

With Election Day approaching, we wanted to alert you to the possibility of gatherings and demonstrations of growing intensity in the lead up to Election Day on Tuesday, November 3rd.

We do not have any specific information to share currently, other than what is publicly available; this [Instagram page](#) is still the best source for daily protest information. We are being told that these activities could potentially continue for some time even after Election Day, especially if the outcome of the presidential election takes time to resolve. We are all hopeful that the election will proceed smoothly and that any related demonstrations will be peaceful and orderly, however it behooves us all to be prepared for alternative scenarios.

At the very least, you can expect to encounter traffic and driving delays related to street closures. Earlier this week, in a [departmental memo](#) to officers, NYPD Commissioner Shea highlighted that the upcoming election will be the "most highly contested presidential election in the modern era" and that NYPD anticipates protests "to grow in size, frequency, and intensity."

Below is a list of suggestions for how to prepare:

GARBAGE + PICKUPS

We advise property owners to think about instructing both commercial and residential tenants and buildings to not put garbage out until the very last minute. Should things escalate, we would ask everyone to keep trash inside overnight and that you instruct your haulers to come earlier in the day if possible so that large piles of trash are not left in front of your buildings overnight.

STOREFRONTS

If you still have plywood from the spring used for boarding windows, we advise that you keep it on site should you need it again. However, we **strongly prefer** that you do not install the plywood pre-emptively as it has a powerful negative impact on the neighborhood's appearance. Have a plan to move valuables and inventory out of sight, to keep lights on, and make sure that doors lock, and that gates and security cameras are all working.

OUTDOOR DINING SET-UPS

If necessary, food service establishments might be asked to bring outdoor setups inside or to secure all movable objects on very short notice. Have a plan and the staff on site to make this happen. Sign up for updates from [DOT](#) and from [NotifyNYC](#), and keep an eye on DOT and NYCEM social media for any citywide directives.

INFORMATION + ADVOCACY

The Hudson Square BID will remain in constant contact with our partners at NYPD, the Departments of Sanitation and Parks, as well as Small Business Services, and we will continue to update you as we know more information ourselves.

REPORTING CONDITIONS

As always, we will be responding to conditions such as trash, graffiti, and damage to public property. If you observe anything you would like to bring to our attention, please let us know so we can respond. As always, call 911 for emergencies and contact 311 to log any complaints so that the City has these registered in their trackable public record.

I want to reiterate that **we do not have any reason to believe that the protests will be anything but peaceful**, but we also know how important it is to have a plan. We understand that all this uncertainty adds another level of stress you don't need right now but it is our hope that if you have time to prepare, the impact will not be as great.

If you have any questions or concerns that you would like to discuss, please contact Corey Kunz (ckunz@hudsonsquarebid.org – 201-873-8666) and we will do our best to advise you.