



May 3, 2018

Commissioner Daniel D. Brownell  
New York City Business Integrity Commission  
100 Church Street, 20th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioner Brownell,

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, a private carting truck operated by Sanitation Salvage and driven by a yet-to-be-named driver, hit and killed Leon Clark in the Bronx. Mr. Clark's death is only the latest example of the ongoing danger that Sanitation Salvage poses to New York residents. We urge the Business Integrity Commission to use its authority to immediately suspend Sanitation Salvage's license to operate in New York City.

According to news reports, Mr. Clark was a beloved member of the Melrose neighborhood. His death is a tragedy and was likely preventable. In the video of the April 27<sup>th</sup> crash, published by the *Daily News*, the Sanitation Salvage truck does not appear to slow down before running over Mr. Clark. The driver then backs up over him, before coming to a stop.

It is Sanitation Salvage's second fatal crash in six months. The prior crash, where the victim was also run over, occurred on November 7, 2017. Two fatal crashes in six months by one company is a truly shocking statistic, given that in all of New York City there were 101 pedestrians killed in traffic crashes last year, and 214 traffic fatalities total in the city.

These deaths cannot be reduced to mere accidents. Sanitation Salvage has a track record of putting trucks on the road that are unsafe to operate. Over the past two years, Sanitation Salvage's trucks were inspected 12 times by government regulators and violations were found in every inspection. Ten of those inspections – 83% – had such severe violations that the trucks were ordered out of service. This is four-times greater than the national average failure rate of 21%. The company also has the highest number of violations per vehicle among the city's top twenty carters.

These violations included four trucks that were not equipped with an antilock brake system, four with bald tires, two with inoperative or defective brakes, one with defective lights or reflective material, and five with leaking or falling cargo.

Workers at the company have described a pervasive disregard for safety. Sanitation Salvage workers say they are not given safety training and are not provided with legally-mandated personal protective equipment, such as gloves, boots, and reflective clothing. They say that the company makes no effort to ensure that its drivers are not under the influence of drugs or alcohol while operating trucks. The workers also say they are forced to work extremely long hours on routes with many hundreds of stops, and, as a result, are too exhausted to drive safely.

New York City law empowers BIC to immediately suspend a private carter's license without prior hearing if the company's operation "creates an imminent danger to life or property." We urge BIC to use this authority to protect New Yorkers from this reckless company.

Sincerely,

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Transportation Alternatives

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