



THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Bill de Blasio – PUBLIC ADVOCATE

April 10th, 2013

John Doherty
Commissioner
Department of Sanitation
City of New York
346 Broadway, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10013

Dear Commissioner Doherty:

I am writing regarding violations issued by the Department of Sanitation for improper disposal at 84-20 Jamaica Avenue, Woodhaven, NY 11421. According to the property owner at the address in question, the improperly disposed of garbage did not emanate from the property that received the ticket, but rather was improperly placed there by someone passing by. The violation for this improper disposal was issued at 2:45 AM.

While I understand that it is necessary to hold property owners responsible for the garbage in front of their buildings, it is unreasonable to expect that property owners can act to ensure that all garbage in front of their home is disposed of properly in the middle of the night. While the practice of fining a property owner for something disposed of improperly at 2:45 in the morning will generate additional revenue for the city through the fines collected because of these violations, it will not change the behavior of the owner.

It is my understanding that there are rules regarding when a property owner can be ticketed for failure to shovel snow in front of their property, such as not being required to shovel snow from a snowfall that stopped after 9:00 PM the night before. I ask that DSNY create similar rules regarding when property owners can be fined for garbage improperly disposed of, so that people are not given tickets unfairly.

I thank you for your prompt attention and reply to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill de Blasio".

Bill de Blasio
Public Advocate for the City of New York