



Brooklyn Borough Commissioner Keith Bray
New York City Department of Transportation (DOT)
16 Court St #1620
Brooklyn, NY 11241

September 20, 2024

Dear Brooklyn Borough Commissioner Bray,

We, the undersigned elected officials and community board leadership who represent the Columbia Waterfront, are writing to you with concerns about chronic dust emissions from the Department of Transportation's Columbia Waterfront Concrete Recycling Facility. Since the facility opened in February 2024, the DOT has been responsive to several concerns raised by local residents, including increased noise, traffic, street safety concerns, and dangerous truck driving. We appreciate the DOT's efforts to address these concerns. However, the critical concerns raised about dust emissions and air quality have yet to be adequately resolved.

In July, Council Member Shahana Hanif toured the facility with DOT to better understand the site operations, and the measures in place to address community concerns and to observe the current dust mitigation efforts. Since then, our offices have received several complaints from residents who have continued to endure significant dust accumulation, especially on high wind days, which exacerbates the issue. Our constituents are reasonably concerned for their health and about the air quality in the area.

The existing mitigation efforts are insufficient. Our offices respectfully request that the DOT reassess and improve these efforts. Community members can not be expected to tolerate constant dust accumulation that impacts their ability to breathe and covers their sidewalks, cars, and homes. We're asking for the following actions:

- **Announce revised dust mitigation**, specifically addressing dust emissions on the weekends and during high-wind conditions;
- **Create and distribute a "What's Happening Here" (WHH) document** detailing the purpose of the site's operations and what steps constituents should take when they observe dust;
- **Establish a public-facing community liaison** who can serve as a direct contact for residents to report issues, including observations of dust, and have their concerns addressed promptly; and
- **Commit to repaving the area surrounding the site and providing a timeline for doing so**, including Columbia Street between Degraw & Kane Street, to improve road conditions in the area.

EMBARGOED- DO NOT DISTRIBUTE



We recognize the importance of this cement recycling site as a sustainable waste management practice that will contribute back to our city's infrastructure. However, it is crucial that the health and well-being of residents are safeguarded and remain a priority during these operations.

We look forward to your prompt response and urge the DOT to take meaningful action to address these concerns.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shahana Hanif".

Council Member Shahana Hanif

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jo Anne Simon".

Assembly Member Jo Anne Simon

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Gounardes".

State Senator Andrew Gounardes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Racioppo".

Michael Racioppo, District Manager
Brooklyn Community Board 6