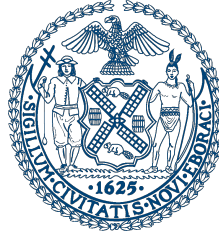


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April 8, 2014

Ronnie Lowenstein, Director  
New York City Independent Budget Office  
110 William Street, 14th Floor  
New York, NY 10038

Dear Director Lowenstein,

The independent Budget Office, at the request of my predecessor Council Member Jessica Lappin, completed a comprehensive review of the costs related the construction and operation of the Marine Transfer Station (MTS) at East 91st Street. This report was issued on May 22, 2012. I now request an update of the report and a review of the operation and construction issues for the Marine Transfer Stations at both 91st Street and in Southwest Brooklyn. Many factors have changed and new information has emerged since your last report that justifies a new broader review.

The following items relating to the 91<sup>st</sup> Street Marine Transfer Station need to be investigated:

- Designation as a Category AE Flood Zone by the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
- Additional costs related to mitigating of storm surges in light of Superstorm Sandy;
- Projected reduction of costs if the city reduces, reuses and recycles up to 50% more waste as an alternative to the current and planned method of waste to marine transfer station to landfill;
- Failure to meet City recycling goals delineated in the Solid Waste Management Plan;
- Failure or delays in construction of Marine Transfer Stations at West 59<sup>th</sup> Street and Gansevoort;
- Impact on Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island from barging on East River;
- Impact of waste from East 91<sup>st</sup> Street and Southwest Brooklyn on Staten Island Transfer Station;
- Incorrect assumptions regarding availability of landfills in the New York City metropolitan area;
- Overestimation of waste generated in Manhattan Community Districts 5, 6, 8 and 11;
- Ongoing design modifications and construction delays;
- Increased financing costs for waste disposal contracts including transport and tipping costs; and
- Costs from financial incentives for commercial carters to use this site.

While the above is a detailed list, it is not exhaustive, and I also request that the Independent Budget Office identify and investigate such other costs and budget implications as may be reasonably related. While the 2012 report focused on East 91st Street, many of these changes also affect the cost of the Southwest Brooklyn site as well as the city as a whole, and therefore we recommend the inclusion of that site and the city as part of a broader new study.

Regards,

*Ben Kallos*  
Benjamin Kallos