a study to look at where to do
25 rail and barge, that somebody pull out a

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2 compass, somebody draw circles around the
3 marine transfer waste stations we have
4 had around the city to create zones so
5 that trucks aren't pigeon holed into just
6 going to local borough's transfer station
7 but that trucks will travel to the marine
8 transfer station that is closest and
9 makes the most logical sense.

10 I think that if you were to do
11 that, you would find that the concept of
12 borough self-sufficiency for commercial
13 waste and most particularly for
14 putrescible waste would be something that
15 would be very feasible for the handling
16 of putrescible commercial waste in
17 Manhattan and elsewhere. So I really
18 hope you will take that into
19 consideration.

20 MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you for
21 your comments. Our next speaker is
22 Adeline Michaels.

23 SPEAKER: Members of the panel, I
24 have heard a lot of the same things year
25 after year. I have been so active, Sarah

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2 Dolinar knows me from the first study. I
3 have studied them very well. And now I
4 have another five year extension with an
5 enormous amount of money to do what?

6 You have had Sanitation
7 Commissioners at Milano put on a
8 technology program, and on June 24
9 technologies came from all over,
10 wonderful technologies, and gasification
11 is the thing for this city. No more
12 transfer stations. These people don't
13 want no more.

14 I feel for Greenpoint. For years
15 on the Solid Waste Advisory Board, we
16 heard all their complaints. You ignored
17 them. You ignored everything we do.

18 Just like Commissioner Doherty at
19 the recent Milano. You have to listen to
20 the people, and all of us have to sit on
21 our Council people to make them stop this
22 ridiculous study and bring in new
23 technology. It was developed here in New
24 York and on the shores of Newark over
25 eight years ago. I was part of that

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2 development. And it had to go to
3 Europe.

4 It's a wonderful technology. All
5 of Europe is using it. You have the
6 tapes. I mailed them to Commissioner
7 Doherty, and yet you are totally ignoring
8 it and going along with the HDR and
9 spending money on containerization.

10 By the way, Southwest you are
11 proposing that to be an EBUF, and let me
12 tell you something, that community is not
13 going to allow you to put 90 foot
14 compactors in there with a 20 foot
15 soundproof wall while you keep
16 compacting. That sound with all these
17 luxury condominiums around, they're not
18 going to let you do it.

19 And don't even mention the word
20 waste to energy because you can't
21 eradicate any of the mercury that comes
22 from those scrubbers that you say is
23 cleaning the air. So start thinking
24 because the people are going to start
25 protesting. I know our community is

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2 going to.

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We need gasification, and I hope you look into it. I gave it to Martha Hirst, Molinaro in Staten Island wanted it. But the Giuliani administration said no, campaign promises have to be fulfilled and it's not necessary really.

And I urge all these people, if you want to all pay for this technology, just contact me and maybe we can get a loud enough voice to make these people change their plans, especially the people at Greenpoint. So thank you.

MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you very much. Do we have Council Member Stewart here with us? Are you ready?

SPEAKER: Good evening. I'm here basically just to show my support, and I wanted to know more about what's happening with the waste and the different plans that we have for a waste program.

However, in terms of sanitation in general, I want to know basically --

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2 because in the City Council we are now
3 talking about modified cuts for all the
4 different departments, and one of the
5 cuts that we are contemplating is
6 supplemental basket pickups, and that is
7 something that is really going to effect
8 my district and I don't -- I can't see
9 how it's going to happen because if you
10 look along Flatbush Avenue from let's
11 assume you say from Church Avenue all the
12 way down to the Junction, sanitation,
13 it's a real big problem in terms of the
14 streets.

15 No matter how much you complain, no
16 matter how much you talk to the
17 Sanitation Department, there is a problem
18 in terms of pickup and waste in the
19 city. So it gives a different picture
20 for Brooklyn because if you drive to
21 Flatbush, you can get a picture of
22 Brooklyn as a dirty city, and I just
23 wanted to know if anyone was talking
24 about it, if anyone was really doing
25 something about it.

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2 So I just came by to listen and
3 maybe to get some information because I
4 just came from City Hall where we were
5 discussing and planning and trying to
6 talk about the budget cuts. I welcome
7 any comments, and I thank you for this
8 hearing.

9 MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you for
10 coming. I will make sure that
11 Commissioner Doherty is aware of your
12 comments and questions, and we can
13 probably arrange to have a separate
14 briefing on the topic for you. Our next
15 speaker is Timothy Logan.

16 SPEAKER: Hi. Good to see you.

17 MR. SZARPANSKI: Hi.

18 SPEAKER: I appreciate your
19 compliance with Local Law 74. I like to
20 call the OWN study for commercial waste.
21 I call it that because our Organization
22 of Waterfront Neighborhoods, for which I
23 am a technical advisor, and back in SWMP
24 modification process in 2000, you might
25 remember that we turned out a number of

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2 folks. To a large extent that kind of
3 turned the tide for the City Council and
4 made them put this in the coupling with
5 the passage of th SWMP modification at
6 that time.

7 There were a lot of folks who were
8 ready to say, just reject the SWMP
9 outright because it didn't properly
10 address the long-term needs. And we --
11 in fact, the SWMP 2000 process,
12 modification process has been rejected by
13 the preservation. We're not looking for
14 that long-term plan to be our long-term
15 plan, as we move forward, according to
16 the Mayor and his announcements of July
17 31 of this year.

18 That being said, I would also like
19 to talk a little bit about the
20 legislative history that comes from this
21 waste study. It came out of a
22 recommendation from the alternative waste
23 plan that was published in May of 2000,
24 which had a number of recommendations,
25 including of course the export plan which

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2 the city just adopted.

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What we originally intended only puts forward the idea of this solid waste study, was to look at what was going on in terms of solid waste in this city and commercial sector since it had been separated from the residential sector back in the '80s with the increase of tipping fees and taxes.

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MR. SZARPANSKI: I --

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SPEAKER: Can you hear?

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MR. SZARPANSKI: I think you are fading in and out periodically. Let's try.

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SPEAKER: The general idea was that the waste transfer stations that popped up since that throughout various parts of the city, including of course Williamsburg, Greenpoint, the most single impacted neighborhood in the city, which now accepts with construction and demolition debris, approximately 44 percent of the daily throughput of the entire city, that followed closely by 32

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2 point some odd percentage in the South
3 Bronx.

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5 So you are talking about impacting
6 two communities, in particular South
7 Queens, to a lesser extent with 11 some
8 odd percentage.

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10 All of these facilities were put in
11 primarily, with the exception of new
12 facilities, without much design impact
13 when they were originally designed, and
14 most of these facilities have actually,
15 during the permitting process, utilized
16 HDR Engineering for their waste transfer
17 stations.

18

19 These truck, land based waste
20 transfer stations, if you look back at
21 all of the files, which I have looked
22 through in the FOIL process from the
23 Department of Sanitation, I guess you are
24 now called HDR, has the engineering
25 reports for almost every truck based
26 waste transfer stations in the city.

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28 So the fact that you are looking at
29 all these private waste transfer

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2 stations, that HDR is consulting on how
3 the commercial waste should be dealt
4 with, that they're also taking money in
5 addition to getting it from New York,
6 they're also taking it from the various
7 waste transfer stations in the permitting
8 process when they're fighting for them.

9 That's a problem. I can only
10 imagine that their recommendations would
11 go towards keeping private waste transfer
12 stations because it would be in their
13 best interest for the (inaudible) as well
14 as private waste transfer stations.

15 Moving forward, I would like to
16 give you -- it is largely the intent of
17 the export plan, which the Mayor adopted
18 this summer, was to reintegrate the
19 commercial and residential waste streams,
20 although he did not expressly -- although
21 he didn't expressly state that he was
22 interested in the reintegration of these
23 streams, it has since been spoken of by
24 Mr. Doherty in one form or another,
25 publicly included.

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The concern that we have about the reintegration, and we support it, is that there may be a vacuum left with the various truck waste based transfer stations. If you reintegrate the marine transfer stations, if these private waste facilities are not closed down, we would like to continue to express that concern.

That's why it was not on the plan that was issued in May of 2000, because at this point we still don't have the legal remedy or other policy remedy for shutting down private waste transfer stations. And the reintegration and movement of the commercial waste through the marine waste transfer stations without the closure of these private waste transfer stations is very disconcerting, as it would continue to impact on like the Williamsburg, Greenpoint, East New York, to name some of the Brooklyn based communities, without solving the problem for them.

I would like to include that this

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2 study should also encompass the three
3 points of OWN's model, reduce recycling
4 and retrofit, the idea being that as we
5 look at commercial waste in the city and
6 the impact, if for no other reason with
7 the many truck trips, with the various
8 volumes of the commercial waste, if there
9 are opportunities to reduce the waste
10 being put on a truck, that might reduce a
11 number of truck trips that are being
12 moved in and around the city.

13 We also need to look at
14 opportunities for integrating the
15 commercial recycling back into the public
16 sector of recycling, such as that we
17 could get funding from the private
18 sources and public sector to utilize city
19 owned material, cover facilities to be
20 used, debated, recited, whatever.

21 But this might be a similar
22 opportunity to the export plan where we
23 can reintegrate the two streams, and we
24 can get actually more of a payoff, reduce
25 their payoff on the commercial side,

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2 which is good for business, and we
3 increase our volumes, which could only be
4 useful.

5 And once again, to look at the
6 opportunity to put the commercial waste
7 through the retrofitted marine transfer
8 stations, such that we could greatly
9 reduce the number of facilities
10 throughout the city as well as distribute
11 them in a cool manner.

12 We need to particularly be
13 concerned about Manhattan, and I know
14 there's the Brooklyn one but I think
15 everyone in Brooklyn needs to be equally
16 concerned about Manhattan because we are
17 currently taking a great deal of
18 Manhattan's waste in the commercial
19 sector here in Brooklyn to deal with.
20 That waste comes back over the
21 Williamsburg Bridge and the Manhattan
22 Bridge and gets processed in Red Hook, in
23 Sunset Park and most importantly and to a
24 large extent in Williamsburg,
25 Greenpoint. And that -- in fact, there

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2 are no train transfer stations where 75
3 percent of the square footage in
4 Manhattan is this.

5 So if we assume that commercial
6 square footage is about the equivalent of
7 how much commercial waste is being put
8 out on the street. In Manhattan it would
9 likely be somewhere south of transfer
10 stations, and they certainly have
11 opportunities to get -- we can still
12 utilize property.

13 And there are probably
14 opportunities as well to look in downtown
15 Manhattan where we give almost entirely
16 commercial segment and be happy to
17 explore those opportunities at a greater
18 extent in the future, and we would look
19 forward to having on point dialogue, not
20 just for the organization of waterfront
21 neighborhoods, not just for OUTRAGE, one
22 of our members or associations from me to
23 New York or the various folks from Red
24 Hook that I see here tonight or folks
25 from all over the rest of the city

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2 waterfront neighborhoods, but for the
3 general public because this is a broader
4 issue going back to the administration of
5 Ed Koch.

6 It's the biggest problem facing New
7 York City. Why haven't we solved it?
8 But it's because we keep looking at
9 efforts that aren't moving anywhere,
10 trying to site incinerators in a
11 residential community. Just doesn't
12 work.

13 That incidentally is where I was
14 coming from a little late today. I'm
15 sure sciences -- once again, this doesn't
16 deal with the equity issue, which
17 otherwise can't be utilized through the
18 use of marine transfer stations. And we
19 will be putting forward comments on
20 recycling issues.

21 MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you very
22 much. Our next speaker is Theresa, and
23 I'm not sure I can pronounce your name,
24 Cianciotta. Thank you very much.

25 SPEAKER: My name Theresa

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2 Cianciotta, and I will read a brief
3 statement on behalf of Assemblyman
4 Lentol, who cannot be here tonight due to
5 a conflict. It reads as follows:

6 The community of Greenpoint,
7 Williamsburg, Brooklyn that I represent
8 has felt the most -- the cost of
9 Manhattan's success, the waste hauling
10 and transfer facilities, incinerators,
11 and now a power generating facility is
12 being considered for Greenpoint,
13 environmentally disruptive and
14 destructive businesses are bombarding
15 already saturated neighborhoods with
16 undesirable development.

17 This type of discrimination towards
18 the outer boroughs is exemplified by New
19 York City's waste disposal plan. Under
20 the present plan Brooklyn, specifically
21 Greenpoint and Williamsburg, have seen a
22 massive expansion of waste processing,
23 with 60 percent of New York City's
24 commercial waste now being hauled through
25 Williamsburg, Greenpoint.

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Common sense would dictate that a more equitable solution be found. We vocalized our contempt of these plans for many years, and finally the city has begun to listen. However, while portions of the solid waste management plan will be beneficial and more sensible, we are looking for more substantial changes with respect to commercial waste effects on our communities.

I strongly agree with the proposal brought forth by OUTRAGE. We want clean, safe streets where we can raise families and continue the rich character of Williamsburg, Greenpoint.

If the Mayor and the large corporations of Wall Street would like to be partners with us, let them build equity in their waste proposals that allow small businesses in communities to thrive.

In short, let our children walk to school without fear of being struck by a wayward truck. Let our families

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2 celebrate the summer outside without a
3 nauseating smell and let our community
4 heal from the wounds created by the
5 disruptive industries that have been
6 thrust upon us.

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8 Joe Lentol and OUTRAGE are here to
9 stay, so it's time to start listening.
10 Now, the plan for the commercial waste is
11 vital. The study is very important now,
12 and we hope there will be action and that
13 the impacts will be long, is long and
14 overdue.

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15 And I will also present Assemblyman
16 Lentol with the most updated material
17 given here or he will also write in
18 additional information in terms of the
19 commercial waste. Thank you for taking
20 my comments.

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21 MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you. Our
22 next speaker is Ken Diamondstone.

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23 SPEAKER: Thank you for having
24 the hearing in Brooklyn, and we welcome
25 this opportunity and we are very glad
that we had the opportunity to give our

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2 testimony tonight.

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4 There are a number of issues that I
5 hope to just categorize and identify in
6 sort of an encyclopedic way. I don't
7 want to take a lot of your time.

8

9 We are concerned about a complete
10 commercial waste study, and we hope that
11 some of the things we talked about
12 tonight will be included in the scope of
13 your analysis.

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15 There is we believe an enormous
16 amount of truck traffic that needs to be
17 evaluated that goes through our streets.
18 There are health and safety issues that
19 need to be addressed resulting from the
20 transportation of our solid waste. There
21 is inadequate regulations, both siting
22 and operating regulations, and that needs
23 to be addressed.

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25 There's poor enforcement both by
26 DOS and DOT and of the truck routes. We
27 have odors, noise, dust that are
28 emanating from the transfer stations that
29 could be mitigated, but we need to

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2 address those issues as a critical
3 concern for our community.

4 We have damaged roads and
5 infrastructure resulting from the
6 movement of our solid waste, and we need
7 to find ways to mitigate that.

8 There's the obvious inequity of the
9 concentration of all of our transfer
10 stations in the community such as
11 Williamsburg, Greenpoint, Red Hook and
12 Sunset Park. All of those transfer
13 stations are near residential
14 communities.

15 And so in identifying the problems
16 I think there are a number of suggested
17 issues you look into to mitigate those
18 problems. You need a traffic study,
19 which includes a route analysis study of
20 the idling and queuing of the trucks that
21 are perpetually causing concern in our
22 communities and should be required to be
23 parking off street.

24 We need to include a Sunset clause
25 feasibility so that those transfer

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2 stations that have been grandfathered
3 without permits need to either comply or
4 be closed or be re-permitted within a
5 three or five year period, but we need to
6 have a Sunset clause so that they operate
7 within the operating regulations and
8 guidelines.

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10 We need to evaluate dewatering and
11 degreasing systems, either at the site of
12 waste generation or at the transfer
13 stations, to reduce the volume of the
14 waste, and perhaps even through
15 degreasing systems, create a bio diesel
16 industry.

16

17 We need to study the scope of
18 information that the DOS is collecting
19 from the commercial waste haulers and
20 find ways to make sure that that
21 information is both complete and accurate
22 because right now many of us feel that
23 the information that you are working with
24 and that we are working with from the
25 private haulers is very scanty.

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We don't know what they're really

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2 doing there, and it may be to obfuscate
3 the fact that they're operating over
4 capacity. It may be for many reasons,
5 but we certainly feel we need a better
6 handle on what is happening in the
7 transfer stations.

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9 We need to study the current rate
10 structure and its implications for
11 profitability and competitiveness of our
12 businesses and whether or not it's
13 hurting that profitability and causing
14 the loss of jobs.

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16 We also need to study the
17 possibility of collection by geographic
18 area, of franchising certain geographic
19 districts to reduce the inefficiencies,
20 the enormous inefficiencies that are
21 taking place today so that right now on
22 one street you may get seven different
23 haulers picking up the waste for seven
24 different establishments, whereas there
25 should be perhaps a geographic bidding,
an RFP that is based on geographic areas
to increase sufficiency, decrease cost

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2 and certainly reduce emissions and all
3 the other things we have just itemized.

4 We need to very seriously consider
5 the new technologies that other people
6 have mentioned, especially gasification.
7 Avoiding -- waste energy but not the
8 traditional incineration. We strongly
9 feel that that is a technology that we
10 should not use, but gasification is one,
11 and we might be able to kill two birds or
12 three with one stone.

13 We know that we have enormous power
14 needs in New York and that Power
15 Authority is setting up lots of new gas
16 powered facilities, especially in
17 Brooklyn around our waterfront, to
18 generate energy. And perhaps we can
19 eliminate the need for that if there were
20 gasification of our waste that would
21 reduce the need for trucking and produce
22 our energy.

23 Lastly, we need to seriously
24 consider the development of an
25 independent recycling authority or some

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2 independent bonding authority that would
3 provide the money for the retrofitting of
4 our transfer stations so that both our
5 commercial and our residential municipal
6 waste can be moved by barge and train
7 instead of by truck. Thank you very
8 much.

9 MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you. We
10 have one more speaker, Daniel Wiley.

11 SPEAKER: Good evening,
12 Commissioner Szarpanski. I got your name
13 correct?

14 MR. SZARPANSKI: That's correct.

15 SPEAKER: I am Dan Wiley from
16 Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez's office,
17 and I just wanted to let you know that
18 the Congresswoman supports our
19 constituents that are here testifying
20 about how they are disproportionately
21 impacted by the unfair siting of the
22 disproportionate waste transfer stations
23 in their neighborhoods. Particularly
24 we've had GWAP, Red Hook GAG, Groups
25 Against Garbage. Sites uprose almost

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2 three years ago. The Congresswoman filed
3 a Title Six Environmental Justice
4 complaint against the city with US EPA,
5 and that was in 2000, regarding the
6 unfair siting of waste transfer stations
7 disproportionately in certain
8 neighborhoods, and we have heard them
9 tonight, Greenpoint, Williamsburg and Red
10 Hook, neighborhoods where you have higher
11 populations of people who happen to have
12 lower income and also those who are more
13 represented minority groups.

14 I'm sure that the Congresswoman --
15 I put a call in to her, but I'm sure the
16 Congresswoman would welcome you into her
17 district, and just looking at the map I
18 can see the cluster of labels that happen
19 to cluster around Greenpoint,
20 Williamsburg, in her district. I'm sure
21 she would be happy to host a hearing. If
22 you would like to come, we would like to
23 encourage that.

24 Also I should mention that
25 Congressman Sorano also filed a similar

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2 Environmental Justice complaint with the
3 US EPA with the siting of the South
4 Bronx. What isn't clear is that there
5 hasn't been a plan that insures
6 distribution of these sites that's fair,
7 and what we're calling for is fairness.
8 And the Congresswoman encourages you in
9 your work, I read through the bullet
10 points here on some of the tasks at hand,
11 encourages you to do a thorough job and
12 looks forward to working with you and the
13 community to try to rectify some of these
14 disproportionate sitings. So thank you
15 very much.

16 MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you. We
17 will be accepting comments in writing
18 until December 16, but if you can get
19 them in sooner, we would appreciate
20 that. Yes?

21 SPEAKER: Yes. I would like to
22 make just one point, and that is that
23 there is a social change that has been
24 taking place in New York City in more
25 recent years. Historically as people

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2 moved up the economic social educational
3 ladder, we moved to the suburbs to get a
4 better quality of life.

5 Middle income people now want to
6 stay in New York City and they want a
7 better quality of life here in New York
8 City. That's the change.

9 The new economy has come in, and
10 the young urban professionals from all
11 over the country are relating to the new
12 economy and coming into neighborhoods
13 like Greenpoint, Williamsburg and Red
14 Hook particularly.

15 And they are demanding a quality of
16 life, and I am coming to the conclusion
17 that maybe the city never really had to
18 deal with that before. You know, the
19 revolution starts with the middle class.

20 Low income people are too busy
21 trying to survive. They don't start the
22 revolution. But now we have middle
23 income people who are getting more and
24 more impatient, and they are demanding
25 that these problems be addressed. And I

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was just hoping that you would understand
that this is going on.

MR. SZARPANSKI: Thank you,
Mr. Scotto. If there are no other
speakers, I thank you all for coming, and
the meeting is over. Thank you.

(TIME NOTED: 8:39 P.M.)

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CERTIFICATION

I, STEFANIE GERBER, a Notary Public
in and for the State of New York, do hereby
certify:

THAT the witness(es) whose
testimony is herein before set forth, was duly
sworn by me; and

THAT the within transcript is a
true and accurate record of the testimony
given by said witness(es).

I further certify that I am not
related either by blood or marriage, to any of
the parties to this action; and

THAT I am in no way interested in
the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand this 9th day of December 2002.

STEFANIE GERBER