



The City of New York Department of Sanitation



Kathryn Garcia, Commissioner

Hearing on Intro No. 409 (A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to regulating publicly accessible collection bins)

New York City Council Committee on Sanitation

Friday, September 19, 2014

10:00 A.M.

Brooklyn Borough Hall

Good morning Chair Reynoso and members of the Committee on Sanitation. I am Kathryn Garcia, Commissioner for the New York City Department of Sanitation. Thank you for holding this hearing on Intro No. 409. The goal of this bill is to stop the proliferation of unlawfully placed clothing bins throughout the City which are negatively impacting the quality of life in communities in all five boroughs.

Before I begin, I would like to thank Speaker Mark-Viverito, Chair Reynoso, and all of the sponsors of Intro No. 409 for working collaboratively with the Administration to remedy the increasing problem of companies utilizing public spaces without permission to place their clothing bins, and to aid the Department in our mission to maintain public street and sidewalk cleanliness throughout New York City. Illegally placed clothing bins are a challenge across the region, and I am proud to see NYC take a leadership role on addressing this unsightly condition. We appreciate the opportunity this morning to testify on Intro No. 409 which is a top legislative priority for the Department, and one that I am proud to support.

By way of background, in 2007, the City Council enacted Local Law 31 authorizing the Department to regulate publicly accessible collection bins. Before the enactment of Local Law 31 – and similar to the growing problem today – bin owners were using public and private spaces without permission to place oversized bins to collect clothes and related items from the public with the intent of selling these goods. Unlawfully-placed collection bins are very problematic. They are magnets for graffiti and trash, and they are obstructions that impede the flow of pedestrian traffic on public sidewalks.

Currently, Local Law 31 prohibits the placement of bins on City property, including sidewalks and roadways. It authorizes the Department to remove any unlawfully-placed bin 30 days after Department field officers have affixed a notice to the bin and have mailed the notice to the bin owner, if the owner's identity can be ascertained. Local Law 31 also allows collection bins to be placed on private property if the private property owner has given written permission to the clothing bin owner.

The law does not contain any penalty provisions because, at the time Local Law 31 was enacted, it was believed that providing notice of the illegal placement of a bin and, in some cases, removal of the bin would be a sufficient deterrent to this unlawful activity. This is no longer true today. Local Law 31 is not acting as a deterrent to the unlawful placement of bins on public property, as bin owners have successfully exploited loopholes in the current law. Most bin owners do remove their bin within 30 days after the Department has tagged the bin and has placed the owner on notice of the bin's illegal placement. However, many bin owners now simply move the bin to a new location, sometimes right down the block, on the 29th day after the Department has tagged their bin, which restarts the 30-day notice provision. Bin owners are even resorting to painting over the Department's notices that are affixed to the bin to make it appear that the bin is newly placed in order to try to restart the 30-day clock. In short, bin owners have found ways to make the current law completely ineffective and a waste of the Department's resources. This egregious, revolving door practice by unscrupulous bin owners must cease, and recent Department data I will share this morning underscores the growing, immediate problem.

After the current law was enacted in 2007, the Department initially saw a substantial decrease in the number of bins illegally placed on public property throughout the city, only to witness the number of illegal bins rise dramatically in

the last two Fiscal Years. In the year following the enactment of Local Law 31, the Department only identified 56 bins for removal from public spaces, far fewer than the 1,194 bins tagged during FY2008. Beginning in FY2013, the number of illegally placed clothing bins throughout the City began to increase dramatically. In FY 2012, the Department tagged 97 bins. By contrast, in FY 2013, the Department tagged 593 bins, and during FY 2014, the number of bins tagged by the Department increased to a whopping 2,093 – an increase of 2,100%. In only the first 2½ months of FY 15 the Department has tagged 1,049 bins.

The dramatic increase in numbers highlights the fact that the current law is no longer effective in deterring bin owners from illegally depositing their bins on City property. Exacerbating this illegal activity, bin owners are also resorting to bolting bins directly into the public sidewalk and attaching bins to buildings or public sidewalks using wire or metal fencing. The photographs we have set up for your viewing this morning illustrate the new innovative ways these companies use to prevent or delay the Department from removing these illegally placed bins. We are also working closely with the City's Department of Transportation to assist the Department in addressing these situations and avoid damage to City property.

Since the recent increase in the unlawful placement of publicly accessible collection bins throughout the city, the Department has received numerous complaints from elected officials, community boards, business improvement districts, businesses and residents. We've also received several media inquiries based on complaints submitted by the public. Simply put, the current law no longer deters bin owners from violating the law, and the amendments set forth under Intro No 409 will remedy this growing quality-of-life problem in neighborhoods across the City.

The Department fully supports Intro No. 409 as it will allow the Department to immediately remove a publicly accessible collection bin that is placed anywhere on City-owned property. If the owner's name and address legibly appears on the bin as required under the law, the Department will provide notice to the owner, by certified mail with return receipt, that the Department has removed the bin and that the owner may claim the bin through procedures that will be established by rule pursuant to the City's Administrative Procedure Act. Intro No. 409 also establishes a civil penalty of \$250 for the first offense, and \$500 for each subsequent offense within an 18-month period. Additionally, we recommend that the bill be amended by doubling the initial fine to \$500 whenever a bin is bolted to public property or encased in a fence. Each such bin placed on public property is

deemed a separate violation for purposes of enforcement, and all summonses will be returnable to the New York City Environmental Control Board.

An owner who seeks to claim a bin removed by the Department will be required to pay any penalties imposed, along with the Department's costs for removing and storing the bin, unless after adjudication by the Environmental Control Board, the owner is found not liable. If an owner does not claim his or her bin within 30 days, the Department will be authorized to recycle the bin and its contents.

This bill also holds both the owner of a publicly accessible collection bin that is on private property, and the owner of the private property in which the bin is located, responsible for maintaining the bin in a clean and neat condition. Additionally, all owners of publicly accessible collection bins placed on private property will be required to register with the Department and will be responsible for submitting an annual report to the Department that identifies, by weight, each type of material collected during the reporting period. Failure to do so will result in the issuance of a violation returnable to the Environmental Control Board that may result in the imposition of a civil penalty of \$50 for the first offense and \$100 for each subsequent offense within an 18-month period.

The Department recognizes that there are many organizations collecting textiles and used clothing donations through the use of publicly-accessible clothing bins placed on private property with permission from the owner in accordance with existing law. This bill is not aimed at them. Used clothing and textiles comprise approximately 5.5% of the residential waste stream, and diverting textiles that can be resold, reused, or recycled is an important part of our goal to extract valuable resources from the waste stream. However, this goal must be accomplished through an efficient and legitimate infrastructure. Since 2010, the Department has partnered with Housing Works, a local charitable organization, to offer the re-fashionNYC Program to buildings with ten or more residential units. This program provides convenient donation bins inside of apartment buildings for residents to donate used clothing, shoes, and other textiles. To date, that program is in nearly 500 buildings and has collected 3 million pounds of textiles, and we continue to expand the program to more and more buildings. And through our support of ReuseNYC, a member-based association of 30 not-for-profits, the Department encourages organizations to establish legitimate programs to collect and reuse unwanted clothing, household goods, furniture, and other products.

We believe that the measures outlined in Intro No. 409 under consideration by the Sanitation Committee today will help stop the unlawful practice of placing bins on the City's curbs, sidewalks and roadways, and the bill sends a clear, unequivocal message that this assault on our neighborhoods must stop.

My staff and I look forward to working closely with this Committee to finalize this important legislation, and we're happy to answer any questions you have.

TESTIMONY OF DEPUTY BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT DIANA REYNA

New York City Council
Committee on Sanitation

Friday, September 19, 2014

Re: Int. 0409-2014 A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to regulating publicly accessible collection bins

Good morning.

I want to begin by thanking New York City Council Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito and the Chair of the Sanitation Committee, Antonio Reynoso for highlighting this important issue. I also want to thank the other members of the New York City Council present here today as well as my fellow Brooklynites who have come in support of Int. 0409-2014.

I am Deputy Brooklyn Borough President Diana Reyna, and on behalf of Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, I am here to express the office's strong support to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to regulating publicly accessible collection bins,

As representatives of 2.6 million people across Brooklyn, our office has received many complaints from constituents and Community Boards to Business Improvement Districts as well as small businesses they represent that collection bins do not belong on public sidewalks. They are unsightly, block access, and attract trash and graffiti.

Currently, it is illegal to place bins on sidewalks. Local Law 31 of 2007 regulated the removal of illegally placed publicly accessible collection bins and authorizes Department of Sanitation to remove any bin placed on City property 30 days after the Department has affixed a notice to the bin.

While most bin owners remove their bins within 30 days of receiving notice, DSNY has observed that bins are often moved on the 29th day and are put in another location on City property. Int. 0409-2014 would allow DSNY to immediately remove a collection bin placed on City property, or

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property maintained by the City, or on any public sidewalk or roadway; and closing the 30-day grace period loophole that currently exists.

The bill establishes a civil penalty of \$250 for the first offense and \$500 for each subsequent offense. An owner who seeks to claim a bin that has been removed by DSNY will be required to pay any penalties imposed and the costs of removal and storage. If the owner does not claim his or her bin within 30 days, the Department will be authorized to dispose of it.

From Greenpoint to East New York and Bay Ridge to Brownsville these illegal bins have proliferated private and public properties to the dismay of residents. The Brooklyn Borough President, Eric L. Adams and I call on the New York City Council to strengthen Local Law 31 by passing Int. 0409-2014.

A bin illegally placed on the sidewalk should be removed immediately, and this legislation will ensure that.

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON SANITATION & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
REGARDING INT 409-2014: REGULATING PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE
COLLECTION BINS

September 19, 2014

Good morning Chairman Reynoso, Speaker Mark-Viverito and members of the committee. My name is Elliot Groman and I am the Chief Operation Officer of SpinGreen LLC. My spouse, Polina, who is the Founder and CEO, unfortunately has a case of strep throat and is unable to appear before you today.

SpinGreen is a green social enterprise that collects and recycles post-consumer textiles to keep them out of landfills. We have been in business for just over 2 years and have around 600 collection bins at locations throughout the New York/New Jersey Metro area, having collected and recycled over 4 million pounds of textiles.

Over that time, we have partnered with several non-profits including Gay Men's Health Crisis, American Diabetes Foundation, Boys & Girls Club, and the American Red Cross. What we do is give a percentage of the proceeds that come from the textiles in their collection bins back to the organization. We have also hosted clothing drives where we have taken many of the wearable textiles that get submitted into our bins and rather than recycle their materials, we set the clothing aside and give them away to the less fortunate. All in all, we have dozens of community partners that we work with.

The main focus of our business is simple; we want to decrease the amount of recyclable textiles that get put into our landfills every year. Currently, New York City's recycling rate is an abysmal 15% compared to a national average of 35%. Both Los Angeles and Chicago are up near 45%. If New York City recycled at the same rate as Los Angeles, the City would save \$93 million annually in disposal costs. The mission of SpinGreen is to affect real change in our city's recycling efforts by expanding opportunities for ways we recycle, and developing community partnerships that provide incentives to increase participation in better recycling practices.

I am here today to express our support for Intro 409 but to state that the legislation does not go far enough. Over the past year, we have seen the proliferation of illegal collection bins that has spurred public outrage. We are outraged too. These illegal bins and the people who placed them illegally have hurt the image of our industry and the quality of life for the residents of our city. SpinGreen operates at the highest standards and would welcome additional rules and regulations that would make our industry better.

SpinGreen proposes the following nine rules and regulations that we believe will make our industry better, more efficient, productive and socially responsible. One: create a fee-based registration with the department of sanitation. Vendors would have a permit or vendor number that would allow them to operate legally. Two: develop a textile recycling vendors directory where anyone can look up officially licensed and registered companies.

Three: require that each company provide company information on all collection bins so that anyone can contact the vendor and report any issues. Four: conduct a 2 to 5 year financial and personal background check as part of registration similar to what we currently have in the carting industry and overseen by the Business Integrity Commission. Five: require that liability insurance must be purchased on each collection bin. Six: require that workers comp/disability must be purchased by every vendor. Seven: outlaw wooden collection bins, as they are a fire hazard. Eight: should a collection bin get stickered for improper placement, require removal within 7 days instead of 30 days, as the law currently states. And last, set up annual or biannual reporting, where each vendor supplies a list of collection bin locations. This gives the City of New York the ability to know where collection bins are being placed and which collection bins are illegal.

Additionally, we believe that there is a real opportunity to save the city money by reducing our disposal tonnage, educate the public about the benefits of recycling to get our recycling rates up closer to Los Angeles and Chicago, and provide monetary incentives to organizations for recycling. An opportunity for a Public-Private Partnership with various municipal entities could save the City millions, creating a revenue sharing stream, which will in turn provide resources for the myriad of programs that strive to serve the residents of our great City, such as after school programs, senior programs and repairs to our parks and playgrounds.

However, as it currently stands, the law does not allow for our industry to participate in such partnerships. The law explicitly says {quote} “No publicly accessible collection bin may be placed on any city property, or property maintained by the city, or on any public sidewalk or roadway.” We believe that the law should be amended to allow for public-private partnerships as long as there is authorization.

In closing, we look forward to actively working with the Council, the City Department of Sanitation, and our partners in the industry to implement a measurable system that provides reassurances to the public about the collection bin business, gives the City of New York greater oversight and enforcement powers, and better regulates an industry that currently has minimal regulations. Intro 409 is a good piece of legislation but it does not go far enough to protect the public from those looking to take advantage of the system. I commend this body for your vision to seize many opportunities that our industry offers; support the legitimate collection bin operators while sharing the benefits; create new good paying jobs and improve our city with long term sustainability efforts. It is our hope that the Council’s leadership will consider our suggestions and make this piece of legislation even better.

Once again, I thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

Elliot Groman
COO
SpinGreen LLC

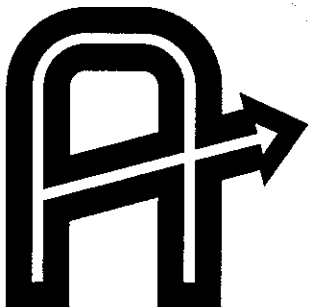
Testimony of

Josef Szende
Executive Director for
Atlantic Avenue Business Improvement District

Before the New York City Council

Re: Int. 0409-2014 A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in
relation to regulating publicly accessible collection bins.

September 19, 2014



ATLANTIC AVE BID

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WHY THE CITY MUST ACT AGAINST COLLECTION BINS

Good morning. My name is Josef Szende, and I am the Executive Director for the Atlantic Avenue Business Improvement District (AABID) in Brooklyn. I am the Chair of the New York City BID Association Clothing Bin working group that has been working on this issue for the better part of this year. I would like to thank, Mayor De Blasio, Sanitation Commissioner Garcia, Speaker Mark-Viverito, Chair Reynoso, the entire Sanitation Committee and the entire City Council for the opportunity to testify today.

The scourge of collection bins has been an unnecessary and tiresome blight on the neighborhoods of New York City. From Boerum Hill to Bayside, from Sunset Park to Sunnyside, from East Flatbush to East Harlem.

Everyone talks about the same issues: bins are dropped in the middle of the night without any other communication; they are large and ugly - blocking the sidewalk and detracting from the beauty of our neighborhoods; and there is no regulation as to what can be deposited and how often the contents get collected.

For Atlantic Avenue, my district, this all started with a big pink bin at the corner of Bond Street and Atlantic Avenue this past Spring. The owner of Jesse's deli told me that this bin was placed in front of his bodega without permission and that the company who placed it there was unresponsive to his calls to have it removed.

Then I called the Sanitation Department. They said they were bound by a local law that requires them to wait 30 days to remove the bins.

The current law does not allow the Department of Sanitation to address and remedy the current situation. We are supportive of the proposed changes to the law as a way to enable the agency to respond effectively and remove illegal, ill-maintained, and unsightly bins.

This is a big issue for BIDs. We spend a lot of time and money cleaning the streets, removing graffiti, making neighborhoods look beautiful and inviting. A lot of that work gets undone by these bins that are really hurting neighborhoods all over the City.

But it's not only BIDs and small businesses that are hurt by these bins. Residents don't want them blighting the neighborhood. We look ugly and backward in the eyes of tourists and visitors if they see them all over the City.

Long story short: let's get rid of these bins and help property owners, small business people, residents, and neighborhoods make the City a cleaner, more beautiful, and livable place.



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Central Astoria



LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COALITION INC.

Testimony of the Central Astoria Local Development Coalition, Inc.

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For the New York City Council's Committee on Sanitation Hearing on
Intro 409 – Council Member Antonio Reynoso, Chair

September 19, 2014

Good Moring, my name is Marie Torniali, and I am the Executive Director of the Central Astoria Local Development Coalition. The Central Astoria LDC represents the interests of four commercial districts: Steinway Street, Broadway, 30th Avenue and 36th Avenue in Astoria/Long Island City as well as the area's residents. Today, I am here to support Intro 409.

The clothing bins have become an eyesore in the neighborhood with lack of maintenance including latches left wide open , clothes overflowing, attracting garbage and dumping , and graffiti ridden. This, in turn, makes a perfect breeding place for vermin. The bins, taking up valuable sidewalk space, also pose a safety hazard to pedestrians and the disabled in already cluttered streets, and to children who can climb in and be trapped within. Further, the bins are another example of visual pollution on our streets. Contacting a bin owner to rectify problems has proven to be virtually impossible, which given the nature of their reputation for misleading the public, not surprising. Accountability is nil. While the NYC Department of Sanitation does follow up on complaints, they need the tools to expedite the process of immediate removal on public streets. Bins on private property should also be regulated and property owners held accountable. These bins are accidents waiting to happen.

Intro 409 will go a long way in remedying the hazardous conditions and blight on the neighborhood caused by clothing bins. We support Intro 409 and look forward to its implementation in the near future.

Thank you for your consideration.



September 19, 2014

New York City Council - Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Re: Int. 0409-2014 / Publicly Accessible Collection Bins

Dear Chair Reynoso and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership, I am offering written testimony regarding Int. 0409-2014, a local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to regulating publicly accessible collection bins. The Partnership strongly supports this proposed legislation and we encourage the Council to pass it as written.

Collection bins do not belong on public sidewalks. They are unsightly, block access, and attract trash and graffiti. In fact, it is currently illegal to place bins on sidewalks. Int. 0409-2014 would close the 30-day grace period loophole that currently exists and give the Sanitation Department the authority to remove illegally placed bins *immediately*. As you know, the Sanitation Department supports this legislation because it will allow them to be more effective. I believe that, once implemented, this legislation will make illegally-placed collection bins a thing of the past in New York City.

To this day, we see these illegal bins all over Brooklyn. Last year, a flurry of bins were illegally placed on sidewalks in our own district. One was even placed in a crosswalk. We utilized the currently-available channels, and it took several weeks before they were removed (or, more likely, moved to another area). A bin illegally placed on the sidewalk should be removed immediately, and this legislation will ensure that takes place.

I hope that the Council agrees with this position and passes Int. 0409-2014 without delay.

Sincerely,

Meredith Phillips Almeida, Executive Director

Cc: Council Member Laurie Cumbo, 35th District

About the Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership

The Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership works to restore the "Main Street" of the Fort Greene and Clinton Hill to a bustling, economically vital, neighborhood commercial corridor that provides entrepreneurial, cultural, recreational, and employment opportunities for all those who live, work, study or visit the area. The Partnership provides programs in commercial revitalization, business attraction & retention, facade improvement, historic preservation, arts & culture, marketing, local tourism initiatives, small business technical assistance, environmental stewardship, community food security, and urban planning and advocacy for the neighborhood and its small businesses. The Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Business Improvement District (BID) provides supplementary sanitation, graffiti removal, marketing, and beautification services. These programs aim to attract shoppers and new businesses to Myrtle Avenue, to spur local job development, to improve the built environment and the infrastructure along the avenue, to protect and maintain historic properties, and to improve overall quality of life for the neighborhood's shoppers, merchants, and residents.

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Testimony

Before the New York City Council - September 19, 2014

Re: Int. 0409-2014 "Regulating publicly accessible collection bins"

Phillip Kellogg, Executive Director
Fulton Area Business (FAB) Alliance
Business Improvement District
Fulton Street in Fort Greene and Clinton Hill, Brooklyn, NY

Thank you for the opportunity to address the issue of these clothing collection bins that are dropped on our sidewalks and streets on a regular basis, creating a mess that is contrary to our goal as a BID to create a clean, safe environment in the districts we represent.

A small business owner who leaves some trash on the sidewalk gets a summons and a fine that very morning. Small businesses don't get a 30-day wait period to clean their sidewalk. And, they can't move debris around the corner to get another 30-day wait period either.

Our small businesses aren't allowed to just use the public's sidewalk any way they want without securing permits from a variety of NYC Agencies. A simple bench or planter in the wrong place can get them a summons and a fine.

These bins are unsightly, create garbage when they overflow, and block passage on our sidewalks. It's unlawful, illegal dumping. If it was a refrigerator dumped on the sidewalk (which is about the size of these bins), we wouldn't wait 30-days to remove it. And if we witnessed the person doing the illegal dumping, the 311 operator would encourage us to call 911.

FAB supports this legislation to regulate the collection bins. These bins are a scar along the commercial corridor where small business owners are working so hard to make a living, create jobs and enhance their community.

Thank you for your time.

Phillip Kellogg
FAB Alliance.

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09/18/2014

To Whom It May Concern,

Good morning Chairman Reynoso, Speaker Viverito and members of the committee. RAJE has partnered with SpinGreen on reducing our landfill waste by recycling old clothing. SprinGreen has been a tremendous partner and made recycling very simple: we put unwanted clothing into the bin provided by SprinGreen and when the bin is full they come by and pick up the clothing. The partnership has been a win win: RAJE receives a portion of the proceeds of the recyclables to put toward our charity efforts and the city increases it's recycling, saving money and reducing landfill burdens.

We fully support the strengthening of the collection bin industry and appreciate the Council's efforts to protect legitimate vendors in the industry. We respectfully request that the Council goes even further in the effort to regulate the industry by implementing the nine regulations proposed by Spingreen. These further, more stringent regulations will make sure the industry is not overrun by fraudulent and fake operators and will protect industry players who are legitimate.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. We look forward to working with the Council to strengthening the rules and regulations in this industry and welcome any questions you might have.

Esther Lamm
Director of Developmet
917-767-3570



**Testimony of Mark Caserta
Executive Director, Park Slope Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District**

Int. 0409-2014 A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to regulating publicly accessible collection bins.

FIFTH AVENUE
PARK SLOPE
business improvement district

September 19, 2014

Good morning. My name is Mark Caserta. I am the Executive Director of the Park Slope Fifth Avenue BID in Brooklyn.

I am here to support Int-409 and to ask you to pass it swiftly. As Executive Director of the BID, I have watched as bins have popped up along the avenue, without permission of the adjacent property owner or the City of New York and without any regard for the cleanliness or safety of the surrounding area.

I hadn't really paid attention to this issue until last year, when a bin suddenly appeared on the sidewalk at 17th Street and Fifth Avenue, next to 623a. The owner of the building called me to ask for help and I was surprised to learn that the Sanitation Department was required to give the bin owner 30 days to remove it before it was confiscated. How could this be? Then, I was surprised to learn that the previously tagged bin was taken away by the owner and replaced by a new, untagged bin, just days before the Sanitation Department's 30 days had expired. The clock, in effect, had been reset. This happened on at least two occasions over the spring and summer of 2014. In addition, recently the clothing bin company took it a step further and anchored the bin at 623a to the sidewalk. They drilled two, one inch holes in the sidewalk and anchored the bin with steel rods. When they finally reclaimed the bin, they cut the steel bars from the bin and removed it; leaving the cut steel bars sticking out of the ground for someone to trip on.

Let's face it: the owners of these bins are playing games with the City's law. The bins are placed without the permission of the City or property owners and they are magnets for graffiti and illegal dumping. It's time to change the law and give the Sanitation Department the enforcement rules it needs to rid our sidewalks of these eyesores. We support the proposed changes to the law and thank Mayor de Blasio, City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, the Department of Sanitation and the current sponsors of this bill for their leadership on this issue.

Thank you.



September 19, 2014

Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito
Sanitation Committee Chair Council Member Antonio Reynoso

Re: Testimony in support of Int. No. 409, Local Law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York in relation to regulating publicly accessible collection bins

On behalf of the Grand Street Business Improvement District, I would like to thank Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Mayor Bill de Blasio, our own Councilman Antonio Reynoso, who is chair of the Sanitation Committee, New York City Department of Sanitation and the rest of the City Councilmembers for sponsoring this law, which would regulate publicly accessible collection bins and allow for their timely removal. This letter is to support the regulation as recommended.

Throughout the past couple of years there has been a proliferation of clothing collection bins in the name of charity. As we all know and have seen, these bins obstruct the sidewalk, collect graffiti tags as well as debris from clothes, and may harbor health and other threats. We had one in our BID a year ago, which was removed. Nevertheless, we see them all around in our community, as it has been difficult to contact the owners and remove these bins with the current legislation.

As an economic development organization whose mission is to improve the Grand Street commercial corridor and the quality of life for the community, once again, we support this pragmatic legislation and greatly appreciate your efforts in drafting it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Artineh Havan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Artineh Havan
Executive Director



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**Testimony to the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management
New York City Council**

Chair: Council Member Antonio Reynoso

September 19, 2014

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today before the Sanitation and Solid Waste Management Committee of the New York City Council. My name is Rachel Thieme and I am the executive director of the Sunnyside Shines Business Improvement District in Sunnyside, Queens. Our district covers 18 blocks along Queens Boulevard and Greenpoint Avenue, and is a mixed residential and commercial neighborhood with more than 300 businesses.

This past summer, we noticed three pink, wooden clothing bins appear within our district – two locations on 43rd Street and one on Greenpoint Avenue. I immediately reached out to our local Sanitation captain who promptly tagged the bins, but I was frustrated to learn that this was all that could be done for 30 days.

A key program of my organization and other business improvement districts is to provide supplemental sanitation programs to keep the neighborhood looking clean. We put a significant effort and budget into running this program, and have built great relationships with City agencies that can help us to achieve our goals. The current restrictions that prohibit the Sanitation department from removing these bins immediately were a huge step backwards in our goal to keep Sunnyside clean.

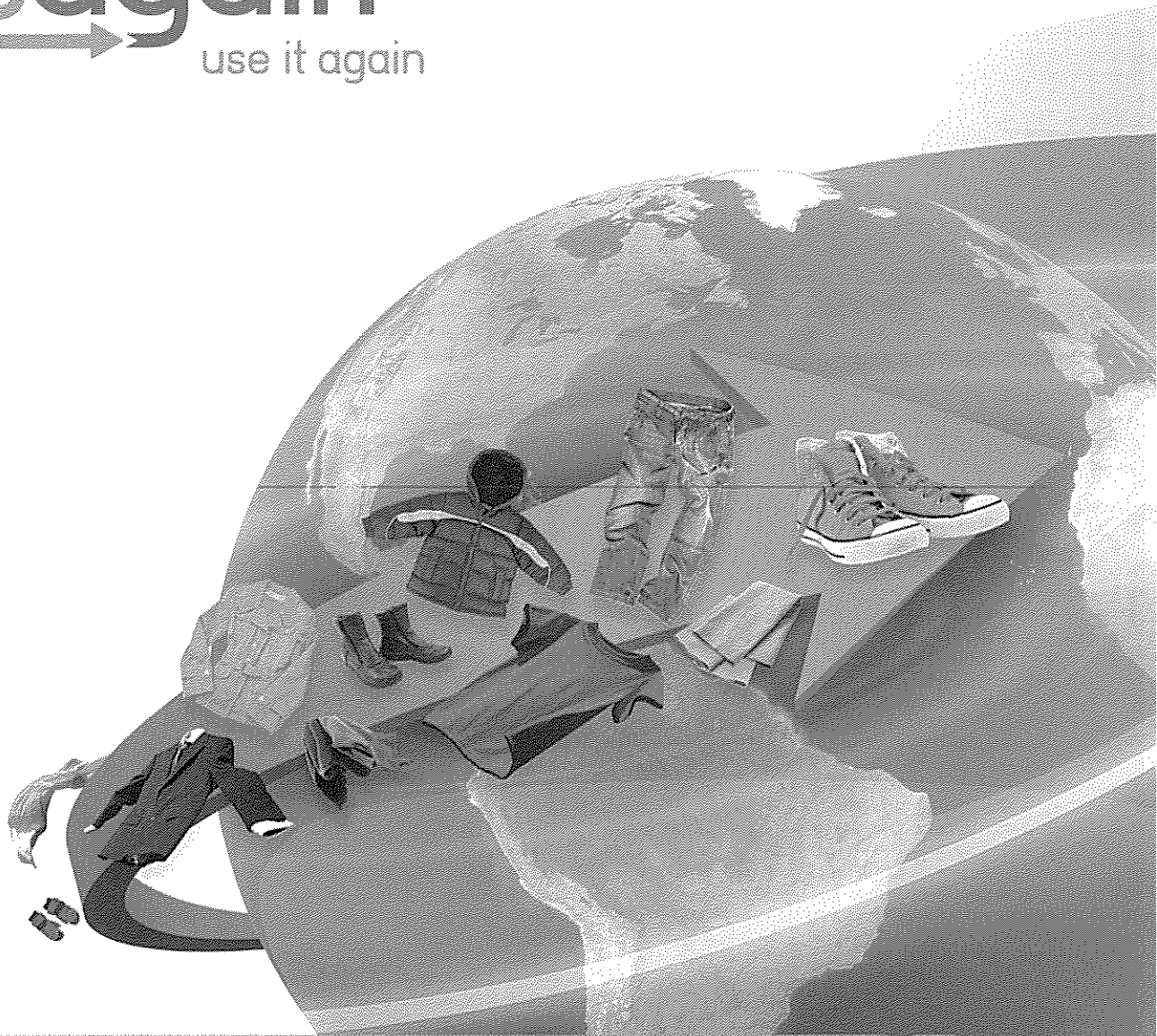
Almost immediately upon appearing, these bins attracted graffiti and became filled with clothes and garbage. Within days, plastic bags of clothes were left next to the bins. This essentially created three dumping grounds in our district and a huge eyesore for residents, shoppers and merchants.

We need better legislation that allows the Department of Sanitation to remove these bins immediately. On behalf of the property owners and business owners in Sunnyside, we are in strong support of Int. No. 409 which will give our Sanitation department the tools they need to help us maintain a clean and safe neighborhood. I urge the committee to approve this legislation. Thank you for your consideration and leadership.

Sincerely,
Rachel Thieme, Executive Director

Photo of Clothing Bin in Sunnyside:
43rd Street and Queens Boulevard, 1 day after it was dumped on the sidewalk:





Put Your Business on the Path to a Greener Future

Provide your customers with a **FREE** and convenient recycling service.

Good for the Environment, Good for Your Business.

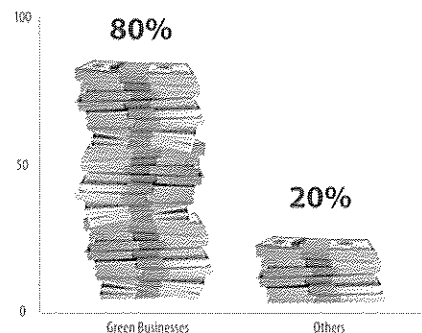
Green Your Business Profile

Businesses that host a USAgain clothes and shoes recycling bin become a convenient stop for customers who want to help the environment. Existing customers feel good knowing they're taking one more step toward going green. New customers are attracted to your business by the simple and convenient recycling option you are providing. As a program partner, you benefit from our excellent service and promise: **no cost, no work, and no liability.**

Reduce the 85% of textiles being trashed each year²:

- ▶ **Prevent Greenhouse Gas Emissions**
Reusing one T-shirt prevents the emission of at least **seven pounds** of harmful gases like carbon dioxide.
- ▶ **Save Water**
Reusing one T-shirt saves nearly **700 gallons** of water.
- ▶ **Curb Pollution from Manufacturing**
Chemicals used in the production of textiles **pollute water supplies** and **destroy ecosystems.**
- ▶ **Offer an Affordable Clothing Option**
70% of the world wears secondhand clothes.³
- ▶ **Create Jobs**
The textile reclamation industry creates **85x more green sector jobs** on a per ton basis than landfilling or incineration.⁴

Four out of Five Consumers Prefer to Shop at Green Businesses



According to a 2009 Nielsen survey, **80 percent** of consumers are "concerned about the global environment."¹ Green consumers say a company's environmental practices are important in making key decisions, including where they shop.

"In conjunction with our other sustainable initiatives, USAgain has helped our Lowe's store offer a convenient recycling service to customers looking to get rid of their unwanted clothes."

ROBERT T. BELTON
Assistant Store Manager
Lowe's (Athens, GA)



USAgain's Tree Planting Program

USAgain and **Trees for the Future** have joined forces to plant over **200,000 trees** in 2013, annually absorbing nearly **5,000 tons** of climate-changing CO₂ for the next 40 years. That's like taking **1,000 cars** off the road every year. Join us in making our planet a greener and healthier place to live.

Learn more at: www.usagain.com/trees

¹ <http://blog.nielsen.com/nielsenwire/nielsen-news/is-the-blue-planet-truly-going-green/>

² <http://www.epa.gov/osw/conservation/materials/textiles.htm>

³ <http://www.nicefashion.org/files/recycling.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.ilsr.org/recycling-means-business/>

No Cost, No Work, No Liability

As leaders in the textile recycling industry, USAgain, a for-profit company, is committed to your total satisfaction as a program partner. What's more, we use innovative practices that make this a No Cost – No Work – No Liability – program for you.

USAgain offers:

- ✓ USAgain-branded, user-friendly bins each clearly labeled with company name, logo, phone number and website
- ✓ 24/7 hotline answered by a live operator
- ✓ Fully insured equipment and employees
 - Workers' compensation coverage
 - \$1 million in liability coverage
 - \$1 million in vehicle coverage
 - \$1 million in property damage coverage
- ✓ USAgain-branded fleet of vehicles for service and maintenance
- ✓ 100% employee-based company with background checks and safety training
- ✓ Collection monitoring using sophisticated database tools
- ✓ Full service website with personalized partner login
- ✓ Green initiative to plant over 200,000 trees in 2013
- ✓ Annual Certificates of Sustainability showing your positive environmental contributions

Other Companies offer:

- X Bins with incomplete and/or misleading information
- X Annoying answering machines or voicemail inboxes
- X Uninsured equipment and contractors
 - ? workers' compensation
 - ? liability coverage
 - ? vehicle coverage
 - ? property damage coverage
- X Unmarked and unprofessional trucks
- X Contractors with little interest in customer service
- X Overflowing bins and infrequent pick-up service
- X No website or access to your collection results
- X No green initiatives supported
- X No reporting provided

How We Work

Our mission is to give new life to clothes and shoes that would otherwise end up in a landfill.

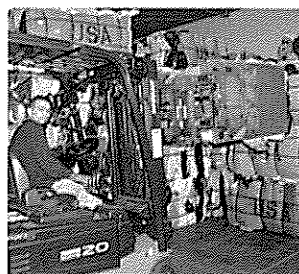
Our process is simple: we place a clothes and shoes recycling bin in a designated spot in your parking lot where the community can recycle surplus clothes and shoes, attracting new customers to your business. At least once a week, we collect the items and bring them to our local warehouse where they are processed and shipped to markets in need of affordable clothes in the U.S. and abroad. Most of the clothes are reused, and the rest are recycled into insulation or wiping rags. **USAgain creates green sector jobs, protects the environment, and helps improve the well-being of people in America and around the world.**



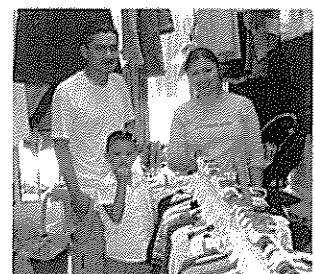
1 Practice recycling and drop off surplus clothes in a USAgain recycling bin.



2 USAgain staff service all bins before they're two-thirds full, visiting daily if necessary.



3 Items are separated at local warehouses and sold to wholesalers and thrift stores.



4 Give entrepreneurs who resell these items in struggling communities a hand up, not a handout.

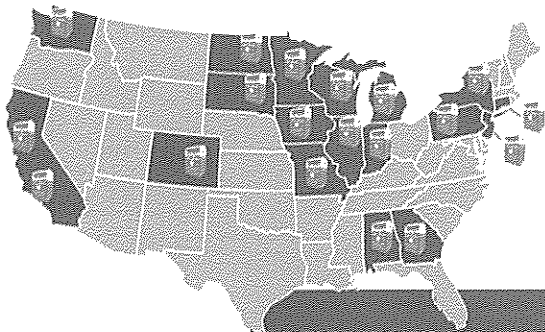
Visit us online at www.usagain.com or call toll free 1-800-604-9533

Partner with the Industry Leader with a Coast-to-Coast Presence

Since 1999, USAgain has been providing people across the country an eco-friendly solution for ridding themselves of surplus clothes and shoes, effectively diverting millions of pounds of textiles from landfills each year. With our 24-hour service guarantee, you can rest assured that every concern will be addressed promptly and to your satisfaction. USAgain is fully insured and our equipment is the best in the industry – safe, clean, secure and user-friendly.

Whether your business is big or small we will work with you to tailor a custom green solution for your business today.

For more information visit us at:
www.usagain.com/business-owner



USAgain has a network of more than 10,000 clothes and shoes recycling bins in 18 states.

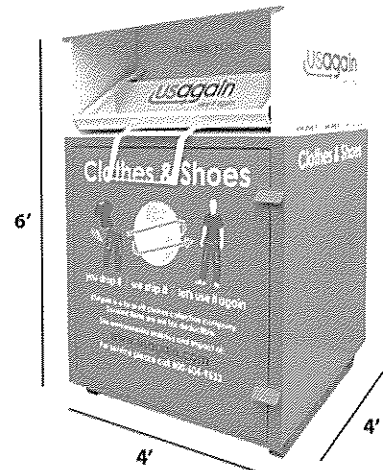


Scan this code with your smartphone to learn more.

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♻️ Printed on 50% recycled and post-consumer content paper.

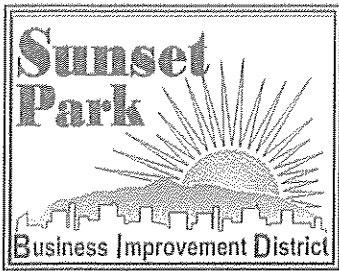


USAgain provides 24/7 service and maintenance, conveniently sized bins, and a branded fleet of vehicles.



usagain
use it again

USAgain
Clothes Collection System
Corporate Office: 1555 W Hawthorne Ln #4W,
West Chicago, IL 60185
Ofc: 800-604-9533
www.usagain.com • info@usagain.com



Sunset Park District Management Association

Sunset Park Business Improvement District

Serving Sunset Park's 5th Avenue Community since 1995

5116A 5th Avenue, Suite 200 / Brooklyn NY 11220

PHONE: (718) 439-7767 / FAX: (718) 439-7794

EMAIL: info@sunsetparkbid.org / WEBSITE: sunsetparkbid.org

LOG ON: !SUNSET PARK FREE WIFI



Brooklyn's Fifth: Many cultures, many shops, ONE avenue!

TESTIMONY FOR INTRO 409 CITY COUNCIL SANITATION COMMITTEE HEARING 09/19/14

We would like to thank Councilman Antonio Reynoso, as chair of this committee, for your understanding that a serious problem existed with the increase of clothing collection bins and for working to resolve it. We also want to thank our councilman, Carlos Menchaca, for working with us and with Councilman Vincent Gentile and the rest of the committee and City Council. We are especially pleased that this legislation is a collaboration of the City Council, through Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, the Mayor's Office and NYC Department of Sanitation.

The Sunset Park Business Improvement District would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to support Intro 409. We represent over 500 small businesses in 384 properties along 5th Avenue in Brooklyn from 38th to 64th Street. We have been working hard since 1995 to create a successful shopping district and enhance the quality of life for the business and residential communities.

The illegal clothing collection bins that have been inundating our community for the past two years, have been adversely affecting our community and our shopping district. They began showing up in spring of 2014. Several BID member property owners began calling our office about them. I was able to report them via email to our BK7 Sanitation Superintendent who then put in requests for tagging and removal. Soon we were being contacted via our Facebook Fanpage by residents around the community who sent us pictures and locations. By May 31, 2013, 21 bins had been reported and tagged. By July 31, another 9 were spotted and reported. Surprisingly we even had 8 more reported in November, so throughout 2013, we had at least 38 bins reported just by our office. Although we saw numerous articles from other neighboring communities who were having the same problem, none had as many as we did, and it seemed that since the clothes were thought to be going to charity, there was no big rush to regulate them more than the law at that time allowed.

The Sunset Park BID staff began to investigate the "charities" who were asking for the clothing. There seemed to be several, however, except for one Veteran group, they all were defrauding the public. The one which has been placing the most bins, Viltex, actually is Italy-based. Some of the bins had actual 501c3 numbers which we found didn't exist. This year we investigated a new bin company and the search lead back to a housing complex and an apartment. The people of Sunset Park and New York City are caring people and to be deceived in this way was wrong. We have since been in touch with the NYS Attorney General's office in order to hold these for-profit companies accountable for their deceptions.

As soon as the weather was a little warmer, or first new one showed up actually being placed upon a patch of ice that hadn't yet melted on 53rd Street and 5th Avenue. From that moment on, we were finding them everywhere. Again, we were given pictures and locations by residents of Sunset Park via our Fanpage and via a local site Sunset Parker. The companies must have been aware of the laws, as they were being delivered in the middle of the night and emptied mostly at that time too. Recently, some of them were being bolted to the sidewalks. One which was located at 55th Street and 5th Avenue had to be pulled out of the ground. After the bin was removed by NYC

DOS, the business located there had to pull out the bolts so that pedestrians wouldn't trip on them, and sweep the area clean.

We are so glad that the Council has taken this issue seriously. Intro 409 addresses most of the issues that have plagued Sunset Park and so many other communities for what seems like eons.

The provision that NYC DOS can immediately remove the illegally placed bins is especially important to us. When the companies were given 30 days through the original law, they were able to continue to collect clothing, while waiting until the 29th day to remove the bin. After waiting a few days, the bin was often replaced in the same spot. On 53rd Street and 5th Avenue, a bin was placed in the same location 3 times this year. We also are glad that there will finally be hefty fines imposed on those who place these bins on public property. It was very confusing to us that of all the different sanitation codes, this was the only one without a fine attached.

The Sunset Park BID has two suggestions for additions to the law. We would like to see a size restriction. The bins have been getting bigger and now are large enough for a person to climb in. This is a danger to the public. Our second suggestion is that the bins allowed on private property should only be from a registered legitimate 501c3 charity. It seems wrong that a for-profit business should be able to base its supply and service on free, donated items. That should be reserved for charities which don't have funds and can truly help the needy.

NYPD has been telling us ever since 9/11 that if we: See Something, Say Something. The public has seen something, a bin large enough to do a lot of damage in so many ways. So we said something. Thank you, the City Council, the Mayor's Office and NYC DOS for listening and doing something.

Respectfully submitted by:



Renée Giordano
Executive Director

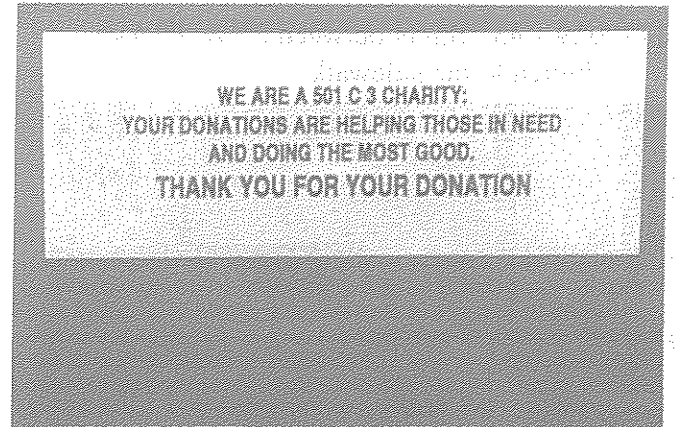
I also am including some of the pictures we have been taking for the past two years.

ILLEGAL CLOTHING COLLECTION BINS IN SUNSET PARK – 2013

'13 06/09 SW 50th Street & 5th Avenue



'13 06/09 Viltex claimed they were a 501c3



'13 07/18 SW 50th & 5th Avenue – AGAIN



'13 06/20 57th Street & 7th Ave – note: size & Chinese writing



'13 05/29 NW corner 55th Street & 5th Ave



'13 05/29 NE corner 55th St & 5th Ave



'13 05/29 SW corner 44th St & 5th Ave

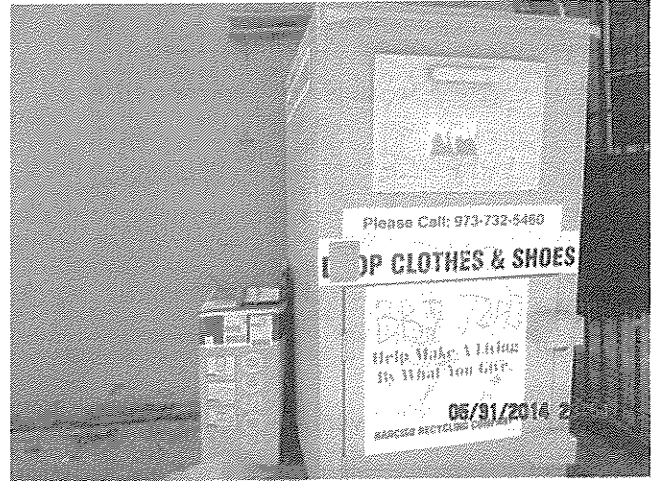


ILLEGAL CLOTHING COLLECTION BINS IN SUNSET PARK – 2014

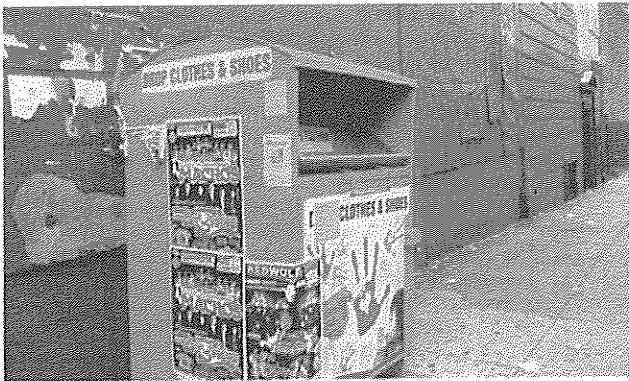
'14 05/29 – 45th Street between 2nd & 3rd Ave
bolted to the sidewalk



'14 05/31 - SW 48th Street & 5th Ave
next to a residence



'14 06/12 SW 53rd Street & 5th Avenue
2nd time in 2014



'14 07/15 remains of a DOS larger sticker



'14 09/04 SW 53rd St & 5th Ave
3rd time – different company – larger DOS sticker



'14 08-06 two bins side by side with garbage





3 Lincoln Drive, Fairfield, New Jersey 07004
telephone: (973) 882-7956 • fax: (973) 882-7959 • e-mail: rhenningsen@planetaid.org

September 19, 2014

Ordinance No. 0409-2014: Regulating publicly accessible collection bins.

Testimony of Rick Henningsen, Operations Manager, Planet Aid
Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management
New York City Council

Planet Aid, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization with an environmental and humanitarian mission. Our organization collects, then recycles or reuses many different textiles in an effort to reduce waste and limit pollution. The proceeds from our recycling and reuse program fund our humanitarian development projects throughout the world. Moreover, we frequently partner with local nonprofits, churches, and schools in furtherance of our mission.

All of our work is made possible through the use of publicly accessible collection bins. Our protocol throughout the country is to first receive permission from our site host, usually the property owner or the renter of the property. Planet Aid then receives a signed license agreement and places a collection bin at the site. From there, sites are monitored based on their yield in pounds, and pickup schedules are modified accordingly. Planet Aid also regularly modifies the volume of pickups if there are overflows or issues with dumping.

New York City has experienced each of the issues Planet Aid seeks to address in its protocol – dumping, overflows, and lack of permission. Outside of getting permission for our collection bins, there is very little control we can assert over those looking for cheap waste removal alternatives or overzealous donors. However, we have always understood that the onus is on our organization to keep our collections bins clean and in good repair.

With this in mind, proposed Ordinance No. 409-2014 seeks to address many of the collection bin issues plaguing New York City residents, and is a much-needed step in the right direction. Planet Aid agrees that the following are great ideas: registering with the Department of Sanitation, providing recycling statistics to said Department, setting cleanliness standards, and allowing the Department of Sanitation the ability to remove questionable collection bins immediately.

In order to comply with the current collection bin ordinance, as well as Ordinance No. 409-2014, Planet Aid has already undertaken a number of steps. First, we have begun to remove any collection bins that may be on public property. We have staff members actively reviewing our sites, and to date, have removed 20+ collection bins. Moreover, we have actively been engaging in conversations with Department of Sanitation officials and other New York officials to determine how some of our sites can come into compliance.

Second, in many jurisdictions, Planet Aid already provides collections data to local governments. We are able to do this because we instruct our drivers to estimate, a process in which they have been trained, the amount of collections from a given bin. At the end of the collections process, all items are aggregately weighed, and then proportioned based on the drivers' estimates. The results of this bookkeeping process have proven remarkably accurate. In Brooklyn, our average weight per week has been 7,902 lbs., and for the Bronx, 6921 lbs.

Finally, our staff is fully prepped with regards to registering each and every one of our collection bins. Planet Aid has worked with a number of cities and towns in order to develop efficacious registration processes: Boston, Massachusetts; Ypsilanti, Michigan; Laurel, Maryland; Cleveland, Ohio; and Los Angeles, California, to name a few. Likewise, we have been able to provide whatever has been asked of us including mapping our bins and providing site consent forms.

Based on our experiences, the measures proposed by the Council will ensure that most questionable operators cease their activities. Planet Aid has experienced some of the ills sought to be addressed. For instance, in neighborhoods where we have had a longstanding presence, certain operators have illegally blanketed entire blocks with their collection bins. This has caused confusion in the community, with many associating this behavior with us. Additionally, these same operators, in an effort to bolster their collections, have stolen, placed graffiti on, or shifted our collection bins.

Planet Aid hopes to be an ally in New York City's efforts to clean up collection bins. We are fully supportive of proposed Ordinance No. 409-2014, although there may be some means for improvement. Successful enforcement in a city as large and densely populated as New York will require great effort. This process may be streamlined by the issuance of permit stickers, which may be purchased at the operator's expense. Sanitation officers, along with the community at large, will readily be able to determine those bins that have received City permission and those that have not. As enforcement commences, we are hopeful that the City

will allow us to remain in operation at our privately-owned sites as we come into compliance with the proposed ordinance's registration requirement.

As a next step, and after proposed Ordinance No. 409-2014 takes effect, we ask that the City consider allowing collection bins on public property through the revocable consent procedure currently administered by the Department of Transportation. Currently, the Department does not allow for the approval of collection bins since they are not explicitly included in the revocable consent ordinance or fee schedule. Revocable consent applications are also only available to property owners, which creates a substantial burden for collection operators. By providing this avenue to recyclers like Planet Aid, the City would maintain great control over the placement of collection bins and create greater access to recycling for its citizens.

We are very appreciative of the opportunity to be heard before the Council's Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management. Thank you.

Planet Aid's Pledge to You

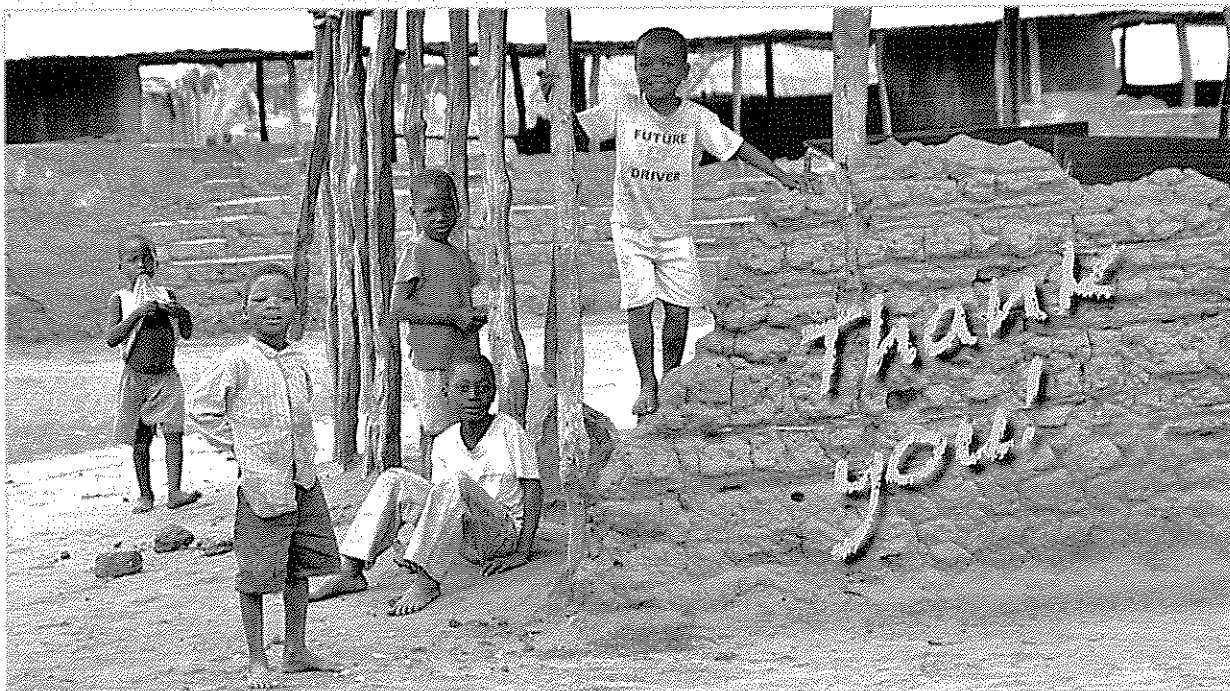
Planet Aid is a nationally recognized leader in clothes and shoe recycling. We are registered as a nonprofit charitable organization under IRS code 501(c)(3) and are licensed to do business in each of the states in which we operate. We donate the net proceeds from our operations to support projects that help reduce poverty and make a real difference in people's lives. We own and service all of our bins ourselves, without reliance on third-party contractors, and carry liability insurance for our bins.

We sincerely value your support and make the following pledge to you:

- To use the clothing donations received at your site to make a difference in the lives of people around the globe who need it most.
- To provide a convenient, clean, and hassle-free service that allows your customers to easily recycle their clothes and shoes.
- To make ourselves available by phone and email to you and your customers, labeling each and every bin with our local address, phone number, and e-mail address.
- To always fully abide by local zoning ordinances and land-use regulations.
- To monitor and empty our bins regularly (every day if necessary).
- To quickly respond to service requests from hosts or customers (within 24 hours but usually within a few hours).
- To keep bins and the area around them clean and attend promptly to maintenance issues.



We Welcome You to Our Nationwide Family of Supporters!



www.planetaid.org

Forbes

Forbes

August 27, 2014

UVPM: 23,235,480

CIRC: 931,558

Textile Recycling: A For-Profit Startup Success Among Controversy

For consumers, recycling bottles, cans, and paper is a simple toss into a marked bin. But when it comes to damaged and unwearable clothing, the trash is a tempting container for a quick deposit. That choice comes with a price — the EPA estimates that over 13 million tons of textiles enter landfills and comprise 5.7% of total solid waste streams. While destroyed clothes may seem like trash, these fabrics can be reprocessed into rags, insulation, and stuffing and the remaining natural materials left for composting.

Enter the government, nonprofit, and for-profit enterprises tapping into consumers' need for convenience. In New York City, where 200,000 tons of textiles are thrown out each year, the Bloomberg administration in 2011 launched re-fashionNYC, a city-sponsored program that offers free donation bins for residential complexes. Nonprofit GrowNYC hosts daily collections throughout the city. For-profit Wearable Collections partners with GrowNYC at the greenmarkets and also provides and monitors bins for buildings, an endeavor they've undertaken since 2004.

But according to serial entrepreneur Polina Groman of Brooklyn, these pursuits haven't been enough to accommodate the city and promote the cause, and so she created her own textile recycling company called SpinGreen in February 2013. SpinGreen monitors 550 collection bins placed within residential buildings, commercial complexes, schools, and faith-based organizations and have been collecting about 200 to 300 pounds per month. In a warehouse, where SpinGreen employs 14 workers in addition to their 10 administrative staff, textiles are sorted into grades: about 45% is usable with 10% wearable.



Polina Groman with the help of her husband Chad runs a textile recycling company out of Brooklyn. (Credit: SpinGreen)

Among controversy around the industry sparked by the presence of other companies' illegal bins with the same for-profit status, Groman has worked to maintain her social good enterprise through reputation building, steady growth, and charitable and educational ties.

Smooth Relationships, Not Solely For Revenue

SpinGreen manufactures, distributes, and maintains bins for both indoor and outdoor use that are rust, graffiti, and bedbug proof. While it is illegal to place these containers on public land, Groman, 34 and originally from Ukraine, works with private property owners. For example, Trump Village, a complex in Brooklyn with about 3,500 residents, hosts a bin. Co-op president Igor Oberman admitted that he was hesitant about accepting the offer.

"I didn't want another headache to be in our complex," Oberman said. He decided to give them a chance and said that they're still and will always be on a trial run.

As soon as the bins came on site, Oberman recalled residents being in turmoil. But tensions dwindled as residents learned about the practice and SpinGreen continues to properly maintain the bins, he said. The partnership requires little work for property owners since the bins have a weight sensor technology and GPS tracking that ensures the containers never overfill, and SpinGreen also has a 24/7 customer service line in case of emergency. Each owner is also provided with \$2 million liability insurance.

"We have a smoother relationship with them than our vendor who does Coke and seltzer," Oberman said.

As a for-profit, instead of providing tax receipts like some program, SpinGreen offers a portion of the sales. Groman sends her accounts a monthly check that comes out to anywhere between 7 to 10 cents per pound depending on volume. However, not all partners, including Oberman, accept the cash, and instead look to SpinGreen to host events and offer other donations.

"I don't see it as a main revenue stream. If you can do very little to feel good about yourself and the environment it looks like most people are doing it," Oberman said.

SpinGreen isn't Groman's first profitable recycling business. After graduating from Pace University in 2001 with a degree in business administration and working in real estate for a few years, she switched to an entrepreneurship path by launching Brooklyn Biodiesel in 2005. The company picked up used cooking oil from restaurants and sold it to biodiesel producers. With a Smart Car and a few employees, the team secured over 1,700 accounts in New York's five boroughs before selling to their largest buyer in 2012.

Why sell? Groman recalled that when she started in 2005, there were 4 other New York-based in the same sector, but by 2009, that number had spiked to 30. "There were way too many competitors. It was a very good time to expand into other states or to sell. We decided it would be best to do something else," Groman said.

With the profits from that venture and the support of a silent partner — numbers of which Groman declined to disclose — she took her sales experience and green passion to another new trend in the recycling industry. Groman admitted to being unfamiliar with textile recycling prior to developing SpinGreen, having first learned about it through a friend who traveled to Europe and returned with stories of the industry's popularity overseas. Groman became more attracted to the concept when her first company's restaurant accounts asked if she picked up anything else.

of their most common trash items: worn aprons and rags.

Boosing For-Profit But Keeping Charitable Ties

While the trade isn't new and the competition was already there, Groman identified opportunity through her network. But a major barrier to tackle was navigating the bad reputation collection bins have received from complaints of illegal placements and poor maintenance, and it continues to be a stress. In fact, illegally-placed bins claiming to have charitable connections were linked in the city this summer, as reported by The New York Times. The controversy has increased the promotion of reputable, charitable companies like Goodwill Industries International, Inc. and The Salvation Army.



While textile recycling companies have been criticized for illegally placed bins and false charitable ties, Groman prioritized rebuilding partnerships with private property owners and reputable charities. (Credit: SpinGreen)

"The Goodwill model is to keep the value of all things that are donated to us within the community," said Michael Meyer, Goodwill's vice president of donated retail goods and marketing. Meyer explained that the company's international office teaches best practices, including textile recycling, but it is up to each local store on whether to accept unwearable items. So far, none of the NYC-based locations do.

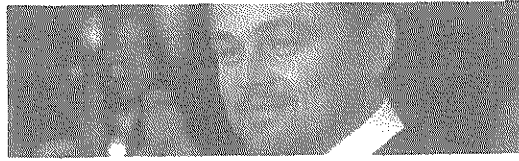
Since controversy still lingers around for-profits benefitting off of what could be a purely charitable donation, Groman decided to follow Goodwill's motto of having a local impact. Instead of shipping wearable items overseas for profit, SpinGreen prioritizes donating them to its over 20 charity partners. However, sometimes they collect items that the charities don't need, and so, they'll donate proceeds from sales. The company also hosts fundraisers and events for its partners, such as coat drives.

From the beginning, Groman was inspired to launch an educational component to her business — an effort that would contribute to establishing a good social enterprise reputation and also increase her customer base. She said she sees education and awareness, not competition, as her biggest challenge. "Not everybody recycles cans. That's the reality. But you know that blue bin is for recycling," Groman said. She created a nonprofit called the Barefoot Foundation that provides free after-school programs on recycling for local schools and foundations.

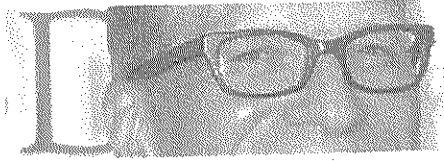
Despite the recent controversy driven by poor practices by other companies, Groman is pushing forward to secure more accounts and aims to be at 700 by the end of the year. Once they reach 1500 accounts, Groman plans to extend her business into New Jersey, Connecticut, and elsewhere on the East Coast. Unlike with her previous company, she's hooked on expansion.

"I would like this company to be very big, and that's going to take a lot more hard work," Groman said.

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Here's Yet Another Reason To Love Leonardo DiCaprio



Celebs Rally For Teen With Autism Who Was Doused With Feces In Cruel Ice Bucket Prank



What Giving Birth Looks Like Around The World

THE BLOG

Featuring fresh takes and real-time analysis from HuffPost's signature lineup of contributors

HOT ON THE BLOG

Isiah Thomas
Dr. Peggy Drexler

Marlo Thomas
Lawrence Lessig



Polina Groman
CEO of SpinGreen

Business Editor

Recycling Textiles Quenches Droughts, Prevents Wildfire...and Makes for Better Guacamole

Posted 09/20/14 1:01 pm EDT | Updated 09/20/14 1:10 pm EDT



citi

Video player with play button

A couple weeks ago, I was in the grocery store picking up ingredients for my world famous guacamole; however, when I went to grab some limes, an essential component that adds a certain acidity and freshness, much to my chagrin, there were none. Disappointed, I grabbed some lime juice (the one that looks like a plastic lime) and headed home, only later to find out that a drought badly affected this year's yield of limes -- and many other crops.

While half the country is experiencing a drought, according to the latest numbers from the U.S. National Drought Monitor, the entire country feels it in some way whether it's as trivial as finding limes in the grocery store in New York City, or as serious as wildfires in California. With this, I wanted to make light of one of the biggest, unknown water hogs, textile production, and what we, as a society, can do to help, textile donating and recycling.

Textile production does not only heavily rely on water availability for growth, but its use of pesticides for growing fiber crops and the discharge of waste water from dyeing it directly impacts the global water profile. For example, one pair of stonewashed jeans requires about 500 gallons of water to make, including water used to grow, dye and process the cotton.

With access to water becoming increasingly complicated through a growing population and climate change, the textile and apparel industry's heavy reliance on thirsty cotton crop will shift and we'll see technological advancements. However, until -- and after -- that happens, we can and should be doing our part to help by donating and recycling our used textiles.

Every year, Americans throw away about 11.1 million tons of textiles -- t-shirts, pants, blankets, etc. While it all may not be reusable, a good portion of it is. If we were to donate what is reusable, we could presumably produce that much less textile, which would save us water. In addition to saving water, there's also the added benefit of clothing the needy. A true win-win.

Take my company, SpinGreen, for example. We're a textile recycling company operating in the New York Metro Area that was founded a little over a year ago. Through collection bins set up at over 600 partnering locations, we have already collected three million pounds of textiles, which we estimate has saved about one billion gallons of water and clothed countless needy New Yorkers.

In addition to textile recycling companies like mine, there are more than a dozen local governments -- in Arizona, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Washington state -- that have begun curbside pickup of textiles. New York City also has clothing collection bins in nearly 250 apartment buildings.

There are also businesses that are placing collection bins in parking lots. For example, H&M and The North Face, and other retailers have begun using in-store bins to offer customers store vouchers for donating clothes -- whatever the brand, and sometimes, whatever the condition.

So the next time you go to throw away an old pair of jeans or t-shirt, make sure you check to see if your building, city, place of employment or even your kid's school has a textile recycling program. Together, we can help to prevent the terrible consequences of droughts and better ensure that guacamoles across the country are getting the real limes they deserve.

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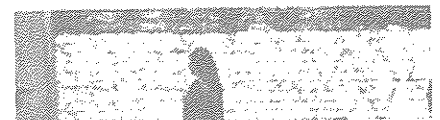


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Clothing & Textile Drive

Since 2010, the Hopewell Valley Regional School District has run an annual Election Day Textile Recycling Drive. The drive has grown every year and is greatly appreciated by Hopewell Valley residents.

We have been asked many times if we could collect throughout the year. In response, we are pleased to announce our partnership with SpinGreen, a Brooklyn-based textile recycling company. Outdoor collection bins maintained by SpinGreen are now available at all Hopewell Valley schools.

Please read the FAQ section below for more information. You can also view and share our flyer [here](#). If you have further questions, please post or message to our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HopewellTextiles or email HopewellTextiles@gmail.com. Thank you for your interest and your support of the drive!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What exactly do you collect? Are there any textiles you don't accept?

We accept ALL textiles: clothing, sheets, blankets, towels, curtains, linens, scarves, scrap fabric, etc. We also accept hats, gloves, shoes, belts, handbags, pillows and stuffed toys. All items must be dry, but stains and rips are no problem. Yes, we will take that towel your dog destroyed, and the holey sock with no mate! Sorry, we cannot accept carpeting.

Where exactly are the bins located?

All five Hopewell Valley Schools (Hopewell Elementary, Toll Gate Grammar, Bear Tavern Elementary, Stony Brook Elementary, Timberlane Middle School, and Hopewell Valley Central High School) have a readily visible outdoor bin on their property. Please click [here](#) for our detailed map with bin locations. The funds raised by each bin benefit the children of that school directly.

How does the drive raise money for the schools? What happens to the textiles?

We are working with SpinGreen, who pays us by the pound for all the items we collect. SpinGreen has several partner charities who are given first pick of the clothing. The remaining textiles are either sold and/or exported to emerging markets; or in the case of items that are not wearable, the textiles are recycled into other products, including rags, carpet padding, insulation, and car seat stuffing. About 5% of the items received are not recyclable.

Why is some of the clothing exported?

The US produces far more used clothing every year than we have a demand for. However, the demand in emerging markets overseas far outstrips the supply, so it makes more sense to export some of the clothing.

I already donate my used clothing to a local charity - what makes this program different?

If you are already donating your used clothing in good condition to a local charity in need, please continue to do so. However, as these groups are smaller and do not have the resources for sorting and recycling, they may not want your worn out, tattered & stained items - we do! So you can continue to give them your "best" - we are happy to take all that is left, and keep it out of landfills. Of course, we would love to take your nicer items too - chances are one of Spin Green's partner charities will get them. You can be sure that everything you donate to our program will be put to its best possible use - be it a new dress for someone else, or in the case of your old ripped t-shirt, being used as a rag!

What happens to the money that is raised?

The funds raised by each bin go the PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) of that school. PTOs cover expenses such as field trips, assemblies, school gardens, science fairs, library books, some classroom supplies, playground and gym equipment, teacher appreciation events, special technology purchases, and other programs that enrich the educational experience for all students.

Will you still host an Election Day Drive at polling places?

YES! We are planning an Election Day Drive for Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2014. As in past years, we will be at most Hopewell Valley polling locations. These textiles will also be sold to SpinGreen and processed in the same manner. The funds raised in the Election Day drive will be divided equally between the six Hopewell Valley PTOs.

I am bringing a really large load - what should I do?

Our bins are 6 ft high x 4 ft square. If your load is too large to fit in a bin, you can break up your drop-offs over the course of a couple weeks; or email HopewellTextiles@gmail.com to make arrangements. SpinGreen can come at any time to empty a bin or pick up an extra large load.

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fall or the
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...and of it. Lower levels of...
...needed to preserve the quality of the
...water inside the tower, the safety
...structure, by not in the middle of the
...season.

...Further parking is in the out-
...ingged parking lot, which has almost
...50 spots, will be lost while the work
...on the tower is done, Mr. Whitkop
...said.

...Further, washing the tower will
...part of the job," he said. "There will

...work, don't prevent cars from being
...but by anything that comes off the
...tower."

...He asked that borough residents
...contain their use of water as much as
...possible while the work on the tower
...is being done. "And use the water at
...night as much as you can," he
...added.

...The borough gets its water from
...municipal wells in Lewis. In addition
...to supplying reserve water, the low-

...risky as necessary to a fire that
...could happen in the borough while
...work is being done on the tower.

...Tanker trucks bring water to fire
...scenes when other sources of supply
...are unavailable or compromised.

...Meanwhile, we're asking that
...anyone who sees anyone who may
...be tampering with a fire hydrant to
...town to call Borough Hall," Mr.
...Whitkop said.

...The Borough Hall number is
...737-0276.

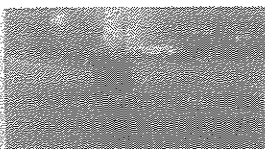


Photo by Sam Treche
Jeff Witkop, Pennington's public
works supervisor, at the water
tower that will be refurbished
starting Monday.

- 4A
- 4B
- 1B
- 12A
- 8A
- 10A
- 3A
- 13A

Clothing, textile bins at all Valley schools

Hopewell Valley's Clothing and Textile Drive, held annually on Election Day since 2010, is now a year-round effort, giving residents a convenient way to donate and recycle used clothing and textiles anywhere in bins at each Valley school.

The drive runs in partnership with Goodwill, New York-based SpunGreen. <http://spingreen.com> keeps bins full of linens and says their staff's hands of people who need them can recycle them, including in White House, Wash. D.C. "It's a great environmental opportunity," said Jeff Whitkop, borough manager.

"Since the drive began, we have collected more than 20,000 pounds of textiles," said Jeff Whitkop, borough manager of the drive. "People love donating, but can't always drive their homes all year long. Thanks to our new partnership with SpunGreen, we now have textile recycling collection bins at all 11 Hopewell Valley schools."

"Our Election Day drive had modest beginnings, but it's drawn steady praise and become a permanent fixture throughout our community," said Hopewell Valley Regional Board of Education President Lisa Wolf. "With the new SpunGreen bins, our school district is making a strong commitment to reducing our carbon footprint while engaging the community and raising money for our PTOs."

SpunGreen will pay the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) at each school for the textiles collected in their bin. PTOs also host a wide range of programs, including field trips, fundraisers, social events, school parties, activities, field trips, and more.

Residents can donate all types of textiles, including clothing, shoes,



Members of the Timberlane Environmental Club — from left, Jays West, Katrina Johnson, Emma Bethman and Sage Hicks — check out the new SpunGreen textile recycling bin outside of their school.

by BINE, Page 06

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A win-win: Help the environment and benefit charities



Polina Groman, SpinGreen.com

According to the EPA, discarded textiles represent 13.1 million tons of the U.S. municipal solid waste stream in 2011. Approximately 2 million tons, or 15% of that total, was recovered, which means 11.2 million tons, or 85% went to the landfill. That low recovery rate raises the question: Why are so many textiles trashed rather than recycled? Its simply a matter of convenience. It has often been more convenient for careless New Yorkers to throw old stuff away than to carry them over to Goodwill or Salvation Army. What is worst, is that unless your stuff is donation grade, Goodwill has no interest in taking them. So if you're moving, or you don't have a car, or there's no curbside pickup, your items end up being thrown in the trash and go into the landfill. So what does it all mean to me, an average person? Let's say you fill a small bag with 10 pounds of unwanted clothes, shoes, and toys. By donating this single bag of items you would have otherwise thrown in the trash, you contributed to saving the planet by: Preventing 36lbs of CO2 gases from polluting the atmosphere, saved 7,000 gallons of water and avoided the dispersal of insecticides into the air.

All told, N.Y.C. residents discard 193,000 tons of textiles every year, at a huge cost to taxpayers and our environment. But with a bit of help from building owners and property managers, landfills are now going on a diet. Unlike glass and aluminum recycling, which has only been in vogue for the past 40 years, the rag trade has been part of the American fiber for over a century. But a new crop of companies with a social enterprise heart and a philanthropic soul are coming to a building near you. Young upstarts like SpinGreen.com have taken the five boroughs by storm. Rather than having residents discard of their used clothing, shoes, linens, belts, towels and toys in the trash, which increases cost of sanitation, clogs up trash chutes and increases costs to the building of maintaining more unnecessary garbage, you now can sign up to have a textile recycling container for your building. The program is fully licensed and insured and offers an additional revenue stream to the

building.

Yes now the building owner, property manager or coop/condo board not only saves money by recycling but generate an income and help the environment.

A true win-win! An easy and convenient way for your residents to recycle. Thrift store charities retail only a fraction of the donations they collect, selling or discarding the rest. Unless its high quality donation grade. Well not anymore. SpinGreen is a woman-owned recycling company that accepts donation and non-donation grade textiles. The good stuff benefits charities such as: American Diabetes Association, Madison Boys and Girls Club, GMHC, RAJE, and others. The stuff that is badly ripped, stained and torn is recycled into cool, new eco-products such as organic house and roof insulation. Zero textile mission accomplished! Resident approved!

Polina Groman is the CEO of SpinGreen.com, Brooklyn, N.Y.

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SpinGreen: A For-Profit Clothing Donation Bin Company That Isn't A Scam?

by Ned Berke on Aug 28th, 2014



Polina Groman and her husband Elliot. Source: SpinGreen via Forbes.

While the city is in the middle of grappling with the explosion of for-profit, often shady, clothing donation bin companies, one Sheepshead Bay-based company is getting recognition for doing it right.

SpinGreen, based at 1733 Sheepshead Bay Road, was profiled by Forbes magazine yesterday for their work in the space, challenging the growing notion that the bins are nothing but a nuisance.

SpinGreen manufactures, distributes, and maintains bins for both indoor and outdoor use that are rust, graffiti, and bedbug proof. While it is illegal to place these containers on public land, [owner Polina] Groman, 34 and originally from Ukraine, works with private property owners. For example, Trump Village, a complex in Brooklyn with about 3,500 residents, hosts a bin.

... The partnership requires little work for property owners since the bins have a weight sensor technology and GPS tracking that ensures the containers never overfill, and SpinGreen also has a 24/7 customer service line in case of emergency. Each owner is also provided with \$2 million liability insurance.

Groman and SpinGreen are constantly battling the negative perception clothing bins are gaining. Community leaders and neighbors have been blasting the bins for adding squalor to the streets, and for their illegal placement on public property. Some of the operators also appear to imply the “donations” are going to a charitable cause, when in reality they’re being sold overseas.

The controversy has led one City Council member to introduce a bill that would get the bins tossed from public lands and the operators fined, while having legal bin operators register with the city and provide data on collections. That bill has overwhelming support and is likely to pass following hearings next month.

SpinGreen is combating this by working with reputable charities, donating all wearable items (about 10 percent of its haul) to partners instead of selling it overseas. The remains are sold to recyclers who process it for reuse in materials like industrial wiping rags or furniture padding. A portion of the proceeds of those sales go back to the property owners who host the bins, and a portion goes to charity, the owner told Forbes.

For Groman, the biggest challenge she faces isn’t the unscrupulous competition, it’s simply getting people to understand the positive impact of recycling. More than 13 million tons of textiles goes to U.S. landfills every year, with Americans recycling only about eight percent. Groman hopes to change that.

Groman was inspired to launch an educational component to her business — an effort that would contribute to establishing a good social enterprise reputation and also increase her customer base. She said she sees education and awareness, not competition, as her biggest challenge. “Not everybody recycles cans. That’s the reality. But you know that blue bin is for recycling,” Groman said. She created a nonprofit called the Barefoot Foundation that provides free after-school programs on recycling for local schools and foundations.

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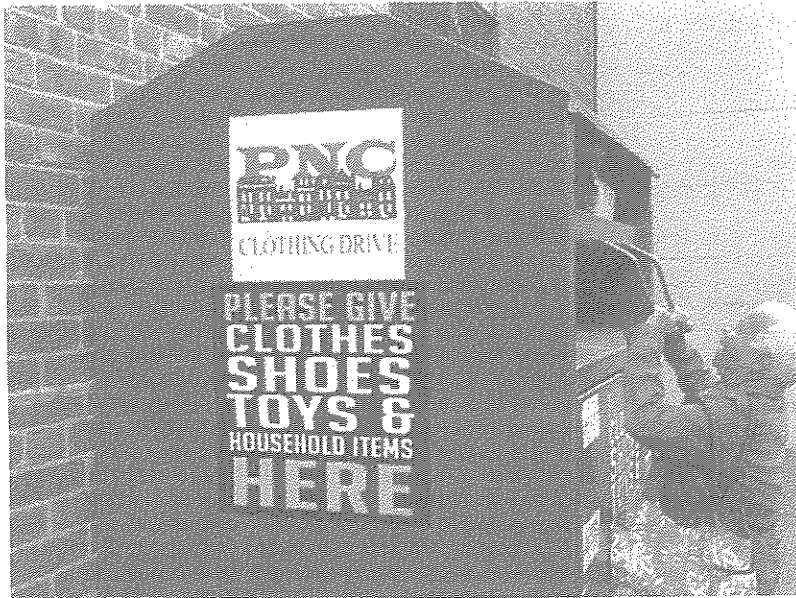
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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2014



Recycled Clothing Isn't Just for Thrift Stores – SpinGreen Shows You How

Jun 11, 2014

by Tanay Warkerkar

If you've ever wondered who's behind the large green bins placed along certain intersections in Williamsburg and Greenpoint with the words, "Donate clothes and shoes here," with three green arrows pointing upwards to the chute look no further than the eco-friendly organization, SpinGreen.

Created in 2013, the organization uses a multi-pronged approach to combat the excessive use of landfills, and to promote the complete utilization of used clothing.

Donated clothes, toys and shoes that are wearable and usable are donated to organizations like the American Red Cross, American Diabetes Association and Madison Square Boys and Girls Club.

Clothes that are torn, tattered, or stained are used for several commercial purposes most commonly household insulation and providing stuffing for toys. The items people throw away have surprising uses: stained t-shirts can be used as wiping cloths, old denims can be used as household insulation, discarded socks can be used to create pillow stuffing, and old toys like teddy bears can be used to create car-seat stuffing.

"The response from people so far has been amazing," said Polina Groman, the CEO of SpinGreen. "People have no idea that they can reuse torn clothing and aren't always aware of all the choices they have. At SpinGreen

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Sep 09, 2014

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we want to be doing good by being good.”

Groman is passionate about integrating education with her drive for environmentalism. SpinGreen operates after-school programs teaching kids about sustainability, recycling, and the effects of global warming – the workshops have already served 508 students throughout the city.

Groman says she wants SpinGreen’s business model to be along the lines of Toms – the shoes brand that blends profit and non-profit in their model – when a customer buys a pair of shoes the organization donates one to an impoverished child.




In 2005, Groman along with her husband were running a fuel recycling business – collecting discarded cooking oil from restaurants and recycling it to be used for fuel. It’s where Groman got the idea for her clothing recycling business. She said she found it odd that there was always a place to recycle cans and plastic but there hadn’t been as strong an effort to recycle clothing.

Groman is hoping to change that trend. While SpinGreen operates its main offices out of Sheepshead Bay it currently has over 550 bins – most notably identified by its circular symbol of colorfully dressed people holding hands—located throughout the city and has managed to donate \$100,000 worth of clothing and cash. Groman wants to see those numbers grow and to see the number of bins increase to 750 in the near future.

For more information on the organization visit <http://spingreen.com>

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Dear Spingreen,

I would like to recognize your organization for being pioneers in the efforts of recycling and repurposing. Your ideas are not only original and cost efficient but effective as well. Additionally, I would like to thank you for collaborating in our first ever coat drive and donating many coats as well.

During this harsh winter we were able to donate dozens of coats to constituents who had fallen on hard times. Spingreen provided refreshments and educational information to all who attended. We are happy to have partnered with Spingreen and hope to continue to service the community in times of hardship through events such as these. Together we all benefitted greatly from the experience.

Once again we would like to extend our appreciation to Spingreen and recognize their dedication to the constituents in our district.

Very truly yours,

Luis Sepulveda
Assemblyman
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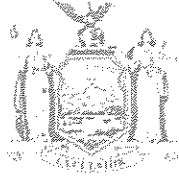
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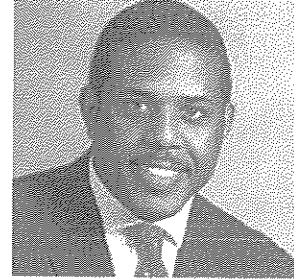
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e-mail:
parker6@senate.nys.gov

April 30, 2013

Elliot Groman
Spingreen
1733 Sheepshed Bay
Brooklyn, NY 11235



Dear Spingreen

I want to extend a heartfelt thank your generous dress donation to my office's "6th Annual Free Prom Dress Giveaway". on Saturday, April 27, 2013. With your support and prom preparation donations, we were able to provide approximately 520 young ladies, who filled Samuel J. Tilden High School Campus' cafeteria, with a stylish, prom-appropriate dress! This event continues to grow into one of my highly anticipated community outreach events and it is largely in part to the assistance my office receives from dedicated contributors like you!

During these challenging economic times, many working families are faced with competing financial priorities and the expenses associated with a high school prom may not be met. As such, this was the impetus for hosting the event. My commitment to the community is reflected in my leadership through the services I am able to bring to my constituents. Our goal was to provide each attendee with a free prom dress, beauty and grooming advice from professional make-up artists and fashion stylists, and prom safety advice. From all accounts, together, we accomplished this goal!

Once again thank you for your assistance in helping to ensure a young lady's prom dreams come true. I invite you to visit my official Facebook page – Senator Kevin Parker - to view some photos of the event!

Please visit my official Senate website at parker.nysenate.gov to view a detailed list of upcoming event and initiatives of my office. If I can be of assistance to you or your family in the near future, please do not hesitate to contact me at my office at (718) 629-6401.

Yours in Partnership,

KEVIN PARKER



May 6, 2013

Dear SpinGreen,

Earth Day New York would like to extend our most sincere thanks for your involvement in our Earth Day events this year.

Your support allows us to continue to introduce tens of thousands of New Yorkers to the wide variety of environmental problems we face, and more importantly, to the solutions. We really couldn't do what we do each spring and through our year-round programs without you and we are deeply appreciative of your support.

In the aftermath of extreme weather events like Hurricane Sandy, the connection in people's minds between local impact and global climate change is much clearer. Earth Day New York is committed to continuing to reinforce this message in the context of positive personal action and more sustainable lifestyle choices. We hope we can count on your continued support in addressing what is likely to be one of the greatest challenges we face in the 21st Century.

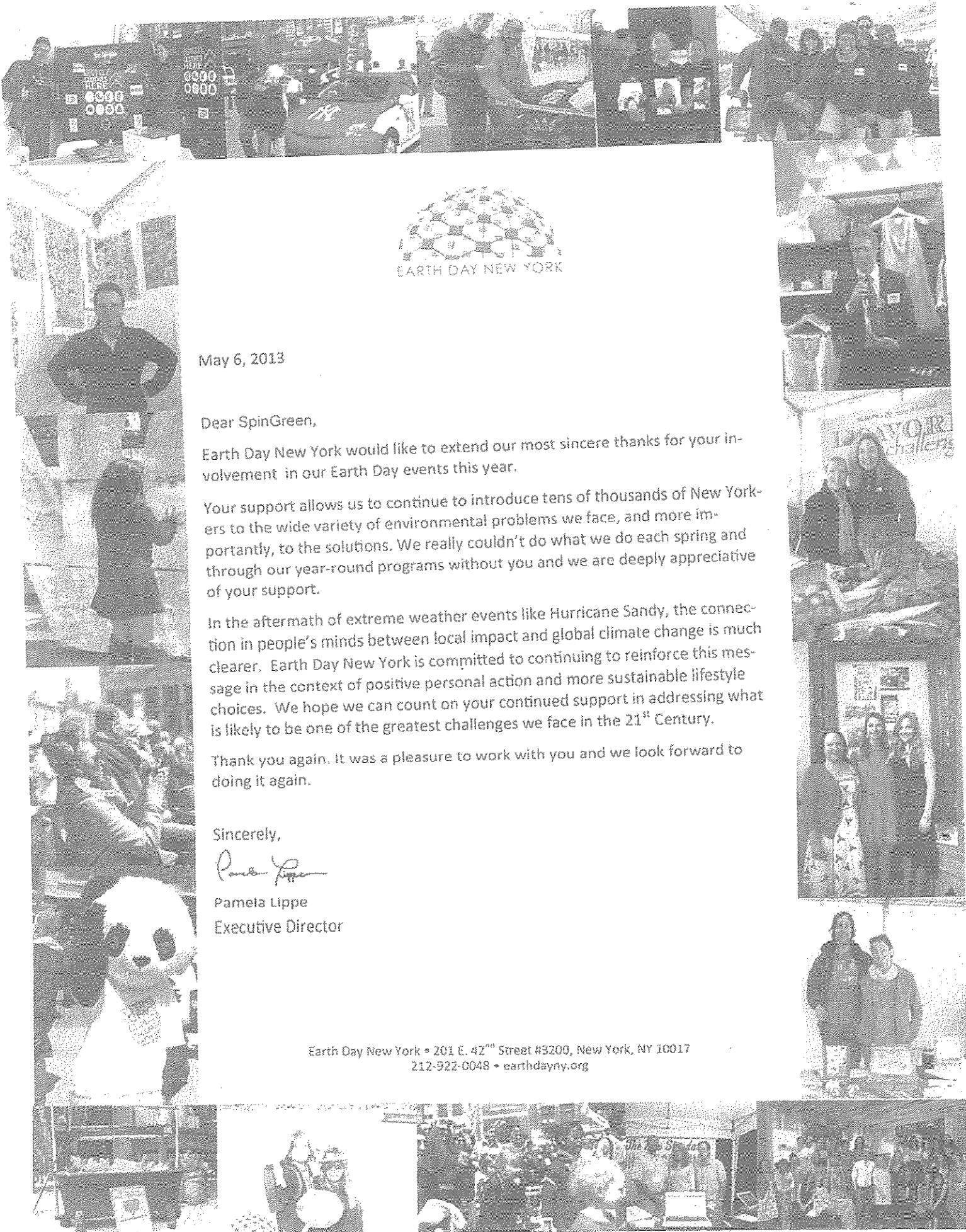
Thank you again. It was a pleasure to work with you and we look forward to doing it again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pamela Lippe".

Pamela Lippe
Executive Director

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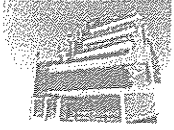
This letter serves to verify our relationship with SpinGreen. **BK Style.Org/ BK Fashion Week(end)** is working very closely with SpinGreen to support our charity initiative and our Stitch for Success program.

SpinGreen is now one of the official companies working with us to support the charities we are working with for our Spring/Summer 2014 runway collection show (Oct 3-6, 2013). Our experience working with SpinGreen for our Fall/Winter 2013 show in March 2013 was very rewarding along with our partnership support for Senator Kevin Parker Prom dress give away.

BK Style.Org/ BK Fashion Week(end) is supporting SpinGreen and have found location for the SpinGreen bins thru our network and affiliates. We are proud to say that the bins is well managed by Spingreen and we will recommend any company or location to support the SpinGreen "Give clothes a second chance"

If you have any questions, feel free to call or email us.

Rick Davy
BK Style.Org/
BK Fashion Week (end)



1733 SHEEPSHEAD BAY LLC

May 7, 2013

To whom it may concern,

Spingreen has been our clothing donation bin provider for several months. The clothing donation bin has been placed in front of my building. They've come on time and always kept it clean. The tenants in the building appreciate their efforts in the community. The general feedback is that tenants like it and we like that.

Sincerely,

Alex Finkelshteyn
Managing partner



To whom it may concern,

Spingreen has been our clothing donation bin provider for several months. They've come on time and always kept it clean. Overall we've gotten a positive feed back from our customers and we like the community Spin.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Alonzo', written over a faint, larger version of the signature.

Jonathan Alonzo

Store manager

DUANE reade #14171
4801 Queens Blvd.
Woodside, NY 11377
718/476-8655

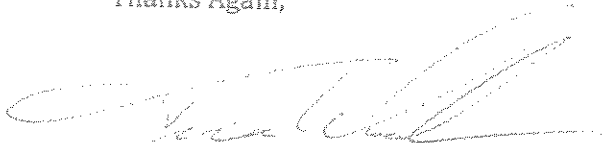
natural

May 8, 2013

Dear SpinGreen,

It is such a pleasure for us to be your partner and to help the community and the environment with what you are doing. Enclosed is our May issue. Do know that our magazine is in every area across the tri-state and the US, so as you expand, please keep notifying me!

Thanks Again,



Tina Woods, Publisher

New York City Edition

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www.rajeusa.com
1-800-407-6020
info@rajeusa.com

RAJE Board

Ron Hersh, President
Fairways Capital Group

Neil Auerbach
Hudson Clean Energy

Sonya Bekkerman
Sotheby's

Emil Buchman
Freid Frank LLP

Ricky Cohen
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Blue Mountain Capital Management

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EAM Edward A. Mermelstein & Associates

Eugene Schneur
Omni New York

Avi Schron
Cammeby's Management Co, LLC

Ronn Torossian
5W Public Relations

Mark Tsesarsky
Citigroup

May 13, 2013

To SpinGreen:

RAJE was founded in 2006 to address the Jewish communal and educational needs of young Russian American Jews. We are a comprehensive educational and communal organization whose goal is to spark Jewish life and ensure Jewish continuity for the next generation. We are passionate about building a community that embraces Russian speaking Jews from all walks of life.

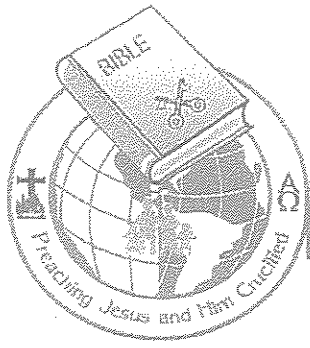
RAJE seeks to provide our community and our participants with different volunteer opportunities to get people excited about being active members of our community. This is where our relationship with SpinGreen began. In the past, Spingreen contacted us to set up a clothing drive in our establishment. They set up and arranged for 7 bins to be delivered before the start of our program. With their help, by the end of the day, all 7 bins were filled to capacity and the Spingreen staff was there to cart it all away. From start to finish, it was a very positive experience both for them and for our participants.

In addition, after super storm Sandy, Spingreen was there again to place a clothing bin outside of our facility to allow the community to donate clothing to those less fortunate.

Through these experiences and more, we are proud to call Spingreen our partners and our friends. We have only had positive experiences with their staff and their projects. We look forward to working together in the future in making this world a better place for all. They have always gone beyond the call of duty

If you have any question, please don't hesitate to contact me at the number above.

Lawrence Pine
Director of Operations



Revelation Pentecostal House of Prayer For All Nations Inc.

599 Hegeman Ave., Brooklyn, New York 11207 Tel: 718 257 0139; 718 715 1652 Fax 718 576 1270

Senior Pastor
Apostle Dr. Victor Hinds

Associate Pastor
Overseer Dr. Pauline Hinds

(General Secretary)
Sister Tracy Steed

Treasurer
Evangelist Melissa Hull

Ministerial Staff

Min. Diane Greenidge
Min. Robert Jones

LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION BY OWNER TO USE PROPERTY

Date Thursday, May 30, 2013:

To Whomsoever It May Concern

We the undersigned, hereby authorize _Springreen company place a clothing bin on the church property at 599 HEGEMAN AVENUE, BROOKLYN NEW YORK 11207

The clothing is to assist the poor children of East New York

This authorization is valid until further written notice from _(_ Revelation Pentecostal House of Prayer For all Nations

Your always


Bishop Victor Hinds.

Reaching the world with the word

GREEN SPIN LAUNDRY



27-04 23rd Avenue Astoria, NY
mygreenspinlaundry.com

June 1, 2013

To whom it may concern,

Spingreen has been our clothing donation bin provider for several months. The clothing donation bin has been placed in front of my Laundromat business. They've come on time and always kept it clean. My patrons appreciate their efforts in the community. The general feedback has been very positive and we appreciate that

Regards,


George Raftis
Owner



PELHAM BOLLERS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PAUL MILLER
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

URBAN STRATEGIES, INC.
FANNIE BARNES RESIDENCE

GLORIA McLEOD
CHAIRPERSON

TRACEY GIVENS
VICE CHAIRPERSON

August 15, 2013

VICTORIA ILLERY
SECRETARY

MARGAREE STEWART
TREASURER

MEMBERS
YVONNE REDWOOD
JOSEPH BAPTISTE
NATASHA CHERRY-PEREZ

Dear Spin Green,

I would like to sincerely thank you for supporting the First Annual Fannie Bowl Fundraiser and Advocacy Event.

On August 2, 2013 Urban Strategies, Inc. - Fannie Barnes Residence hosted over two hundred youth, community members, homeless families, and nonprofit leaders at Chelsea Piers during a fun filled night of advocacy and support in the fight against homelessness!

With your help we were able to raise funds to assist in the continued support of homeless and low-income families within our community. This year, Fannie Barnes is committed to enhancing the programming we provide for these populations including creating on site soft skills training and employment assistance opportunities for homeless adults, enhancing literacy and social skills development, and creating additional extracurricular activities and programming for our homeless and community youth.

Your commitment has assisted in making these goals attainable. We hope you enjoy this small token of our appreciation and we look forward to sharing our future progress and successes. See you next year during the Second Annual Fannie Bowl!

~Thank You For Building With Us~

Sincerely,

Paul Miller
Director
Urban Strategies, Inc. - Fannie Barnes Residence
E: Fanniebarnes@optimum.net



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
VILLAGE OF EAST HILLS
209 HARBOR HILL ROAD
EAST HILLS, NEW YORK 11576

MICHAEL R. KOBLENZ
MAYOR

TELEPHONE (516) 621-5600
FACSIMILE (516) 625-8736

September 6, 2013

Polina Groman
CEO
SpinGreen
1733 Sheepshead Bay Road, Suite 21
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Re: Incorporated Village of East Hills/SpinGreen

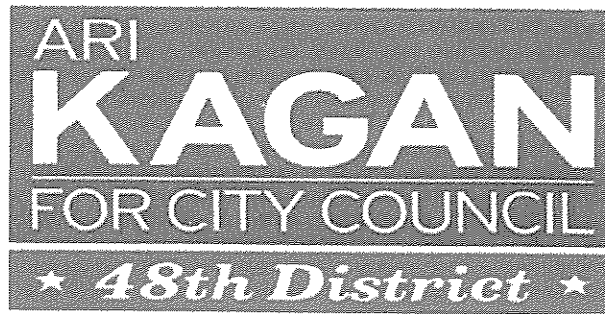
Dear Polina:

On behalf of the Incorporated Village of East Hills, I would like to express our profound gratitude for the fine service and enviable relationship our community has developed with SpinGreen recycling system.

Through your recycling program, we have been able to provide an easy and convenient way for our residents to dispose of items of clothing and at the same time benefit those in need. In addition, your program has also added some revenue for our village. We are, therefore, fortunate to continue to utilize your recycling program which has become mutually beneficial.

With all my best regards,

Michael Koblenz
Mayor



October 11, 2013

Dear SpinGreen,

Thank you so much for your generous contribution to my campaign. Your contribution helped us win nearly three thousand votes in the district!

I am deeply honored by the tremendous support our campaign received from every community and every neighborhood in the district. While I am deeply disappointed that I will not be the Democratic nominee for City Council in the 48th District, I am incredibly proud of the campaign we ran.

Over the past six months, we ran a positive race, highlighting the important issues facing Southern Brooklyn. This includes Hurricane Sandy recovery, upgrading our local infrastructure, improving schools, home care services and public transportation, helping small business owners, protecting the rights of co-op shareholders and preserving vital programs for our seniors.

Thank you for being involved in this campaign. I look forward to continuing to serve our community as a Democratic District Leader, journalist and community activist.

With sincere appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ari Kagan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ari



Jhong Uhk Kim
Corporate Headquarters
501 Morningstar Road
Staten Island, NY 10303-2836
T: 718-981-9917 F: 718-981-9918
Email: Jukim1@verizon.net

Jhong Uhk Kim, Grand Master, Professor, CEO & President

October 21, 2013

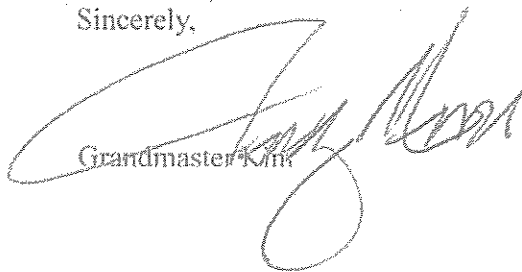
Ms. Polina Groman
CEO
SpinGreen LLC
1733 Sheepshead Bay
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Dear Ms. Groman:

IHOP is pleased to be part of the Textile Recycling Environmental Club on Staten Island. You have placed two Educational Recycling Bins on my restaurant property, and the community is doing their part to help the environment by utilizing the bins.

In addition, the Textile Recycling Environmental Club bin placed at my other location, Dragon Kim's Karate USA on Manor Road, has received the same positive community involvement. The bins have been well maintained and I am pleased to help the schools in this manner.

Sincerely,



Grandmaster Kim

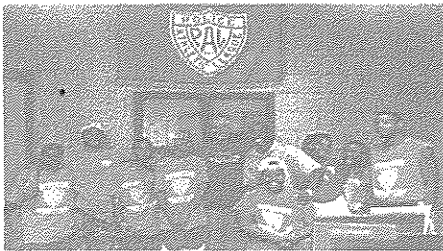
SpinGreen will donate \$600 to every Staten Island school that participates in its eco-friendly contest

http://www.silive.com/relationships/index.ssf/2013/10/contest_encourages_kids_to_think_green.html



By Elise G. McIntosh/Staten Island Advance
on October 01, 2013 at 11:35 AM, updated October 01, 2013 at 2:51 PM

Print



Members of the Police Athletic League pose after participating in an eco-education workshop in Manhattan that was hosted by SpinGreen, a clothing recycling program in New York City.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- As a way to motivate Staten Island children and their families not to throw their old, worn clothing in the garbage, SpinGreen, a clothing recycling program in New York City, is hosting a Fall Textile Recycling Creative Arts Contest for elementary through high school students.

As a class, students are invited to collaborate on a creative arts project with an eco-friendly theme. Classes can participate in four categories: Poem writing; song composition; collage making, and video production.

The contest was designed specifically to teach kids and teens the benefits of recycling. Full contest guidelines are available at spingreen.com/trec/contest_guidelines_rules.pdf.

Entries will be judged on creativity, environmental merit, and execution. Prizes will be given to each of the four category winners. Submission deadline is Oct. 31.

To motivate schools to participate, SpinGreen will be donating \$600 to every Staten Island school that enters the contest.

Notes Angela Hart, an advocate and community outreach director for SpinGreen, "Our Environment Club contest combines creative arts disciplines with applied environmental science."

Polina Groman, CEO of the SpinGreen enterprise, adds, "This is a great way for children to learn how to protect resources so we can preserve them for future generations."

In addition to the contest, SpinGreen offers its Textile Recycling Environmental Club as a way to motivate Staten Islanders to recycle unwanted, used clothes and shoes.

SpinGreen's President Elliot Groman says, "Everyone has an article of clothing that is too old, or too small, or too worn. But clothes are not garbage and they don't belong in landfills."

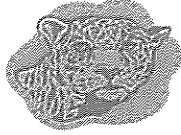
Still, the average person discards over 85 pounds of clothes and shoes per year, which can clothe up to 14 people.

Islanders can help keep unwanted clothing out of landfills by donating items to the SpinGreen Textile Recycling Education Bins, located at businesses throughout the borough.

Donated clothing is recycled and turned into new eco-friendly products such as stuffing, organic home and roofing insulation, and toys.

For more information about the organization's initiatives, visit spingreen.com.

Public School 30



*'Leaping to the Top'
200 Wardwell Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10314*

www.ps30.org

(T) 718-442-0462 / (F) 718-442-4265

*Alan Ihne
Principal*

*Joseph Napolitano
Assistant Principal*

April 3, 2014

Ms. Angela Hart
Community Outreach Director
Spin Green LLC.
1733 Sheepshead Bay Road
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Dear Angela,

The Spin Green Textile Recycling bin that was placed on our school property earlier in the year has been working out successfully. The community has been utilizing it and it is well maintained by Spin Green. In addition, the monthly compensation from Spin Green and the contest we held for our students were both helpful in teaching the children the power of recycling.

Sincerely,

Alan Ihne
Principal



PUBLIC SCHOOL 53
The Bay Terrace School
330 Durant Avenue Staten Island, New York 10308
(718) 987-8020 / Fax (718) 987-3675
Annette Esposito, Principal
Dean Razzore, Assistant Principal
Kim Bilotti, IAP

April 8, 2014

Ms. Angela Hart
Community Outreach Director
SpinGreen LLC.
1733 Sheepshead Bay Rd., - Suite #21
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Dear Ms. Hart,

For almost one year, the SpinGreen Textile Recycling bin has been on our school property. It has proved to be an incentive for effective recycling in our community and the bin has been well-maintained by SpinGreen.

We look forward to the continued success of this project.

Sincerely,

Annette Esposito
Annette Esposito,
Principal

The Louis DeSario School

250 Kramer Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10309
Phone: (718) 605-1189
Fax: (718) 605-1195



Dean Scali
Principal

Dianna M. DeRose
Assistant Principal

Joseph Bonomi
Assistant Principal, IA

April 24, 2014

Ms. Angela Hart
Community Outreach Director
SpinGreen LLC.
1733 Sheepshead Bay Rd. Suite # 21
Brooklyn, NY 11235

Dear Ms. Hart:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for working with PS 56. The SpinGreen Textile Recycling bin that was placed on our school property several months ago is working out successfully. It is being utilized by our community members and is well maintained by SpinGreen.

I would also like to thank you for the monthly monetary contribution that our Art Department receives. Be confident that that money is spent on enriching our partnership.

Many thanks on behalf of our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. Bonomi', is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Mr. Bonomi
Assistant Principal, IA

Curriculum Outline

Duration 6 weeks, 1 day a week, 45-60 minutes per session

Lesson 1: Introduction to Recycling

Students will learn about recycling, what can be recycled, the different recycling methods and post consumer recycled goods. There will be a brief introduction to water treatment and how the consequences of failing to recycle affects the water supply. Students will be introduced to the forgotten recyclable, textiles.

Lesson 2: Introduction to SpinGreen

Students will be taught the benefits of textile recycling and how it helps the environment. They will get an in-depth look about who SpinGreen is and what they do.

Lesson 3: Environment and Sustainability

Students will be informed about the world's different natural resources and how they are being depleted by industrialized nations such as America and China. Students will learn how to protect resources so we can preserve them for future generations. How we manage waste on a commercial and personal level and what can be done at home to reduce your own personal carbon footprint.

Lesson 4: Composting

Students will discover how they can contribute to green the planet everyday at home through composting. The workshop will be hands on where students will actually compost themselves and learn how the process of combining natural products with household waste can produce new, chemical free, cost effective products.

Lesson 5: Global Warming

Students will be taught about greenhouse gas emissions and the burning of fossil fuels and its effects on polar ice caps and the ocean. Students will learn about the safety hazards associated with Nuclear energy and energy independence alongside the implications of shale gas and hydraulic fracturing.

Lesson 6: Renewable Energy

This session will teach students about wind power, photovoltaic power and geothermal power. Students will be introduced to 100% renewable energy and learn about methods to reduce energy consumption.

Materials and handouts will be given out to students.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Quiz

Directions: For each of the following questions choose the best possible answer.

- 1) What is Recycling?
 - a) A process of using new materials to make new materials
 - b) A process of collecting old materials into landfills
 - c) A process of using old materials to make new materials
 - d) None of the above

- 2) What is SpinGreen?
 - a) A technology recycling company
 - b) A metal sorting company
 - c) A school facility
 - d) A clothing/textile recycling company

- 3) What is a landfill?
 - a) A black hole
 - b) A hole in California
 - c) A place where all garbage is taken
 - d) None of the above

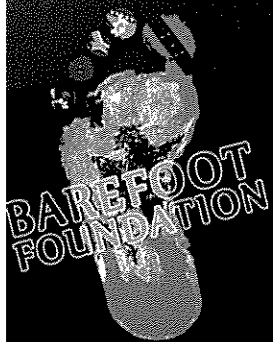
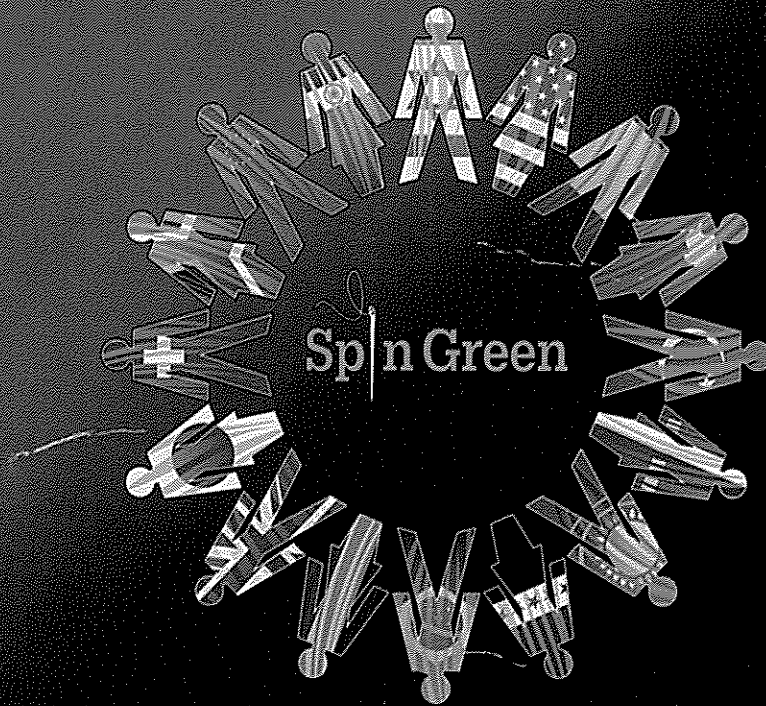
- 4) What is global warming?
 - a) A part of the globe
 - b) An increase in global temperatures
 - c) A decrease in global temperatures
 - d) A decrease in the breakdown of the ozone layer

- 5) What is an ozone layer?
 - a) An extra layer of clothing
 - b) A layer underneath the Earth
 - c) A layer of methane protecting us
 - d) None of the above

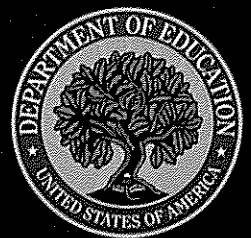
- 6) What is composting?
 - a) A process of determining global warming
 - b) A way of recycling clothes
 - c) A process of breaking down organic matter into organic fertilizer
 - d) A recycling method only used in Switzerland

- 7) Why is recycling clothes important?
- a) It limits oxygen in the atmosphere
 - b) It makes renewable energy
 - c) It saves landfill space and helps others
 - d) None of the above
- 8) Why is it important to re-use old material to make new material?
- a) To preserve natural resources and reduce our carbon footprint
 - b) America doesn't have enough money to produce new material
 - c) It is easier to re-use old materials
 - d) None of the above
- 9) What is currently the most efficient type of Renewable Energy?
- a) Solar Panels
 - b) Wind Turbines
 - c) Hydropower
 - d) Nuclear Power
- 10) What is Sustainability?
- a) Things can keep going forever
 - b) Things that can last 24hrs
 - c) Things that can keep going with batteries
 - d) The process of making sunlight goes forever

PRESSKIT 2014-2015



Official Sustainability Partner with the Department of Education
Through our Not-for-Profit, Barefoot Foundation



We Give Clothes a Second Chance

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO



SPINGREEN WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

SpinGreen is a Brooklyn based, Minority, Woman owned green social enterprise. Our mission is threefold; Keep clothes out of landfills, preserve our environment for future generations and clothe the needy whenever possible. We are very different than most recycling companies that you may have encountered or heard of.

A Green Social Enterprise is a for purpose company that funds its philanthropic causes by sourcing post consumer textiles for commercial use instead of filling the nations landfills. The clothes that are wearable get presented to our charity partners which currently include; The American Red Cross, American Diabetes Association, Madison Square Boys and Girls Club, Police Athletic League, GMHC, RAJE, and many others who benefit from our work. The stuff that is badly ripped, stained and torn is recycled for commercial use, like household insulation, like stuffing for toys and other cool eco products. If our charity partners do not need the clothes, we make a charitable contribution to help further their missions. Our recycling initiatives not only help the environment but people too.

"We Give Clothes a Second Chance"

WHY GO GREEN?



SPINGREEN WHY GO GREEN?

Recycling is processing used materials (waste) into new products to prevent waste of potentially useful materials. Going green means reducing the consumption of fresh raw materials, reducing energy usage, reducing air pollution (from incineration) and water pollution (from landfiling) by reducing the need for "conventional" waste disposal. In turn, it also lowers greenhouse gas emissions as compared to plastic production. Recycling is a key component of modern waste reduction and is the third component of the "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" model.

Recycling helps preserve our planet for future generations as well as get items that are made out of organic materials instead of chemicals.

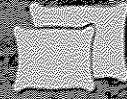
Here are some examples:



Stained t-shirt turns to wiping cloth



Old denim turns to household insulation



Lone sock turns to pillow stuffing



Teddy bear turns to car seat stuffing

"We Give Clothes a Second Chance"



EDUCATION



SPINGREEN EDUCATION

Diabetes is up 70% amongst children¹, not to mention obesity. Let's scrap candy and cookie drives for clothing drives. Children can still win prizes and learn a valuable lesson in life, that clothing isn't garbage and recycling goes beyond bottles and cans. First Lady, Michelle Obama launched a campaign "dedicated to solving the problem of obesity within a generation, so that children born today will grow up healthier and able to pursue their dreams."²

We offer free after-school educational programs focusing on the benefits of sustainability, recycling clothing, the environment, and global warming. Our educational programs change often, so each program has something new and something for everyone! Since 2010, government officials have been trying to mandate the implementation of environmental studies in the state educational system. It seems as though only schools with the most resources are actually able to apply it into the curriculum. SpinGreen is going above and beyond to fill that void, support them by helping us make a better tomorrow.

Small steps, big foot prints!

¹ <http://www.myfoxny.com/story/21082958/type-1-diabetes-up-70-percent-in-kids-study-finds>

² <http://www.letsmove.gov/about>



"We Give Clothes a Second Chance"

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS (SINCE 2/2013)



OVER \$100,000 DONATED IN CASH & CLOTHES

OVER 4.2 MILLION TONS OF CO₂ SAVED FROM POLLUTING THE PLANET

SAVED OVER 1 BILLION GALLONS OF WATER

508 STUDENTS WERE TAUGHT AT OUR SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOPS

OVER 3 MILLION LBS. SAVED AND DIVERTED FROM LANDFILLS

OUR EFFORTS THUS FAR HELPED OVER 20 CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

OVER 900,000 YARDS OF LANDFILLS SAVED

OVER 40 ECO-GARDENS BUILT

51 GREEN JOBS CREATED

SAVED OVER 35,000 LBS OF INSECTICIDES FROM BEING USED

~300,000 TRUCK MILES SAVED

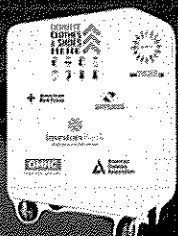
"We Give Clothes a Second Chance"

OUR BIN OPTIONS



SPINGREEN RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

- All of our bins are Brand NEW and custom made to fit all locations
- Your property logo/name may be imprinted as: "Community Clothes Drive Sponsored by" your community name and colors
- The bins are Rust, Graffiti, and Bedbug Proof
- State of the Art Weight Sensor technology, to ensure containers never overflow
- 24/7 Toll-Free Customer Service Hotline/Emergency pick-ups on weekends
- \$1M Liability Insurance to indemnify the owner of any liability
- FREE placement as a Green Supporter on our website as well as all of our social media and online networks, access to over 50,000 followers
- Attract more eco-minded buyers/renters to live in your building & community
- Be a leader of zero waste in your community
- Save money on sanitation costs
- Generate revenue and/or support your favorite charities



Interior Bin
48"x26"x64"



Outdoor Bin
44"x44"x72"

"We Give Clothes a Second Chance"



RESIDENTIAL



SPINGREEN THE BENEFITS OF STARTING TEXTILE INITIATIVES

Time - It takes less time to recycle old clothing than to manufacture new clothes. By spending less time on manufacturing, we have more time to dedicate to other important things such as sustainability, environment and growth.

Energy - By using less energy on manufacturing, the energy consumed by us will become less expensive, cleaner and more readily available.

Money - The money saved through the reduced use of energy means more competitively priced goods for Americans and citizens of the rest of the world.

Charities - We work with various charities such as the American Red Cross and many others to help them pursue their missions. You too can have a chance to support noble charities that you respect and want to help without making a monetary donation. By simply giving what you no longer want or need you are doing a charitable deed and feeling rewarded.

Lives - Believe it or not, there are millions of people in the US and abroad that wouldn't have clothing if people like us did not recycle. Less than 15% of discarded clothing reaches those people that need it most. By starting a zero textile waste initiative in your building, by simply giving what you no longer need or want, you are not only giving clothes a second a chance, but you are giving people everywhere in the world a chance at hope.

- Green your building profile
- Help keep clothes and shoes out of landfills
- Clothing is not garbage when thrown down the chute, it is expensive and unnecessary
- Build community outreach by promoting green textile recycling on your property

"We Give Clothes a Second Chance"



MARKETING STRATEGIES



ASSOCIATE

SPINGREEN MARKETING STRATEGIES

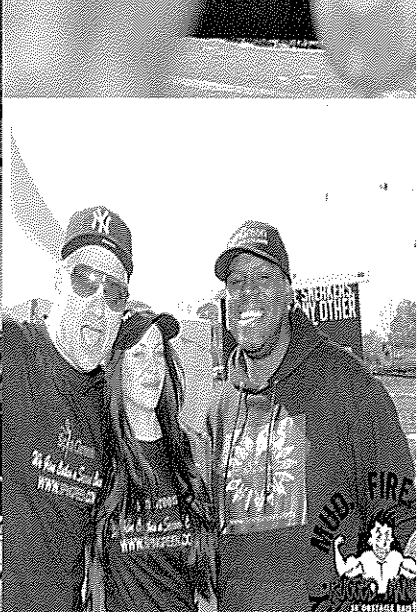
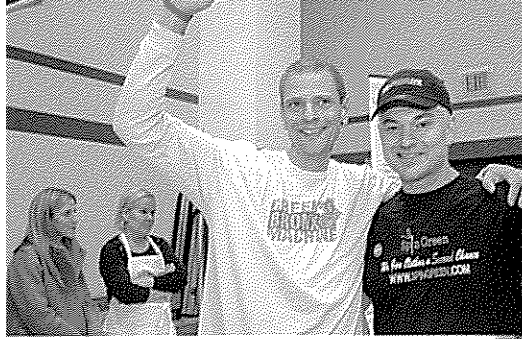
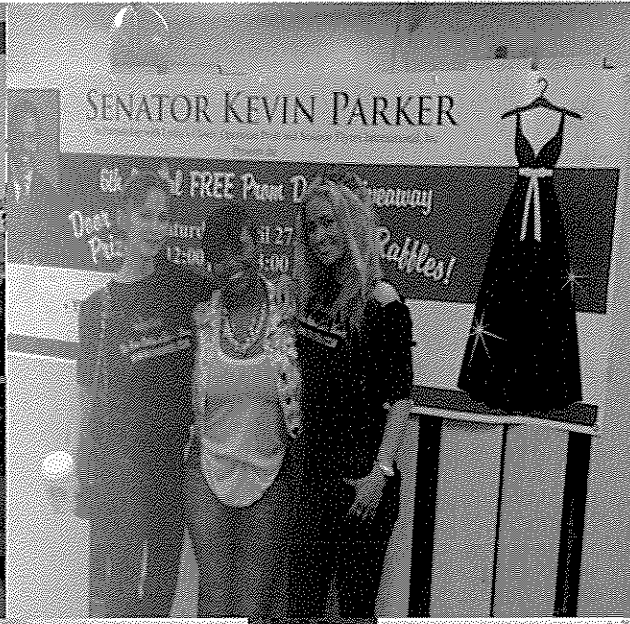
Our specialized marketing initiatives are industry-leading because they are unique and generate a new level of interest and excitement around your products and services. Our strategies include:

- Co-branding
- Social Media
- Driving traffic to your business
- Customized bin options
- Contests and green days
- Earn points or SpinGreen Dollars



"We Give Clothes a Second Chance"

GREEN EVENTS



GREEN EVENTS



MODEL CASTING

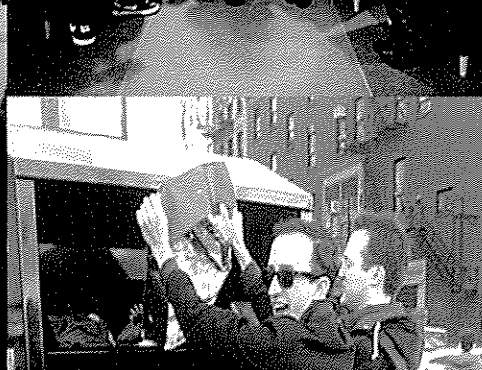
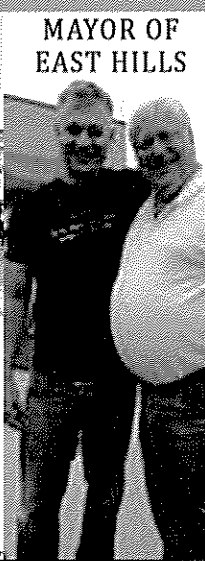
AND GRAND PRIZE
WINNER REWARDS
AND CASH

SPIN GREEN
CITY FORCE

Model Casting
Event on Feb 16 & 17
at City of Bush Terminal
200 30th Street
or 0 Train to 30th Street
Brooklyn
Sunset Park, Brooklyn
512 PM - 6 PM

City of Bush Terminal
200 30th Street
or 0 Train to 30th Street
Brooklyn
Sunset Park, Brooklyn
512 PM - 6 PM

www.spin-green.com



Spin Green
Give Clothes a Second Chance
WWW.SPINGREEN.COM

"Join us as we collect & give out coats to those in need"

GRAND MASTER KIM, JIM MOENHARD & AL CURTIS

RAJE FUNDRAISER

COAT DRIVE WITH LUIS R. SEPULVEDA



The President's Day COAT GIVEAWAY & COLLECTION DAY

AT IHOP 925 Richmond Ave Staten Island, NY 10314 ON PRESIDENT'S DAY, MON FEB. 17 2014 (2 PM - 5 PM)

DONATE A COAT & RECEIVE A FREE ORDER OF PANCAKES

MADE POSSIBLE ALONG WITH SPIN GREEN & HART OF NEW YORK

BRING SOMEONE IN NEED OF A COAT. WE'RE ALSO ACCEPTING SHOES, CLOTHING, BLANKETS & PILLOW ANY CONDITION, FOR RECYCLING.



WE PROUDLY SUPPORT

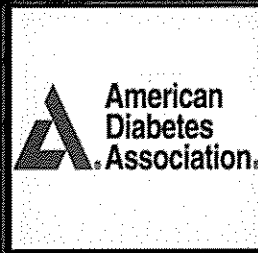


SpinGreen proudly contributes money and time to the following charitable organizations and their causes by creating unique tailor-made programs based on their needs to help them carry out their mission.



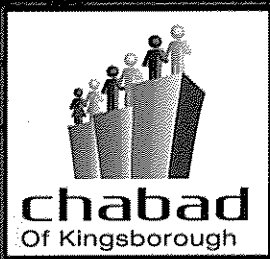
AMERICAN RED CROSS

The humanitarian mission of the American Red Cross connects us to people and communities across the nation and around the world.



AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION

The American Diabetes Association is committed to embracing and drawing from the unique voices, experiences and perspectives of our staff, volunteers and partner organizations in all that we do.



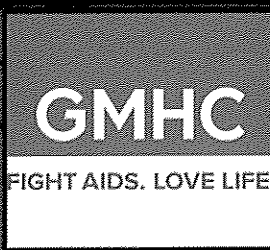
CHABAD OF KINGSBOROUGH

To provide meaningful Jewish experiences, educational and renewal opportunities for the Jewish students of KC and for the Jewish children and adults of the community.



MADISON SQUARE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Our mission is to save and enhance the lives of NYC boys and girls who by means of economic and/or social factors are most in need of its services.



GMHC

GMHC is the world's first and leading provider of HIV/AIDS prevention, care and advocacy.



RAJE

RAJE was founded in 2006 to address the Jewish communal and educational needs of young Russian American Jews.



UNITED LUBAVITCHER YESHIVOTH

Our primary goal is to establish a foundation for learning in a warm and nurturing yiddishe environment, concentrating on creating a child friendly environment.



URBAN STRATEGIES INC

Urban Strategies Inc continuously strives to promote, empower, enhance, motivate and contribute to the general well being of the youth and families in the community at large.

WE ARE NOT REPRESENTATIVES OF THESE CHARITIES AND HAVE EXPRESSED WRITTEN CONSENT TO USE THEIR LOGOS

"We Give Clothes a Second Chance"

OUR GREEN RECYCLING PARTNERS



SpinGreen works together with many different organizations that share our goal to better the world by eliminating waste and giving people today and future generations a chance at hope. We are proud members of the organizations below, their work is indispensable because it takes one company to make a change, but it takes many companies joining together to change the future.

WE ARE NOT REPRESENTATIVES OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS AND HAVE EXPRESSED WRITTEN CONSENT TO USE THEIR LOGOS

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION FOR REDUCTION, REUSE, AND RECYCLING

NYSAR3 is about you, the people of New York State interested in learning about, supporting and promoting recycling in New York State. This section is about how you can be involved. If you are not a member the first thing that you can do is join. NYSAR3 membership is inexpensive and affordable to all.



New York State Association for
Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling



National
Recycling
Coalition, Inc.

NATIONAL RECYCLING COALITION, INC.

The National Recycling Coalition is a national non-profit advocacy group; a professional membership organization. NRC members (we have over 6,000) span all aspects of waste reduction, reuse and recycling (local recycling coordinators, state and federal regulators, corporate environmental managers, environmental educators, consumers and waste management professionals)

SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

For nearly 50 years, the Solid Waste Association of North America has been the leading professional association in the solid waste field. Our association serves over 7,000 members throughout North America, and thousands more with conferences, certifications, publications, and technical training courses.



SWANA[®]

SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

For more information, visit us at www.SpinGreen.com



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"We Give Clothes a Second Chance"

Testimony of Tim Laughlin, Executive Director On Int. 0409-2014 Before the New York City Council Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management

Friday, September 19, 2014

Chairman Reynoso and members of the Committee, my name is Tim Laughlin and I am the Executive Director of the Lower East Side Business Improvement District. I am pleased to testify today in full support of Int. 0409-2014, which seeks to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to regulating publicly accessible collection bins. As many of you may know, in recent years there has been a proliferation of clothing collection bins throughout communities in each of the five boroughs. These bins are placed with no permit or approval and often impede the public right of way on sidewalks.

This legislation seeks to regulate these bins and ensure their placement does not impede the public right of way. This will permit the Department of Sanitation to remove bins that impede the public right of way immediately without a burdensome and unnecessary 30-day waiting period. In turn, it will prevent bin operators from moving locations after 29 days that would then necessitate another waiting period. Furthermore it would create a regulatory framework for clothing bins and establish new standards for identification and cleanliness.

The New York City BID Association has worked closely with the Department of Sanitation on this issue and in providing supplemental sanitation services in all of the 69 business improvement districts that operate citywide. These additional tools will permit organizations like ours to continue improving quality of life in the neighborhoods that we operate. Expedient removal of clothing bins that detract from communities in which they are located is an essential component of our mission to keep our neighborhoods safe and clean. I urge you to support this important legislation so that we can prevent private companies from using public space for financial gain without regulation of regard for the communities in which they place infrastructure.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kathryn Garcia, Commissioner

Address: _____

I represent: DSNY

Address: 125 Worth St - NY, NY 10013

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 409 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: Sept 19, 2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Josef Szende

Address: 340 Atlantic Ave.

I represent: Atlantic Ave BID and NYC BID

Address: Association

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 409 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/19/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Artnech Havan

Address: ~~246~~ 246 Graham Ave, Bk, NY, 11206

I represent: Grand St. BID

Address: 246 Graham Ave. Bk, NY 11206

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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in favor in opposition

Date: 9/19/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: RENÉE GIORDANO

Address: 5116 95TH AVE. BK NY 11220

I represent: SUNSET PARK BID

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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in favor in opposition

Date: 9/22/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Anthony Sterbens

Address: 18 Sargent Pl

I represent: UNABAIN

Address: 18 Sargent Pl

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rick Henningsen

Address: 3 Lincoln Drive Fairfield NJ 07004

I represent: Planet Aid

Address: 3 Lincoln Drive Fairfield NJ 07004

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/19/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JOEL KATZ

Address: 18 SARGENT PLACE

I represent: US ARMY

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 409 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/19/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mark Caserta

Address: 343 5th Street

I represent: Park Slope 5th Avenue BID

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 409 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/19/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Esther Lamm

Address: 2915 Ocean Parkway 11235

I represent: Russian American Jewish Experience

Address: 2915 Ocean Parkway 11235

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**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 409 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/15/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Elliot Gramen

Address: 1733 Sheepshead Bay Road

I represent: SpinGreen LLC

Address: 1733 Sheepshead Bay Road

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 409 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DANIEL MURPHY

Address: 442 41 STREET / 11232

I represent: BROOKLYN CB 7 / PITKIN BID

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 409 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/19/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rachel Thieme

Address: 45-56 43rd St, Sunnyside

I represent: Sunnyside Shines BID

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

4817

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 0409-2014 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/19/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Diana Reyna, Deputy Brooklyn B.P.

Address: 209 Joralemon

I represent: Brooklyn B.P.

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

47

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 0409 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: SEPT. 19, 2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ROBERT PERRIS

Address: 350 JAY STREET, BROOKLYN

I represent: BROOKLYN CB2

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 0409-2014 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/19/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Daniel Scors

Address: 350 Lincoln Pl. Bk 11238

I represent: Myrtle Ave Brooklyn Partnership

Address: 472 Myrtle Ave 2nd Fl. 11205

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**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 409 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/19/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MICHAEL LAMBERT

Address: 1368 FULTON STREET

I represent: SED - 5707 GATEWAY B.B.D. ASSOCIATION (NIC BID)

Address: 1368 FULTON STREET 3rd FLOOR

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 409 Res. No. 2014

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/19/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: PHILLIP KELLOGG

Address: 251 CARLTON AVENUE, BROOKLYN 11205

I represent: FULTON AREA BUSINESS (FAB) ALLIANCE

Address: 896-900 FULTON ST, BROOKLYN 11238

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