

New York City Council

Memorandum in Support of Legislation

This memorandum is authored by the sponsor and explains the need for the legislation referenced below, in accordance with Rule 6.00(d) of the Rules of the Council.

Introduction Number:

Int. No.

Prime Sponsors:

Council Member Harvey Epstein, Council Member Farah Louis

Bill Title:

A Local Law in relation to establishing a pilot program to install drinking fountains on fire hydrants and the repeal of this local law upon the expiration thereof.

Submitted by:

Council Member Harvey Epstein

Justification:

We need to make it easier to access fresh drinking water in New York City. Currently, New Yorkers struggle to find a place to access fresh drinking water and often turn to buying plastic bottles, which are harmful to the environment. According to the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice, New Yorkers go through 800 million plastic bottles per year. We can combat this waste by making it easier to grab a quick drink from a water fountain or fill up a reusable water bottle while out.

Additionally, according to a 2025 NYC Health Department report covering 2018–2022, over 500 people (approximately 525 annually) die from heat-related causes in New York City each summer. By providing free, accessible places to get a drink of water, we can combat this tragic epidemic.