



**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
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**\*\*NEWS ADVISORY\*\***

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***COUNCIL MEMBER MARGARET CHIN CALLS FOR INCREASED  
ENFORCEMENT REGARDING GENERATOR NOISE & FUMES IN  
LOWER MANHATTAN***

New York, NY – Today, Council Member Margaret Chin, Catherine McVay Hughes, Chair of Community Board 1, and Financial District Residents, gathered in front of 1 New York Plaza to call for increased enforcement on behalf of city agencies with regards to noise and fumes emanating from emergency generators servicing buildings in lower Manhattan post-Hurricane Sandy.

Currently, there are 12 temporary boilers and 105 emergency generators in the Financial District. The vast majority of these generators are servicing commercial buildings, including many city and state government offices. These generators run 24-hours a day, seven days a week, and they are spewing fumes and smoke into the air. As of December 10th, the City's Department of Environmental Protection had issued only 9 summonses to generators in lower Manhattan. Only three of these summonses were smoke violations, one was an odor violation, and the remainder where for failure to register.

Council Member Chin is calling on the City to do the following:

- Take immediate measures to move generators away from residential buildings
- Increase enforcement on behalf of the Department of Environmental Protection to remove dirty generators from lower Manhattan
- Department of Health of Mental Hygiene must provide REAL solutions to residents battling fumes in their apartments
- Ensure that management companies do everything in their power to make repairs and become fully electrified; and take action against those who continue to push back their repair dates
- Install comprehensive air monitoring in lower Manhattan
- Use the Mayor's Fund to Advance the City of New York to reimburse and provide air filters for residents in this neighborhood

“Over the past month, I have received dozens of complaints from residents about fumes and noise from generators and other emergency equipment that was brought in post-Sandy,” **Council member Margaret Chin** said. “The City’s response has been to do nothing. People are getting sick – and the only response they are getting is to cover their windows in plastic. This is unacceptable. These generators are spewing fumes into the air – and we can all see it. But DEP is not issuing violations. Something is wrong here. We need action on behalf of our city agencies and our Mayor. The Financial District is home to thousands of residents and we cannot allow private entities under the guise of ‘emergency circumstances’ to do whatever they want in our community.”

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, during an inspection of all 12 boilers and 105 generators by DEP, not one operator could produce the proper registration or Certificate of Operation for the equipment. City agencies need to take a more active role in policing these generators and enforcing the air and the noise code in lower Manhattan. Late-night noise from these generators is simply too much for residents to live with for months on end.

Note: the blue and yellow equipment at 1 New York plaza are propane heaters. There is one generator on the South side of the plaza.