

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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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee on Environmental Protection,
4 Resiliency and Waterfronts, recorded on December 4,
5 2025, located in Hearing Room 1 by Nazly Paytuvi.

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

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

13 Chair, we are ready to begin.

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

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

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2 flooding. It is no secret that our city is struggling
3 to address the immense volume of rainfall that we
4 currently receive. Two major storms this summer led
5 to widespread flooding in our subway system and along
6 our roads, and another major storm just a month ago
7 caused severe flooding and tragically took the lives
8 of two New Yorkers. And this challenge will only grow
9 as the frequency and intensity of storms increases.

10 According to the New York City Panel on Climate
11 Change's fourth report, which was published in June
12 of 2024, annual precipitation is projected to
13 increase by up to 10 percent in the 2030s, 14 percent
14 by the 2050s, and 30 percent by 2100. Plus the
15 intensity of the rainfall in general is going up, so
16 it's going to be more rain and it's going to be more
17 intense. While the City has implemented building
18 restrictions and design guidelines for buildings
19 vulnerable to coastal flooding, that is coastal
20 flooding, which has always been a problem, so we,
21 hang on, let me get this right. While the City has
22 implemented building restrictions and design
23 guidelines for buildings vulnerable to coastal
24 flooding for more than 10 years, the City is just
25 beginning to develop flood-related building

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

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

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

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

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

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
3 you.

4 William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll
5 call vote, Committee on Environmental Protection,
6 Resiliency and Waterfronts. Proposed Introduction
7 1397-A.

8 Chair Gennaro.

9 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Zhuang.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:
13 Salamanca. Brannan. Holden.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Avilés.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Nurse.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:
22 Marmorato.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: I vote aye.

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

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

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

8 Okay. This vote is adjourned. [GAVEL]

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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