



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

**SCOTT M. STRINGER**  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**MANHATTAN BOROUGH BOARD RESOLUTION  
REGARDING NYC PUBLIC PAYPHONE CONTRACT**

WHEREAS, the public pay telephones currently installed in New York City streets are based on a 50 year old technology and provide a service which utility has steadily declined; the low usage can be seen as an indicator that technology has advanced with a recent survey by the Pew Research Center finding that 83% of US adults currently own a cell or smart phone ranging from a high of 95% of adults under 25 years of age down to 56% of senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, a large proportion of public phones have fallen in disrepair because of low usage, with up to 40% of the payphones in some districts having no dial tones or severely damaged booths; and

WHEREAS, many of these installations have become a magnet for crime or public disturbances, without the community having the option to remove the most problematic installations; and

WHEREAS, the large majority of these installations has increased in size and in concentration to facilitate larger advertising spaces and higher revenues; while the sidewalk space they occupy is increasingly at a premium, with competing priorities including pedestrian safety and right of way, rapid transit shelters, muni-meters, trees, newsstands and sidewalk cafes; and

WHEREAS, the contract for these installations will need to be renegotiated by the City and approved by the City Council for 2014; this is an opportunity for the City to require the franchisees to provide a public pay telephone that is more of a product of our times and can offer more than just a telephone

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New York City Department of Information and Technology replace this technology to provide a more useful and better service to New York City communities as part of the new contract to be signed in 2014; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the new appliances provide a menu of real benefits that each community could choose from including: 911 and 311 free access via land line including 48 hour back-up battery, pedestrian lighting, Wi-Fi, cell battery fast-charge, on line search access, arts or community announcements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the new installations' footprint reflect the technology trends in miniaturization and incorporate current state of the art payments methods and problem management systems with a fully transparent reporting to the public at a Community District basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the new installations be combined with existing street furniture to the extent possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that current installations will not be grandfathered and the contract will allow for a reduction in the number of installations and for approval and removal processes similar to those used for other street furniture like newsstands, including a Community Board comment and review period; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New York City Department of Information and Technology will launch as soon as possible a design competition for the new appliances with a selection panel including representatives of Community Boards and Department of Transportation.