

**TESTIMONY OF HARRY NESPOLI,
PRESIDENT UNIFORMED SANITATIONMEN'S ASSOCIATION
LOCAL 831 IBT
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
ON
STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

HON. KAREN KOSLOWITZ, CHAIR

JUNE 8, 2016

Good morning.

So here we are again. 20 years after Michael Hanly, a 22 year-veteran of the Department of Sanitation tragically lost life when he was accidentally sprayed by hydrofluoric acid while doing in job.

Yet, we are still trying to provide a secure financial for our members who have died in course of performing their job.

Mike Hanly was a man who devoted his life to his city and his family, and who lost his life in service to his city. When he died there were no shortage of condolences and kind words for his wife and four children.

Plaques were dedicated and road races were named in his memory.

But where was the long term help for his family?

Unlike other uniformed services there has been no long-term financial support for his family.

It has not been for a lack of trying. More than once legislation has been introduced in Albany to right this injustice. Twice that legislation has reached the governor's desk. Each time both Governor Spitzer and Governor Patterson found flaws and vetoed the versions placed before them.

So we are, once again seeking your support to help the families of those who have paid the ultimate price while doing their job.

Introduced on behalf of the family members of fallen sanitation workers, the current bill (S6035/A8063) is sponsored by Senator Martin Golden (R-Queens) and Assemblywoman Marge Markey (D- Brooklyn).

This legislation will provide a special accidental death benefit to widows, widowers, and children of sanitation workers who die in the line of duty.

On behalf of the 6,300 members of the Uniformed Sanitationmen's Association Local 831—International Brotherhood of Teamsters (USA), I urge you to approve a home rule request for the bill.

Under current law, sanitation widows are afforded a death benefit of 50 percent of the deceased member's salary. The legislation provides families of sanitation workers with a special accidental death benefit equal to one-half the deceased member's salary, bringing total benefits equal to the deceased member's salary.

This is nothing more than what is already provided to widows, widowers or children of the NYPD, FDNY, Corrections Officers, Health and Hospital EMT's and MTA Bridge and Tunnel Officers.

While one is too many according to the Daily News, 17 of my members have lost their lives while on the job since Mike Hanly in 1996.

Among them:

- Sanitation Worker **Frank Consalvo** was killed by a hit-and-run driver while on collection duty (in 2000);
- Superintendent **Michael Gennardo** was fatally shot by an intruder while inside the garage (August 2001);
- Sanitation Worker **Keith Bridges** succumbed to injuries suffered in an motor vehicle accident (December 2003);
- Sanitation Worker **Eva Barrientos** was crushed by an EZ pack collection truck (January 2004);
- Sanitation Worker **Rodney Page** was killed in an accident on the New Jersey Turnpike (March 2005);
- Sanitation Worker **Michael Occhino** was killed in an accident on the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway (August 2006);

- Sanitation Worker *Allen Gormely* died of a heart attack while on collection duty (September 2006); and,
 - Sanitation Worker *Rafael Concepcion* succumbed to injuries sustained in an accident while on collection duty (December 2006).
 - Sanitation Worker *Stephen Dixon*, died of a heart attack while on collection duty (March 2009).
 - Sanitation Worker *Frank Justich* (January 2010) was killed when a tractor trailer struck his collection truck.
 - Sanitation Worker *Steven Frosch* who was struck by a street sweeper (June 2015).

Regardless of whether a municipal employee is a bridge and tunnel worker, a corrections officer, or a uniformed sanitation member, the duty performed by the individual is no less critical to the health and safety of all New Yorkers; and his or her loss creates no less of an emotional and financial hardship on the family.

The families of sanitation workers deserve the same level of gratitude and support for service provided by their fallen member.

Again, on behalf of the 6,300 members of the Uniformed Sanitationmen's Association Local 831—International Brotherhood of Teamsters (USA), I urge you to approve a home rule request for the bill.

Thank you.



PO BOX 1381, BRONX, NEW YORK, 10451-9998 • WWW.BRONXCHILDRENSMUSEUM.ORG
TEL: 347-971-2155 • EMAIL: INFO@BRONXCHILDRENSMUSEUM.ORG

FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CARLA PRECHT

**Testimony before the New York City Council
Committee on State and Federal Legislation
June 8, 2016**

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Chair Koslowitz and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Bronx Children’s Museum, I respectfully request that the Council adopt the Preconsidered resolution in support of S. 5859-B and A. 8120-B. This legislation will allow the New York City Commissioner of Parks and Recreation to enter into an agreement for the operation of the Museum in a portion of a building located in Mill Pond Park. This will be the first physical location for a children’s museum in the Bronx.

Founded in 2005, Bronx Children’s Museum (BCM) currently serves 15,000 Bronx residents annually through innovative mobile programming, temporary exhibits, and ongoing afterschool and summer programming throughout the borough at community-based organizations, schools, shelters, libraries, local festivals and parks. It is one of a few cultural institutions in the Bronx geared toward young children, especially those children and families who cannot afford — or would not normally visit — a museum.

Once open, the Bronx Children’s Museum will serve 75,000 people annually and will feature:

- Bright, open theme-based areas (e.g., science, arts/culture, and the early learner)
- Age-appropriate permanent and temporary interactive activities exploring the arts, culture, community, the natural resources, greening, energy, and the richness of the Bronx
- Flexible studio space for community gatherings, meetings and birthdays

We are incredibly grateful for the Council’s support over the years. With passage of this legislation, we can move forward with construction on this exciting project and serve many more children in the Bronx and throughout the city.

Sincerely,

Carla Precht
Executive Director

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6-8-16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: HARRY NESPOLI

Address: _____

I represent: Local 831 IBT President

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 58015 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jim Stevin

Address: 204 E 23rd St, NY 10010

I represent: Uniformed Firefighters Assoc

Address: S/A

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms