



WHERE COMMUNITY AND CREATIVITY CONNECT.

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Friday, February 13th, 2015
Public Hearing on Intro. No. 495
250 Broadway

Testimony prepared by
The Point Community Development Corporation

My name is Kellie Terry and this statement is on behalf of The Point Community Development Corporation. The Point CDC has dedicated many years of advocacy to assist and fight for the equitable, balanced and just development of our South Bronx community and our waterfronts as members of the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance, the Organization of Waterfront Neighborhoods and as a lead project partner of The South Bronx Greenway.

THE POINT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION is a nonprofit organization dedicated to youth development and the cultural and economic revitalization of the Hunts Point section of the South Bronx. We believe the area's residents, their talents and aspirations, are The Point's greatest assets. Our mission is to encourage the arts, local enterprise, responsible ecology, and self-investment in the Hunts Point community. In our role as a community development agency, we strive to represent the voices of our communities and communicate needs and solutions that will improve the overall quality of life of our neighbors. We are here on behalf of our community that has been in the shadows, dealing with the disproportionate impact of handling the majority of the city's waste for decades. The Trash Capacity Reduction Bill (Intro. 495) is a step forward in creating a more sustainable and environmentally just city for us all. It creates an opportunity to divert needless waste facilities and truck traffic from our local streets and will alleviate over burdened neighborhoods like Hunts Point.

There are currently 9 waste transfer stations in the South Bronx permitted to handle nearly 12,000 tons of waste each day. As such, we have one of the highest concentrations of truck traffic in New York City constituting around 1400 truck trips to/from these waste transfer stations per day. This also means we have facilities that operate outdoors, where dust and debris spew out into the local community. These facilities are down the street from people's homes, schools and day care centers and across the street from parks, with trucks lining up down the street idling and polluting. As a result, asthma rates in the South Bronx are some of the highest in the country – eight times the national average. So are rates of other diseases and illnesses tied to air pollution.

Quite simply put, the current system of waste handling and transport is uneven and unjust; most communities in New York City are not handling their fair share of the garbage we all generate. The City is constructing barge- and rail-based transfer stations for waste export, eliminating nearly 6 million truck miles in NYC every year. Siting these facilities in all five boroughs will help ensure that each borough handles its fair share of residential waste.

In short, in order to continue to reduce the vulnerability of communities like Hunts Point, City Council should consider passing Int. No. 495 for the following reasons:

- **Relief for Overburdened Communities** by reducing the daily tonnage of waste handled at transfer stations in the South Bronx, North Brooklyn, and Southeast Queens by 18 percent.
- **Protection for All NYC Communities** by capping the percentage of the City's waste that any community can be permitted to handle at 5 percent.
- **Truck Relief** by tying capacity reductions to the opening of the City's marine transfer stations, where waste will be barged out of the City, eliminating thousands of long-haul truck trips in NYC every year.
- **Maximized Public Health Benefits** by focusing reductions on bad-actor private facilities, based upon public health criteria (the proximity of a transfer station to homes, schools and parks), the station's environmental track record, and the station's worker safety track record.

The current system of traffic is fundamentally disproportionate to low income neighborhoods -the introduction of this bill can change that to positively impact designated environmental justice communities like ours. We need our elected officials to step up and do the right thing – pass this bill. I thank the members of the City Council for their time and courtesy in hearing my community's position on this matter. I look forward to hearing from you and working with you towards achieving these goals in the very near future.

Thank you,

Kellie Terry
Executive Director - The Point Community Development Corporation