



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Jeffrey D. Klein

Senator Peralta & IDC issues report on dirtiest pushcarts in New York City, illustrating need for grading restaurants-on-wheels

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Senate takes up Peralta's bill today on letter grading for pushcarts & food trucks

Albany, NY — As the New York State Senate readies to vote on a bill sponsored by **Senator Jose Peralta (D-Queens)** to assign letter grades to pushcarts and food trucks, the Senator and members of the Independent Democratic Conference issued a report, “*Grades-on-the-go: An Inside Look into the Dirtiest Pushcarts & Food Trucks in New York City*,” that analyzed inspection data from 2016.

“A vast majority of street vendors support a letter grading system, since it brings increased legitimacy to their businesses. With this more transparent system in place, consumers will have fewer worries about their food being unsafe when they pick up a falafel, a hot dog or a taco on the go. This investigation illustrates the need for transparency,” **said Senator Peralta**

The restaurants-on-wheels are inspected by New York City’s Department of Mental Health and Hygiene, but the inspections are not made public. Senator Peralta’s legislation would assign letter grades to pushcarts and food trucks just like restaurants and make it easier for DOHMH to obtain locations for inspections.

Analysts found the six dirtiest carts in the city where inspectors issued violations that could have resulted in a “C.”

Letter “C” Vendor Health Inspections

Pushcart/ Truck Decal ID	Location	Score	Letter Grade
AA05085	1293 Broadway, New York, NY	52	C
AA05085	101 West 35 th Street, New York, NY	47	C
AA07191	115 Central Park West, New York, NY	39	C
AA00076	101 West 35 th Street, New York, NY	34	C
AA00076	101 West 35 th street, New York, NY	32	C
AA08215	497 Clermont Ave, Brooklyn, NY	32	C
AA05261	10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn, NY	30	C
AA00871	107-19 71 st Avenue, Queens, NY	33	C

The ten most common food safety related violations issued in 2016

Type of Violation	Violations Issued in 2016
POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS FOODS HELD ABOVE 41°F	452
EFFECTIVE HAIR RESTRAINT	372
POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS FOODS AT IMPROPER TEMPERATURES	327
EQUIPMENT NOT CLEAN; IMPROPERLY MAINTAINED	202
FAILURE TO PROVIDE/USE THERMOMETERS AS REQUIRED	183

FOOD PROTECTION (FOOD NOT PROTECTED)	148
HANDWASHING FACILITY: SOAP/HAND DRYING DEVICE	94
HANDWASHING FACILITIES NOT PROVIDED/OBSTRUCTED	77
FOOD: ADULTERATED/CONTAMINATED	72
FAILURE TO MAINTAIN PERSONAL HYGIENE	66

Within the five boroughs, Manhattan has the largest concentration of pushcarts and food trucks. The report also found that it had the highest rate of violations per inspection, with 1.17.

Borough	Violations Per Inspections
Manhattan	1.17
Brooklyn	1.11
Queens	1.09
Staten Island	1.00
Bronx	0.82

To improve the sanitary conditions of these trucks and to provide consumers with easy access to information on the cleanliness of these establishments, Senator Peralta’s legislation would require that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene convert the existing health inspections into the letter grade equivalent.

As a conference, the IDC has long advocated for greater transparency in the conditions of the food that New Yorkers eat. Senator Klein worked on the original letter grading system for restaurants in New York City, and more recently on the posting of cafeteria conditions for schools.

The bill was hailed by the industry.

“At the New York Food Truck Association (NYFTA), we think food trucks should be held to the same food safety regulations as brick-and-mortar restaurants, not only including letter grades, but also addressing the onerous food safety permitting process for food truck employees,” **said Ben Goldberg, Founder and CEO New York Truck Association.**

RELATED LEGISLATION

2017-S592B

- Introduced

- - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate

- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate

- - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate

- Delivered to Governor

- Signed By Governor

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Directs the city department of health and mental hygiene to establish a grading system to classify the result of an inspection of mobile food service establishments and pushcarts in cities over 1 million

January 03, 2017

In Senate Committee **Health**

Sponsored by **Jose Peralta**

Do you support this bill?