

## **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.

Legislative Service Number:

- LS No. 13289/15348 (Former Intro 900-2024)

Prime Sponsor:

- Council Member Sandy Nurse

Bill Title:

A Local Law in relation to requiring the installation of outdoor drinking fountains in parks under the jurisdiction of the department of parks and recreation and in other public places

Submitted by:

- Council Member Sandy Nurse

### **Justification**

Facing hotter and longer summers, New York City needs more and better maintained water fountains. There are approximately 3,800 water fountains in New York City, not all of which are accessible to people with disabilities or suitable to fill up reusable water bottles. Without accessible water stations, our parks will continue to exclude people with disabilities who deserve to enjoy our city's great parks.

This bill would have an added benefit of reducing plastic bottle consumption by New Yorkers. Each year, New Yorkers buy and dispose of hundreds of millions of plastic water bottles, which end up in far away landfills or on our streets. By creating more opportunities for New Yorkers to carry and frequently refill their reusable water bottles, we can keep New Yorkers hydrated and safe in the heat, and reduce our plastic bottle consumption.

The bill also requires the city to install 10 new drinking fountains in underserved areas outside of our parks system. This provision will help ensure that outdoor access isn't just guaranteed for well-off and well-resourced areas. We can and will bring outdoor access to more communities that have been neglected and excluded from public space.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.