



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

July 22, 1986

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Mr. Herman Gerson
505 LaGuardia Place
New York, NY 10012

Dear Mr. ~~Gerson~~:

I am writing you in response to the question you submitted to me at my recent Town Hall meeting. You noted that many people collect large numbers of deposit cans and bottles and return them to grocery and other food stores for the five cent return, and you commented that although it helps keep the streets clean, that it causes litter, congestion and unsanitary conditions in the stores. You asked if the City could have bulk collection centers away from areas where food is sold.

I understand there are some suburban areas where the large chain food stores operate a redemption center jointly, sharing the building, start-up and maintenance costs. Also, there are some centers in New York State that exclusively redeem empty containers. But in New York City, where commercial space is tight, such bulk collection centers, separately located, are not economically feasible.

Enclosed is a copy of the "Bottle Bill of Rights" which states rights of consumers under the Returnable Container Law, and a copy of a booklet published by the Department of Sanitation with questions and answers about the law, which has been in effect since July 1, 1983. Under the law the retailer must accept empty containers for redemption so long as he sells the same brand of beverage, in the same type and size of container -- and he must accept up to 240, although it is advisable to return containers in reasonable amounts. As you have observed, the retailer must also provide for the temporary storage of the containers until they are picked up by the distributor.

If you find a grocery store or other food shop where unsanitary conditions are present, you should register a

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complaint with your Community Board, as such conditions can lead to a violation of Department of Health regulations.

Thank you for attending the Town Hall and for your words of encouragement.

All the best.

Sincerely,



Edward I. Koch
M A Y O R

Enclosure

Regards to Sophie