

"FOOD SECURITY"

Starting from a point of appreciation that FOOD DISPOSAL is even a category in the Food Security panel of information, I grieve that a VERY IMPORTANT MATTER IS NOT addressed.

There are Hungry and Homeless people in the City of New York...perhaps more now than in many previous years, AND STILL, Store and Deli Owners/Managers are still wastefully disposing of food that is needed!

In inquiring about 2nd Harvest, for instance, which only partially meets some needs, they say "Give us more money, and we will hire more drivers of more trucks that will allow us to pick up more food to deliver to pre scheduled outlets, thus allowing our trucks to return to the home base empty." Job well done!

HOWEVER, I learned that they will pick up ONLY food that weighs 50 pounds or more. This seems practical on their part, BUT, A HUNGRY PERSON will appreciate just a few OUNCES of food. Think about this!

On the part of Store and Deli Owners/Managers, they are very observant of "expiration dates," soft and wilted produce, and perfectly GOOD prepared bulk food that has been on display, or available too long!

This food is then dumped indiscriminately into garbage bags to make room for next day's items, and the bags are then tossed into the dumpsters, or just thrown out to the curb. THIS WASTE IS TOTALLY SHAMEFUL!

I KNOW THIS TAKES PLACE, BECAUSE I KNOW OF "DUMPSTER DIVERS" WHO SURVIVE IN NYC!

HERE ARE A FEW HUMANITARIAN MEASURES THAT MIGHT PROVIDE STEPS TO REMEDY THIS!

First of all, Owners and Managers MUST be absolved of PENALTY for making alternative use of "OLD" food.

A "required by law" shelf-life date is of course necessary and understandable, in the long-run. However, it is totally nuts to think that food is perfectly GOOD at 11:59 PM one day, and.....suddenly, at 12:01 AM the next day,...by some weird kind of magic...will suddenly.....TURN BAD! Let's be real! The date is only arbitrary.

A LAW TO REQUIRE Owners and Managers to MARK DOWN this food, and make it available to the public at considerably lesser prices is necessary! Perhaps a special place in every store MUST even be designated as the CHEAP FOOD section, or even ultimately MORE necessary, nearest to closing time, the FREE FOOD section. Bins out-of-doors or neighborhood Kiosks may be a choice for stores that won't exactly welcome the homeless!

Some food is returned to the producer and is picked up and credited to the store. This is an entirely different matter. This HUMANITARIAN LAW would need to apply ONLY to food that would be discarded otherwise.

In this American Land of Freedom and the Land of Plenty, a staggering number of its people are STARVING! Some of these persons are our brave, but now homeless Veterans, others are "would-be" hard-working people, who are just out-of-work, some are elderly who have been evicted by a ruthless system, others are whole families with children who have absolutely no other resources. More help is needed for all of these persons.

Some homeless are afraid to even go to the shelters, considering them more dangerous than sleeping on the streets of New York. We've just gone through one of the coldest Winters in my recollection, and for those with no real help, or a warm, safe place to sleep, or life-giving healthful food to eat, at least once a day, it is indeed a miracle that any survived. I grieve for those who did not. We have another opportunity to make things right!

I cannot think of a more shameful thing to sayof some Americans...THAT WE ARE FREE....

TO EAT OUT OF GARBAGE CANS IF WE ARE HUNGRY ENOUGH !

PLEASE, NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, REMEDY THIS SHAMEFUL SITUATION !