

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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April 24, 2025  
Start: 11:29 a.m.  
Recess: 11:47 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alexa Avilés  
Robert F. Holden  
Kristy Marmorato  
Sandy Nurse  
Lincoln Restler  
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.  
Susan Zhuang

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Julie Menin

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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone  
check on the Committee of Environmental Protection,  
located in the Chambers, recorded by James Marino on  
4-24-25.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, good  
morning. Welcome to the New York City Council vote on  
the hearing on the Committee on Environmental  
Protection, Resiliency and Waterfronts.

At this time, please silence all  
electronics, and do not approach the dais.

Thank you, and you may begin.

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

Today we'll vote on a bill that I  
sponsored, oh shucks, Proposed Intro. 1150-A, which  
would require DEP to develop a comprehensive  
stormwater management plan. We'll also vote on two  
resolutions, Resolution 8, which I also sponsored,  
calling upon New York State to fairly allocate  
funding for lead service line replacement programs,  
and proposed Resolution 144-A, sponsored by Council  
Member Menin, who joins us today, calling on the New

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2 York State Environmental Facilities Corporation to  
3 remove barriers that prevent New York City from  
4 receiving funding for water infrastructure projects.

5 First, I'd like to discuss Proposed  
6 Intro. 1150-A. The current capacity of New York  
7 City's stormwater system is insufficient to address  
8 the increasing frequency of intense rainfall. Today,  
9 new sewer construction is designed to convey up to  
10 1.75 inches of rain per hour, which according to  
11 weather models is an intensity of rainfall only  
12 expected to occur once every five years.

13 Unfortunately, this 1.75 inches per hour standard is  
14 already out of date. In 2023 alone, New York City had  
15 five storms with a rainfall intensity greater than  
16 1.75 inches per hour, five in one year. It's supposed  
17 to be once every five years, which led to the  
18 temporary closure of major thoroughfares and subway  
19 lines, and likely caused hundreds of millions of  
20 dollars in damage to public infrastructure. The  
21 effects of this flooding were not experienced equally  
22 across the city, as neighborhoods with inadequate  
23 stormwater infrastructure or low-lying topologies  
24 experienced particularly severe inundation. Such  
25 neighborhoods are identified by the 10-Year Rainfall

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2 Flood Risk Area Map, which DEP will publish pursuant  
3 to Local Law 124 of 2024, legislation that I  
4 sponsored last year so we kind of set the building  
5 blocks in place. They're going to draw the maps, and  
6 now we're going to do this bill, and they're going to  
7 build upon the law we did last year. The bill we're  
8 voting on today, Proposed Intro. 1150-A, would also  
9 address stormwater flooding by requiring that DEP  
10 develop a comprehensive stormwater plan to increase  
11 the rainfall conveyance capacity of the City's  
12 stormwater system. The plan would recommend new  
13 rainfall conveyance capacities for different areas of  
14 the city and would identify projects and policies  
15 necessary to achieve those capacities. Additionally,  
16 DEP would be required to display the status of the  
17 plan and the status of all projects and policies  
18 recommended by the plan on an online dashboard.  
19 Achieving the rainfall conveyance capacities  
20 recommended by the plan would shrink the 10-Year  
21 Rainfall Flood Risk Area such that fewer  
22 neighborhoods will experience damages from stormwater  
23 flooding.

24 Now I'd like to turn to the resolutions.

25 The New York State Environmental Facilities

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2 Corporation, known as the EFC, is a public benefit  
3 corporation that disperses funding allocated by state  
4 and federal governments for environmental projects,  
5 including water infrastructure projects. However, due  
6 to EFC guidelines, New York City does not receive a  
7 fair share of funding. The EFC prohibits New York  
8 City from receiving interest-free hardship financing  
9 through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, even  
10 though hardship financing is designed to benefit New  
11 York State's disadvantaged communities, the majority  
12 of which are in New York City. The EFC also prohibits  
13 New York City from receiving more than 10 percent of  
14 funds authorized by the New York State Clean Water  
15 Infrastructure Act of 2017. This is blatantly unjust  
16 as nearly half of the state lives in New York City.  
17 Resolution 8 and Proposed Intro. 114-A both call on  
18 the EFC to change its guidelines. Doing so could  
19 allow the City to fund important water quality  
20 infrastructure projects, such as the replacement of a  
21 lead service line, which is the focus of my  
22 resolution, Resolution 8, at a hearing held by this  
23 Committee last June, DEP testified that although it  
24 would cost 2 billion dollars to replace all lead  
25 service lines in New York City, the Department only

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2 expects to receive 120 million dollars in net state  
3 and federal assistance. If the EFC gave the City its  
4 fair share of state and federal funding, the City  
5 could accelerate the replacement of lead service  
6 lines and implement other high-priority water  
7 infrastructure initiatives.

8 I'd now like to invite Council Member  
9 Menin to speak on her proposed resolution, Resolution  
10 144-A. I recognize Council Member Menin.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Thank you so much,  
12 Chair Gennaro. When the Infrastructure Investment and  
13 Jobs Act was enacted in 2021, it unlocked  
14 approximately 50 billion dollars in federal funds on  
15 water and waste initiatives for states. This funding  
16 is transformative, particularly for financing sewer  
17 upgrades and stormwater management. Yet New York  
18 state law caps any municipality from receiving more  
19 than 10 percent at maximum of water infrastructure  
20 funds available. That limits New York City, home to  
21 almost 50 percent of the State's population, from  
22 receiving its proper share of funding for water  
23 infrastructure upgrades. Specifically, because of  
24 these restrictive rules by the New York State  
25 Environmental Facilities Corporation, the City's

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2 share of water infrastructure grant funds was 2  
3 percent in 2022 and 6 percent in 2023. As New York  
4 City has a majority-minority population, these  
5 inequitable policies promulgated by New York State  
6 disproportionately impact minority and low-income  
7 communities. That is why I introduced Resolution 144,  
8 urging the New York State Environmental Facilities  
9 Corporation to eliminate these barriers and uncap the  
10 City's funding for critical water infrastructure  
11 improvements.

12 First of all, I want to thank my  
13 Colleagues. I want to thank the Chair for supporting  
14 me in this Resolution. And I want to acknowledge  
15 drafter Jared Brust (phonetic) and my team, Jonathan  
16 Szott, Brandon Jordan, Mercedes Anderson, and Ramaz  
17 Hassanani (phonetic) for their work.

18 Thank you again, Chair, for allowing me  
19 to speak.

20 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Thank you, Council  
21 Member Menin. I wish to be associated with the  
22 remarks of Council Member Menin.

23 And I also have some thank-yous here. I  
24 would like to thank the Committee Staff, Legislative  
25 Counsels Natasha Bynum and Sierra Townsend; Policy

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2 Analysts Ricky Chawla and Andrew Bourne; Financial  
3 Analyst Tanveer Singh; and my Legislative Director,  
4 Josh Gachette, for all their hard work in preparing  
5 for today's vote and working on these bills.

6 I would also like to recognize the  
7 following Council Members who have joined us. I don't  
8 see very well. Here we go. Council Members Holden,  
9 Marmorato, Nurse, Avilés, and Zhuang.

10 And with that, I will now ask the Clerk  
11 to call the roll. The items are coupled. Oh, I'm  
12 sorry. Okay. I stole Billy's line.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: William  
14 Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call vote Committee on  
15 Environmental Protection, Resiliency and Waterfronts.  
16 All items are coupled. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Chair  
17 Gennaro.

18 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:  
20 Salamanca. Brannan. Restler.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
23 you, Council Member Restler.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Yes.  
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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
3 you. Okay.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
6 you. Thank you. Holden.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Avilés.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Nurse.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Zhuang.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:  
15 Marmorato.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:  
18 Salamanca. Brannan.

19 With a vote of seven in the affirmative,  
20 zero in the negative, and no abstentions, all items  
21 have been adopted by the Committee.

22 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Let me just make an  
23 inquiry as to whether or not it makes sense to hold  
24 the record open. Okay. Shall I hold it open for other  
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2 Members? Okay. The record will remain open for other  
3 members to cast their votes. Thank you.

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet in the Chambers,  
5 please. Quiet in the Chambers.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:  
7 Continuation roll call. Committee on Environmental  
8 Protection. Council Member Salamanca.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Final  
11 vote Committee on Environmental Protection is now  
12 eight in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and  
13 no abstentions. Thank you. Council Member Gennaro to  
14 close.

15 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: This vote is  
16 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 June 11, 2025