

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, RESILIENCY

AND WATERFRONTS

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION, RESILIENCY AND  
WATERFRONTS

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December 4, 2025  
Start: 12:14 p.m.  
Recess: 12:24 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING  
ROOM 1

B E F O R E: James F. Gennaro, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alexa Avilés  
Robert F. Holden  
Kristy Marmorato  
Sandy Nurse  
Lincoln Restler  
Susan Zhuang

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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone  
check for the Committee on Environmental Protection,  
Resiliency and Waterfronts, recorded on December 4,  
2025, located in Hearing Room 1 by Nazly Paytuvi.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and  
welcome to today's New York City Council vote for the  
Committee on Environmental Protection, Resiliency and  
Waterfronts.

At this time, please silence all  
electronic devices, and no one may approach the dais.  
Thank you.

Chair, we are ready to begin.

CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Thank you very much.  
[GAVEL] Good afternoon, I'm Council Member Jim  
Gennaro, Chair of the Committee on Environmental  
Protection, Resiliency and Waterfronts.

Today, we'll be voting on Proposed Intro.  
Number 1397-A, sponsored by myself, in relation to  
establishing resilient construction standards for  
tanks in stormwater flood risk areas, requiring the  
Department of Buildings to provide information about  
flood risks on a portal maintained by the Department,  
and requiring a study to make recommendations for new  
regulations related to the prevention of stormwater

1 flooding. It is no secret that our city is struggling  
2 to address the immense volume of rainfall that we  
3 currently receive. Two major storms this summer led  
4 to widespread flooding in our subway system and along  
5 our roads, and another major storm just a month ago  
6 caused severe flooding and tragically took the lives  
7 of two New Yorkers. And this challenge will only grow  
8 as the frequency and intensity of storms increases.  
9 According to the New York City Panel on Climate  
10 Change's fourth report, which was published in June  
11 of 2024, annual precipitation is projected to  
12 increase by up to 10 percent in the 2030s, 14 percent  
13 by the 2050s, and 30 percent by 2100. Plus the  
14 intensity of the rainfall in general is going up, so  
15 it's going to be more rain and it's going to be more  
16 intense. While the City has implemented building  
17 restrictions and design guidelines for buildings  
18 vulnerable to coastal flooding, that is coastal  
19 flooding, which has always been a problem, so we,  
20 hang on, let me get this right. While the City has  
21 implemented building restrictions and design  
22 guidelines for buildings vulnerable to coastal  
23 flooding for more than 10 years, the City is just  
24 beginning to develop flood-related building  
25

1 restrictions in areas that are susceptible to  
2 stormwater flooding. That's, of course, different  
3 than coastal flooding. The bill we are voting on  
4 today is a critical component in that effort.  
5 Proposed Intro. 1397-A would require the Office of  
6 Long-Term Planning and Sustainability in consultation  
7 with DEP and the Department of Buildings to conduct a  
8 study to develop construction code amendments to  
9 address stormwater flood risks. The bill would also  
10 require DEP to provide publicly available information  
11 about properties within the 10-year rainfall flood  
12 risk area, the area of the city where there is a 10  
13 percent chance or greater of rainfall-induced  
14 floodings in any year, as mapped by DEP in accordance  
15 with Local Law 124 of 2024, another bill that I  
16 authored. The whole idea of that was to fully  
17 delineate the areas that have inland flooding  
18 problems. We've been working on the coastal areas for  
19 a long time, but this is for inland flooding.  
20 Proposed Intro. 1397-A would require DOB to indicate  
21 on its building information system online portal  
22 whether a property is within that 10-year rainfall  
23 flood risk area and provide a link to information  
24  
25

about the risks of stormwater flooding so that  
property owners could take preventive measures.

Finally, this bill would amend Appendix G  
of the Building Code to require that above-ground  
tanks in that 10-year rainfall flood risk area would  
be elevated to account for the risks of stormwater  
flooding. There you go. That's fun for the whole  
family right there.

I'd like to thank the Committee Staff,  
Legislative Counsels Natasha Bynum and Sierra  
Townsend; Policy Analyst Ricky Chawla, the man who  
can get anything done, that's on the record now,  
inside joke, yeah, Ricky's the man; Financial Analyst  
Tanveer Singh; as well as my own Legislative  
Director, Josh Gachette.

I recognize the following Council Members  
who have joined us. Pleasure to have them all.  
Council Members Marmorato, Holden, Zhuang, Nurse,  
Restler, and Avilés.

And I think we're ready, Bill, so I'm  
going to say the words, I'm going to say the words,  
wait for it. I will now ask the Clerk to call the  
roll.

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COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
you.

William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll  
call vote, Committee on Environmental Protection,  
Resiliency and Waterfronts. Proposed Introduction  
1397-A.

Chair Gennaro.

CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Zhuang.

COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:  
Salamanca. Brannan. Holden.

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Avilés.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Nurse.

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:  
Marmorato.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a  
vote of seven in the affirmative, zero in the

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negative, and no abstention, item has been adopted by  
the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: And I believe we're  
going to hold the record open for Council Member  
Salamanca, and should Council Member Brannan come in  
online, we'll get him as well.

Okay. This vote is adjourned. [GAVEL]

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date December 15, 2025