May 21, 2020

The Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker
New York City Council
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Dear Speaker Johnson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the city’s plans for organics recycling and composting under consideration at this hearing.

The US Composting Council is a national organization dedicated to the development, expansion and promotion of the compost manufacturing industry, established in 1990 to promote best management practices, establish standards, educate professionals and the public about the benefits of composting and compost use.

Community composters, microhaulers and grassroots and nonprofit composters are all members of our organization. The Mayor’s proposed budget would decimate these organizations, who we have watched as they built momentum in New York City for significant diversion of food scraps from landfills to soil enriching compost. New York is now seen as one of the cities leading in composting and healthy soil development through these efforts.

Accompanied by the severe cuts to the DSNY (also a longtime member of USCC), these moves risk the progress the City has made in diverting food scraps, and yard trimmings—a significant loss since organic material that makes up at least 34% of the residential waste stream will be diverted from disposal.

The USCC urges the New York City Council to retain programs that the NYC Compost Project and GrowNYC nurtured over the years and that funds for community education be re-instituted to keep composting active in the city until DSNY’s program can be funded in 2021.

Sincerely,

Frank Franciosi, Executive Director