

Sanitation and Environment Committee report

On April 26 the committee met with representatives, Gregory Bianco and Kevin S. Barry, of **Metropolitan Recycling**. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the committee and the board of MR's proposal to build and operate a recycling facility at the 65th Street railyards near Brooklyn Army Terminal.

There has been further consolidation in the private carting industry in NYC, and MR's bid would supplant two other facilities in Brooklyn that are currently permitted to handle construction and demolition materials. Brooklyn based MR touts itself as the largest landfill avoidance carter in Kings County, and environmentally state of the art in its use of cleaner emitting trucks. The EDC has offered this site as it sits at the nexus of rail and maritime transportation. And although there will be inbound truck traffic, MR plans to rely on rail and barge to move materials from the site.

One impetus for the municipally mandated consolidation of the industry is to reduce the vehicle miles travelled by private carters. The intention is to achieve lower truck emissions, and decrease truck traffic. MR claims that its proposed operation will realize these goals. Committee members expressed some skepticism that this centralized facility would result in less truck traffic in our part of Brooklyn. In response, MR, again, stressed that outbound materials would be transported by rail and barge and that inbound traffic would mostly affect the adjacent Gowanus Expressway. C&D materials are heavier and the byproduct of construction and property development so carters handling these materials generally make fewer trips than private carters of putrescible waste. MR is committed to an all-electric fleet by 2030.

The EDC is offering MR an unimproved site on which MR plans to build a low rise building, 100,000 to 250,000 square feet in size. The location is 20 feet in elevation so currently not in a flood zone. MR claims the facility will employ 200 people. MR will receive a carting permit to handle C&D materials from NYSDEC; however, the current proposed location of the facility is uncertain as it might conflict with the eventual building of the IBX line. The MTA might seek to use that site as the western terminus. MR is flexible with the location of their facility.

MR's bid has the backing of Councilmember Alexa Aviles, and Assemblymember Marcela Mitaynes.