



**Testimony of**  
**Angela Licata**  
**Deputy Commissioner**  
**New York City Department of Environmental Protection**  
  
**before the**  
  
**New York City Council**  
**Committee on Environmental Protection**  
  
**June 7, 2022**

Good afternoon. I am Angela Licata, Deputy Commissioner for Sustainability at the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). I am joined today by Julia Casagrande, Policy Advisor at the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice (MOCEJ).

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today about transitioning to less polluting fuel oil options around the city. This has been a priority for DEP and City Council for many years.

Buildings were required to begin transitioning from fuel oil No. 6 in 2011, as a result of Local Law 43 of 2010. This change has had a significant impact on improving air quality, especially in northern Manhattan and portions of the Bronx that had especially high concentrations of boiler conversions. Traditionally vulnerable, high poverty areas experienced the greatest proportion of health benefits from the fuel oil conversions. The passage of Local Law 38 of 2015 built on this progress by requiring a full phase-out of fuel oil No. 4 by 2030. Since 2015, approximately 1,000 boiler applications have converted from systems that use No. 4 to systems that use No. 2 or natural gas.

Currently, approximately 3,366 buildings across the city now burn fuel oil No. 4, with 1,517 using No.4 as a backup fuel to natural gas as part of what's known as a "dual fuel system". These buildings use No. 4 when natural gas is in high demand during very cold weather conditions. The other 1,849 buildings use No. 4 fuel exclusively. DEP regularly communicates with building owners to ensure that they are aware of regulatory expectations and options to meet these regulations.

Phasing out fuel oil No. 4 will have important air quality and public health improvements by reducing emissions of particulate matter, oxides of nitrogen, sulfur dioxide, and carbon dioxide. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene expects these improvements may result in fewer premature deaths, respiratory and cardiac hospitalizations, and asthma emergency room visits. As with the transition from fuel oil No. 6, the transition from fuel oil No. 4 will have a significant benefit in environmental justice neighborhoods. Approximately 72% of the buildings that currently use fuel oil No. 4 are in environmental justice or potential environmental justice communities, especially in northern Manhattan and the Bronx.

Converting from fuel oil No. 4 to another source will require investment from building owners. The conversion cost vary significantly, depending on the building's current system and the new system that is installed. We appreciate that some building owners may need help understanding their options for compliance, so MOCEJ, through the NYC Accelerator, connects building owners with the technical



assistance and utility incentives that they will need to transition away from fuel oil No. 4. The NYC Accelerator provides personalized outreach and assistance from experts who offer advice on energy-efficient and clean energy technology, local laws, and incentives and financing options to fund building upgrades. First launched in 2012 as Clean Heat, this program assisted the phase out of fuel oil No. 6 for many buildings. In total, about 5,300 buildings converted from fuel oil No. 6 to cleaner fuel, eliminating 1,200 tons of PM2.5 emissions and preventing an estimated 210 premature deaths annually.

We have been working toward cleaner heating oil in the City for over ten years. There are a number of upcoming biodiesel requirements, both from the City and the State. In anticipation of these requirements, building owners should already be taking steps to clean up their fuel equipment to ensure compliance. Currently, the Air Code requires that all buildings convert from No. 4 oil to No. 2 oil or alternative sources by 2030. Int. 470 would accelerate the transition timeline. We share Council's goal to phase out No. 4 oil as soon as is feasible, so we want to work with Council to ensure that the bill details consider cost and technological considerations to best serve all impacted communities.

We thank the Council for their attention to this topic and look forward to working together on this bill. My colleague and I are happy to answer any questions that you have.



## **Council of New York Cooperatives & Condominiums**

**TESTIMONY TO THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
June 7, 2022**

**Testimony on Int. 470 – Eliminating No. 4 oil**

The Council of New York Cooperatives & Condominiums (CNYC Inc.) is a membership organization providing information, education and advocacy for housing cooperatives and condominiums located throughout the five boroughs of New York City and beyond. More than 170,000 New York families make their homes in in these resident-owned buildings, which span the full economic spectrum from very modest, income-restricted housing to solid middle class apartment complexes to upscale dwellings. New Yorkers in housing cooperatives and condominiums are committed to this city and invested in its future. We understand how important the control of energy use and significant reduction of our carbon footprint are to a successful future for our City. We are also painfully aware of the financial burdens that Local Law 97 and other City mandates already impose.

We strongly oppose Int. 470, which would radically modify previously agreed-upon dates for phasing out #4 oil.

In 2011, we were given only a few years to phase out #6 oil and were told that #4 oil was to be eliminated by 2030. Our buildings made careful plans according to this timetable and many made the financial decision to convert from #6 to #4 at that time. Now some of those buildings would be given as little as 18 months to switch again – 6 years ahead of schedule – under this legislation.

This new timeline will have significant ramifications for the thousands of buildings still using No. 4 oil. At a time when products are expensive and often hard to find and contractors have more work than they have employees to complete, timely conversions will be even more difficult and expensive. This comes as our buildings have sought to find funds to comply with Local Law 97 while also wrestling with enhanced requirements for facade inspection under FISP and a myriad of lesser compliance requirements – all well-intentioned, but each affecting the budget of our member



## **Council of New York Cooperatives & Condominiums**

cooperatives and condominiums. If the city is to enforce these much earlier timelines for conversion, we ask that the city provide funding or tax breaks to buildings that equal the cost of conversions.

We respectfully request that you consider the hard-fought timelines previously set for these phase outs that you, Chairman Gennaro worked on yourself, as well as the immense costs currently facing New York homeowners. 2030 is the well-established date for use of #4 oil to end that is already embedded in the long-term planning of so many buildings. Please do not pull the rug out from under these buildings and the families in them.

We do remain committed to finding shared solutions and working together.

Thank you,

Mary Ann Rothman  
Executive Director  
Council of New York Cooperatives & Condominiums

My name is Matt Malina, Director NYC H2O.

NYC H2O is an environmental education and stewardship organization that works in all five boroughs.



The Natural Areas Conservancy, the city has 10,000 acres of natural areas and wetlands.

Chairman you mentioned that there are lands that the Parks department doesn't want to take care of.

There are several CBO's that do significant work taking care in these natural areas with the help of thousands of community members, who regularly use these parks.

But the Parks Dept does not recognize or try to engage these groups in an official capacity. The Parks Dept has a Partnership office but they rarely actually engage in meaningful partnerships. There are only a few organizations that the City has engaged in license or maintenance agreements with to take care of Parks. These are usually issued based on political connections rather than any metrics.

DEP does. Please expand this model.

One case in point is the Ridgewood Reservoir in Highland Park pictured behind me. It is Class I a 50-acre freshwater wetland that NYC H2O

There is also a large monastery adjacent to the park that is up for sale that would be an incredible location for an environmental education center.

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If I told you that there was 50 acres of greenspace that was not open to the public at all? Would you believe me?

Well it's true. The Ridgewood Reservoir in Highland Park between Cypress Hills Brooklyn and Ridgewood Queens, pictured in my background, is 50 continuous acres that is completely inaccessible to the public. Let's open it up safely with boardwalks. NYC H2O has a plan and the ability to open the interior of the basins up to the public safely.

CM Krishnan asked Carter Strickland what it would take for Parks to engage in a similar partnership that the Trust for Public Land has with the DOE.

Your question is right on the mark.

I think this should be the focus of the next Parks committee hearing. There should be a standardized mechanism in place to make this happen with clear metrics, rather than entering into partnerships with select groups based on political connections.

CM Holden pointed out that it cost the city \$3,000 to plant one tree.

NYC H2O planted 200 trees in Highland Park last year. We did not get paid \$600,000. We did it for the cost of employing 5 employees who worked with and organized 20 volunteers to help with the planting.

In the meanwhile, NYC H2O citywide Ecological Sustainability Proposal with Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy, Bronx River Alliance, Natural Areas Conservancy, and Van Cortlandt Park Alliance. As part of the Greener NYC initiative, we propose a citywide ecological sustainability program to protect the City's valuable ecosystems, mitigate increasing climate change impacts, and improve open spaces and waterways. Our coalition has formulated a citywide plan that will engage the public in environmental education, stewardship, and provide green jobs and training designed to improve the ecosystems in public spaces, parklands, and wetlands.

We have shared the proposal with council finance.

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According to our partners at the Natural Areas Conservancy, there are 20,000 acres of forests and wetlands in NYC. Divided across these 20,000 acres, our proposal comes out to under \$90 an acre. NYC H2O has a successful track record of organizing cleanups on beaches across the city and at the Ridgewood Reservoir in Highland Park. Bringing together hundreds of volunteers a year, we are able to do the same work the City normally spends 4-5 times more on through contract work.

The benefits are more than just cost savings: our work provides New Yorkers the opportunity to get involved in their local communities, experience our City's natural environment, and learn something new.

With this funding, the coalition will

- Remove invasive species and plant native species in parks and wetlands in all five boroughs
- Hire 15 full-time environmental stewards from the communities surrounding these natural areas and provide green job training
- Facilitate 400 environmental STEM field trips bringing over 7,500 public school students from 284 schools (primarily Title I and III) to New York City parklands
- Organize year-round weekly volunteer stewardship events recruiting 3,000 volunteers
- Engage the public in programming that brings them into their local parks

We believe that getting people out and into nature is the best way to foster a connection with the environment and encourage community engagement. Thank you for your time and consideration; we have submitted a longer proposal as written testimony.



**Testimony of Carlos Castell Croke**  
**Associate for New York City Programs**  
**New York League of Conservation Voters**  
**Committee on Environmental Protection**  
**Intro 0470**  
**June 7th, 2022**

Good afternoon, my name is Carlos Castell Croke, and I'm the Associate for New York City Programs at the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV). NYLCV represents over 30,000 members in New York City, and we are committed to advancing a sustainability agenda that will make our people, neighborhoods, and economy healthier and more resilient. I would like to thank Chair Gennaro and all members of the Committee on Environmental Protection for the opportunity to testify regarding the burning of Number 4 heating oil in New York City.

NYLCV is committed to preserving healthy air quality in NYC, and would like to offer support for Intro 470, which would speed up the phasing out of Number 4 heating oil to January 1, 2025. This proposal can help drastically improve air quality in New York City.

Although Number 6 home heating oil was phased out of 6,000 buildings by the end of 2015 as part of the NYC Clean Heat program, other buildings all around New York City are still burning Number 4 heating oil, which releases large volumes of fine particulate matter into the air. Additionally, Number 4 heating oil combustion disproportionately occurs in neighborhoods of lower socioeconomic status, therefore contributing to environmental injustice in NYC.

The emissions released from burning Number 4 heating oil are correlated with higher frequencies of cardiovascular disease, respiratory illness such as asthma and bronchitis, and death. Particulate matter, Nitrous Oxides, and Sulfur Dioxide, are all emissions from burning No.4 oil which, when inhaled, can cause respiratory illness and dysfunction.

According to the Environmental Defense Fund, replacing Number 4 with Number 2 cuts particulate matter emissions by 90%, nitrous oxide emissions by 10%, and sulfur dioxide emissions by 68%.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/10071\\_EDF\\_BottomBarrel\\_Ch3.pdf](https://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/10071_EDF_BottomBarrel_Ch3.pdf)



Current schedule for phasing out Number 4 heating oil, January of 2030, is not aggressive enough: pushing the deadline forward to 2025 is a step the city can take to accelerate meeting the air quality goals spelled out in OneNYC and our emission reduction goals. Just this five year difference would mean hundreds of deaths and thousands of emergency room visits averted.

I'd like to thank the City Council for their support over the years on environmental health issues that concern our members, and look forward to continuing this work in the future. Thank you for your time.



REBNY Testimony | June 7, 2022

## The Real Estate Board of New York to The Committee on Environmental Protection on Int 470-2022

The Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY) is the City's leading real estate trade association representing commercial, residential, and institutional property owners, builders, managers, investors, brokers, salespeople, and other organizations and individuals active in New York City real estate. REBNY thanks the Committee for the opportunity to testify on the retiring of no. 4 oil.

**BILL:** Int 470-2022

**SUBJECT:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to phasing out the use of fuel oil grade no. 4

**SPONSORS:** Council Members Gennaro, Cabán, Brannan, Brewer, Joseph, and Nurse.

Int. 470 expedites the phase-out of No. 4 oil to no later than January 1, 2025. To do so, the bill creates two tiers of retiring no. 4 oil, first requiring the end of use of no. 4 oil by December 31, 2023, for buildings that have:

- a boiler that uses natural gas as primary fuel and fuel oil grade no. 4 as a backup fuel, other than a boiler used to generate electricity and/or steam in an electric, steam, or combined electric and steam generation facility;
- a boiler that uses an above-ground oil storage tank, other than a boiler used to generate electricity and/or steam in an electric, steam, or combined electric and steam generation facility; or
- a newly installed boiler.

The bill would require all other buildings to end the use of no. 4 oil by January 1, 2025.

REBNY supports this legislation.

With the launch of PlaNYC in 2007, New York set the ambitious goal of having the cleanest air quality of any major city in the country by 2030. For the past several years, New York City has recorded an average EPA Air Quality Index of less than 50, which is "good," but our air quality can still be improved. The most prevalent pollutant in NYC air is PM<sub>2.5</sub>, or fine particulate matter, and between 2018 and 2019 the level in the city held steady at 7 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. While the EPA deems anything less than 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup> acceptable, the World Health Organization is clear that any level of PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution poses public

health risks, increasing rates of cardiopulmonary illnesses. To protect New Yorkers and meet our air quality goals, the City needs to address the largest contributors of pollutants, and no. 4 oil accounts for a significant portion of heating-related PM<sub>2.5</sub>.<sup>1</sup>

Moreover, the acceleration of the phase-out of no. 4 oil is consistent with our shared climate goal of reduce carbon emissions from buildings and is a necessary action in our fight against climate change.

Thank you for the consideration of these points.

**CONTACT:**

**Alexander Shapanka**

*Assistant Vice President of Policy*

Real Estate Board of New York

212.616.5259

ashapanka@rebny.com

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<sup>1</sup> Iyad Kheirbek, Jay Haney, Sharon Douglas, Kazuhiko Ito, Steven Caputo, and Thomas Matte  
*Environmental Science & Technology* 2014 48 (23), 13573-13582  
DOI: 10.1021/es503587p



**MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION**  
**Intro. 470**

The Rent Stabilization Association of New York City represents 25,000 diverse owners and managers who collectively manage more than one million apartments in every neighborhood and community throughout the City. We thank the Committee for giving us the opportunity to submit this memorandum in opposition to Int. 470, which would accelerate the phase-out of No. 4 heating oil as required by the City's air pollution control law.

When the Council passed Local Law 38 of 2015 it established a timeline for the phase-out of certain heating oil grades. This multi-year timeline was negotiated recognizing that to meet this milestone buildings would have to invest in modifications and upgrades to their current heating systems but exercised fiscal prudence by allowing them to utilize current systems to maximize the estimated life expectancy. A 15-year cycle was recognized as being the most pragmatic timeline, with grade No. 4 fuel being eliminated by January 1, 2030.

Buildings have relied on this timeline in budgetary and systems upgrade planning and to determine how to meet Local Law 97 benchmark requirements. Budgets, refinancings, assessments all require multi-year projections. Coops and condos must integrate expenditures into multi-year budget projections and comply with board rules for assessments. Refinancing generally follows five-or ten-year cycles. This proposed change, to accelerate the timeline by five years, would cause significant instability for those impacted as budgets and priorities for the year 2023 are being finalized and would have to significantly modified in order meet the proposed deadline. This hurried modification will divert from long-term strategies already underway such as those to covert to gas or electric heating systems, neither of which can easily be done in this short time.

Modification costs are significant and can reach in excess of \$20,000 just to covert from No. 4 to No. 2 oil. For the tank there will have to be a tank test, pressure tests, tank cleaning and anti-tanks siphon undertaken. The tank room may require upgrades to meet the fire code inspections including new painting, lighting and doors. The burners will have to be cleaned and certain items cleaned or replaced such as strainers, nozzles, lines and, if necessary, the preheater removed. The boiler itself will have to be cleaned and have new gaskets added. This does not account for the fact that if the boiler itself is aged a whole new boiler may be needed – one that might never had been planned for as other long-terms strategies had been adopted but for this change in the law - at a cost of many more tens of thousands of dollars.

Legislation that would divert resources and adds additional hurdles and costs to property ownership at this time is not appropriate. Ownership costs are skyrocketing, rent collections have been thwarted, interest rates are on the rise and the ability to recoup costs have been eliminated. This short-sighted proposal would create unnecessary costs and operational difficulties and detract from longer-term operational planning.

Accordingly, RSA opposes Int 470.

## **Testimony from Steamfitters Local 638 to the New York City Council**

**(06/07/2022)**

My name is Brett Thomason, and I testify today as the Political Director of The Enterprise Association of Steamfitters Local 638, in support of Councilmember Gennaro's bill to accelerate the phase out of fuel oil number 4 in boilers in New York City buildings and facilities. Local 638 represents over 9,400 hardworking women and men who build, maintain and service the HVAC and heating systems across the five boroughs or who construct and maintain the power-generating facilities that supply energy across the five boroughs. Our members work in the energy sector and have the highest degree of knowledge, training and skill in their industry. We understand the need to transition our energy system away from polluting sources to low- and zero- carbon sources in order to ensure that we are leaving a livable future to the next generation.

Our members have worked in and upgraded buildings that transitioned off No. 6 heating oil, and are well positioned and trained in order to ensure that the few remaining facilities using No. 4 heating oil can do the same. The use of this fuel type is already rare, and used in limited case. The decision to accelerate its phase out makes common sense, given the compliance requirements that are already built into statute via Local Law 97, and will also help the City and New York State move closer to reaching their stated and legally mandated goals for carbon reduction.

Not only does this accelerated phase-out make practical sense given the state of existing climate policy, it will have real world implications for the air quality and health and well-being of New Yorkers. Number 4 fuel oil is a toxic source of nitrous oxide and sulfur dioxide that leads to and exacerbates respiratory and vascular health, and accounts for thousands of hospital admissions annually. That is true for the people who live in or near the buildings where that fuel is used, and especially true for the members of Local 638 who maintain and operate those systems. They are literally on the front lines and would be the first to benefit from the burning of cleaner fuels.

As New York moves to cleaner sources of energy, the members of Steamfitters Local 638 will continue to be the best trained and educated workforce prepared to lead that transition and ensure that building owners are in compliance with the law. We understand that this is not only the future of our industry, but essential for the future of our planet and the generation that we will leave behind. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony before the Council, and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or follow up.



June 7, 2022

**Founders**

Vernice Miller-Travis  
Peggy M. Shepard  
Chuck Sutton

**Testimony of Lonnie J. Portis, Environmental Policy and Advocacy  
Coordinator at WE ACT for Environmental Justice**

**Board of Directors**

*Chair*  
Jeff Jones

**To the New York City Council Committee on Environmental  
Protection**

*Secretary*

Nancy E. Anderson, Ph.D.

**Regarding Int 0470-2022: Phasing out the use of fuel oil grade no. 4.**

*Treasurer*

Ken P. Mak

Good afternoon Committee Chair James Gennaro and Committee on Environmental Protection. I am Lonnie J. Portis the environmental policy and advocacy coordinator at WE ACT for Environmental Justice.

*Members*

Lakeisha M. Aquino  
Peter Bokor  
Dennis Derryck, Ph.D.  
David Evans, Ph.D.  
Abiola Fasehun, Esq.  
Eric A Goldstein, Esq.  
Neetin Gulati  
Christy Loper  
Sarangi Iyengar  
Marielle Villar Martiney  
Crystal Romeo Upperman  
Vernice Miller-Travis  
Phillip Morrow  
Dart Westphal

No. 4 fuel oil is dirty. It produces a high level of particulate matter that pollutes our air. Since our beginnings, WE ACT for Environmental Justice has been fighting for cleaner air uptown. Harlem has always dealt with poorer air quality in comparison to other neighborhoods. Due to the disproportionate placement of bus depots, plants, sanitation sites, train and truck yards, thruways creating traffic, and more, rates of Childhood asthma are higher than the average rate of New York City. Other health impacts such as cardiovascular disease are plaguing Northern Manhattan due to environmental injustice.

*Executive Director*

Peggy M. Shepard

Under New York City's Clean Heat Program, No. 6 fuel oil was successfully banned. However, No. 4 fuel oil is still allowed until 2030. While many buildings have already phased off this oil, buildings in lower income neighborhoods and neighborhoods of color that still use No. 4.

To quote Dr. Diana Hernandez's 2018 [article](#) about the issue: "Residual fuel oil #4, [...] continued to be burned by 3,253 residential buildings, despite the city's efforts to educate and incentivize owners to switch to cleaner fuels. Of these buildings, 1,724 or 53 percent were clustered in Manhattan north of 110th Street and the Bronx – disproportionately higher than the area's population (only one-fifth of city residents live in these neighborhoods).

Ultimately, banning No. 4 fuel oil in 2025, five years earlier than currently projected, will lead to direct air quality improvements in our communities. WE ACT has been advocating for speeding up this phase-out for many years, and is happy to see it come to discussion today.



When this bill was originally introduced, Local Law 97 was not law. With the earlier phase-out of this fuel oil, we do have concern that it will take some of these buildings longer to install more energy efficient heating sources, such as heat pumps. To mitigate this unintended impact, it is important that the City proactively reach out to the buildings who have to phase out the fuel, and assist them in affordably electrifying, meaning offering financing if needed, instead of switching to natural gas sources or other fuel grades. We know which buildings will have to do this phase out, so they should and must be targeted.

Therefore, I join other advocates, experts, and community members to urge the City to pass Introduction 0470.

Thank you Councilmember Gennaro and the Committee on Environmental Protection for holding this timely hearing on such an important matter.

Sincerely,

**Lonnie J. Portis**

Environmental Policy and Advocacy Coordinator

**WE ACT for Environmental Justice**

1854 Amsterdam Avenue, 2nd Floor

New York, NY 10031

646-866-8720 | [lonnie@weact.org](mailto:lonnie@weact.org)

***Dear NY City Council Members:***

My name is Adam Baran. I am a New York City resident and a member of DSA's NYC chapter. I am here to voice my opposition to Mayor Eric Adams' executive budget, and to call on the City Council to pass a budget that meets the needs of all New Yorkers.

Two years into the pandemic, working-class New Yorkers are in crisis. COVID-19 cases are surging, landlords are raising rents and families struggle to stay in their homes. But the mayor continues to favor the wealthy and powerful over everyday New Yorkers. His budget makes devastating cuts to vital city services, like housing, healthcare, sanitation, and education, while leaving the NYPD's \$10-billion budget intact.

Today, I urge the Council to fight against the mayor's program of austerity and punishment. Instead of cutting funding for housing, the Council must invest \$4 billion into permanent, affordable housing, including \$1.5 billion for NYCHA and \$2.5 billion for HPD. The Council must also reject Adams' cuts to our public education system, by investing \$122 million into CUNY, and funding DOE mental health counselors and social workers, rather than filling school police vacancies. I also urge the Council to act on two deadly crises facing our city: climate catastrophe and the overdose epidemic. We need \$3.1 billion for the Streets Plan, \$1.8 billion for green public schools, \$250 million for Fair Fares, and \$10 million to expand life-saving safe consumption sites to all five boroughs.

Finally, the Council must reject the mayor's regressive return to law and order. I urge the Council to reject the proposal to add hundreds of new COs for solitary confinement, a practice the UN defines as torture. I also urge the Council to demonstrate their commitment to racial justice by cutting failed NYPD criminalization programs like the ineffective and violent plainclothes units, the so-called Subway Safety Plan, and ending all NYPD response to mental health calls.

Thank you, Council Members and Committee Chair Brannan, for hearing my testimony.

Sincerely,

Adam Baran

Hello, my name is Aviya Hernstadt. I am a lifelong New York City resident and a member of DSA's NYC chapter. I am here to voice my opposition to Mayor Eric Adams' executive budget, and to call on the City Council to pass a budget that meets the needs of all New Yorkers.

Two years into the pandemic, working-class New Yorkers are in crisis. COVID-19 cases are surging, landlords are raising rents, and families struggle to stay in their homes. But the mayor continues to favor the wealthy and powerful over everyday New Yorkers. His budget makes devastating cuts to vital city services, like housing, healthcare, sanitation, and education, while leaving the NYPD's \$10-billion<sup>1</sup> budget intact.

Today, I urge the Council to fight against the mayor's program of austerity and punishment. Instead of cutting funding for housing, the Council must invest \$4 billion into permanent, affordable housing, including \$1.5 billion for NYCHA<sup>2</sup> and \$2.5 billion for HPD.<sup>3</sup> The Council must also reject Adams' cuts to our public education system, by investing \$122 million into CUNY,<sup>4</sup> and funding DOE<sup>5</sup> mental health counselors and social workers, rather than filling school police vacancies. I also urge the Council to act on two deadly crises facing our city: climate catastrophe and the overdose epidemic. We need \$3.1 billion for the Streets Plan,<sup>6</sup> \$1.8 billion for green public schools, \$250 million for Fair Fares,<sup>7</sup> and \$10 million to expand life-saving safe consumption sites<sup>8</sup> to all five boroughs.

Finally, the Council must reject the mayor's regressive return to law and order. I urge the Council to reject the proposal to add hundreds of new COs<sup>9</sup> for solitary confinement, a practice the UN<sup>10</sup> defines as torture. I also urge the Council to demonstrate their commitment to racial justice by cutting failed NYPD criminalization programs like the ineffective and violent plainclothes units, the so-called Subway Safety Plan, and ending all NYPD response to mental health calls.

Thank you, Council Members and Committee Chair Brannan, for hearing my testimony.

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<sup>1</sup> When accounting for additional costs the NYPD accrues during a fiscal year such as pension and overtime, their expense budget totals around \$10 billion.

<sup>2</sup> NYCHA: New York City Housing Authority

<sup>3</sup> HPD: New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development

<sup>4</sup> CUNY: City University of New York

<sup>5</sup> DOE: Department of Education

<sup>6</sup> In 2019, the Council passed the Streets Plan (also known as the Transportation Master Plan), which creates 500 miles of protected bike lanes, 500 miles of bus lanes, and vastly expands open pedestrian space. Read more about the Streets Plan [here](#).

<sup>7</sup> Fair Fares is a city-run program that provides half-price MetroCards for low-income New Yorkers. Increasing funding for Fair Fares to \$250 million would double the income cutoff for eligibility, so more New Yorkers can qualify for the program.

<sup>8</sup> In December 2021, NYC opened its first safe consumption sites in East Harlem and Washington Heights. As of March 2022, these two sites saved [200 lives](#) by reversing overdoses.

<sup>9</sup> COs: corrections officers

<sup>10</sup> UN: United Nations



Hello, my name is Brian Morabito. I am a New York City resident and a member of DSA's NYC chapter. I am here to voice my opposition to Mayor Eric Adams' executive budget, and to call on the City Council to pass a budget that meets the needs of all New Yorkers. Two years into the pandemic, working-class New Yorkers are in crisis. COVID-19 cases are surging, landlords are raising rents and families struggle to stay in their homes. But the mayor continues to favor the wealthy and powerful over everyday New Yorkers. His budget makes devastating cuts to vital city services, like housing, healthcare, sanitation, and education, while leaving the NYPD's \$10-billion budget intact. Today, I urge the Council to fight against the mayor's program of austerity and punishment. Instead of cutting funding for housing, the Council must invest \$4 billion into permanent, affordable housing, including \$1.5 billion for NYCHA and \$2.5 billion for HPD. The Council must also reject Adams' cuts to our public education system, by investing \$122 million into CUNY, and funding DOE mental health counselors and social workers, rather than filling school police vacancies. I also urge the Council to act on two deadly crises facing our city: climate catastrophe and the overdose epidemic. We need \$3.1 billion for the Streets Plan, \$1.8 billion for green public schools, \$250 million for Fair Fares, and \$10 million to expand life-saving safe consumption sites to all five boroughs. Finally, the Council must reject the mayor's regressive return to law and order. I urge the Council to reject the proposal to add hundreds of new COs for solitary confinement, a practice the UN defines as torture. I also urge the Council to demonstrate their commitment to racial justice by cutting failed NYPD criminalization programs like the ineffective and violent plainclothes units, the so-called Subway Safety Plan, and ending all NYPD response to mental health calls. Thank you, Council Members and Committee Chair Brannan, for hearing my testimony.

Tara McManus  
Bergen St.  
Brooklyn, NY  
11217

May 31, 2022

To whom it may concern at city council,

My name is Tara McManus, and I am a New York City resident and a member of DSA's NYC chapter. I would like to voice my serious opposition to Mayor Eric Adams' executive budget, and to call on the City Council to pass a budget that meets the needs of all New Yorkers.

It is clear that our city is in crisis. Rent is too high for most native New Yorkers to be able to stay in our homes, we are still being slammed by COVID-19, and Mayor Adams' solution seems to be to throw more police officers at the issues, emboldening cops to act violently and brutally with impunity.

Mayor Adams' budget makes devastating cuts to vital city services, like housing, healthcare, sanitation, and education, while leaving the NYPD's \$10-billion budget intact.

I'm urging the Council to fight against the mayor's program of austerity and punishment. Instead of cutting funding for housing, the Council must invest \$4 billion into permanent, affordable housing, including \$1.5 billion for NYCHA and \$2.5 billion for HPD. The Council must also reject Adams' cuts to our public education system, by investing \$122 million into CUNY, and funding DOE mental health counselors and social workers, rather than filling school police vacancies. I also urge the Council to act on two deadly crises facing our city: climate catastrophe and the overdose epidemic. We need \$3.1 billion for the Streets Plan, \$1.8 billion for green public schools, \$250 million for Fair Fares, and \$10 million to expand life-saving safe consumption sites to all five boroughs.

Finally, the Council must reject the mayor's regressive return to law and order. I urge the Council to reject the proposal to add hundreds of new COs for solitary confinement, a practice the UN defines as torture. I also urge the Council to demonstrate their commitment to racial justice by cutting failed NYPD criminalization programs like the ineffective and violent plainclothes units, the so-called Subway Safety Plan, and ending all NYPD response to mental health calls.

Thank you, Council Members and Committee Chair Brannan, for reading my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Tara McManus

I am appalled at Mayor Adams' proposed budget, in which he attempts to cover grievous failures of leadership by further stripping money from struggling communities in order to overpolice the problems he is personally exacerbating. I am writing to demand in the strongest terms that the budget be fundamentally reconsidered.

Two years into the pandemic, COVID is still devastating many NYC communities, rents are rising exponentially, and families are struggling across the city. But the mayor continues to favor the wealthy and powerful over everyday New Yorkers. His budget makes devastating cuts to vital city services, like housing, healthcare, sanitation, and education, while leaving the NYPD's \$10-billion budget intact.

Today, I urge the Council to fight against the mayor's program of austerity and punishment. Instead of cutting funding for housing, the Council must invest \$4 billion into permanent, affordable housing, including \$1.5 billion for NYCHA and \$2.5 billion for HPD. The "cancer" (in Adams' words) of homelessness is not a disease, but a symptom; the only way to fix the situation is to create the budget for affordable housing.

The Council must also reject Adams' cuts to our public education system, by investing \$122 million into CUNY, putting \$10 million into the CARE program to expand childcare to everyone regardless of immigration status, and funding DOE mental health counselors and social workers, rather than filling school police vacancies – recent tragic events have shown us police do not protect students, and often actively endanger them.

I also urge the Council to act on two deadly crises facing our city: climate catastrophe and the overdose epidemic. We need \$3.1 billion for the Streets Plan, \$1.8 billion for green public schools, \$250 million for Fair Fares, and \$10 million to expand life-saving safe consumption sites to all five boroughs. This money is readily available in the current police budget, and reallocating this money would be serving the community twice over.

Finally, the Council must reject the mayor's regressive return to law and order. I urge the Council to reject the proposal to add hundreds of new COs for solitary confinement – a practice the UN defines as torture, and which New Yorkers have repeatedly spoken out against. I also urge the Council to demonstrate their commitment to racial justice by cutting failed NYPD criminalization programs like the ineffective and violent plainclothes units, the so-called Subway Safety Plan, and ending all NYPD response to mental health calls. In 2020, New Yorkers made it very clear that they wanted community, not police, and have elected those who made decarceration and equity the backbone of their platforms. The Mayors' office should listen.

Fundamentally, Adams' budget treats the public like an enemy, not a community. None of his proposed measures will do anything to mitigate the city's problems, and it will not see any return on investment except directly into the pockets of developers, police, and the billionaires who already drain NYC's resources without giving back. NYC is not the Mayor's priority; therefore the city must fight back and pass a just and equitable budget without him. Please fight for your constituents now. Thank you.