

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

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March 25, 2025
Start: 9:34 a.m.
Recess: 1:35 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: Shaun Abreu,
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chris Banks
Selvena Brooks-Powers
David M. Carr
James F. Gennaro
Julie Menin
Kristy Marmorato
Sandy Nurse
Vickie Paladino
Lincoln Restler
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Sandra Ung
Inna Vernikov
Susan Zhuang

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Javier Lojan
Acting Commissioner of the New York City
Department of Sanitation

Joseph Antonelli
Deputy Commissioner for Management and Budget

Joshua Goodman
Deputy Commissioner of Public Affairs and
Customer Experience

Rhonda Keyser
Cafeteria Culture

Janmairo Ortiz
PS/MS 46

Amy Vargas Santos
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Amaya Colbert

Camila Piron
PS/MS 188

Scarlet Zapata
PS/MS 188

Mamadou Sy
PS/MS 188

Deborah
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Cayla Burser

Kayla Kyloni Kirston
New York Harbor School

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Ellington White
Urban Assembly New York Harbor School

Gabriel Gilson
Urban Assembly New York Harbor School

Stevie Masonet
Student

Emily Farrell
New York Harbor School

Jenille Scott
NYLPI

Eric Goldstein
Natural Resource Defense Council

Justin Wood
NYLPI

Andrea Lieske
Self

Louis Reyes
Queens Botanical Gardens

Clare Mifflin
Center of Zero Waste Design

Kenny Burgos
New York Apartment Association

Christine Datz Romero
Lower East Side Ecology Center

Justin Green
Big Reuse

Marisa De Dominicis
Earth Matters New York

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Domingo Morales
Compost Power

Rhonda Keyser
Cafeteria Culture

Matthew Serello
SWAB

Maggie Clarke
Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board

Jimmy Martin
ACE New York

Shawn Campbell
CB14 Brooklyn

Lacey Tauber
Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso

Julia Werner
Self

Brandon
SOHO

Julie Stein
Union Square Partnership BID

Lauren Collins
Church - Flatbush Community Alliance

Evan Sweet
Meatpacking BID

Francesca Fernandez Bruce
Grand Street BID

Noah Sheroff
Bayside Village BID

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Christopher Leon Johnson
Self

Joyce Bialik
Self

Mary Arnold
Self

Mohamed Attia
Self

Pedro Suarez
Self

Corazon Valiente
Self

Camelia Tepelus
Self

Anna Sachs
Self

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2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, good morning,
3 this is a microphone check for the Committee on
4 Sanitation and Solid Waste Management. This is done
5 on March 25, 2025. It is recorded in the Committee
6 Room and this recording is done by Ginelle Yearwood.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning and welcome to
8 today's New York City Council Budget hearing for the
9 Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management.
10 At this time, we ask that you silence all electronic
11 devices and at no time are you to approach the dais.
12 If you would like to sign up for in person testimony
13 or have any other questions throughout the hearing,
14 please see one of the Sergeant at Arms. Chair Abreu
15 we're ready to go.

16 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: [GAVEL] Good afternoon and
17 welcome to the Fiscal 2026 Preliminary Budget hearing
18 for the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste
19 Management. My name is Shaun Abreu and I am the
20 Chair of the Sanitation and Solid Waste Management
21 Committee.

22 This afternoon we will be discussing the
23 departments \$1.9 billion fiscal 2026 budget. As
24 presented in the Preliminary Financial Plan and the
25

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2 Preliminary Capital Commitment Plan for DSNY for
3 Fiscal 2025, 2029 which totals \$2.2 billion.

4 I would like to begin by thanking the members of
5 the Sanitation Department for their hard work over
6 the past year. The frontline responses of sanitation
7 workers have been on full display throughout the year
8 and because of their actions, our city is a cleaner
9 place. The Sanitation Department members are known
10 as New Yorks strongest and I believe that nickname is
11 apply given.

12 The Sanitation Departments Fiscal 2026 budget
13 totals \$1.9 billion with 9,478 full time positions.
14 The Fiscal 2026 budget as presented in the
15 preliminary financial plan is \$15.4 million less than
16 the Fiscal 2025 budget at adoption. Budget actions
17 in the preliminary plan increased DSNY's budget by
18 \$46.4 million in Fiscal 2025 and \$700,111 in Fiscal
19 2026 when compared to the November Plan.

20 The Department had three new heads for Fiscal
21 2024 totaling \$45.9 million for higher than projected
22 PS and OTPS spending across multiple program areas
23 and a new mobile battery drop off program. The
24 Departments Fiscal 2025-2029 Capital Commitment Plan
25 totals \$2.2 billion and supports 196 distinct capital

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2 projects. The Committee has held oversight hearings
3 on various topics over the past year about the city's
4 containerization and refuse and organic waste and
5 commercial waste zones.

6 The Committee would like to revisit this items
7 and others including lot cleaning, which has not seen
8 a full restoration, containerization and how costs
9 are being potentially shifted to community
10 organizations, litter basket service, Preliminary
11 Mayor's Management Report indicators among other
12 things.

13 I would also like to discuss headcount and the
14 increasingly reliance on overtime to alleviate these
15 decreases. It is the Council's responsibility to
16 ensure that the city's budget is fair, transparent,
17 and accountable to New Yorkers. As the Chair of this
18 Committee, I will continue to push for accountability
19 and accuracy and ensure that the budget reflects the
20 needs and interest of the city.

21 It is essential that the budget that we adopt
22 this year is transparent, accountable, and reflective
23 of the priorities and interest of the Council and the
24 people we represent. This hearing is a vital part of
25 this process and I expect DSNY would be responsive to

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2 the questions and concerns of Council Members. I
3 look forward to an active engagement with the
4 Administration over the next few months to ensure the
5 Fiscal 2026 Adopted Budget meets the goals the
6 Council has set out. I would like to thank our
7 Committee staff for their hard work, Financial
8 Analyst Tanveer Singh, Unit Head Aliya Ali, Committee
9 Counsel Morgan Barrett, Policy Analyst Ricky Chawla,
10 and my Deputy Chief of Staff Jalissa Quigley.

11 I would like to welcome and thank Acting
12 Commissioner Javier Lojan, our Sanitation Workers and
13 the Department Civilian Staff for the work that they
14 do.

15 I'm looking forward to hearing from the
16 Commissioner. The Committee Counsel will now swear
17 you in.

18 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Good morning. Can you please
19 raise your right hands? Do you swear to tell the
20 whole truth and nothing but the truth and to respond
21 to Council Member questions honestly?

22 PANEL: I do.

23 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. You may begin
24 your testimony when ready.

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1
2 JAVIER LOJAN: Thank you. Good morning Chair
3 Abreu and members of the Committees on Sanitation,
4 Solid Waste Management and Finance. I am Javier
5 Lojan, Acting Commissioner of the New York City
6 Department of Sanitation, and I am joined today by
7 Joseph Antonelli, our Deputy Commissioner for
8 Management and Budget and Joshua Goodman, our Deputy
9 Commissioner of Public Affairs and Customer
10 Experience.

11 I am in my 26th year with New York's Strongest,
12 and today, the men and women of this Department are
13 doing more to create and maintain a clean, livable
14 and sustainable city than at any time that I can
15 remember. This Administration has shown an
16 unflinching willingness to essentially run a street
17 sweeper over the avenues of red tape that had bound
18 filth to our communities for decades and has made
19 investments in personnel and equipment to match. We
20 are cleaning more areas, diverting more material and
21 enforcing quality of life more effectively. And
22 we're just getting started, with plans to expand or
23 refine virtually every one of our successful
24 strategic initiatives.
25

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1 Let me begin by sharing some astounding news.
2 Some new rat numbers and I know what you're thinking,
3 this is a new Commissioner, are we really still
4 talking about rat numbers? You bet we are. For the
5 last several years, we have been proud to announce
6 decreases in rat sightings across the city,
7 correlated with our efforts to get trash off the
8 street through containerization, composting and
9 enforcement programs.
10

11 But please allow me to emphasize, the numbers you
12 are about to hear are amazing in virtually any
13 historical context. For years, rat sightings
14 reported to 311 basically only increased. In 2023,
15 low double in the city's four rat mitigation zones.
16 That alone was cause for true, meaningful
17 celebration.

18 In December of 2024, was the first full month in
19 which buildings with one to nine residential units
20 were required to put their trash in bins. In that
21 month, rat sightings were down 23 percent compared to
22 the same time the year before.

23 January 2025 was the second full month
24 residential container rules, and rat sightings fell
25

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2 24 percent compared to the same time the year before,
3 a time when sightings were already falling.

4 In February of 2025, the third full month in
5 which 70 percent of New York City's trash was covered
6 by requirements to use bins, rat sightings were down
7 26 percent compared to the year before.

8 This isn't an accident. It isn't an anomaly. It
9 is something that cynics in Chicago, LA, Paris and
10 even right here in our town never thought possible.
11 A turning of the tide in New York City's war against
12 rats. It is a direct result of once in a generation
13 change to the way that trash is set out, a trash
14 revolution being waged on many fronts with more still
15 to come.

16 In October of 2022, the Adams Administration
17 kicked off this effort by changing set out times for
18 both residential and commercial waste from 4:00 p.m.,
19 one of the earliest set out times in the country to
20 8:00 p.m. effective April 2023, while also allowing
21 earlier set out if the material is in a container.
22 This incentive of containerization was paired with
23 major changes to DSNY operations, picking up more of
24 the trash far earlier, including ending a practice by
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2 which up to one fifth of the trash had already been
3 left out for a full day.

4 Just over one year ago, container rules went into
5 effect for all businesses of every type in New York
6 City, requiring them to get the trash off the streets
7 into a secure bin. We wrote 70,000 warnings to
8 businesses as this rule went into effect, and have
9 written tens of thousands of summonses since, gaining
10 broad compliance and bringing bins to restaurants,
11 delis, bodegas, drug stores, boutiques and everything
12 else on our commercial corridors.

13 As mentioned, the first containerization
14 requirement for residential buildings in more than 50
15 years went into effect November 12th, requiring all
16 buildings with 1-9 residential units to use bins.
17 This can either be their own or the official New York
18 City bin, the cheapest high quality bin available on
19 the market.

20 New Yorkers have purchased over 650,000 of these
21 bins at www.bins.nyc or at NYC Home Depot locations,
22 and as you can see in the pictures behind me, they
23 have fundamentally altered the look and feel of our
24 streets, replacing piles of black trash bags that
25 attracted rats, impeded pedestrians, and generally

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2 made New Yorkers feel that no one cared about their
3 neighborhoods.

4 Starting June 2026, this will be the only bin
5 permitted for trash, to facilitate safer, cleaner
6 mechanized collection. As you all know, I was a
7 Sanitation worker and I am still one at heart and it
8 pains me that fully half of our line of duty injuries
9 are sprains and strains from throwing bags. The two
10 Sanitation workers operating a truck with mechanical
11 tippers will have one less thing to worry about.

12 DSNY worked hard and demonstrated the
13 incomparable creativity of the public sector in
14 developing a contractual model that made this bin the
15 cheapest on the market by far and about one third of
16 the cost of similar bins. I know that many members
17 of the Council still wanted free bins to be made
18 available to some homeowners as shown by the recent
19 passage of Intro. 1126. While I respect your desire
20 to ease cost to homeowners, no matter how reasonable
21 those costs may be, I must share major concerns about
22 how this bill can be implemented. DSNY was not given
23 the opportunity to review a final draft version of
24 the bill until 11:00 p.m. the night it aged, despite
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2 longstanding practice, and none of the input we
3 offered was taken before it was brought for a vote.

4 As written, the bill requires DSNY to give an
5 unspecified number of trash bins to one and two
6 family homeowners who are also enrolled in the STAR
7 or E-STAR tax programs and provide reimbursements to
8 eligible property owners who have already purchased
9 bins. As we told Council Committee staff, in vain,
10 it turns out, STAR and E-STAR are state programs, and
11 we do not have the data on enrollment. A property
12 owner would have to submit their tax return to DSNY
13 and DSNY would have to store that information
14 securely. As an operational agency, we do not have
15 the resources or expertise to do this safely and
16 effectively. The bin is affordable, but this law
17 risks taking away Sanitation services that benefit
18 all New Yorkers in order to pay for a complex
19 reimbursement program that will benefit relatively
20 few homeowners.

21 The same is true for reimbursements described in
22 the bill. Remember, the manufacturer of the bin is a
23 City concessionaire, selling to residents directly.
24 No money changes hands with the city on either side.
25 To our knowledge, there has never been before a

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2 legislative requirement to reimburse New Yorkers for
3 an item they purchased from a private company, not
4 once in the city's 400 year history. We cannot
5 review receipts and mail checks. The Council has
6 created a program ripe for fraud and waste.

7 We proposed automatic dispersal of bins to
8 property owners enrolled in the city's senior and
9 disabled property owner tax programs. This would
10 have been simple and straightforward. While that
11 legislative proposal was rejected, we plan to
12 prioritize these homeowners over those with incomes
13 of close to half a million dollars and will
14 distribute bins subject to appropriation. This will
15 give a free bin to most of the people of greatest
16 need and allow containerization efforts to continue.

17 And they certainly continuing. You all know that
18 70 percent of the trash is already covered by the
19 containerization requirements but we have a plan for
20 the remaining 30. In just over one month,
21 installation of stationary on-street containers
22 called Empire Bins will begin in Manhattan Community
23 District 9 for the first full-district
24 containerization pilot, serviced by new automated
25 side-loading trucks. This is one of those

1
2 innovations where we talk about it so much that it
3 may be hard to maintain sight of how fundamentally it
4 changes the way trash is stored and collected in New
5 York City and thus our experience of the streets in
6 general.

7 This pilot will take those huge piles of trash
8 that are generated by the largest buildings off the
9 streets and instead store them in secure containers,
10 just like you'd see in Europe, South America or Asia.
11 Years faster than anyone thought possible. West
12 Harlem will see just over 1,000 Empire Bins, covering
13 more than 80 percent of their apartment units.

14 Unlike in other parts of the world, the bins are not
15 shared by the entire block. Bins will be assigned to
16 a single large building, using our density, which had
17 long been thought of the Achilles; Heel of
18 containerization, to our advantage, by allowing for
19 greater oversight. Property owners will have access
20 cards and designate appropriate staff to be able to
21 access the bins.

22 DSNY outreach staff is on the ground in the
23 neighborhood now explaining this process and upon
24 completion of the installation, use of these on
25 street containers will begin June 1st and we will

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1
2 begin analyzing results and outcomes right away. But
3 I must caution the members of this Council, if you
4 would like to see this international best practice
5 expand beyond West Harlem, if you would like to
6 defeat the piles of trash and rats once and for all,
7 there is pending legislation that must pass. Council
8 Member Hudson is the lead sponsor on a bill that many
9 of you have already joined, the Removing Animals from
10 Trash Act or the RAT Act, is absolutely essential to
11 the expansion of this program. Without that bill
12 becoming law, this will just be another pilot for the
13 dustbin of history and far more than just dust will
14 return to our streets.

15 The same can be said for Chair Abreu's Intro.
16 1113 which would extend on street container
17 requirements to city owned buildings. While we
18 believe strongly in the spirit of this legislation,
19 we know that city buildings just like residential
20 buildings should not have a one size fits all
21 approach. Schools and other buildings that generate
22 large amount of waste should absolutely be moving
23 towards an on street container model and we look
24 forward to working with you Mr. Chair to get this
25 bill targeted on those buildings specifically where

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1
2 wheelie bins are not an appropriate containerization
3 solution.

4 We know New Yorkers want this, as evidenced by
5 the overwhelmingly passage of Proposition 2 last
6 fall. We hope that you will join us in delivering
7 for them.

8 Just another two points I'd like to make on
9 containerization before we move on. First, you are
10 all familiar with the BetterBin, our litter basket of
11 the future, which is both easier to service than the
12 traditional wire mesh basket and more rodent
13 resistant. You may have some press reports that the
14 roll out of these baskets could be impacted by
15 tariffs between the US and Canada. I'm afraid that
16 those reports are accurate. While we were able to
17 get about 5,000 bins in this fiscal year ahead of the
18 tariff but purchases next fiscal year will need to
19 account for those tariff costs.

20 And finally, many of you have reached out with
21 questions about the rule requiring Business
22 Improvement Districts and supplemental sanitation
23 service providers to stop placing bags directly on
24 the street, which goes into effect August 1st.
25 Despite what you may have heard, the idea is simple.

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2 Residents and businesses can't put bags right on the
3 street. I can't just walk down to the corner and
4 drop a trash bag. The rule simply holds BIDs and
5 other similar entities to the same standard. The
6 rule is agnostic in approach and we have proactively
7 offered multiple options for how to comply.

8 Over the course of one on one meetings with 66 of
9 the city's 76 BIDs as well as multiple meetings with
10 the BID Association and with supplement services
11 providers like ACE, we have explained that this could
12 look like a stationary on street container for a mid-
13 sized BID, an extra litter basket for a smaller one
14 or direct trucking to a Sanitation garage for a large
15 BID. We are working with all BIDs in good faith and
16 many critics have come to see the importance of this
17 program. I want to assure you that despite the
18 effective date, we will not be summoning anyone who
19 is making an honest effort to comply with this rule
20 for a considerable period of time.

21 We can have clean sidewalks, clear corners, and
22 passable curb cuts. We really can if we just see
23 this through to the end.

24 Now I will seek to contain the desire to talk
25 about bins and move to another exciting topic,

1
2 composting and the beneficial use of source separated
3 organic material. While curbside composting programs
4 have existed in New York City for the last decade,
5 until last October, none had ever served more than
6 approximately 40 percent of the city. When Mayor
7 Adams took office, he committed to developing a
8 universal program that works for New Yorkers and the
9 team at DSNY set to work developing a model built for
10 long-term success.

11 The resulting program is now running in the
12 entirety of our city providing residents with simple
13 universal weekly collection of leaf and yard waste,
14 food scraps and food soiled paper products on their
15 recycling day.

16 That simplicity is the most important part of the
17 program. There's no need for signups, special dates
18 to remember or specific locations to visit within
19 limited hours. Simply place your materials out on
20 the recycling day, your Sanitation workers will
21 collect it from your home and we'll ensure it's put
22 to good use. This is a composting program for all
23 New Yorkers.

24 Make the separation of compostable material easy,
25 and people will do it and we have the numbers to back

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1
2 this up. In Fiscal Year 2024, DSNY diverted 265
3 million pounds of compostable material from landfill,
4 an incredible increase of 65 percent from two years
5 before. This is a testament to the value of simple
6 universal programs but we still hear from residents
7 of larger buildings in particular that their
8 landlords are not offering an opportunity to
9 participate in this program. I want to be clear,
10 under Local Law 89 of 2023, this is not optional.
11 All New Yorkers must participate, just as they must
12 separate their metal, glass, plastic, and paper, the
13 law gives DSNY the ability to enforce this mandate
14 starting April 1st but we have written well over
15 20,000 warnings thus far. When enforcement starts, a
16 new 311 service request will also go live, allowing
17 residents to report their buildings for failure to
18 allow participation in curbside composting.

19 I can assure you; we will investigate those
20 complaints. We have made participation easy, now
21 it's up to New Yorkers to follow the law or face a
22 summons.

23 Composting has a benefit not just for our
24 environment more broadly but also for NYC gardeners.
25 We give tens of millions of pounds of high quality

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1
2 New York City compost away for free during spring,
3 summer and fall but for many years, you had to either
4 catch a pop up event or drive to a site on Staten
5 Island to get it. Last year, we added a second site
6 in Greenpoint Brooklyn, that is accessible by
7 cyclists, pedestrians and public transit and we are
8 working hard to add a third site in Queens before the
9 end of the season. Some of you have asked me whether
10 the success of curbside composting program means
11 popular smart composting bins are going away. These
12 400 bins where residents can drop off their
13 compostable material 24/7 through an easy to use
14 smartphone app, are complementary to curbside service
15 and will continue to operate.

16 DSNY would also like to raise the issue of
17 commercial organic separation. As we have done at
18 the last half dozen Council hearings, Local Law 146
19 of 2013, requires that certain commercial
20 establishments to separate their compostable
21 material, but this law is now substantially out of
22 step with the city's commitment to diversion of
23 compostable waste.

24 The Commercial Waste Zone system will improve
25 commercial diversion, in that DSNY is requiring

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2 carters to charge businesses less to collect
3 recyclables and compost than to collect trash. But
4 we were thrilled to see that the Council is also
5 considering a bill to allow DSNY to require source
6 separation at all commercial establishments, in line
7 with the progress made in residential diversion. We
8 look forward to working with you on this proposal.

9 Now that we've mentioned Commercial Waste Zones,
10 I'll provide a fuller update on that program and our
11 implementation of Local Law 199 of 2019.

12 This law was designed to reform the commercial
13 waste hauling system by establishing new safety
14 standards for workers in the commercial carting
15 industry, improving service for businesses,
16 increasing diversion rates, and reducing vehicle
17 miles traveled as well as harmful emissions from
18 waste hauling vehicles.

19 When fully implemented, we are looking at about
20 12 million miles fewer traveled by commercial carting
21 vehicles. And, making good on a promise from when
22 this program was created, businesses will pay less
23 for the collection of recyclables and compostable
24 material than they do for trash at a citywide average
25 of 32 percent less for recycling and 18 percent for

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1
2 compostable material. That means businesses will
3 have a meaningful financial incentive to separate
4 their waste properly.

5 In January, after years of planning and months of
6 outreach, the first of New York City's 20
7 nonexclusive Commercial Waste Zones came online in
8 Corona, Elmhurst, and Jackson Heights. In the past,
9 advocates had called for DSNY to launch the entire
10 city at once. Having led the roll out of this first
11 zone, I can tell you I'm incredibly thankful we did
12 not do that. This has been a successful launch.
13 Incredibly, not a single one of the 11,000 businesses
14 in the Zone has made a complaint to DSNY of any
15 issues with service or billing, but our Bureau of
16 Commercial Waste learned a tremendous amount during
17 this first of its kind implementation that will be
18 useful for future zones.

19 We are completing a data analysis that will allow
20 for the start of the next zone or zones later this
21 year, with more details to come at upcoming oversight
22 hearing on this topic.

23 That said, we are actively enforcing Queens
24 Central on both administrative and safety
25 requirements. We are routinely writing safety

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2 violations and we are seeing very strong compliance
3 likely due at least in part to the significant fine
4 escalators built into the Commercial Waste Program.
5 With a total of about 200 violations written since
6 the implementation of the zone began in September.
7 The expansion of DSNY quality of life enforcement
8 under the current administration is not restricted to
9 Queens Central Commercial Waste Zone.

10 Since 2203, Sanitation has been the lead agency
11 on enforcement of the city's laws around street
12 vending. Our Sanitation Police Officers enforce
13 these laws where they focus on cleanliness and
14 pedestrian access and they conduct routine
15 enforcement operations rooted in the belief that all
16 New Yorkers across the neighborhood, in every borough
17 deserve clean, safe sidewalks.

18 While we take a warnings first approach, often
19 posting dozens of warning signs throughout an area
20 before taking any enforcement actions, we also engage
21 in robust enforcement to protect cleanliness and
22 quality of life, and DSNY issued 3,725 vending
23 related summonses in 2024.

24 Street vendors are a part of the vibrant
25 neighborhoods, but the rules exist for a reason. So,

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2 that those neighborhoods can be enjoyed by all and
3 New Yorkers appreciate our enforcement as shown by
4 support of Proposition 2. The expansion of DSNY
5 vending enforcement under the ballot measure is the
6 early implementation stage.

7 On the same day that DSNY became the lead agency
8 on street vending enforcement, we were also
9 designated to manage the city's graffiti removal
10 program. We brought our operational knowledge to the
11 organization of this program and in the FY25 PMMR,
12 the number of graffiti service requests closed is up
13 to 80 percent.

14 Recently, DSNY began enforcing the rules around
15 mobile car washes, per a new law sponsored by Council
16 Member Salamanca and passed by this Council. While
17 this work is only beginning, we are encouraged by the
18 early results about the impact this can have on
19 cleanliness and quality of life. We are also
20 continuing our interagency work around ghost cars and
21 abandoned vehicles, through which tens of thousands
22 of abandoned vehicles have been removed from our
23 streets. In addition to the 10,000 more ghost cars
24 since the ghost car task force was launched in
25 September of last year. These unlicensed vehicles

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2 not only steal public space and toll dollars but are
3 untraceable if used in crimes.

4 And like with containerization efforts, getting
5 this done just helps fight the feeling that the City
6 doesn't care about your neighborhood. I assure you
7 we do because it's our neighborhood too.

8 And with winter now behind us, I'm proud to say
9 that you weren't forgotten during snow season either.
10 If you grew up here, you likely remember the old days
11 of primary, secondary, and tertiary streets. That
12 kind of division in service level is over. Thanks to
13 the higher headcount and new technology for internal
14 monitoring, every street is on a route and every
15 route can be dispatched at the same time for snow
16 operations as soon as conditions warrant it, a
17 practice we call Snow Equity.

18 In the winter of 2024-2025, DSNY responded to 14
19 winter weather events and observed 12.5 inches of
20 accumulating precipitation. Half of these events
21 were in February alone and sanitation workers were on
22 12 hour shifts for weeks to address these conditions.

23 Thanks to their efforts and the administration's
24 investments, they were able to get the streets open,
25 even servicing car lanes and bike lanes at the same

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2 time. I want to take this moment to thank our
3 Sanitation workers for their efforts, for being the
4 heroes with the plow, and for remembering that no
5 matter what anyone says, it absolutely does still
6 snow in New York City.

7 There is so much happening at this agency, so
8 much that New Yorkers will never see. We have not
9 even touched on recent developments like the new DSNY
10 Highway Unit, which provides dedicated staffing to
11 clean the first places seen by visitors to our city,
12 the Targeted Neighborhood Task Force for cleaning
13 long-forgotten corners of neighborhoods and all city
14 owned property, and our plan to increase compliance
15 with mechanical brooms during Alternate Side Parking
16 by pursuing state legislation for automated
17 enforcement.

18 But all career public servants like the people on
19 both sides of this room chose our path not for the
20 credit or glory, but to do right by our communities
21 that have given us so much. A cleaner, more livable
22 city isn't just a job for us, it is a calling, and
23 all of the New York strongest are thankful for your
24 willingness to work to invest in our work.

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2 With that in mind, I will now turn to the
3 proposed 2026 budget. The Preliminary Budget
4 includes \$1.996 billion in expense funds in Fiscal
5 Year 2025 and \$1.93 billion in Fiscal Year 2026,
6 reflecting increases of \$48.3 million and \$711,000
7 respectively, from the budget adopted last June.

8 Fiscal Year 2026 budget includes \$1.18 billion
9 for personal services to support a total budgeted
10 headcount of 9,478 full time positions, including
11 7,846 uniformed positions and 1,632 civilian
12 positions, and \$756.5 million for Other Than Personal
13 Services or OTPS.

14 DSNY's Fiscal Year 2026 Preliminary Capital
15 Budget includes \$3.54 billion in capital funding in
16 the 10-year plan, \$1.17 billion of which is for
17 garages and facilities, \$2.25 billion for equipment,
18 \$66.12 million for IT and \$53.98 million for solid
19 waste management infrastructure.

20 The Capital Budget includes funding for several
21 major facilities projects, including: \$487 million
22 in funding for the construction of a new garage for
23 Bronx Districts 9, 10, and 11 with demolition, \$283
24 million in funding for the construction of a new
25 garage for Queens District 1, which is slated to

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2 begin design next year. Upgrades to the facility
3 that serves as the home for Bronx District 12 Garage,
4 which has an overall budget of \$55 million and will
5 begin construction next year. And the \$17 million
6 finishing touches of the \$212 million build out for
7 the brand new home for Staten Island District 1 and
8 3, which is slated to be completed this year. That
9 project along with the new BK3 means we'll be opening
10 three new garages at two buildings this calendar
11 year. A rare milestone for this Department and a
12 sign of this Administrations serious investment in
13 the safety and wellbeing of Sanitation workers and
14 the neighborhoods they serve.

15 Thank you and we look forward to taking your
16 questions.

17 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you Commissioner. I'd
18 like to recognize Council Members Julie Menin, Sandra
19 Ung, and Selvena Brooks-Powers.

20 Before we begin the Committee may not get to all
21 questions or you may not have responses to all of our
22 questions so we will definitely follow up with a
23 letter for our unanswered questions. I want to begin
24 with headcount and overtime. The recent Mayoral
25 directive places strict controls on overtime spending

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2 across city agencies, including DSNY requiring
3 detailed reduction plans, monthly reporting, and
4 oversight from OMB with Sanitation services being
5 essential to public health and cleanliness. It is
6 critical to understand how these restrictions will
7 impact DSNY's workforce, service levels and overall
8 efficiencies.

9 What is DSNY's current staffing level compared to
10 the number of positions budgeted and who does this
11 reflect reliance on overtime?

12 JOSEPH ANTONELLI: Okay so our for FY25, our
13 budgeted headcount for uniformed is 7,955 and our
14 actual for year to date is 8,221. The headcount for
15 civilian personnel for FY25 is 1,632 and the actual
16 was 1,657.

17 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: DSNY is operating 409
18 uniformed positions over budgeted levels but is still
19 overspending on overtime. Can you make sense of that
20 please?

21 JOSEPH ANTONELLI: Okay, so the reason why we
22 spend on overtime for uniformed staff, so there's two
23 things that drive it. One snow events, which is a
24 significant amount. We've spent in excess of \$30
25 million this year just in snow overtime but

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2 secondarily the big issue is that our staffing levels
3 throughout the year fluctuate based on staff
4 availability. So, in the winter months like now,
5 vacations are lower than they are in the summer
6 months. So, right now we may be running surplus
7 sanitation workers on a daily basis and kind of only
8 have this event driven overtime where in the warmer
9 months, because that's when more people are on
10 vacation and kind of the allotments are maxed out.
11 On those given days, we may be running overtime just
12 to fill our minimum staffing that we need for the day
13 but on the whole, we're staying generally within what
14 our staffing levels allow for.

15 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: My understanding is that when
16 you have more uniformed positions than you're
17 budgeted, you know you would expect that it would be
18 less over time. Do you expect this trend to continue
19 where you're hiring above your budgeted amount?
20 Which should theoretically reduce overtime. Do you
21 think that that trend will continue where you're
22 hiring above your budgeted amount? Which should
23 theoretically reduce overtime. Do you think that
24 that trend will continue?
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2 JOSEPH ANTONELLI: Yeah, I mean I would say in a
3 historical context our overtime is down. Last year
4 was an exceptionally low year and the reason for that
5 is that we - so our hiring, we do it all at the
6 beginning of the fiscal year. Because the main PEG
7 program took place in November. There were a lot of
8 cuts to program that were taken after we had already
9 done our hiring for the year. So, what that actually
10 allowed for was significant surpluses in Sanitation
11 workers throughout the rest of the year which led to
12 an exceptionally low overtime level but if you look
13 at the more recent historicals like FY23, FY22, we're
14 still down significantly from those years.

15 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you. I would also like
16 to recognize Council Member Sandy Nurse who has
17 joined us. What steps is the Department taking to
18 reduce reliance on overtime without compromising
19 essential services such as waste collection, snow
20 removal and street cleaning?

21 JAVIER LOJAN: So, a lot of times what we call as
22 - we call them as garage utility jobs where we have
23 to transport equipment, a service facility that's
24 under warranty. We try to be more efficient in that
25 and use existing personnel. Sometimes we have to

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2 push those jobs to another day. Another thing we do
3 is when we have absences, we push some of the
4 recycling routes to the later shift. It's not
5 something we want to you know do in practice
6 generally but that's a way that we try to keep the
7 overtime down and you know not go into overtime
8 costs.

9 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Has DSNY conducted a
10 workforce analysis to the Chairman of hiring
11 additional full time staff would be more cost
12 effective than having to pay overtime?

13 JAVIER LOJAN: No, we haven't done that Chair.

14 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay. What challenges has
15 DSNY faced in recruiting and retaining employees and
16 how does this contribute to increased overtime
17 expenditures?

18 JAVIER LOJAN: So, I think on the uniform side
19 recruiting has gone well. Thankfully as I mentioned
20 in my testimony, Sanitation workers do a great job.
21 They're recognized for it, which I think retention
22 and recruitment on that side goes pretty well. On
23 the civilian side, I think the only challenge we
24 have I with our mechanics where some of them are
25 starting to reach you know retirement age but I think

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2 you know working with the Administration and OMB,
3 they thankfully allowed us to start to backfill some
4 of those positions, so it's getting a lot better.

5 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: How does DSNY track and
6 monitor excessive overtime usage by employees and
7 what safeguards are in place to prevent abuse of
8 overtime pay?

9 JAVIER LOJAN: So, along with the support of
10 Deputy Commissioner Antonelli, we isolate the top
11 overtime earners. So, historically we used to have
12 the top 50, now we expanded to the top 100 and we go
13 line by line every month and some of them are
14 justified. Example, auto mechanics run overtime in
15 order to keep you know up our downrates but we
16 evaluate every position and on top of that, every
17 bureau head is required to get authorization from
18 either myself or DC Antonelli on any overtime related
19 to that. So, that's how we keep track - control with
20 that.

21 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you. Are you finding
22 that those who have been isolated to the highest
23 overtime - have you seen progress in those
24 individuals by and large, those overtimes going down
25 over say the past year or so?

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2 JAVIER LOJAN: So, with the auto mechanics, which
3 is the majority of them, we haven't seen that as
4 much. Like I mentioned before, working with OMB,
5 we've just in December, we started hiring some of
6 those positions. I believe we were 31 heads below
7 the same period, October 23 headcount, which is when
8 the PEGs began. So, now we're starting to fill some
9 of those positions, so I think when the next few
10 months, once we actually fill them, we're doing
11 hiring pools. We'll start to see some relief in that
12 and also snow season contributes to that because now
13 we're focused on keeping the snow equipment up and
14 also you know the frontline vehicles like collection,
15 dual bins and mechanical booms up at the same time.

16 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: According to the Mayoral
17 directive, DSNY must submit monthly overtime reports
18 and justify any variances from its reduction plan.
19 Where reductions have been achieved so far and what
20 challenges remain in meeting these targets?

21 JOSEPH ANTONELLI: So, we have monthly calls with
22 OMB to go through the targets and to go through what
23 overtime we spent for the month. What we actually go
24 through is we do a day by day recounting of how many,
25 basically how many sanitation workers we had to

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2 schedule on overtime for that day and walk through
3 exactly what the events were on each day. You know
4 over the past few months; it's largely been either
5 directly snow or the days after a snow event where
6 we're catching up on collection or it's been for
7 holidays and catching up on collection after the
8 holidays but those have been the drivers and we go
9 through a day by day analysis with OMB.

10 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you. I'm going to now
11 transition to the Manhattan Community District 9
12 Containerization program. Just to temporarily bring
13 smiles to your faces. The New York City Department
14 of Sanitation is launching a pilot program to
15 containerize 100 percent of residential trash in
16 Manhattan's Community District 9. Encompassing
17 neighborhoods such as West Harlem, Hamilton Heights,
18 Manhattanville and Morning Side Heights.

19 This initiative aims to improve street
20 cleanliness and reduce rodent infestations by
21 requiring all residential properties to use
22 designated containers for waste disposal by June 1,
23 2025. In the current pilot program from 143rd to
24 153rd, I believe rat sightings have gone down by
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2 over 60 percent, which is clearly a big victory and
3 really exciting to see.

4 What is the projected timeline for expanding the
5 containerization program beyond M9 to other community
6 districts in New York City? I believe in your
7 testimony you need authorizing legislation which
8 obviously I think you know I'm supportive of. A lot
9 of Council Members are but assuming that that were to
10 pass will be the timeline to get to other districts.

11 JAVIER LOJAN: So, I think a lot of that's also
12 contingent on the pilot and the findings of it. So,
13 as you know, in April, right around the corner in a
14 few weeks, we're going to start installing the
15 containers on the 18 schools in the district and then
16 by June 1st, we'll be fully operational. About 1,100
17 bins will be installed and I think in order for us to
18 get a good sense of what the rollout looks like after
19 that, I think we should evaluate the pilot a lot more
20 and see what works, what doesn't work but I think you
21 know as you mentioned Chair and as I mentioned in the
22 testimony, the legislation is a big part of that
23 because of the funding necessity for it.

24 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you for that. Speaking
25 about it, you know the effectiveness of the pilot,

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2 what specific criteria and metrics will DSNY use to
3 assess the success of the M9 pilot before deciding on
4 broader implementation?

5 JAVIER LOJAN: So, as you know the 311 rat
6 sightings SRs are a big piece of that. Also, we have
7 created a web form where our employees and building
8 managers will be able to report any issues and I
9 think a big part of that will inform us on you know
10 the findings of the pilot and you know obviously as
11 we go on, we might find things that you know, we're
12 not thinking about now but we can always expand it
13 but I think that's where we'll start off with and
14 take it from there.

15 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you. What is the total
16 budget allocated for the M9 containerization pilot
17 and how are these funds distributed across different
18 components of the program?

19 JOSEPH ANTONELLI: Sure, so this year, the budget
20 is \$3.4 million. So, \$278,000 of it is for the
21 containers themselves. We're employing a leasing
22 model and given that we're starting so late in the
23 year, it only covers the last few months of the year.
24 There's also money for the collection costs. The
25 personnel staffing is \$643,000. This year, we had a

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2 one-time cost for a mailer of \$1.1 million in support
3 of our outreach efforts. The environmental impact
4 study also this year, a one-time cost of \$750,000.
5 And then we also have some civilian staffing to
6 oversee the program at \$630,000.

7 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Do you expect those costs to
8 be the same year to year? Obviously the mailer
9 program probably won't be needed next year but do you
10 expect the other cost like personnel and container
11 costs? What's going to be the maintenance cost for
12 these containers?

13 JOSEPH ANTONELLI: So, the cost on the
14 containers, I think it's better to talk about it on
15 a per bin basis. So, the leasing model, which is an
16 all-inclusive, it's the cleaning, it's the
17 maintenance and everything, is \$95.05 a bin per month
18 and that kind of gives us this constant, unless
19 there's some sort of you know catastrophic issue with
20 the bin. This kind of gives us a constant, this is
21 what we expect the bins to cost.

22 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: And based off of the RFP that
23 was you know provided to [INAUDIBLE 00:41:16] last
24 year -

25 JOSEPH ANTONELLI: Yes.

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2 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: You can use that same RFP for
3 future districts as well for containerization
4 expansion?

5 JOSEPH ANTONELLI: That's correct.

6 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Assuming that there's
7 authorizing legislation?

8 JOSEPH ANTONELLI: Yes, so the contract is only
9 registered for the M9 pilot but the way we did the
10 RFP would allow us to amend that contract to add
11 additional districts if we were authorized to do so.

12 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you. Will property
13 owners or residents incur any cost for the
14 implementation and maintenance of the Empire bins and
15 if so, what financial assistance programs are
16 available to them?

17 JAVIER LOJAN: Chair, are you referring to the M9
18 pilot?

19 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Yes sir.

20 JAVIER LOJAN: No, so thankfully the cost for the
21 pilot was fully funded, so the residents will not
22 incur costs for the on street containers for the
23 pilot.

24 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you sir. If the
25 program expands citywide, what is the estimated cost

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2 of upgrading the entire DSNY fleet to include
3 mechanical trucks compatible with Empire bins?

4 JAVIER LOJAN: So, I think that's something we
5 have to continue to do an analysis on. The cost for
6 the side loading truck is \$621,000.

7 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Per truck?

8 JAVIER LOJAN: Per truck. I think once we get
9 the legislation passed and we know we're going
10 citywide, I think we'll have a better sense of the
11 need because remember part of the legislation has the
12 10 to 30 unit universe of buildings.

13 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Based on the opt in schedule,
14 yeah.

15 JAVIER LOJAN: Right, so the more buildings that
16 opt in, the more the truck need goes up. So, I think
17 it's contingent on that.

18 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Obviously, we can't predict
19 how many property owners from 10 to 30 units will be
20 able to opt in but assuming that there were
21 legislation that will go into effect, that would
22 provide for on street containers for 31 units or
23 more, what would be the number of sanitation trucks
24 that would be needed to service those areas?

25 JAVIER LOJAN: I'll pass it to DC Antonelli.

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2 JOSEPH ANTONELLI: So, the reason why we don't
3 have that estimate right now is we need to see the
4 results of the pilot from - really from a capacity of
5 the truck standpoint. So, right now obviously, our
6 25 cubic yard trucks, we know exactly how much we can
7 pack in it, how many tons and everything. This truck
8 is an entirely new truck to us. It's a body being
9 imported from Italy. We have what the manufacturer
10 says that the capacity should be. We've done our own
11 compaction testing to kind of come up with estimates
12 of how we can do the routing in M9 but until we have
13 it on the street and we actually start packing these
14 trucks out on a daily basis, we really won't
15 understand how they compare to our current trucks and
16 whether or not it would just be a one for one
17 replacement or if there is actually an additional
18 truck need.

19 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: I mean yeah, we have to start
20 thinking about it and digging into that because
21 obviously I think this Committee has a lot interest
22 in trash containerization and to be able to plan for
23 a full transition to what that would look like,
24 figuring out what those details would look like.

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2 I'd like to transition now to litter basket
3 service. I'd like to recognize Council Members Banks
4 and Paladino for joining us.

5 Maintaining an appropriate level of litter basket
6 service is crucial in maintaining street cleanliness
7 and reducing waste related complaints across New York
8 City. Despite securing \$22 million in FY23 and \$25
9 million in FY24 for increased service, these funds
10 were a one-time allocation, requiring the Council to
11 renegotiate for continued funding each year. While
12 expanded service has led to a record decline in 311
13 litter complaints, overflowing baskets remain a
14 persistent issue, particularly in districts that have
15 not received equal levels of service.

16 Ensuring baselined funding in FY25 and beyond is
17 critical to maintaining equitable and consistent
18 service citywide. First question is, why does the
19 Administration continue to fund expanded litter
20 basket service on a year to year basis rather than
21 committing to baseline funding in the budget, despite
22 the data showing that this improves cleanliness and
23 reduces public complaints.

24 JAVIER LOJAN: So, Chair as you know, this is a
25 very creative agency. We'll always try to develop

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2 new efficient processes but there are some issues
3 when you could really only do more with more. While
4 we understand - I'm sorry. While we understand that
5 this is part of the negotiation process, what I can
6 say is that we just look forward to working with the
7 Council and the Administration on that funding for
8 the outyears. But as you mentioned, this has been -
9 the service has been effective and we will look to
10 making those adjustments where you know you've seen
11 lapses or lower levels of service where they are
12 needed.

13 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Yeah, I mean when I speak to
14 my lawyers in my district, you know I go to events
15 and I tell them, you know we can't take for granted
16 these litter baskets but I feel like our city
17 government you know in most part I think I would say
18 from the Mayor's side hasn't made this a priority for
19 baselined funding but this is something that we have
20 to you know fight for year to year and we take our
21 litter baskets and the servicing of those litter
22 baskets, a lot of us take it for granted because we
23 think that that's something that's just going to
24 appear automatically but the truth is that the budget
25 process doesn't reflect, doesn't reflect that. And

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2 so, that is something that we need to I think
3 prioritize in this year's budget and truly baseline
4 our litter basket service. What would be - what
5 amount would we think would be needed to cover the
6 original intent of this bill right? Which was for
7 twice a week, six day a week service for litter
8 baskets but it was later discovered that the
9 additional funding will not cover that. What is the
10 amount needed to cover this expanded service of twice
11 a day, six day a week service for litter baskets?

12 JAVIER LOJAN: So, I don't have that exact
13 number. Sometimes we don't - there's areas that we
14 don't believe need two time a week service. Two time
15 a day service, sorry. We just believe in equitable
16 service, so those are the areas where we look to make
17 adjustments on and work with you know Council Members
18 and the Committee on making those proper adjustments
19 where necessary.

20 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Yeah, if at the next upcoming
21 hearing, if you could provide us that information or
22 through a letter on what that cost would be, even if
23 the agency doesn't think it would be something we can
24 accomplish. Obviously we want to know what that
25 number is to be able to work towards realizing that.

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JAVIER LOJAN: Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Second, how does the uncertainty of yearly funding for this impact - how does the uncertainty of yearly funding for this impact DSNY's ability to maintain stable operations and plan for long term service improvements?

JAVIER LOJAN: It doesn't because we do our hiring like DC Antonelli mentioned earlier, we do our frontloading hiring in the summer, so it doesn't impact it.

CHAIRPERSON ABREU: If this funding is not included for Fiscal 2026, what impact would it have on litter basket servicing levels, particularly in high foot traffic in underserved areas?

JAVIER LOJAN: So, that would be something we'd have to look at holistically in areas where we feel we'd have to make adjustments. Obviously, we'd get creative like I mentioned, I mean currently right now our refuse collection, house for collection routes are serving those litter baskets. We look to gain some efficiencies there and in any of the existing programs we have like PCI and T&T and try to leverage where we can and not have any lapse of service.

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2 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: It's fair to say it would
3 have some level of impact?

4 JAVIER LOJAN: Yeah, I'm sure there will some
5 level of impact, obviously we want to minimize those
6 in many areas.

7 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: What is the estimated
8 population served by expanded litter basket service
9 and how does DSNY ensure that high density or high
10 traffic - high foot traffic areas receive adequate
11 coverage?

12 JOSHUA GOODMAN: Council Member you know we
13 believe that every New Yorker obviously is impacted
14 by an empty litter basket and negatively impacted by
15 a full litter basket but your question really gets at
16 the issue with mandating twelve time a week service
17 at every single one of the 23,000 litter baskets.
18 Now of them need it and it can only be accomplished
19 by taking away service from the areas you just
20 mentioned, high foot traffic in underserved
21 communities. We try as hard as we can to put our
22 emphasis on communities with greatest need when it
23 comes to litter basket service.

24 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: I'm going to now pivot to the
25 new bin and then after this set of questions I'll ask

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2 - I'll move over to my colleagues to ask some
3 questions. The latest phase of DSNY's
4 containerization initiative has raised serious
5 questions for BIDs, Business Improvement Districts
6 and organizations like ACE, which have long provided
7 supplemental sanitation services to neighborhoods
8 across New York City. Under new regulations, these
9 groups will be fined if they place collected trash
10 bags next to DSNY waste receptacles despite having
11 done so for decades as part of a partnership with the
12 city. With limited alternatives and expensive
13 compliance requirements such as purchasing costly
14 waste containers or operating private garbage trucks,
15 many organizations are now forced to consider cutting
16 services, jeopardizing the cleanliness of business
17 districts and residential areas. What financial
18 systems if any is DSNY providing to BIDs and
19 nonprofit organizations like ACE to help them comply
20 with new containerization requirements?

21 JAVIER LOJAN: So, as of now, we're not looking
22 for any financial assistance. What I can say is once
23 the rule was passed, which goes in effect August 1st,
24 we have extended the warning period to run till the
25 end of the year. So, January of 2026 is when we will

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2 begin enforcement but I will say that when I took
3 over, I made it a point as when I took over as Acting
4 Commissioner, I made it a point of emphasis to have
5 productive conversations with all BIDs. So, out of
6 the 76 BIDs citywide, we've had calls with 63 of
7 them, okay and plus we've met with ACE. We have 27
8 site visits have been scheduled to date. We've had
9 50 completed and we'll continue to do those as much
10 as possible. That's my commitment and I think part
11 of that is when we've had these conversations and
12 site walks. We find efficiencies and their initial
13 estimates so a lot of times the challenges they face,
14 we walk through with them and find creative solutions
15 or again, efficiencies to try to get any of those
16 costs down.

17 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: I'd like to recognize Council
18 Member Banks. For how long will there be a grace
19 period or delay in fine implementation?

20 JAVIER LOJAN: So, until the end of the year,
21 through the end of this calendar year is the warning
22 period. So, we will not issue any fines for the rest
23 of this calendar year.

24 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Do you have any idea if you
25 know if the Administration will be committed to

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2 helping the you know these struggling nonprofits pay
3 for bins? Because at the end of the day, they are an
4 extension right of really what I think the Department
5 should be doing right, which is cleaning up our
6 streets and that you know manual like pickup is
7 what's making our streets cleaner. I see them as a
8 natural extension of really your work and that's
9 really supplementing your work. I think this is
10 something that the Admin ought to look at funding to
11 make it easier for them for compliance. What do you
12 think?

13 JAVIER LOJAN: Yeah, so Chair, I'd look forward
14 to working with the Administration and the Council on
15 that but I think what we really need to do is just
16 work together with them and we can find solutions to
17 almost all the BIDs. So, I think as we have more
18 conversations and meetings with them, I think we're
19 going to find that they'll be productive and we'll
20 find ways for them to not incur as much costs.

21 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: I'd like to recognize Council
22 Member Carr. What will be the impact on DSNY's own
23 sanitation resources if organizations like ACE and
24 BIDs are forced to suspend services due to the
25 financial burden of compliance?

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2 JAVIER LOJAN: Uhm, as of right now, we really
3 don't know what that impact would be. So,
4 hypothetical, since we don't know which bids or
5 groups would not continue to work. So, right now I
6 don't have -

7 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: I mean, I think the impact
8 would be quite significant. I see Josh nodding his
9 head. Sorry, Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner.

10 JOSHUA GOODMAN: Mr. Chair, I just want to say
11 this, a lot of misinformation out there about this
12 rule and what it requires. A business, a resident,
13 can't walk down to the street and leave a trash bag
14 behind. If that resident or business, they don't
15 know I'm a nonprofit, they also wouldn't be allowed
16 to leave a trash bag behind. We've had so many
17 productive meetings with these organizations, with
18 the BIDs, with ACE where they go, "Well, yeah, I
19 guess it's not going to cost nearly as much as I
20 thought. Thank you for helping me see that it's not
21 what I thought it was." But there are a lot of
22 people who are still talking about this. By the time
23 that any sort of enforcement begins, it will have
24 been well over a year since this was first brought
25 up. For the smallest BIDs, there are zero cost

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2 solutions. For the largest BIDs, we're working with
3 them closely. They don't need financial assistance.
4 If it turns out that a BID is operating in good faith
5 but can't comply by January 1st, they're not going to
6 receive a summons. They are in close contact with
7 us. The idea that we would say everybody has to get
8 their trash off the street, except these groups.
9 This is trash is allowed to go out on the street
10 still. Clean streets means clean streets for
11 everybody and we are working so closely with these
12 groups. So I really want to emphasize that there's a
13 lot of people who are just as - two years ago, we sat
14 in here and heard, businesses could never get a bin
15 and then they did. Residents could never get a bin
16 and then they did. There is a way to solve this and
17 we are working hand and glove with the BIDs to get
18 this done.

19 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: I mean look, I'm not
20 disagreeing that there's no such thing as magic trash
21 or trash that smells better than other trash or trash
22 that's unsightly and other trash that is beautiful to
23 look at right but there is a real fiscal financial
24 burden that these BIDs are facing and so far, I feel
25 like there's no real solution on the table for them.

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2 That is my position and I believe that is the
3 position of many of our colleagues here today. I'm
4 now going to turn over to Council Member questions.
5 Council Member Julie Menin.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER JULIE MENIN: Thank you so much
7 Chair and thank you for your testimony today. I have
8 two sets of questions. One on litter baskets, one on
9 rat litigation. Litter baskets that's probably one
10 of the number one complaints I'm receiving in the
11 district of overflowing litter baskets. I'm paying
12 out of my office budget to increase litter basket
13 pickup to four times a day during the week. So, my
14 question is, what can be done to increase the amount
15 of litter basket pickup beyond what we're currently
16 doing and this is obviously a citywide question.

17 JAVIER LOJAN: So, I think that one of the things
18 that I would like to look at is why they're
19 overflowing. A lot of times it's miss use and I
20 think I'd like to look at that before we increase
21 because there's been times we've tried different
22 approaches. Increasing the level of service
23 obviously may solve the problem but the root cause is
24 probably you know illegal drop offs by maybe nearby
25 residents or businesses, so I'd like to know if

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2 that's areas, specific areas in your district and I'd
3 like to look at that and see what's contributing to
4 that because realistically, litter baskets are meant
5 for paper cups, small things like that. If they're
6 overflowing after four times of a day service, there
7 might be a bigger problem there that I'd look at
8 before increasing that.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Okay, absolutely no, I
10 encourage you to come out and do a walkthrough of the
11 district, that would be incredibly helpful. Also, on
12 litter baskets, are you planning on any kind of
13 changes in service schedules or deployment of
14 additional baskets in response to ongoing demand
15 across the city?

16 JAVIER LOJAN: No, I think what we look at, one of
17 the things that we started was and I'm sure we've
18 said it at previous hearings is trash stash where we
19 bring a borough command every week to headquarters
20 and the borough chief and his or her district
21 superintendents get questioned on 311's stats
22 primarily. One of those stats are overflowing litter
23 baskets. So, when we see an increase whether it's
24 the week to date, 28 day or year today, we question
25 them and ask them what's the cost rate? What do they

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2 think the cost rate is? And that's where I think we
3 do adjustments and make adjustments to routes or any
4 kind of service levels within their existing
5 resources. So, I think that's been very effective
6 and we'll continue to do that.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Okay, on rat mitigation,
8 uhm, so obviously appreciate the comments you've made
9 on rat mitigation but I'm still concerned that we are
10 not deploying techniques that other cities are
11 utilizing. We know if you visit other major cities
12 across the country, they simply do not have the level
13 of rats that we have proportionately in New York
14 City. When I first came into office in the Council,
15 our team research, what all other major cities were
16 doing, we found that cities like Boston and San Diago
17 were using a novel technique of carbon monoxide to
18 fumigate the tree pits. We brought in our own
19 exterminator who we are utilizing in my district. We
20 send our exterminator out to any block and they
21 fumigate the tree pits. We've had amazing success
22 with this. It doesn't mean you're never going to see
23 a rat because we know rats are at construction sites
24 and other areas but this technique is cost effective.
25 It works, it's also safer in terms of putting down

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2 poison visa ve children, pets, etc.. So, can you
3 talk about why the Sanitation department is not
4 utilizing this technique citywide?

5 JAVIER LOJAN: So, I think some of those
6 techniques would probably be better suited for the
7 Department of Health, but I think that the approaches
8 that we've mentioned about containerization have been
9 the most effective. And again, I'd love to do a site
10 walk with you in your district and see the areas and
11 maybe there's other things that we see. Sometimes
12 what we do see is residents comply when they place
13 out their refuse and containers but then they store
14 them in bags on the side. So, that could be an area
15 that we could look to make improvements on but I'd
16 love to have a walk through and see where you're
17 seeing these rodent sightings and maybe take a
18 different approach.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Absolutely, no I'd love to
20 do that because obviously and I'm a big supporter of
21 containerization and we know that's going to make a
22 difference but that's only one of the tools in our
23 toolbox. That is not enough to eradicate the rat
24 population in New York City, so we need to be
25 thinking outside the box. I definitely want to show

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2 you what I've been doing in the last couple years in
3 my district with our own exterminator that we're
4 utilizing and we've had great success with that.

5 Thank you Chair.

6 JAVIER LOJAN: Great, thank you Council Member.

7 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you Council Member.

8 Now, Council Member Ung.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Thank you for the testimony
10 Commissioner. I just have a few questions. Intro.
11 987, Local Law 67, that was from last year. It's
12 about and which is one we worked very hard to pass.
13 It's about the increase. Sorry, the increased fines
14 where repeated violators of the [INAUDIBLE 01:01:24].
15 Has that program been in implementation?

16 JOSHUA ANTONELLI: Council Member, we loved
17 working with you on that legislation. I can tell you
18 one thing that has been a huge help is it's gotten
19 right into every one of our Community Board and SEG
20 Association presentations, warning everyone in
21 attendance about the escalating fines. I'm actually
22 not sure on the current status of implementing the
23 fines themselves but we are telling people that they
24 are going to face escalating fines and it's
25 definitely helping.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: So, they're not sent to the
3 education part of the program has been implemented
4 but can you get back to me whether or not the actual
5 fines? Because I believe it's supposed to take place
6 180 days after passage of the law, which is the end
7 of June last year.

8 JAVIER LOJAN: Uh yeah, my Chief of Staff had
9 actually said it has been implemented so yes.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Great, do you have any
11 numbers on you know like how it's going? What are
12 the fines?

13 JAVIER LOJAN: We can get back to you on that.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: That would be great, thank
15 you and the second set of questions I have is about
16 the street vendor enforcements. Right now, how many
17 of agents are there citywide for street vendors?

18 JAVIER LOJAN: So, the specific to street vending
19 enforcement. Those are a uniformed headcount of 40
20 employees.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: For the entire city?

22 JAVIER LOJAN: For the entire city, correct.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Do you think that's
24 sufficient?
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JAVIER LOJAN: Uhm, it's hard to say. I think right now we have areas that we get constant complaints on. I think one of the things that is effective is just reinforcement of our presence there. I think of course having more would be effective. I just think that currently right now, with the areas that we have, it's sufficient enough. If we want to expand beyond that, then I guess we'd love to work with you on expanding that.

COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Can you just - how about how many do we have for the Borough of Queens?

JAVIER LOJAN: So, that's a citywide unit. So, we move them around as necessary, so it's not specific to any borough.

COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: So, you move them around according to what's needed in the different boroughs?

JAVIER LOJAN: Correct, so again, we go through any 311 complaints, any external complaints and we rotate them around as necessary.

COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Do you know on average how often they are in the Borough of Queens?

JAVIER LOJAN: I'd have to get back to you on that with those specific numbers.

COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Okay.

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2 JAVIER LOJAN: Well, just the only thing I could
3 say is that when we were doing the operation on
4 Roosevelt Avenue, we were there virtually every day
5 but there's other areas that you know we've been
6 working on but I can get more specific numbers for
7 you.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: That would be great if you
9 could get back to me on the Borough of Queens and
10 I'll just say my district, which is District 20, how
11 often are you there? Thank you.

12 JAVIER LOJAN: Okay, thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Yeah, let's get Council
14 Member Ung what she needs. Council Member Brooks-
15 Powers please.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you Chair.
17 Thank you Commissioner. I'm looking forward to
18 hosting you in my district. I think we have that
19 scheduled now.

20 I want to start with - it's on. You can't hear
21 me? Bless you. Containerization policy change.
22 DSNY's proposed containerization rules could impose
23 significant financial and operational burdens on
24 organizations like ACO and BIDs, potentially
25 jeopardizing the supplemental Sanitation work they

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2 provide. What consideration has Sanitation given to
3 this impact policy on these organizations and what
4 are the alternative solutions? And I know this
5 question is reoccurring but I did talk to Deputy
6 Mayor Joshi before she departed and I know things
7 were to be worked out but I never got a conclusion to
8 that conversation in terms of what formerly will be
9 decided to be able to ensure that these organizations
10 are left unharmed?

11 JAVIER LOJAN: Sure, so the first thing we want
12 to do is obviously go through the solution of
13 containerization, right and I know that's probably -
14 I feel that that's the most costly. I think one of
15 the things we want to look at with that is, there are
16 initial estimates. Sometimes their initial estimates
17 might be higher than what the actual need there. So,
18 when we do site visits with them, we look to see any
19 efficiencies there. The sighting of these containers
20 sometimes plays a role in that and again, it depends
21 on how many bags are generated. So, you can go as
22 low as you know \$6,000 for an on street container and
23 some of the bigger ones can be like \$12,000 per
24 container. So, that's just one.

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2 The other one are tow trucks, which one cubic
3 yard tow trucks which can hold I believe what was the
4 bags? How many bags? About 20 bags. That's another
5 solution which they can you know obviously it's
6 mobile, it's not fixed on the street. Taking it to
7 our sanitation - designated sanitation garages and
8 then I think also where the other areas where we can
9 get creative is if they have a centralized location
10 that they can bring their bags to and containerize
11 them, we can work with them on - it doesn't have to
12 be an on street container. And then also, maybe
13 adding you know doubling up some corners and making
14 you know, extending that - the need for bagging them
15 up during the day is another way of gaining
16 efficiency. So, I think every BID and every
17 organization is unique. Recognize that, so I'm not
18 going to say one of those will always work but I
19 think when we do the site walks with them, I think we
20 will find other solutions that we're not thinking
21 about now. We're open to any of those.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: So, I have a
23 follow up to that but I'm going to come back just in
24 the interest of time, because I have a few district
25 specific things I wanted to ask on the record.

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2 So, one is case closures without cleanup. There
3 have been multiple reports of Sanitation cases being
4 marked as closed without the necessary cleaning
5 services being performed. How does Sanitation track
6 and verify the completion of the cleanup request
7 before cases are closed? And is there an internal
8 review process to ensure accountability when issues
9 are reported as unresolved? And I will say and we
10 have spoken to Antonio a number of times when we get
11 these complaints in. I will literally see the photo
12 before and then after the case is closed. My
13 constituents will go and take a picture and it will
14 be the same if not worse. And so, it had not been
15 cleaned up.

16 Another thing is Sanitation, excuse me, response
17 times, many constituents have expressed frustration
18 over the slow or inadequate responses to Sanitation
19 complaints. So, in alignment with Council Member
20 Ung, how does Sanitation prioritize and allocate
21 resources for Sanitation issues? And for me, I'm
22 asking particularly about Southeast Queens and are
23 there plans to improve response times and
24 transparency in case Resolutions? And I got two more
25 questions, so I just want to get it all in my time.

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So, the next one is the illegal; three more. Illegal dumping, what steps is Sanitation taking to address the persistent illegal - issue of illegal dumping in our district? Are there plans to increase enforcement surveillance and/or penalties to deter illegal dumping and I did work very closely with then Commissioner Tisch to be able to get those resources in terms of the cameras and would love to see more investment there. Empty lots, how does Sanitation coordinate with property owners to ensure that vacant lots are properly maintained and do not become hot spots for litter and illegal dumping? You know are there any proactive measures you all are doing with that?

And lastly, waste disposal on a snake road and when you come out to the district, I will introduce you to the infamous snake road and I just want to know what the current plan for waste disposal and cleanup along that strip of roadway is. It's really Brookville Boulevard but locally we call it Snake Road and are there any targeted initiatives in place to prevent illegal waste build up in this area in addition to the cameras that we were able to work together on. Thank you Chair.

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JAVIER LOJAN: Okay.

COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I'll repeat
whatever you need me to.

JAVIER LOJAN: Okay, so the first question I
believe was the unresolved closure of complaints.
So, that is something that is unacceptable and that's
something that we closely look at when we have these
trash stash meetings. So a lot of times we will dig
into these chronic areas and we're able to see the
SR's and the photos that are supplied. If we see a
constant chronic condition calling, the question is
why is this reoccurring and the borough command and
the superintendents have to explain. Sometimes
there's valid reasons for it and the areas that
they're not, I hold them strictly accountable, so if
there are areas that you are finding, I'd be glad to
take those before I walk through and even after
because that's something I take seriously because
it's not something that I take lightly.

I believe the second question was about the
service - the amount of time to closure. So, that's
another thing that we've tracked is the 311 service
level agreement timeline and each 311 SR category has

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2 different type of timeframes where they're able to
3 close it.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: That's going to be
5 inaccurate because again we've seen that they have
6 been closed prematurely.

7 JAVIER LOJAN: Right.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: So, you're going
9 to see that the time is within that frame you're
10 looking for.

11 JAVIER LOJAN: Right.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: So like there
13 needs to be like a qualitative method internally to
14 make sure that what is being closed is truly
15 resolved.

16 JAVIER LOJAN: Right, yeah so that is something
17 that I'll be glad to take those specific instances
18 where you're seeing that and I would again action
19 those right away and see why that's happening because
20 that should not be happening. We never tell any of
21 our supervisory personnel to close something out just
22 in the interest of meeting the SLA. That's something
23 that's not accepted in its practice, so if it's
24 happening, it's happening in areas that's not
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2 authorized but I'd like to get more information on
3 that when we have time.

4 I think you also asked about illegal dumping and
5 what we're doing. So, I think so we've for the
6 calendar year of 2024, we saw an increase of 18
7 percent impounds through cameras and then a 40
8 percent increase on summonses. As you know, the
9 initial fine is \$4,000 and impounding of the vehicle
10 and I think it's proven to be effective and I'd love
11 to continue to work with you on finding areas. I
12 think one of the things we are seeing, which we are
13 exploring with our enforcement division, is areas
14 where we're not seeing as much illegal dumping from
15 the cameras, may be seen where we can move them
16 within the district and seeing that that is effective
17 at all because obviously people get hip to it and
18 they realize where the cameras are and they're not
19 going there. So, we're looking to see where we can
20 move them and how that plays out because that is
21 something that I have noticed with our enforcement
22 chief and we are looking to explore that.

23 And the last one I -
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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Yeah, the last
3 question was uhm the Snake Road, yes but we have some
4 cameras that are there now.

5 JOSHUA GOODMAN: I'll just say that Council
6 Member, we were very aware of the persistent issues
7 in this area. I think you know Chief Pitts, our
8 Chief of Cleaning Operations.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Yeah he's amazing.

10 JOSHUA GOODMAN: He basically slept there for a
11 month. Like he was really deep and you know it's a
12 marshy area so forgive me, it was deep in the weeds
13 on it. It's a persistent problem. I think we would
14 be interested in working with other agencies to see
15 whether you know things like fencing might be
16 appropriate in some of those areas but I completely
17 agree with you, the cleaning it over and over again
18 is not a long term solution. Although in the
19 meantime we will do that.

20 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Alright, let's move on to the
21 next set of questions.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Council Member Nurse.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Thank you Chair. Good
25 morning.

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JAVIER LOGAN: Good morning.

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I'm going to ask about the CWZ. The Curbside and I have some other smaller questions. Do you have a and I'm sorry if you already said this because I know sometimes people come in late and you have to repeat yourself but have you communicated to the Carter's timeline for the next zone or zones coming online?

JAVIER LOGAN: No Council Member, so that's one of the things that we are ready to announce in the next few weeks. I think we can - we have a hearing next month and we can probably talk more about that. I think we're working closely with OMB on making sure we have the adequate resources for the rollout of the next zones and the remaining 19 zones but part of my testimony that I did want to reiterate is that Queens Central was not very successful and one of the things that you know I feel good about is that we have virtually zero complaints from businesses.

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Yeah, I read that.

JAVIER LOGAN: So, I think that that was a great thing. So I understand we want to get this thing rolled out and that's definitely one of our priorities.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: How much - how many - I
3 read your testimony, I understand. What level of
4 resource do you need to bring on a zone? Like for
5 each zone you bring on, what is your communications
6 budget? What is your outreach budget? You know how
7 many staff do you need every time you roll out a
8 zone?

9 JOSEPH ANTONELLI: I mean at this point right
10 now; we have 17 people who are on staff right now.
11 We have a few hires that are pending with OMB but you
12 know we're confident that we're going to get them and
13 they're going to go through without an issue.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: How many hires are those?

15 JOSEPH ANTONELLI: So we have three that are
16 pending at OMB right now but we just submitted those,
17 so we don't think there's going to be any issue.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Okay, so with your current
19 capacity, you think you'd be able to bring on another
20 zone?

21 JOSEPH ANTONELLI: At the current level, yes we
22 could bring on another zone, yes.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Okay and so do you think
24 you'll be able to bring on another zone this year?

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2 JAVIER LOJAN: Yeah, I think we'll definitely
3 bring on another zone.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: It will be one or
5 multiple?

6 JAVIER LOJAN: Uh, ideally I'd like to do
7 multiple but you know again, we're working closely
8 with OMB on that.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Okay, and can you just
10 state for the record what kind of data points you're
11 collecting as you've rolled out this for the first
12 three months of the year? I know you mentioned in
13 your testimony; you'll have some sort of analysis
14 later to provide but could you - do you have anything
15 initial that you could share? You know what is that
16 data telling you?

17 JAVIER LOJAN: So, the biggest thing is you know
18 any complaints from the businesses as I mentioned. I
19 think another thing to highlight are you know so a
20 big part of commercial waste zones was the safety
21 aspect from the private Carters. So, one of the
22 things that we looked at; we've issued 156 notice of
23 violations during the transition period and then
24 since the implementation period we've issued an
25 additional 37 NLV's. So, I think - and virtually

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2 we're seeing almost close to no safety violations by
3 the Carters. We are still seeing some of them but I
4 think that you know the numbers have dropped
5 substantially and I think that's one of the other
6 data points that we're looking at.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Okay, I'm going to turn to
8 curbside. Can you talk about how much money is your
9 communications budget this year as a whole for the
10 whole department?

11 JOSEPH ANTONELLI: So, I don't have that total.
12 I think the issue with the communications budget is
13 that it's in a lot of different places in the budget
14 but we can certainly get back to you on that.
15 Because we have - it's scheduled out programmatically
16 by the different program areas.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Okay, well can you get
18 specific to the curbside program? How much money do
19 you have dedicated for public education awareness
20 around it? Can you talk about how many education
21 campaigns you've run since the city has been fully
22 on? And what are the specific mediums you're using
23 beyond your social media accounts? Yeah.

24 JOSHUA GOODMAN: Well, the biggest thing I'll say
25 Council Member is that we have in flight right now,

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2 so some people have probably already gotten it and
3 some people will get it in the next couple of days, a
4 mailer to every resident about the beginning of
5 enforcement of the fines under Local Law 89 of 2023.
6 So, that's roughly a \$1 million cost to send a
7 citywide mailer and you will probably be interested
8 to know that you're receiving one version in the
9 single and two family homes that just says, don't
10 forget you can get a fine. And if you live in a
11 larger building than that, every resident is getting
12 one that basically says -

13 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: They're sending out a
14 piece of mail?

15 JOSHUA GOODMAN: Yes, that says that you can call
16 311 to report your building not composting.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Okay, what about the
18 communication? I don't need to know what's exactly
19 in it but you're sending out a piece of mail saying
20 enforcements beginning or the morning period is over.
21 So, that's one piece of education campaign beyond
22 your social media. What else are you all doing?

23 JOSHUA GOODMAN: Visiting every community board.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Okay.

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2 JOSHUA GOODMAN: Civic associations, moving
3 through our list, we're holding info sessions both
4 targeted at the general public and targeted at
5 building maintenance staff and we're waiting to hear
6 back, the Department was awarded \$2 million in
7 federal funding for composting outreach. As you
8 know, a number of federal funding items may be influx
9 at the moment.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Right, you're not sure.

11 JOSHUA GOODMAN: We have a plan in place to do
12 substantial paid media with that funding if
13 available.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Okay, great. Chair, do
15 you mind, I have two questions?

16 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Yeah, you go ahead.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I'll be very fast. One,
18 cameras, how many DSNY cameras are currently
19 uninstalled and in your inventory? And if you don't
20 have it, if you could text somebody while we're here
21 to pull that up.

22 JAVIER LOJAN: I believe we installed all of the
23 ones that we -

24 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: You currently have zero
25 uninstalled cameras in your inventory?

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JAVIER LOJAN: Correct, yeah.

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Okay and then I just - I do want to say that I know there's going to be a lot of questions about the bids and the supplemental cleaning. I pay for supplemental cleaning in places where we don't have BIDs. In fact, I only have one BID in my district. It just got legislatively done. It's very new, so it would be helpful for you to detail for the record what are solutions for places that don't have a corridor. You're kind of putting onus on these organizations and you know we rely on them so much in areas where we don't have merchant associations that can pay for their own supplemental cleaning.

JAVIER LOJAN: So, I just want to understand your question correctly. You just want me to speak to some of the different avenues they have to be in compliance with the rule? Is that correct?

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: So, if I have an area - I pay for areas that maybe don't even have commercial corridors. They're just these areas that I can't get enough level of service despite \$150,000 or whatever we're paying for mobile, litter patrols because you guys don't have enough trucks in my district on any

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2 given day to go out and take care of dump outs and
3 things like that and just general street cleanliness.
4 So, areas where there might not be enough merchants,
5 there might not be a lot of residents but it's
6 disgusting and there is a lot of foot traffic, we put
7 supplemental cleaning there, so what can we do about
8 these areas that are long? You know it's not like
9 you - it might be uhm, they do ten bags in that area
10 or five bags in that area but then for them to put it
11 in a truck option, take it down to the garage,
12 especially out where we're getting into less dense
13 areas and your garages are more geographically
14 further out, it kind of really - it really eats into
15 the time they have to actually do the actual do the
16 actual clean run?

17 JAVIER LOJAN: Right, I think one of the options
18 that might work are the tow truck options. A tow
19 truck is one cubic yard. It can hold like 20 bags
20 and that's an area I think it might be effective in a
21 circumstance like that, and there might be an area
22 within the district that you know that's central that
23 you know they can put these tow trucks in. We can
24 work together on. Knowing when that schedule is when
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2 they service them and then we would coordinate on
3 servicing you know those bags that they service.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Yeah, I will just say I do
5 think that the Administration should consider putting
6 up money for these organizations to do it and
7 necessarily relying on the Council to fill in that
8 gap because I think that's probably what's going to
9 happen, is it's going to get kicked to our pots or
10 kicked to the Council to pick that up. This is your
11 initiative and you should have thought about this.
12 You should have thought about the consequences of it
13 and the recalibration that it was going to take and I
14 think you all should put up the money for it to help
15 people figure it out and help these organizations
16 figure it out because the fact is, we're going to
17 continue to need to use them. There's no universe in
18 which we're not using them.

19 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you Council Member.
20 Council Member Banks. Before that actually I'd like
21 to recognize Council Member Salamanca. Go ahead
22 Banks.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Thank you Chair and thank
24 you to the Commissioner. First of all, let me begin
25 with the containerization when we talk about

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2 supplemental services. With the implementation of
3 the city's containerization law requiring
4 organizations including those provide supplemental
5 cleaning to purchase and maintain complaint
6 containers, what fiscal considerations if any were
7 made for small organizations that may not have the
8 capacity to absorb these added costs and the
9 organizations that provide the supplemental cleaning.
10 Obviously it will force them to seize operations to
11 comply with these particular laws. What contingency
12 plans does the department have to prevent these
13 services, these gaps that may come about in these
14 high needed districts where the supplemental services
15 are needed badly. And also too, when it comes to
16 these organizations like ACE and the Employment of
17 Opportunities, do you see any value in these
18 organizations?

19 JAVIER LOJAN: Okay uhm, so the first question
20 was the financial impact.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Correct.

22 JAVIER LOJAN: Uhm, so yeah, I think that's part
23 of our conversations with them and then once we set
24 up the site visits, we work with them on seeing what
25 their actual need is. I think sometimes when we do

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2 the site visits, we find areas where maybe they don't
3 need as much of the containers as they need or
4 sometimes they don't realize about the till trucks or
5 any other methods that we have. So, I think that's
6 one area where I think we work with them.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Do you see value in these
8 organizations that provide the supplemental services
9 especially to communities like mine?

10 JAVIER LOJAN: Yes, of course we do.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: You do see, okay. Uhm,
12 and just to echo what my colleague Nurse said,
13 obviously the ownership should be on the
14 Administration to come up with the funding to support
15 these organizations. This is your plan. This is
16 your initiative and to hurt communities like mine,
17 because of the lack of planning in a sense to me is
18 unfair and there's a grave injustice to our
19 community.

20 When it comes to vendor enforcement, I want to
21 encourage you - I would like to invite you out to my
22 district where we've had major issues with the
23 vendors, especially on the sanitation side, along
24 Fountain and in that particular industrial area and
25 then the 42nd Council District. So, I want to invite

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2 you out to maybe do a walk through so you can see the
3 condition that has been created by some of these
4 vendors and I know it was stated earlier that there's
5 only 40 enforcement agents throughout the city. Uhm,
6 how many of those agents have been relegated to the
7 42nd Council District and what's the amount of
8 summonses that have been given?

9 JAVIER LOJAN: So, the 40 employees that are
10 assigned to the legal vending unit are not defined to
11 one particular area. We move them around citywide
12 and I'd have to get back to you -

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Well, when you're getting
14 multiple complaints from 311 of a particular area,
15 what's the action plan? I mean, so when it comes to,
16 when you have that degree of amount of complaints,
17 what's the response from Sanitation? Is it an
18 organized effort?

19 JAVIER LOJAN: Yeah, we send our lieutenants to
20 investigate the area and uhm, we definitely take
21 action. So, if there's areas that you know -

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Well, are you aware of the
23 particular area I'm talking about where there's been
24 a major influx of vendors since the closing of the
25 Aqueduct?

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JAVIER LOJAN: Uhm, which area was that?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: That's in the 42nd Council
District. That's like the Fountain area, Workman,
Stanley, Colzene.

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JAVIER LOJAN: I think that is one of the areas
but -

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COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Well, if you can do our
walk through. If you're not aware, we'd definitely
love to show you what's going on back there and
hopefully we can develop a strategy to keep that area
clean.

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When it comes to the street sweepers, and I may -

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CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Yeah, just 30 more seconds
please.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: If you may allow me, thank
you. When it comes to the street cleaners, some
agree that the current street cleaning measures are
effective as they believe that trash is usually moved
from one side of the block to the other. Has there
been any investment or exploration into modernize
alternative street sweeping equipment?

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JAVIER LOJAN: You mean as far as the current
equipment we have?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: The street sweepers that
3 you currently have. Residents are saying that
4 they're not cleaning the streets and I know folks say
5 that may be relegated just because cars are not being
6 removed but when there are - you know when the cars
7 are removed from the streets and the sweepers do come
8 down, I've seen it many of times. The trucks or the
9 sweepers, they're not adequate. They're just
10 throwing trash down to the corner or they're being
11 moved to the other side of the street. Are you
12 exploring any other - is there exploration into
13 modernize alternative street sweeping equipment that
14 can effectively keep the streets clean?

15 JAVIER LOJAN: I understand. So, we have
16 explored other types of equipment. One of the street
17 sweepers that we've looked into is our three arm
18 mechanical broom which has two segments on the side.
19 One has one on the front but to your point about it
20 going down the block and not sweeping, I think part
21 of the issue that we had which I think we're getting
22 through is some of the older equipment that wasn't
23 relinquished and cycled out, sometimes we see those
24 problems and what we tell operators, you know they
25 have to use water. Sometimes when it's a little too

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2 cold, they can't use water and that loses the
3 effectiveness on the sweeping but you know I think
4 right now, the fleet of sweepers that we have, we
5 find them to be effective and we're always exploring
6 new ways.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Okay, thank you and just
8 my last question and then I'll wrap it up. When it
9 comes to budget allocations for illegal dumping, we
10 know that there was a state allocation from Senator
11 Roxanne Pacade to put up dumping cameras in my
12 district. I need to know exactly where these cameras
13 have been placed and yeah, where have the cameras
14 been placed and how many have been placed?

15 JOSHUA GOODMAN: Yeah, one thing that I do want
16 to point out, the state hasn't released the money yet
17 for that. You know when City Council allocates
18 money, it's a very quick process. We're able to
19 spend it right away. With the state, it essentially
20 turns into a grant application and it takes a
21 significant amount of time, often years for us to get
22 that money. So, we're I think we're at the final
23 stages of actually getting that money but we don't
24 have it yet.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Thank you so much and if
3 we can just get some further information as to when
4 that money is realized. So, if we can have a
5 conversation where those cameras can be placed
6 appropriately. Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Council Member Carr.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Thank you Chair.
9 Commissioner, good to see you. I just want to begin
10 by thanking everybody at Sanitation for their hard
11 work, particularly our local operations folks, our
12 bar chiefs, they're phenomenal.

13 JAVIER LOJAN: Thank you.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: I want to begin by talking
15 about the Curbside E-Waste program that used to exist
16 in Staten Island. It did not make it until this
17 current years budget and I've noticed over the last
18 few months a significant uptick in illegal dumping
19 generally and that you know we see a lot of
20 electronic waste in increasing amounts in these
21 dumped areas, so I was wondering if we could get
22 support for this to be returned for this year's
23 budget because as you know in the prior
24 administration, it wasn't supposed to be a Staten
25 Island only program. It was meant to be rolled out

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2 to the other boroughs as well. Can you comment on
3 that?

4 JOSHUA GOODMAN: Council Member, thank you for
5 raising this program. Obviously it's something that
6 the stops and starts are never productive. One thing
7 that we can share, I think you know is that last
8 year, we or this most recent fiscal year, we almost
9 tripled the number of hours that the special waste
10 sites where you can bring these types of material are
11 open. There's also state legislation that requires
12 takebacks at a wide variety of retailers. We'd be
13 happy to work with you on making sure that people who
14 may think illegal dumping is their only option
15 understand that there's actually more places than
16 ever that they can bring e-waste.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: I appreciate that but
18 they're not always convenient right and they're not
19 always as well know as we'd like them to be and
20 frankly, not all the retailers do so on a consistent
21 basis despite the state mandates. And so, I think we
22 really need to return to the curbside model. That's
23 the most effective way to make sure that these items
24 are retrieved legally and don't end up on the sides
25 of our streets, right?

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2 The whole point of the state ending of
3 landfilling of e-waste was to protect our natural
4 areas. We're not protecting them and we've had a
5 great partnership over the years between our office
6 and your agency and the DA's office combatting
7 illegal dumping and it's just getting worse, so I
8 think we really need to return this program to where
9 it is and then return hopefully to the rollout to the
10 rest of the city. But I want to move on to organics
11 collection. It's been alluded to that next week is
12 the beginning of the enforcement period. I've
13 already received a lot of complaints from
14 constituents who have got the warnings because they
15 didn't put out their brown bin. Even if their home
16 was unoccupied, didn't put out their brown bin
17 because maybe they didn't think there was enough to
18 warrant putting out their brown bin that day, even
19 though they are separating the trash and the
20 organics. So, I'm really concerned that come next
21 Tuesday, a lot of folks are going to be getting fines
22 that don't deserve it.

23 JAVIER LOJAN: No and that's one of the things
24 that uhm we have seen. I can reassure you that once
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2 the fine period begins, we will not issue any of the
3 summonses to areas like that.

4 So, I think right now what our messaging has been
5 is that if there's no bin out, it's essentially more
6 of the reminder of what is going to happen. I think
7 we've used that as more of like an effective tool to
8 say, hey reminder like starting April 1st, this will
9 be a fine but once April 1st comes, our enforcement
10 personnel are required to look through the trash to
11 ensure that there is in fact a violation. So, that
12 is one of the -

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: They'll be examining what's
14 been put out.

15 JAVIER LOJAN: Yes.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: And so, is there internal
17 to the department or in conversations with OMB a
18 target for fine generation for the coming fiscal
19 year? Is there any kind of notion of that and is
20 there - or is there an expectation on your part on a
21 dollar figure for that?

22 JAVIER LOJAN: On an expectation on I'm sorry?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: On the dollar figure for
24 the fines you expect to generate in the coming fiscal
25 year.

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2 JAVIER LOJAN: No, I mean our goal is to try to
3 increase diversion. We're not you know looking for
4 revenue on any of this. If we see the compliance
5 shift, so that will be telling once the waits and the
6 reports come in weekly and we see that improving,
7 that's where we're going to see. But as far as
8 revenue generating, that's not something that we're
9 looking for. That's not the goal of this program.

10 JOSHUA GOODMAN: I just want to add Council
11 Member just because I saw a few reactions to the
12 comment that Sanitation enforcement personnel might
13 be going through the trash for this. That's not a
14 new enforcement tactic right? You've been required
15 by law to separate your metal, glass, plastic and
16 paper for 20 years and that's how that enforcement
17 works. Contact screws, they're not necessarily
18 opening the bag, but contacts screws from the outside
19 of the bag to know what's inside of it.

20 And as the Commissioner mentioned, the standard
21 will be much stricter for violations than it is for
22 warnings.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: I appreciate it. Listen, I
24 have no problem with organics collection. You know
25 as you know, I come from the borough that had the

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2 biggest landfill and we want to stop landfilling
3 waste as much as we can but I don't want it to be a
4 burden to constituents who you know are doing their
5 best to comply with the new mandate. I appreciate it
6 Chair, thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Just one quick question on
8 that. What's going to be the primary basis for
9 enforcement? Is it going to be the presence of bins
10 primarily at this phase or is it also the sorting?

11 JAVIER LOJAN: No, it's going to be the sorting.
12 That's the only way the violation is valid. If the
13 bin is not there but they are finding another way to
14 maybe they're doing their own composting in the back
15 yard, I don't know.

16 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: And what are you anticipating
17 in terms of enforcement? Like how big is the team
18 going to be? Like, uh,

19 JAVIER LOJAN: So, right now we have 203 sector
20 supervisors that are assigned to areas across the
21 city every day. Those are the same people that
22 monitor the street sweeping and do everything else
23 and they are the only ones that are going to be
24 monitoring this. We don't have any dedicated staff
25 for this. So, but in their travels as they're

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2 checking the streets. If they find violations, those
3 are the ones that they're going to be issuing summons
4 to.

5 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Salamanca.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you Mr. Chair.
7 Good morning Commissioner. I want to start off by
8 just thanking your agency for the good work and
9 relationships throughout the years that we have and
10 being accessible and having that direct access.

11 Commissioner, I just want to I have not much time
12 so I just want to get answers to these questions
13 really quickly. Ghost cars, I know it was a problem
14 years ago. We have addressed the issue but we still
15 have an issue with some of these ghost cars or our
16 vehicles, at least in my district that do not have
17 license plates.

18 With the prior Commissioner, I worked with a
19 director with Sanitation. You had an NYPD
20 Enforcement Division. Does that division still
21 exist?

22 JAVIER LOJAN: Yeah so we have the personnel
23 assigned to this and they report up to us every day
24 with their operation, so that is something that we
25 still have in place.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Alright. I'll get
3 more details on that when we do our walkthrough next
4 week. The warm weather is upon us now. There was a
5 bill that was passed about a year and a half ago, two
6 years ago on enforcement of unregistered mobile car
7 washes. Do you have a number of how many mobile car
8 washes you picked up from the streets last year?

9 JAVIER LOJAN: Sure, so since the enforcement
10 began on August of 2024, we've issued 418 summonses
11 and impounded 153 vehicles.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: 418 summonses and how
13 many vehicles?

14 JAVIER LOJAN: 153 vehicles.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: And do you have a
16 breakdown by borough?

17 JAVIER LOJAN: Uh, no Council Member I'd have to
18 get back to you but I'll get you the information.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Alright, one of the
20 biggest issues that I have with my constituents is
21 when the law was changed in terms of containerization
22 of the household trash. Where they would have to go
23 purchase the trash cans. Unfortunately in my
24 community, these trash cans are disappearing. My
25 constituents homeowners mainly are purchasing these

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1 trash cans and they are disappearing. Not too long
2 ago, I had one of my constituents to write a letter
3 to OATH; hopefully that they could be understanding
4 that he received a violation because his trash can
5 wasn't there.
6

7 What programs do you have at all for these
8 situations where these trash cans are basically being
9 stolen from these homeowners?

10 JAVIER LOJAN: So, right now the only mechanism
11 we have is just the process of them reporting it to
12 the local precinct and unfortunately we don't really
13 have anything in place to get them a new bin or
14 anything like that but that's the only thing I could
15 say about that.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Yeah, I imagine it's
17 happening out on the boroughs but I know in the
18 borough of the Bronx, at least in the South Bronx,
19 it's a concern and it's a major issue for us. And
20 then finally, I was talking to my colleague here
21 about illegal - the cameras for illegal dumping. I
22 know that more than half of my - I had a big chunk of
23 my district that's industrial and therefore we're
24 having issues with illegal dumping, especially in the
25 Hunts Point side of the community. We're also seeing

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2 a lot of illegal dumping on BIDs where we have
3 individuals - we have many migrants that are selling
4 produce at what we call end of life produce. If you
5 don't sell it in a day or two, you have to get rid of
6 it and unfortunately, we're having issues in certain
7 parts of BIDs like the 4th Avenue BID where they're
8 finding locations and there literally just dumping
9 their produce that they cannot sell.

10 I know that my office in the last four years has
11 allocated \$558,000 to Sanitation for cameras. Can
12 you tell me how many cameras we have in the borough
13 of the Bronx and how many cameras we have in my
14 district?

15 JAVIER LOJAN: I'd have to - just in the interest
16 of time, I'm trying to get that for you but one of
17 the things I do want to say that we can work through
18 is we're exploring the use of the mobile cameras.
19 Right now we have very limited amounts but I think
20 that may work as a deterrent that we can try and see
21 if that works in the area that you mentioned.

22 So, we bring out, it's a mobile camera. The only
23 limitation is the amount of time it could stay up
24 with the power because it's not tied to you know an
25 existing power supply but I think that's one of the

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2 areas we can look to see if it's effective as a
3 deterrent or maybe finding you know where, whose
4 dumping these materials that you're mentioning. And
5 I'm sorry, I'd have to get back to you on the actual
6 camera breakdown.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Alright, do you have a
8 total number amount of how many cameras you have
9 installed in the entire City of New York?

10 JAVIER LOJAN: Yeah, it's 331.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: 300 and?

12 JAVIER LOJAN: 31.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: And can you at least
14 off the top of your head, do you know how many are in
15 the borough of the Bronx?

16 JOSHUA GOODMAN: Just while we're looking for
17 that Council Member, I just want to say your cameras
18 have been so productive. I think you know that we
19 post social media video from them all the time and
20 it's your - all the time, the enforcement team is
21 sending videos. There from the ones in your
22 district.

23 JAVIER LOJAN: It's 18 installed in your
24 district. In your district, 18 cameras yeah.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: 18, okay. We'll talk
3 Monday, I think I should have more than 18 cameras
4 installed in my Council District. Yeah, alright,
5 well, we've allocated almost a half a million dollars
6 for them, I think I should have more than 18 cameras
7 you know installed in my district.

8 JAVIER LOJAN: Okay we'll confirm that and just
9 reaffirm the numbers.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Okay. Thank you Mr.
11 Chair.

12 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: No, thank you. Lincoln
13 Restler, Council Member.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Thank you very much
15 Chair Abreu. I really appreciate your impressively
16 effective leadership of this Committee. You've done
17 a great job, so thank you very much for championing
18 many of the things that me and my constituents are
19 concerned about and Commissioner, it's good to see
20 you and your team. I really firstly just want to say
21 thank you. Thank you for continuing to lead on
22 containerization. Thank you for the diligent
23 cleaning efforts across District 33. We love
24 partnering with the Department of Sanitation in our
25 Office and are really grateful for you and your teams

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1 work. I'll just shout out Rebecca in particular.
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3 Whenever we bother her with any issue, she comes up
4 with a solution and puts us in touch with exactly the
5 right person and we really appreciate it.

6 I do just also want to thank you for one other
7 thing and then I'll start asking questions is at the
8 last time I was at a hearing with the Department of
9 Sanitation, we asked about the feasibility of a 25
10 gallon bin to help my constituents effectively
11 containerize their garbage and I am immensely
12 grateful that you and your team took that suggestion
13 and have actually tried to make it happen. And so, I
14 know there's you know some final steps you guys are
15 working through but I'm really appreciative that
16 you're willing to hear from us, take our suggestions
17 and try to actual make them happen and I know that my
18 constituents are going to be thrilled when they start
19 to see the 25 gallon bins as an option for them in
20 their homes.

21 Okay, we've been hearing a lot from ACE and I
22 think I have seven business improvement districts
23 across my district. We fund ACE on five different
24 routes across our district. They all do an essential
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2 job in supplementing the work of Department of
3 Sanitation.

4 I guess, you know I support containerization of
5 garbage wherever and whenever we can but we also want
6 to make sure that we're not making it impossible for
7 these folks to do their really important work. I've
8 been impressed that your team has been meeting one on
9 one with the BIDs in my district to try and identify
10 solutions and I know you've been in touch with ACE.
11 Do we have a commitment that you're kind of working
12 toward tailored solutions to try and help us
13 containerize garbage wherever we can, whenever we
14 can, kind of on a case by case basis across the city?

15 JAVIER LOJAN: Of course Council Member and
16 again, the last thing I want to do is you know take
17 any of these organizations out of business. You know
18 we want to work closely with them. I'll go out of my
19 way, me and my team, to make sure that they get as
20 many meetings and walk throughs as necessary. So,
21 yeah, that's my commitment to this initiative.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: A couple other things.
23 I'm very jealous of the Chair of the Committee and
24 all of the good containerization work in some ways,
25 not in all ways but in some ways I'm jealous of the

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2 Chair of the Committee about all of the
3 containerization efforts that are happening in CB9 in
4 Manhattan.

5 How do we expand that work as quickly as possible
6 to CB's 1 and 2 in Brooklyn and across the City of
7 New York?

8 JAVIER LOJAN: So, I think the main thing with
9 that is the legislation with the Rat Act. I think
10 that is the first step and then we can talk about
11 expanding in different areas of the city but I think
12 that's the first step in seeing where we can go
13 citywide with that.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Okay, we'll let's get
15 that done and then we had been getting complaints
16 from constituents about they purchase these new you
17 know city specified bins for containerization and
18 they're getting stolen. What recourse do we have?
19 What advise should we be giving them when their bins
20 are getting stolen? They've spent a healthy amount
21 of money on this to support them?

22 JAVIER LOJAN: So, I think obviously if they get
23 stolen to report it to the local precinct. I think
24 one of the things that I don't see a lot of is some
25 people aren't utilizing the space to write their

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1 address. I think if they can utilize that and make
2 it more prominent and on the bin, it's helpful. You
3 know at some point, if we retrieve it somewhere and
4 we see it, we'd love to return it back to them if we
5 find it but I think that might be a deterrent
6 hopefully. That's really the only thing I can say as
7 far as that.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Do you - you know I was
10 grateful for the legislation that was recently passed
11 to help support moderate income homeowners to get
12 free bins. If somebody reports a stolen bin and you
13 know they can demonstrate that they had purchased the
14 city bin, is there a way that you think we can try to
15 get free bins as replacements?

16 JAVIER LOJAN: Yeah, I think that's part of the
17 challenge. You know making sure that there's no
18 fraud or anything like that come into play because
19 you know obviously that's something that might happen
20 but I think we'd have to work -

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: But your vendor has a
22 record of exactly who they provided bins to right?
23 So, you could verify with them to avoid fraud?

24 JAVIER LOJAN: Yeah but if you recall, we made
25 the bins available in Home Depot, so that's one of

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2 the areas where you know people might say they
3 purchased them through.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Okay, uhm, and then -

5 JOSHUA GOODMAN: I just might add one more thing
6 about it but it's sort of an ongoing issue. I just
7 think it's good to remember and I've reminded a lot
8 of members of the public this as well. They use bins
9 in Detroit. They use them in Chicago. They use bins
10 in much more dangerous cities than New York and we're
11 hopeful that these isolated incidents are going to
12 settle down as they become just a fact of life in the
13 city the way they are in so many other places.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Can I ask one more
15 question? Thank you very much. Uhm, I am interested
16 if you have any advice from Council Members who are
17 going through large scale rezonings for how we can
18 try to ensure that we get sufficient sanitation
19 resources to meet the needs of growing communities.

20 You know we just approved a big city of yes plan
21 that I was an enthusiastic supporter of but I want to
22 make sure that when we're adding density in a
23 meaningful way, when we're adding 5,000, 8,000,
24 12,000 units of housing in a community, that we're
25 planning for it with the Department of Sanitation and

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1 that you have the person power and the vehicles and
2 the resources to be able to actually step up and meet
3 those needs and keep those streets clean. Any
4 suggestions for us for how we should be better
5 advocates to make sure that sanitation is resourced
6 properly in growing communities?
7

8 JAVIER LOJAN: I think the only thing we can say
9 is just working closely on knowing when these
10 rezonings are happening and working with the
11 Administration and Council on seeing where the right
12 amount of resources are and what would be right. I'd
13 just say we just have close communication and working
14 closely together.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: I think that we often
16 hear that there's like no substantial impact for the
17 Department of Sanitation, for other agencies but I
18 can tell you that's a district that's undergone
19 multiple large scale rezonings. There have been
20 substantial impacts and it's been a process over 15
21 or 20 years of trying to get more sanitation
22 resources dedicated. You don't have additional
23 people that are added when we go through a big
24 rezoning to meet the needs of our community but there
25 should be and there should be more investment that's

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2 given to the agency to you know to be able to support
3 the communities that have greater demand. So, I just
4 hope that's something Chair that we could explore
5 together because I think it's a good issue that you
6 know might be - that Council Members who are going
7 through rezonings would appreciate knowing that
8 there's going to be additional sanitation support for
9 those communities.

10 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: I think that's a great idea
11 Council Member. I'm going to respectfully ask the
12 panel to just elevate your voice a little bit and get
13 the mic closer to you because I think we're having
14 some issues hearing you on the livestream. Council
15 Member Paladino.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Good afternoon and
17 thank you very much being here. You know we are
18 tremendous supporters of the Department of Sanitation
19 over in District 19, so I want to start off always as
20 saying thank you to each and every one of you.

21 JAVIER LOJAN: Thank you.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: We have an area. I
23 want to - let me start first with the August cameras.
24 Now, I have allotted x amount of dollars for August
25 cameras. There's certain areas of my district. One

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2 in particular which is the service road that takes
3 you over to the Throggs Bridge. We have illegal
4 trucks. We have trucks parked there. They stay
5 overnight, their tractor trailers. They change their
6 oil. They leave their mess there whether it be
7 personal mess as well as debris from them working on
8 their vehicles. Now, a lot of these guys are from
9 out of state. So, you know I have consulted with the
10 109 because that's their precinct and yet the poor
11 neighbors who their backyards are actually butt right
12 up against this service road.

13 I want to know what I could do to get more
14 enforcement there possibly as many as three and four
15 times a week because those neighbors that live there
16 and the people the sports, it's right there by a
17 park. It's called Harvey Park; they should not have
18 to go through this tremendous amount of tractor
19 trailers and the garbage and debris that's left
20 there. I'm telling you; my borough guy is amazing.
21 I love my Chief. He does a great job and I also, you
22 know I fund sanitation in to the tune of close to
23 \$200,000 out of my own pocket and I also give CEO an
24 additional \$100,000, and to keep my district really
25 spotless. But this is garbage that is rough picking

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2 up. I mean CEO cannot be picking up this type of
3 waste. Like I said, I just want to know what we
4 could do about that.

5 JAVIER LOJAN: So, I think sometimes what's been
6 effective in my experience is we have our permanent
7 inspection unit that can go out to an area and maybe
8 do like a focus blitz so to speak for a limited
9 amount of time and see if that's effective so we can
10 try that and see if that has any impact on it because
11 I had some concerns in other areas of Queens.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: They're all over. I
13 mean the big thing is, what do you do? The truck
14 drivers stop. They get in their car and they drive
15 away. They leave their trucks there overnight. They
16 do their business and leave it and then they go and
17 sometimes the same tractor trailers are lined up.
18 You could be six, eight, ten of them and yet they
19 don't come back for two or three days. So, this is
20 really, this is one of the bigger problems because I
21 hear constantly from the people who live in that area
22 and the sports now that is going to start to pick up
23 in spring and our park is going to be packed every
24 weekend.

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2 So, that's one of them. I do know that if we
3 could get out there, I believe in steeper fines. I
4 believe in steeper fines for my store owners as much
5 as I hate to put the pressure on small business, they
6 really need to take responsibility for their property
7 that is out in front of their stores. There used to
8 be a day where you used to sweep and you used to hose
9 off your property. Now, I'm paying CEO to power wash
10 you know the Whitestone Village, Bayside, Bell
11 Boulevard, which has a BID. I appreciate what my
12 colleague Lincoln Restler said about the container
13 program. I think this is a great idea and I think
14 it's something that the BIDs need to do and maybe
15 make it more accessible and where we could just keep
16 the cost down a little bit. Because the biggest
17 thing here, it always seems to come back to dollar
18 bill. Alright, every time we talk, it's about money.

19 So, now I'm just going to jump off into something
20 else. This composting waste.

21 JAVIER LOJAN: Right.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Okay, I don't like it.
23 I don't agree with it. I don't think our neighbors
24 should be forced to compost their daily egg shells
25 and chicken bones and stuff like that. I just think

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2 the trucks are - I don't think your trucks are ready
3 for it. That's raw waste and to leave it up to the
4 individuals to do it. Tell me a little bit about my
5 district and if they purchase these little brown
6 pails and they did but they don't have waste every
7 day. David brought this up, David Carr. How are we
8 going to handle the people who do not want to
9 compost? And if you go by this twice a week, certain
10 areas, it's Monday night, Sunday night and to Monday
11 pickup, Thursday pickup. So, let's see you take
12 those Monday and Thursday pickups and you go week by
13 week by week by week by week. One more moment and
14 that's same block did not put out their compost pail.
15 What's going to happen to those people who don't put
16 out their compost pail?

17 JAVIER LOJAN: So, if they don't put it out, I
18 mean that's not a reason for a summons. They have to
19 put out their compost, organics material with the
20 refuse, then they'd be subject to a fine and as far
21 as the - I think in your district, in areas of
22 Eastern Queens are what we call our hybrid routing
23 model, allows us to be more efficient because that
24 same truck is going down the block to collect the
25 refuse and the organics on the recycling day. So, I

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1 think whatever wait shifts over to the other side, I
2 think we're ready for that but just to your point,
3 we're not going to issue a fine for somebody.
4

5 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Because that's what I'm
6 concerned about, the elderly. The older people. You
7 know everybody is a creature of habit and they just
8 put their garbage in there, regular garbage that
9 we've been doing and to have recycling for plastic is
10 great. For paper is terrific and just our regular
11 garbage. What is the purpose? I'm dying to know.
12 Why is everybody all caught up with this organic
13 composting? Can you help me with that? I mean
14 really, what's the big deal? I'm not understanding.
15 I mean we have an area in college point that they
16 make out of the waste. People bring it and they
17 compost it.

18 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Keep it down. Keep it down
19 please Committee Room. Thank you guys. Okay ask
20 your question.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: That is my question.
22 What's the purpose of composting?

23 JOSEPH ANTONELLI: Council Member, I'm happy to
24 just talk for the purpose of it quickly. Right now
25 there are three things that can happen to your food

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2 waste or your yard waste and remember it's everything
3 from your kitchen and everything from your garden,
4 right? You know you redo your lawn. All that stuff
5 can go and it's compostable waste too. There are
6 three things that can happen to it. It can either
7 become finished compost that we give away for free.
8 You could use it for your garden next year. It can
9 be renewable energy. It keeps our heating costs low
10 because we produce it here in the city. It does
11 help, it's cheaper than gas off the grid for sure it
12 is.

13 And then the third thing that it can become is
14 nothing. It can be rat food that sits out at the
15 curb or goes to a landfill and goes to waste. This
16 is just a way for us to take something that has value
17 and say let's put it to work for us. Let's use it to
18 keep our cost down. So, that's the purpose of it and
19 I also just want to mention on your question about
20 enforcement. We talked before about the state camera
21 funding from Senator, you may know there's state
22 camera funding coming in your area as well. Senator
23 Stavisky allocated some, so you're also, whenever the
24 state releases that money getting additional cameras.

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2 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Alright, Council Member
3 Marmorato.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Thank you Chair. Good
5 afternoon.

6 JAVIER LOJAN: Good afternoon.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Very serious crowd
8 here. You're the only one smiling over there in the
9 corner. Alright, so when the city is in dire need
10 for additional sanitation service, workers and
11 resources, can you kind of rationalize to me why the
12 budget cuts starting on April 1st are happening and
13 are these cuts going to workers, trucks or projects?
14 And specifically, can you give me those numbers that
15 will effect garage 10 and 11 in the Bronx?

16 JAVIER LOJAN: Council Member, I don't think we
17 have any cuts for upcoming April 1st to my knowledge.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Okay but are there
19 cuts coming?

20 JAVIER LOJAN: No, not to my knowledge no.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: No, you're sure?
22 Okay, alright. So, it was brought to my attention
23 that Garage 10 in the Bronx is condemned. That they
24 don't allow trucks in the building.

25 JAVIER LOJAN: On the facility itself right?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Yes, are there any
3 capital project in the works?

4 JAVIER LOJAN: Yeah, so that's part of the Zerega
5 Avenue plan. I think by 2031, it should be completed
6 and construction should begin what is that? There's
7 \$487 million allocated to that project.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: That's a long time
9 away.

10 JAVIER LOJAN: They take a long time
11 unfortunately.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Yeah and you have the
13 funding or any allocated to that?

14 JAVIER LOJAN: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Okay now as far as
16 cameras for dumping in District 13. How many are
17 there?

18 JAVIER LOJAN: I'd have to get back to you on
19 that but just going back to Council Member
20 Salamanca's question. In the Bronx total there's 70
21 cameras.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: 70 in the Bronx?

23 JAVIER LOJAN: 70 total in the Bronx and I'd get
24 back to you - okay, I'm sorry, I'd have to get back
25 to you on specifics to the numbers.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Okay, how much do
3 these cameras cost?

4 JAVIER LOJAN: I'm sorry, \$31,000 per camera.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: And they just
6 sporadically take a picture or when there's like
7 motion it starts -

8 JAVIER LOJAN: No, yeah so it has a license plate
9 reader. It's tied to a power source so it's
10 constantly taking video and it picks up whatever
11 video feed in. The license plate reader identifies a
12 license plate if it's from a vehicle.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Okay so what happens
14 when because we have trucks all along the cemetery
15 parked.

16 JAVIER LOJAN: Right.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: In one area of my
18 district and there's a lot of dumping over there.
19 How will it pick up and be able to ticket anybody?

20 JAVIER LOJAN: So, if there's a camera there, our
21 enforcement, we have a dedicated enforcement unit
22 that reviews this footage and if we're able to
23 ascertain that vehicle that dump, then we would go
24 and find the vehicle and impound it and issue a
25 summons, which is \$4,000.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Okay and as far as
3 tickets being issued in Council Districts, do you
4 guys have a website or is there any way that we could
5 access that information to see if it's proportional
6 throughout the entire city.

7 JAVIER LOJAN: I believe all that information is
8 on open data but you know if there's a summons that's
9 not on there, I'd be glad to work with you on getting
10 something else.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: And I just have one
12 final question. Was it you or was it Parks that
13 decided to come up with the pizza box container bins
14 in our parks? As an Italian American I find it very
15 offensive that you guys put a pizza box container in
16 one of my parks. Nobody eats pizza in the park.

17 JAVIER LOJAN: Yeah, that was a parks initiative.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Okay alright, thank
19 you. Okay, I'm done thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you Council Member. I
21 have a few set of questions before we turn it over to
22 members of the public to testify.

23 Lot cleaning. DSNY's lot cleaning program has
24 played a critical role in maintaining public health
25 and cleanliness by ensuring that vacant lots do not

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2 become hazardous dumping grounds. Despite continued
3 high demand, the number of lots cleaned has declined
4 each year with DSNY attributing this to budget cuts
5 and staffing reductions.

6 As the program faces ongoing funding challenges,
7 it is essential to assess the impact of these
8 reductions and the city's plan to address the growing
9 backlog. With 1,416 lot cleaning requests received
10 in the first four months of FY25, but only 26 lots
11 cleaned in that period, what immediate steps are DSNY
12 taking to address the widening gap between service
13 requests and completed cleanings?

14 JAVIER LOJAN: So Chair, that is something that
15 was impacted by cuts previously. I believe our
16 headcount before the cuts were 76 positions and we're
17 down to 15, so there is an impact there. Wherever we
18 can we try to bridge that gap with some of the
19 resources, whether it's sometimes T&T that are
20 adjacent areas but you know I can't sugarcoat it.
21 There was a cut and there is an impact and we try to
22 prioritize you know areas where we know you know
23 we're seeing either the 80 complaints or bigger
24 complaints so I'd love to work with the
25 Administration and Council on that.

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CHAIRPERSON ABREU: What's the headcount at now?

JAVIER LOJAN: 15 positions, 15 sanitation
workers.

CHAIRPERSON ABREU: And what's the outstanding
number of lot cleaning requests at the moment?

JAVIER LOJAN: I believe it's a little over
1,900, 1,918 lots.

CHAIRPERSON ABREU: And how many have been
completed?

JAVIER LOJAN: Uhm, uhm, I'll get back to you on
that, sorry Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Is it more than the 26 lots
cleaned from the FY-

JAVIER LOJAN: Yeah, I believe it's definitely
more than the 26, I just have to get that number.

CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay, I would definitely like
to have those data points. What operational changes
or efficiencies that are being explored to increase
productivity despite these budget constraints?

JAVIER LOJAN: Our productivity in terms of -
sorry in terms of sorry - just uhm -

CHAIRPERSON ABREU: In terms of being able to
address more of the cleaning requests, how are you

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2 sort of you know operationally dealing with
3 addressing this given the cut in number of headcount.

4 JAVIER LOJAN: Right, so depending on what area
5 you're referring to, I think one of the things that
6 we try to do is shift the way our operation, which
7 you're familiar with Chair is you know we shift
8 personnel from District to District, so wherever the
9 need is, that's evaluated on a week to week basis by
10 our cleaning office and the borough chiefs all have
11 you know requests and depending on where the bigger
12 need is we reallocate where necessary, so that's one
13 of the ways where we used to you know bridge some of
14 those areas that we had cuts in.

15 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Does DSOI believe that it's
16 current staffing levels are sufficient to meet the
17 demand?

18 JAVIER LOJAN: We can always do more with more.
19 I think right now with our current headcount, uhm you
20 know we're addressing the areas that are in greatest
21 need but would love to work with Council on you know
22 wherever that need is, where we need to increase
23 that.

24 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: And you may not be able to
25 say it but it sounds like you know the headcount

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2 going from 75 to 15 is not enough to address the
3 outstanding request for cleaning service requests.
4 So, it sounds like it's not enough to meet the demand
5 based off of at least the numbers we have in front of
6 us. Without a full restoration of the program, what
7 alternative measures does DSNY considering to prevent
8 vacant lots from becoming public health hazards?

9 JAVIER LOJAN: So, I think in areas that are
10 becoming really public health hazards, I think we
11 utilize some of our T&T resources and that's where we
12 try to mitigate some areas. And we have the 15
13 positions that we shift around as well.

14 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Does DSNY have an estimate of
15 how much additional funding would be required to
16 restore the program to precut levels and eliminate
17 the backlog of lot cleaning requests?

18 JAVIER LOJAN: Approximately \$9.5 million.

19 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: \$9.5 mill?

20 JAVIER LOJAN: \$9.5 million.

21 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay, so expect to hear that
22 number a lot in this budget cycle. In terms of
23 federal funding risks, in the Fiscal 2025 adopted and
24 preliminary plans, DSNY received approximately \$200
25 million in federal funding supporting key operations

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2 and initiatives. However, with the new
3 administration prioritizing federal funding freezes
4 and government efficiencies or inefficiencies, it is
5 critical to assess how DSNY plans to manage these
6 funds and what contingency plans are in place if this
7 funding is reduced or eliminated?

8 What specific programs and services does the \$200
9 million in federal funding support and how critical
10 is this funding to DSNY's overall budget?

11 JOSEPH ANTONELLI: Okay, so the \$200 million that
12 we have in the budget this year, so first and
13 foremost, that was all for spending that happened
14 prior to the start of the new year, so prior to
15 December 31st. That money has already been spent.
16 \$196 million of it was the American Rescue plans
17 funding for waste export. So, that's all done and
18 also there was some money for basket service,
19 approximately \$4 million but there's no risk or
20 anything. That's all done. No ongoing federal
21 funding to support -

22 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Did the preliminary plan
23 account for another \$200 million to come in?

24 JOSEPH ANTONELLI: No.
25

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2 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: So, it is as of it doesn't
3 exist?

4 JOSEPH ANTONELLI: No, it's just that the \$200
5 million was in the budget for this year. No changes
6 have been made to the budget but the spending already
7 occurred, so we're not depending on additional money
8 or anything going forward. So, it's all done and it
9 was prior to the start of this calendar year.

10 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: What percentage of DSNY's
11 total budget relies on federal funding and how does
12 this compare to previous years?

13 JOSEPH ANTONELLI: So, in this particular year,
14 so the \$200 million would represent approximately 10
15 percent of our budget but in the outyears and
16 baseline, we don't have regular federal funding.
17 This is all one time stuff.

18 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay. I just want to get
19 back quickly to the commercial waste zones. It
20 sounds as though you would have more information on
21 the upcoming hearing on this. A bit of a ballpark,
22 how many commercial waste zones will be up by the end
23 of the year?

24 JAVIER LOJAN: I mean I think it's safe to say we
25 can roll out an additional zone. I think we'd like

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2 to do obviously more but with the adequate resources
3 and just making sure that we're rolling out the zones
4 carefully, like we did Queens Central. But I think
5 I'd love to discuss that more.

6 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Would Queen Central pilot be
7 enough to learn in order to implement that full
8 zones?

9 JAVIER LOGAN: Yeah, we were informed a lot. I
10 mean, as you know every geographical area has its own
11 unique challenges, so I'm sure we're going to learn
12 more from other zones.

13 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Is there a budget ask that
14 would help enhance the implementation of more zones
15 or all the zones in the next you know whatever months
16 ahead?

17 JOSEPH ANTONELLI: No, we're just working with
18 OMB to you know work within our existing budget level
19 just to make sure we have the adequate resources.

20 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: I think you said earlier 17
21 hires, right?

22 JOSEPH ANTONELLI: No, so we have 17 people on
23 staff right now.

24 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay and you think that's
25 enough to implement the full zones?

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2 JOSEPH ANTONELLI: No, we would need some
3 additional hires if we wanted to do more than one
4 zone at a time and we're just working with OMB you
5 know to do that within our existing budget level.
6 So, there's no specific budget ask for it.

7 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: It would be helpful for the
8 Council to know what the cost would be in order to
9 implement you know the cost per zone, so that if we
10 need to make a push for this budget cycle that we
11 know what the cost associated with that will be.

12 JAVIER LOGAN: Okay.

13 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: In terms of waste equity,
14 what efforts are the city making to open marine
15 transfer stations to collect commercial waste, as
16 planned in the now 20 year old solid waste management
17 plan? If any environmental reviews require, what
18 steps is the city taking to conduct this review?

19 JOSHUA GOODMAN: So, Council Member I think the
20 key point of that is that it was part of a 20 year
21 analysis. Opening our transfer stations to
22 commercial waste, no commercial corridor would find
23 that to be financially viable. The cost per ton to
24 use them would be much higher than what they get at
25

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1 commercial transfer stations and so, that's why
2 there's no plan to move forward with that.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Has capacity at marine
5 transfer stations been offered to designated private
6 haulers slated to serve in the commercial waste zones
7 under Local Law 199?

8 JOSHUA GOODMAN: We've discussed it. I believe
9 both formerly and informally and just found there's
10 no interest.

11 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Alright, I am done with my
12 set of questions. This panel is hereby excused.
13 Thank you.

14 JAVIER LOJAN: Thank you Chair. [02:12:31]-
15 [02:12:52]

16 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: We will be transitioning now
17 for testimony from members of the public. Just give
18 us a minute here and we're going to transition
19 starting with the kids. I'm very excited to hear
20 from you guys. [02:13:08]- [02:14:19]

21 I now open the hearing for public testimony. I
22 remind members of the public that this is a
23 government proceeding and that decorum shall be
24 observed at all times. As such, members of the
25 public shall remain silent at all times. The witness

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2 table is reserved for people who wish to testify. No
3 video recording or photography is allowed from the
4 witness table. Further, members of the public may
5 not present audio or video recordings as testimony
6 but may submit transcripts of such recordings to the
7 Sergeant at Arms for inclusion in the hearing record.

8 If you wish to speak at today's hearing, please
9 fill out an appearance card with the Sergeant at Arms
10 and wait to be recognized. When recognized, you will
11 have two minutes to speak on today's hearing topic.
12 DSNY Preliminary Budget or any of the legislation on
13 our agenda today.

14 If you have a written statement or additional
15 written testimony you wish to submit for the record,
16 please provide a copy of that testimony to the
17 Sergeant at Arms. You may also email written
18 testimony to testimony@council.nyc.gov within 72
19 hours of this hearing. Audio and video recordings
20 will not be accepted. I am now calling the first
21 panel. Our first panel will be Rhonda Keyser,
22 Janmairo Ortiz, Amy Vargas Santos, Amaya Colbert.

23 PS MS/46 ARTHUR TAPPAN PANEL: Good morning.
24 Thank you Council Member Abreu and the Sanitation
25 Committee for giving us this chance to speak today.

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1
2 We are fourth graders from the Junior Student Council
3 and we represent students from PS MS/46 Arthur Tappan
4 in Harlem. We are here to talk about how we reduced
5 food waste with real, local solutions for our
6 community.

7 We figured out how to handle our school's food
8 waste right in our own neighborhood. We started with
9 a waste audit with Cafeteria Culture to measure how
10 much food we were throwing away every day in our
11 cafeteria and we found that 80 percent of our
12 cafeteria food waste was completely untouched. That
13 means that kids were getting food that they didn't
14 even want, they were not even taking a single bite,
15 and then just throwing it away.

16 We know that food waste is a problem for the
17 climate but we learned that wasted food is also
18 wasted energy, water, and resources that go into
19 making it. And instead of being made into compost,
20 food that they've put into the trash gets trucked
21 miles away to landfills or incinerators.

22 We learned that even food that goes to the brown
23 bin uses trucks a lot in its journey, and people who
24 live near the landfills and incinerators have to
25 breathe polluted air. For instance, where most of

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1
2 the Manhattan garbage goes to in Newark, New Jersey,
3 1 in 4 kids has asthma.

4 We decided to reduce our food waste at the source
5 in our cafeteria. We asked the kitchen staff to let
6 students choose what we eat based on USDA rules
7 instead of getting a full tray of food we didn't even
8 ask for. And it worked! After a few days of
9 practicing, we reduced the number of untouched food
10 items in our school by over 50 percent. That's a
11 huge difference! But we knew we could do more.

12 Domingo at Compost Power taught us a workshop and
13 invited us to his composting site at the NYCHA houses
14 next door to our school. So, we brought 60 pounds of
15 our cafeteria food scraps from all lunch periods to
16 NYCHA to compost it locally. It is amazing to watch
17 our food scraps turning into something useful instead
18 of being trucked away to another neighborhood. We
19 can't wait to see our food scraps become compost. We
20 feel so lucky that Domingo's site is so close to us
21 and that we get to be a part of the solution. Now we
22 can teach our families about composting, even though
23 many of us don't have brown bins at home like we do
24 at school.

25

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1
2 Local composting gives us a place to take our
3 food scraps and a way to teach our families and our
4 neighbors about composting. We want to keep leading
5 the way to make these changes permanent in our own
6 school, and we think other schools who are neighbors
7 with the local compost site should get to compost
8 their own cafeteria food waste too.

9 We learned that the City Council is funding local
10 composting organizations. Thank you. Because of
11 local composting, we can take climate action right in
12 our own neighborhood! I hope more kids can do what
13 we did so we can all make our soil, our own air, our
14 own neighbors, and our own communities healthier with
15 local composting all over New York City!

16 Thank you for listening.

17 APPLAUSE [02:20:55]

18 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: I just want to tell you guys
19 how proud I am of you. You know last year, when the
20 Mayor cut composting, the Council fought back to
21 restore it to \$6.6 million and as part of that, we
22 funded \$500,000 to cafeteria cultures so that you
23 guys can learn about what composting means and so you
24 can make a difference in your own neighborhoods, and
25 you guys are already making a difference. You should

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1
2 be very, very proud of yourselves okay. Thank you
3 very much. You are excused.

4 PANEL: Okay thank you. I also wanted to say
5 that we shouldn't be throwing out the produce, we
6 should be putting into compost.

7 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: That's right. Well, you guys
8 can now tell everybody that you testified at the City
9 Council today and that you really uplifted our
10 spirits and you're making a difference not only for
11 your neighborhoods but for the entire city. Thank
12 you so much.

13 PANEL: Thank you. We're very proud of our
14 selves.

15 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Alright, we're inviting the
16 next panel. Is there anyone else from PS 46 that
17 hasn't testified? That's it, okay. Alright, we're
18 now moving to PS188. We got is it Camila? Camila
19 Piron, Scarlet Zapata, Mamadou Sy, and Deborah.

20 Are you guys doing testimony individually or is
21 as a group again? As a group, okay, eight minutes.
22 Alright, alright. You can start on this side first
23 or however you guys prefer.

24 PANEL OF PS/MS 188: Good morning, we want to
25 thank Council Member Abreu and the Sanitation

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1
2 Committee for this opportunity to speak. We are 7th
3 graders from PS/MS 188 and we've been learning with
4 Cafeteria Culture about how waste affects our
5 communities and what we can do to reduce it. We
6 learned that there is no "away." The trash from our
7 school doesn't just disappear. It gets trucked all
8 the way to Newark, New Jersey, where it's burned in
9 an incinerator. And that's not even the end of it.
10 The ash from the incinerator gets trucked again to a
11 landfill. That means our waste pollutes multiple
12 communities throughout the journey before it gets to
13 its final resting place.

14 We actually took a field trip to see the
15 incinerator in Newark. The smell was awful, and the
16 people who live there breathe in toxic air every
17 single day because of our trash. People in Newark
18 have been fighting for environmental justice for
19 decades. We know that 1 in 4 kids in Newark has
20 asthma because of pollution. The incinerator has
21 over 800 air permit violations on record, but it's
22 still running. This is not fair. No one should have
23 to suffer just because we throw things away. New
24 York City students reduced waste by starting the
25 first Plastic Free Lunch Day, where school lunch is

1 served without any single-use plastic packaging.

2 With Plastic Free Lunch Day, our school reduced
3 school lunch plastic waste at the source by over 95
4 percent. We also found a way to reduce food waste at
5 the source. With Cafeteria Culture's Mindful Choice
6 Meals, we reduced our untouched food waste by 64
7 percent in just one week.

8
9 Of course, we all use the brown bins in the
10 cafeteria at our school, and we know that does help.
11 But the brown bin food scraps get trucked multiple
12 times before their final destinations. First, they
13 get trucked to get turned into slurry, then they get
14 trucked to a digester, and after that, all of the
15 leftover solids get trucked again to an incinerator
16 or a landfill or other destinations. That's a lot of
17 trucking. Polluting our air, harming our health and
18 warming our planet. Instead of truck and food waste
19 all over the place, we could compost it locally,
20 right in our neighborhoods because our families who
21 live in NYCHA buildings do not have access to the
22 brown bins.

23 Less trucking means less pollution, less waste
24 going to incinerators and landfills! Composting
25 improves soil, so we get: healthier plants, stronger

1
2 roots, and better stormwater absorption to reduce
3 flooding. And the best part? Local composting hurts
4 no one! Local composting is a simple solution that
5 benefits everyone and we can start making it happen
6 now.

7 We know this because they're doing it at Wagner
8 Houses. We visited Compost Power's composting site
9 there and we were so excited to see that it's
10 possible to make your own healthy soil that helps
11 grow your own healthy vegetables right on a NYCHA
12 property.

13 Our school is right next to a NYCHA property:
14 Lillian Wald Houses. We want to build a compost site
15 there to compost our food scraps from the cafeteria.
16 We learned about composting in the classroom, but
17 when we visited the composting site at Wagner, we
18 really understood that our food scraps have a value
19 that benefits the whole community. We learned that
20 the City Council supports local composting. We hope
21 you keep supporting it so that more youth like us get
22 to learn and be a part of the solutions! Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Wow.

24 APPLAUSE [02:26:54]

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2 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: I am at a loss of words. I
3 just want you to know again, the City Council is very
4 proud of you and this partnership, certainly I'm
5 committed to making sure that we continue to partner
6 with cafeteria culture, with Domingo Morales, with
7 folks of the you know Save Our Compost Coalition, so
8 that you can keep making a difference in your
9 neighborhoods. Again, you should be very proud of
10 yourselves. Thank you. You are excused.

11 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Alright we have - if you
12 could just be quiet on your way out please. Thank
13 you. We now have Cayla Burser and Kayla Kirson and
14 we also have Ellington White and Gabriel Girson. You
15 guys speaking as a group again or individually?

16 PANEL: Separately.

17 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Individually? Alright, you
18 have two minutes and press the button. Thank you.
19 Oh and please state your name before you speak.
20 Thank you.

21 GABRIEL GILSON: Yes my name is Gabriel Gilson.
22 I support the Urban Assembly New York Harbor School.
23 Sorry about that. My name is Gabriel Gilson, I am
24 with the Urban Assembly New York Harbor School.
25 Should I get started with my speech? Great, alright.

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2 Councilman Abreu and members of the Committee on
3 Sanitation and Solid Waste, in the past, we recognize
4 that this Committee has done lots of work maintaining
5 funding for community composting projects and we are
6 incredibly thankful for that. However, community
7 composting projects are still at great risk.

8 Many myths are spread about composting and one
9 such myth is that composting just isn't for urban
10 dwellers such as yourselves. This is actually false
11 and the fact is that community composting is for
12 urban communities because people in communities rely
13 on each other and so, community composting creates a
14 sustainable loop in which people in communities can
15 trade their organic matter for compost which goes
16 back into the community as fertilizer for places like
17 community gardens and urban farms.

18 In my own experience, my apartment building
19 community in Hell's Kitchen has little access to
20 community composting and the only options we really
21 have are the municipal composting orange bins which
22 are fairly difficult to use or two community
23 composting sites at Hudson River Park and Matthews
24 Palmer Playground on 46th Street and therefore a lot
25

1
2 of food is wasted that could be put back into the
3 community.

4 So, if we had more of the community composting
5 sites in our community, a lot more waste would be put
6 back into the environment as compost, improving the
7 health and quality of soil, allowing for more food to
8 be grown in our community.

9 Some ways that we can fix this issue are to
10 encourage people within communities to give their
11 compostable materials to whatever community
12 composting sites may be in their area, as well as
13 raising funding for community composting
14 organizations so they can actually get composting
15 operations underway.

16 Now I can speak from experience because at Harbor
17 School we work a lot on composting, especially within
18 the [INAUDIBLE 02:30:47] program. We take food
19 scraps from our mess hall and tumble them in
20 composting bins and we work closely with -

21 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: You have another 20 seconds
22 or so.

23 GABRIEL GILSON: Yeah another 20 seconds should
24 be fine.

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1
2 We work closely with Earth Matter, a community
3 composting organization in our area. This makes our
4 school more sustainable because our food scraps go
5 back into the community as compost for gardens and
6 urban farms in our area. So, I'd like to reiterate
7 that we are thankful for the work that has been done
8 to keep community composting afloat but it is crucial
9 for the environment in New York that we continue to
10 fund community composting projects.

11 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you. Next. Just state
12 your name people.

13 ELLINGTON WHITE: Okay, uhm, I'm Ellington White
14 and I'm with the New York Harbor School. City
15 Council Members, thank you for funding the New York
16 City Community Composting. This money is extremely
17 important and should be included again in the next
18 budget. However, are you aware that most people
19 don't associate composting with the city. Many
20 individuals wrongly judge composting, believing that
21 it cannot be successful in an urban environment.
22 Since people are unaware of composting in urban
23 areas, they aren't participating in the compost
24 around them. This means that a large portion of food
25

1
2 waste is getting thrown in the trash and ending up in
3 landfills instead of correctly getting composted.

4 Contrary to popular belief, there are many
5 opportunities to compost in New York City. You can
6 drop food waste off at a Farmers Market or you can
7 get it picked up through the BK RAW program.

8 Unfortunately, people have not been utilizing the
9 accessibility of composting. It's not out of
10 laziness or carelessness, it's mainly because they
11 don't know.

12 In order to fix this stereotyping of only
13 suburban composting, you have to work on advertising
14 where and how to compost. A simple public
15 announcement or a few posters could do so much to
16 encourage people to compost. So many community
17 composting organizations around the city are working
18 very hard to provide accessibility to composting and
19 they deserve recognition.

20 The community compost drop off sites and
21 organizations should be highlighted. Once New
22 Yorkers become aware of how convenient it is to
23 compost, less food waste will be sent to landfills,
24 making the environment better.

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I've lived in parks of Brooklyn my whole life. Not once in those 15 years was I made aware that there is a drop off composting site around my neighborhood. The 615 Green Community Garden is a public composting drop off site. I've gotten to the garden before since it's located by the middle school I went to, even after visiting the site myself, I didn't know it was a compost drop off site. I'm sure this applies to many others in my community as well. These sites must be made well known to inform people that they have the option of compost. I feel guilty for having had this option of compost and not using it all.

Another common misconception is that the waste from the municipal composting bins - okay is actually being turned into compost. This is not true considering that it gets brought to facilities or gets converted to energy not compost. Although the renewable energy is still ecofriendly, it is not composting and shouldn't be labeled as. Community composting is what is actually turning the waste to compost and should be known for that instead of municipal composting, which is an entirely different thing. Many people think they're composting by

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1
2 adding their food waste to the brown bins around
3 their neighborhood. It is important that they become
4 educated so that they can decide to use community
5 composting, which is what they think they are using
6 in the first place. And then, thank you again I
7 guess because -

8 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you.

9 KAYLA KYLONI KIRTSON: Hi, I'm Kayla Kyloni
10 Kirtson and I am a senior at New York Harbor School
11 and this is my testimony. So they're showing you.
12 Look around you. Did you hear about the rise of
13 climate change? How does this impact you, me and the
14 environment? Do you ever wonder what actions you
15 could take to help prevent climate change? Two years
16 ago, Mayor Adams proposed to cut funds from community
17 compost organizations, which includes nonprofit
18 organizations such as Earth Matter. I would like to
19 give thanks to those who helped these organizations
20 resume funding. Your efforts helped support
21 community composters and help more people get access
22 to community composting.

23 The Route school, we are talking importance of
24 composting, breaking down organic waste that goes
25 back to our environment. This promotes health to

1
2 soil as well as reduces waste. The city practices
3 different types of composting such as organic waste
4 management and community composting. Meanwhile
5 municipal organic waste management includes anerobic
6 digestion in New Town Creek that breaks down organic
7 waste in order to produce methane, a type of
8 greenhouse gas traps heat and carbon dioxide, dioxide
9 in the atmosphere. This contributes to climate
10 change. Community composting differs from this as it
11 practices breaking down materials that safely goes
12 back into communities and the earth.

13 Nevertheless, it provides sustainable ways to
14 give back to our environment. As the city works to
15 bring back funding for community compost
16 organizations, this benefits the education of
17 sustainable composting of different communities. The
18 city needs to continue funding these organizations as
19 they practice breaking down - community composters
20 practice breaking down organic waste that goes back
21 to the environment.

22 As the city continues to support these
23 organizations, we need to do more to ensure that
24 people - more people are being educated about the
25 importance of community composting.

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1
2 Providing communities with more brown bins can
3 encourage people to engage in proper waste sorting.
4 All that could help promote the city to compost, many
5 people have found misinformation that could impact
6 their choices. Oh it's too long.

7 By continuing to fund -

8 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: You got 15 more seconds okay.

9 KAYLA KYLONI KIRTSON: Okay uhm, the people of
10 New York deserve a sustainable environment. Our
11 plants and animals deserve to thrive in a healthy
12 environment. As climate change rises, it is our turn
13 to do our part. Let's come together as a city to
14 support community composting, increase compost
15 management. This would ensure that more options are
16 open.

17 Thank you for bringing back funding to these
18 organizations and I hope you consider my stance and
19 ensure that the funding is continued. With your
20 support, you and community composting will continue
21 to impact the city positively.

22 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you for your testimony.

23 LAYLA BURSER: Hi, I'm Layla Burser, I'm a senior
24 in the Marina Fairs program at New York Harbor
25 School.

1
2 So, I first learned about composting from Earth
3 Matter, the community composting site. Ever since
4 then, my family and I have been collecting our food
5 scraps and putting them into the new brown bin that
6 my building is required to have. My family,
7 especially my mom, have gotten very, very into
8 composting and love that it is cutting down on the
9 amount of food waste in landfills. However, my mom
10 was devastated when I told her that her prize compost
11 bin was not actually becoming compost. The only
12 reason my mom even considered separating her food
13 waste is community composting.

14 At the New York Harbor School, I worked closely
15 with Earth Matter. I learned what composting is, how
16 it is done and the numerous factors involved and I
17 shared this knowledge with my family. With Earth
18 Matter, I have aided in the many steps of composting.
19 I have sorted waste from any noncompostable
20 contaminants, turned the piles into - turned the
21 piles to provide oxygen and worked to apply the
22 product to an urban farm.

23 I have done these same steps on a much smaller
24 scale at our school urban farm which mimics a
25 community composting program. I've learned the

1
2 countless benefits of composting and separating food
3 waste from other waste. Separating food scraps
4 reduces the volume of waste in landfills and the
5 amount of garbage that needs to be transported out of
6 the city into these landfills.

7 Although it is often assumed that organic waste
8 in landfills decomposes and compost independently,
9 this is untrue. When organic matter decomposes
10 without proper aeration, it become methane. A
11 harmful greenhouse gas. This process is called
12 anerobic digestion, which breaks down organic matter
13 without oxygen. Anerobic digestion is being
14 harnessed in New Town Creek digestive bags, which
15 process much of the waste collected in the city's
16 brown bins, orange bins, smart bins and DOE schools.

17 The consequential methane is then used as
18 biofuel. While this process reduces the effect of
19 the city's food waste, it lacks many of the benefits
20 of composting. Through my experience composting at
21 school, I have learned that although it can be labor
22 intensive and space consuming, composting is an
23 irreplaceable tool that does so much more than just
24 reducing waste.

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1
2 Community composting is helping people understand
3 these benefits through educational opportunities.
4 Continuing to fund community composting will help
5 more people understand where their waste is going
6 rather than incorrectly assuming it is being
7 composted. The food collection in the city, such as
8 brown bins and smart bins are called curbside
9 composting and are labeled as composting although
10 they are not. Community composting programs would
11 help to provide much needed education on organic
12 waste.

13 Additionally, these organizations provide the
14 city with the countless benefits of composting, such
15 as decreasing runoff, increasing water retention,
16 increasing soil health, reducing soil erosion,
17 boosting biodiversity and creating a closed loop
18 system. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you so much. You guys,
20 trust me the first time I testified, it's hard to get
21 it all in in two minutes, so I understand the
22 challenge there but you guys did a great job. Thank
23 you so much. Have a good one.

24 APPLAUSE [02:40:01]

25

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1
2 The first, I have to say that the first
3 processing site that I visited was Earth Matters, so
4 it definitely had an impact on me and the way I view
5 the composting ecosystem.

6 Next up to testify, I have Stevie Masonet, Emily
7 Farrell, Jenille Scott, Eric Goldstein. If I
8 butchered your name, I'm so sorry.

9 I'm going to try to keep you guys to the two
10 minutes because we have like 50 people that want to
11 testify, so thank you guys.

12 STEVIE MASONET: In solid waste management -
13 thank you. My name is Stevie and I am a senior in
14 the Marina Fairs program at New York Harbor School.
15 As you may recall, I was here the previous year to
16 testify against the community compost funding cuts.
17 Hearing that funding has been restored is incredible
18 news and is something I and everyone else testifying
19 today are extremely grateful for. However, it is
20 important to ensure that this community compost
21 funding continues to combat waste in New York City.
22 Having a combination of municipal waste management in
23 community composting will effectively manage solid
24 waste through our city. For example, municipal waste
25

1
2 management is not accessible to all areas of the five
3 boroughs.

4 In the lower east side of Manhattan specifically,
5 there are barely any composting facilities or drop
6 off sites available. Additionally, wooden NYCHA
7 apartment complexes, brown bins and smart bins are
8 not available. There are usually heaps of garbage
9 lying about unmanaged, unsorted and vastly
10 unsustainable. The USDA's initiative to create a
11 greener space for NYCHA housing is under effect
12 that's certainly not enough and with Trump's cuts
13 especially with climate change in the environment,
14 this may be next. So the question is really, how
15 would we as a city combat that?

16 While I'm sure community composting and municipal
17 waste management could be a healthy start. Smart
18 bins and brown bins can help reduce waste and can
19 tackle waste management on a city level but there
20 needs to be a balance of education and outreach and
21 stewardship. This is where community composting can
22 come in. Smaller scale community based sites that
23 can easily be placed in various areas that are
24 accessible to all.

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Specifically, this could be extremely beneficially to NYCHA residents like myself who do not have access to the educational resources on how to effectively compost and sort our waste. This is something that many places throughout the city, such as the upper west side and Fort Greene have plenty of access to. It's what we on the lower east side and beyond deserve. Thank you for all that you've done but this is just the beginning. Thank you so much for listening to my testimony and I look forward to hearing from you.

CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you.

EMILY FERRELL: My name is Emily Ferrell and I'm from the New York Harbor School. Dear Committee, first and foremost, Gale Brewer is my Council Member and I thank her and the rest of the Committee greatly for all they have done so far. Though their efforts have impacted my community positively, there is still so much more that could be done. Many people have altered or untrue perceptions of composting that lead to the influence of whether they decide to compost or not. The true facts of composting should be spread whether it's in school or their news article to make sure people aren't influenced by these rumors.

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1
2 Contrary to many peoples knowledge, community and
3 municipal composting are very different. Community
4 composting is the only type that actually gets turned
5 into compost. These organizations like Earth Matter
6 and BK Rott take this waste and mix it with other
7 organic matter to create compost.

8 Municipal composting isn't composting at all.
9 Composting is important as it reduces the reliance on
10 synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, improve soil
11 health and reduces landfill waste and carbon
12 emission. Composting also reduces the pests breaking
13 into trash cans searching for food. Not only this
14 but composting builds community. When people come
15 together to compost, they build friendships through
16 teamwork and activity.

17 The municipality takes this waste and brings it
18 to New Town Creek to go into an egg and mix with
19 waste water. Both are important but it's important
20 for these perceptions of each do not overlap. All my
21 life, my mom has brought our compost to the Farmers
22 Market by our house every Sunday. My dad would
23 always get annoyed with the compost because he didn't
24 understand what the benefit of this was. If he had
25 known the facts from the start, he would have been

1 way more supportive of this. Community composting
2 organizations should have access to resources that
3 will spread this information not only to people
4 looking for it but also people who aren't. The LES
5 Ecology Centers, currently the longest running
6 compost organization in NYC. Their website is highly
7 educational for anyone looking to learn about
8 composting or where to drop off their food waste.
9

10 The only issue is the average person wouldn't
11 know how to look for this website. Resources are
12 useless if people don't know they exist. LES Ecology
13 Center and other similar websites should be
14 normalized for people outside the loop of composting
15 knowledge. There are countless composting events and
16 drop off areas planned but these events need to be
17 promoted on more than just a website in order for a
18 large number of people to know they exist.

19 Through my school, the New York Harbor School,
20 I've been given the opportunity to spend lots of time
21 at a composting organization called Earth Matter, in
22 order to fully understand the composting process and
23 how important it is.

24 Before Harbor School, I never even heard of Earth
25 Matter, much less know what it's about. Through

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1
2 community composting, it is up and running, there are
3 lots of things that can happen to keep this increase
4 going. Community composting bins should be
5 distributed through the city more frequently so it's
6 more normalized for people to throw away food waste
7 in these bins. There should be an option in
8 restaurants as well as restaurants have a lot of food
9 waste. If these steps are taken community composting
10 will no longer seem like an out of the ordinary thing
11 to do but instead be normalized and implemented well.

12 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you so much.

13 ERIC GOLDSTEIN: Good afternoon Chair. Eric
14 Goldstein from the Natural Resources Defense Council.
15 I'll summarize my written testimony. We appreciate
16 the hard work of the men and women that the
17 Sanitation Department does every day to enhance our
18 quality of life and protect public health in New York
19 City.

20 Two issue areas, the first is organics
21 collection. As the Council knows, it's a big
22 problem. Composting is the answer. We've still got
23 a long way to go despite the Council's excellent work
24 in this area. NRDC recommends that the Council
25 continue to fund the almost two dozen nonprofit

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1 organizations that are implementing community
2 composting in all five boroughs, to accommodate
3 additional groups who deserve to be included in this
4 program and to have the existing groups expand their
5 operations. We recommend the Council provide \$10.5
6 million in funding for community composting in FY96.
7 In addition, we urge the Council to ensure that DSNY
8 has sufficient funds identified in its budget for the
9 Departments own public education efforts, which so
10 far have been anemic. They need to include
11 additional mailings, a second opportunity for
12 homeowners to request organic bins, and to publicize
13 the program in a way so that New Yorkers know exactly
14 what the program is and how to participate.
15

16 And third, we recommend that DSNY commit
17 sufficient funds to repair the failing roof of the
18 composting facility on Rikers Island. As curbside
19 composting grows, the Rikers facility is ideally
20 suited to provide organics processing capacity to
21 sustainably dispose more food scraps and yard waste.

22 Final topic for NRDC's budget priorities before
23 this committee, we urge the Council to implement -
24 provide sufficient funds for the successful
25 implementation of the commercial waste zoning reform

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1 consistent with the Council's landmark legislation.

2 We urge the Council to secure assurances from DSNY

3 that it has sufficient funds to fully implement,

4 monitor and enforce the commercial waste zone program

5 in every zone across the city by the end of FY26.

6 We're not saying do it all at one time. We're saying

7 phase it in over the year and that's six years after

8 the passage of the law and a little focus on VMT

9 reduction, public safety, environmental benefits of

10 the program would also be useful. We of course want

11 this program to be effective in serving the customers

12 but there were other objectives that led the Council

13 to pass this bill and we want to see those achieved.

14 Finally, we urge the Council to ensure that no

15 funds be expanded in FY96 beyond what's already

16 committed to Hunts Point and New Town Creek for any

17 other advancing of co-digestion of organic waste in

18 the city's waste water treatment plants. That's not

19 the way to deal with collected organics. The way to

20 deal with collected organics is actual composting by

21 community groups and by the city establishing local

22 and midscale composting facilities throughout the

23 city. We thank you for your attention.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you and go Yankees.

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2 JENILLE SCOTT: Thank you to Chair Abreu for the
3 opportunity to testify today. My name is Jenille
4 Scott and I am the Climate Director at Align and a
5 member of the Transform Don't Trash Coalition. This
6 coalition is dedicated to transforming New York
7 City's commercial waste industry by reducing waste
8 pollution, fostering clean and healthy communities
9 for all New Yorkers and creating better working
10 conditions for our state workers. Central to our
11 work is the commercial waste zone law, Local Law 199
12 of 2019 and even though we were pleased to see that
13 the first zone was launched in January of this year
14 and are eager to see the results that DSNY has
15 collected. This excitement does not negate that this
16 law has been significantly delayed in its
17 implementation.

18 Uhm, this law was never intended to be a pilot
19 program because it was developed bearing in mind the
20 daily impacts that communities and workers face and
21 this varies from various forms of pollution tied
22 truck traffic as well as unsafe working conditions
23 and numerous safety hazards that plague both
24 pedestrians and workers.
25

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2 The inclusion of the commercial waste zone, as a
3 form of revenue raiser does encourage us and kind of
4 let's us know that DSNY is thinking of the commercial
5 waste zone law at top of mind but it doesn't provide
6 a clear launch fund or any indication of when the
7 remaining 19 zones will be launched.

8 In addition to this, the implementation of the
9 waste zones also means having sufficient capacity to
10 support waste collection and to this end, we remain
11 supportive of Council Member Nurse's Intro. 55 bill
12 and that essentially requires DSNY to accept solid
13 waste at city owned and operated marine transfer
14 stations as well as rail transfer stations.

15 So, thank you so much for the opportunity to be
16 here today to raise our coalitions concerns and we
17 appreciate the ongoing partnership with the Committee
18 as well noting that there is a Local Law 199 hearing
19 that's happening next month. So, thank you so much
20 and we look forward to working together to ensure the
21 highest possible environmental safety and consumer
22 protection standards across this new system.

23 Right on the two.

24 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Right on time. Alright this
25 panel is hereby excused. Thank you so much. Next up

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2 we have Justin Wood, Andrea Lieske, Lou Reyes and
3 Clare Mifflin and I'd like to recognize Council Member
4 Vernikov.

5 JUSTIN WOOD: Good afternoon Chair Abreu and
6 members of the Committee staff and Council. Thank
7 you so much for the opportunity to testify. My name
8 is Justin Wood, I am the Director of Policy at New
9 York Lawyers for the Public Interest and like my last
10 two colleagues were also founding member of the
11 Transform Don't Trash New York City Campaign. We'll
12 submit detailed written testimony via email. I just
13 wanted to respond to some of what we heard drawn out
14 through the questions. Thank you for the thoughtful
15 questions for DSNY today. I think you know the
16 students on the first few panels made the case
17 compellingly. We don't need to put all the science
18 in front of this Committee. Climate change is a
19 worst case scenario. It's happening to New Yorkers.
20 It's happening to people across the world as we speak
21 and we have a federal government that seems
22 determined to withdraw every possible federal dollar
23 from solutions. It's also 12 percent of New York
24 States greenhouse gas emissions. So, it's a serious
25 chunk of what we as a huge state economy and city

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1 economy put into the air in terms of climate change.
2 The good news is this solid waste management is
3 accepted. It remains firmly in local and municipal
4 control and the solutions have already been invented.
5 Again, we've heard about composting. We've heard
6 about efficiency. We've heard about recycling and
7 waste reduction at the source. I think what we are
8 worried about in this budget is that DSNY is not as
9 aggressively as necessary even requesting the funds
10 to implement the good works of this committee and
11 this Council going back years and even decades. So,
12 Local Law 199, you know it sounds like we're off to a
13 good start with 1/20th of the law being implemented
14 and some good results, at least from a customer
15 perspective. We don't see a reason to wait with the
16 urgency of climate change and worker justice and
17 inequities in how that waste is being handled.

18
19 Similarly, you know the solid waste management
20 plan is expiring. This is a 20 year plan that DSNY
21 needs to renew, so we would like to see the
22 department aggressively going after the funds with
23 the Council necessary to start accepting waste at
24 marine transfer stations that we've already invested
25 in. We've also gotten entire pieces of

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1
2 infrastructure like the Gansevoort Marine Transfer
3 Station that have just been quietly abandoned by the
4 Department and it doesn't even put in funding
5 requests for this anymore. So, these are things we
6 hope to revisit in the Local Law 199 oversight
7 hearing with you and throughout this budget cycle
8 working together. Thank you so much.

9 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you Justin. Next.

10 ANDREA LIESKA: Hi, my name is Andrea Lieska. I
11 am a long time community composter. I started
12 composting in my community garden in Harlem on St.
13 Nicholas Avenue on 117th Street. That experience set
14 me on a path to work in composting and compost
15 education and currently I'm working with Earth Matter
16 but today I am here as myself, representing myself
17 only.

18 I'm here to ask as everybody I guess to continue
19 the fight for funding community composting. The need
20 to educate New Yorkers on the importance of compost,
21 the compost process, and how to participate is
22 tremendous as we have even heard from our council
23 member. I live in a 56th unit building. That's an
24 example, our building produces barely one bin of
25 compost, which is equivalent to about three

1
2 households. That means besides my family, there may
3 be two other families that are composting.

4 So, the city really needs to put compost
5 education up front and center and from my knowledge
6 as a professional, one of the most effective ways to
7 teach people on all aspects of composting is
8 experiencing it.

9 Coming to a compost site, seeing the operation,
10 getting the hints in compost activities and basically
11 witnessing the transformation of what most people
12 consider garbage into beautiful black gold is just
13 irreplaceable.

14 It is not enough to just make compost bins
15 available as we just heard from the Commissioner in
16 order for people to participate continuous education
17 is not negotiable. New York City has dismissal,
18 recycling and composting waste and implementing
19 fines. Obviously just looking at recycling rates
20 will not be working. If you look at cities that have
21 successful recycling and compost rates, they have
22 focused extensively on community engagement. So, I
23 want to thank you again for all the work that you
24 have done so far and please continue funding and
25 expanding community composting.

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2 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you for your testimony.

3 LOU REYES: Thank you. My name is Lou Reyes, I'm
4 the Compost Project Manager at the Queens Botanical
5 Garden and we're actually one of the first sites of
6 composting in New York City 31 years ago and I'm
7 really appreciative of the \$450,000 that you
8 allocated so that we can continue operating which is
9 unfortunately the only site in Queens right now after
10 they reused that site, which was something very
11 unfortunate.

12 We were able to have a three staff lines as well
13 as several internships thanks to this funding. We're
14 participating in the master composter which has had a
15 participation similar to those of when it was funded
16 by DSNY. We - I'm sorry. Uhm, this year even though
17 we started late because of the funding, we actually
18 have managed to service all 15 districts which is not
19 an easy task given the size of Queens but we service
20 them by either distributing material, doing workshops
21 on obviously by servicing various drop off sites in
22 Queens. Most of the drop off sites in Queens are
23 serviced by us.

24 So, we be clear in our request a 23 percent
25 increase it would get them to \$550,000 and that would

1
2 allow us to increase our master composter workshops
3 and we would also like have the ability to do more
4 organic intake. Sorry, I'll yeah, thank you so much.

5 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you for your testimony.
6 Clare.

7 CLARE MIFLIN: Thank you. I'm Clare Miflin from
8 the Center of Zero Waste Design. I'm going to talk
9 first about containerization, which I fully support
10 but I just think the way it's moving forward is very
11 problematic and it needs to be slowed down and some
12 things reconsidered. It's bad for zero waste goals.
13 Why require just containers for trash? Even though
14 it's food waste that brings rats. Why invest in
15 trash only infrastructure? Which will reduce the
16 already low diversion rate. We know this from older
17 buildings that just have a trash shoot on every floor
18 and recycling of food scraps in the basement. They
19 have bad diversion rates, so why go citywide with
20 trash only infrastructure? It's bad for labor.
21 Building staff in Sanitation workers are still
22 needing to lug these 50 pound bags around, something
23 not allowed in the European countries and it's bad
24 for public space.

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2 Sidewalks are overflowing with bins. They block
3 storefronts. You know they may have ten bins in
4 front of the storefront, the walk ups above and the
5 retail. That's not the solution for our retail
6 corridors and the enclosures for the bags that
7 they're asking BIDs to use makes sidewalks dirty
8 because you have to drag bags into them and they were
9 deemed impractical in DSNY's own future of trash
10 report.

11 Intro. 1123 is mandating citywide worldwide of
12 bins before they have even been piloted or evaluated
13 before environmental review. Why not pilot multiple
14 options, compare them and then move forward. CB9
15 doesn't include any buildings over 80 units, whereas
16 a quarter of units in Manhattan are in buildings with
17 300 or more units. They would require eight 8-20
18 Empire bins per building. There's better options
19 that take up less curbside space temporarily and
20 require no lifting of bags. The stuff could just
21 wheel out wheel bins. No maintenance of on street
22 containers. Pilot these solutions. 60 percent of
23 their large buildings wanted to pilot them.

24 And lastly, community composting. I want to
25 thank you so much for your support of that. I know

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2 you know how important it is. City Council has been
3 amazing. I'd like it to be further tied into storm
4 water goals so it can be applied to parks and green
5 spaces citywide to restore the health of soil
6 citywide, reducing flooding and increasing health of
7 trees in communities. Thank you so much.

8 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you for your testimony.
9 This panel is hereby excused. We now have Kenny
10 Burgos, Christine Datz Romero, Justin Green and
11 Marisa De Dominicis. Sorry, I pronounced your name
12 Dominicis, sorry. Twice in a week Christine.

13 CHRISTINE DATZ ROMERO: Yes, thank you and nice
14 to see everybody here at the Council and my name is
15 Christine Datz Romero. I'm at the Lower East Side
16 Ecology Center and I just really want to thank the
17 Council for making this funding available last year.
18 We very proudly put the New York City Community
19 Composting Network, a citywide effort together. It
20 was quite an undertaking after really being unfunded
21 for half a year to bring everybody back up to speed
22 and I really sincerely hope that they will continue
23 to receive funding this fiscal year to because we're
24 just starting with our services, including supporting
25 curbside education and sometimes I think there is a

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1
2 perception that community composting is not needed
3 anymore because we have curbside collection now. And
4 that's really not true because as you heard from many
5 people, we are really on the ground educating people
6 about composting to really enlighten and encourage
7 them to participate at the level that is fit for
8 different people.

9 So, we did a lot of food scrap drop offs and
10 local processing is part of what community composting
11 does to really feed community gardens and to also
12 make green infrastructure more effective. This year,
13 the Lower East Side Ecology Center has a special ask
14 to not only continue our programming support but also
15 to really getting the buildout of the Canarsie
16 Compost site over the finishing line.

17 This site was planned three years ago. There was
18 a lot of investment in this site already made and we
19 would really like to see that happening. It will
20 bring resources to Brooklyn to an often times
21 overlooked neighborhood and it will really allow
22 compost education to go to Canarsie, East New York
23 and other neighborhoods. Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Justin.

25

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2 JUSTIN GREEN: Hey. Thank you. I'm Justin
3 Green, I'm the Executive Director of Big Reuse.
4 We're also here to express a lot of gratitude towards
5 Council Member and the City Council for continuing
6 funding. When the Mayor cut funding for community
7 composting groups across the city. Your funding
8 allows 14 groups doing amazing projects all over the
9 city from Urban farms to midscale composting sites,
10 to master composter classes, to classes with kids.
11 Amazing kids speaking today about how compost
12 education has effected them and inspired them. And I
13 think that community composting work is just a small
14 fraction of what the city spends on sanitation but
15 it's really essential. It's what built the support
16 for curbside. It's what continues to educate New
17 York City residents about composting and the value of
18 composting. There's a lot of behavior change that
19 has to happen. It's going to take a long time to
20 make that change and our groups have shown how
21 important it is and how successful and impactful we
22 are at getting people on board. And so I think it's
23 really a key for the success of curbside but it also
24 provides the real sustainable alternative to the path
25 the city is taking and so the ideal ecological

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2 standpoint, a lot of the students from Harbor School
3 really got into the details and science and they're
4 right on and I think - So, what we're doing is
5 local. It builds community. It's more sustainable.
6 It's more ecological and it creates you know green
7 networks and green attitudes in the city that have a
8 much bigger impact beyond the actual projects we're
9 working on. So, thank you again for restoring
10 funding. Appreciate it.

11 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you Justin. Kenny.

12 KENNY BURGOS: Thank you Mr. Chair and thank you
13 to the members of the Committee today. My name is
14 Kenny Burgos, I'm the Chief Executive Officer of the
15 New York Apartment Association, also known as NYAA
16 representing thousands of housing providers
17 throughout the City of New York.

18 Today, I want to focus specifically on the impact
19 of the Organic Materials Composting program, whose
20 penalty provisions go into effect next week. When
21 buildings do not separate compostable waste from
22 other trash, they will face fines for as much as \$300
23 per violation. NYAA does support the initiative to
24 reduce waste and increase recycling and composting
25 efforts but we urge you to reconsider the impact of

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1
2 assessing penalties now. Especially in light of the
3 difficulties, property managers continue to face and
4 gaining tenants cooperation with existing recycling
5 mandates and city goals.

6 Overall curbside and containerized recycle
7 tonnage collected, still falls far short of city
8 targets and curbside and containerized recycling
9 diversion rates are flat to down from earlier fiscal
10 years. Residential curbside organic capture rates
11 are low and since the program expanded rates are even
12 lower. Despite the broader reach under the law,
13 total tonnage is collected and capture rates have
14 declined. The law places ultimate responsibility in
15 the housing providers for tenant activity. The law
16 requires tenants to separate food scraps, yard waste
17 and compostable paper materials from other waste.
18 However, tenants in multifamily buildings may lack
19 space to do so or motivation due to a sense of
20 anonymity and the knowledge to properly comply with
21 these rules.

22 In buildings with hundreds of units it's become a
23 logistical nightmare. Responsibility fall on the
24 housing provider and to date the city has engaged in
25 the less than robust education campaign during its

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2 implementation phase. Initiating fines now will
3 cause undue burdens on building operations and
4 finances.

5 No building wants to pay penalties or fines but
6 multifamily buildings face significant challenges in
7 implementing trash separation mandates. Buildings
8 devote enumerable staff hours to meeting the sorting
9 requirements of paper, plastic and cardboard already.
10 This new requirement means building service workers
11 now will have to open trash hold bags and riffle
12 through tenants refuse to scoop out coffee grinds,
13 vegetable peels and other food waste. Obviously not
14 a pleasant task and I will just to the end of my
15 testimony will say we hope to meet these goals. We
16 would just ask for a delay in this enforcement and
17 push for more tenant education and our own education
18 as well.

19 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Yeah, I would also like to
20 mention that the admin testified that they'll begin
21 sifting, looking through the trash next week. The
22 fines won't be implemented until early next year but
23 just want to give you that for background. Thank you
24 for your testimony.

25 KENNY BURGOS: Appreciate it.

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2 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Next up.

3 MARISA DE DOMINICIS: Good afternoon Council
4 Member Abreu and I wanted to start by just thanking
5 the City Council for not only keeping our community
6 composting initiatives alive and not having that
7 dismantled but to provide the opportunity for all
8 these youth to be able to have a voice, which I
9 believe will be fundamental in their moving forward
10 and impact, not only their lives but many of the
11 people in this room, in the city, and wherever they
12 may roam.

13 So, thank you again for giving this opportunity,
14 this democratic opportunity for them to be able to
15 really harness their thoughts and their feelings so
16 that as they go on into the world, they can also help
17 educate building owners, their own families, their
18 classmates, and other people that they will encounter
19 as they grow into adulthood.

20 I just wanted to again thank the City Council for
21 allowing us not only to be able to keep our
22 infrastructure but to be able to grow our network of
23 community partners and this year has been phenomenal
24 with feeling that just like the soil underneath the
25 ground is communicating with each other, all the

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2 microorganisms. We have now been able to leverage
3 through that funding the ability to grow our networks
4 and to be able to support each other.

5 So, I just wanted to say the work that you have
6 done is not lost. Not only on earth matter and our
7 ability to do the processing work but how we are able
8 to continue to feel supported, to be able to reach
9 out and continue the work that will support all of
10 the buildings in New York City. So, again, I wanted
11 to thank everyone who supports the community
12 composting and our goal is to be able to reach
13 everyone in the city.

14 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you so much for your
15 testimony. Right on time. This panel is hereby
16 excused. Next panel, Domingo Morales, Rhonda Keyser,
17 Matthew Qevello(SP?) and is that Rosarie Clarke or
18 Clarke, last name Clarke. Matthew Servello. My
19 apologies Matt. I know you Matt. Domingo.

20 DOMINGO MORALES: How are you doing?

21 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Nice to see you man. I'd
22 love to see the partnership with you and cafeteria
23 but -

24 DOMINGO MORALES: I want to thank you for having
25 me at this hearing and I want to thank City Council

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1 because we didn't know what was going to happen to a
2 lot of the community compost programming last year
3 and when the Mayor made the announcement to cut city
4 composting, we were stressed and City Council kind of
5 said no, community is composting. Composting is
6 community and you all took a stand and because of
7 that we have a group of amazing organizations doing
8 work that spans beyond decades in New York City and I
9 think it's just amazing that you all took that stance
10 and we want you to know that we appreciate it and we
11 take it very seriously. And because of that, you've
12 seen partnerships and cross pollination between these
13 organizations such as compost power, cafeteria
14 culture, Big Reuse, Queens Botanical Garden. I feel
15 like we're all working together to try and create a
16 big picture composting system in New York City where
17 we have Department of Sanitation working alongside
18 those medium scale composters who are working
19 alongside those medium scale composters who are
20 working alongside the small scale composters. And I
21 think what you did last year was you gave us a chance
22 to create a very meaningful mycelial network in New
23 York City where we can start to cycle nutrients and
24 resources and figure out how we can keep this
25

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1
2 community going. So, I want to thank you for that
3 and I think someone asked a question earlier of why
4 composting is important and I think that was a big
5 one for me. I think composting is in the center of
6 all things sustainable. Not only that, we hate rats
7 in New York City and composters don't like rats
8 either. So, compost power worked.

9 Thanks to the City Council we created the rodent
10 reduction rubric that we can actually use as menu for
11 anyone trying to start a new composting site or
12 trying to get rid of rodents in a composting site in
13 New York City and I think with this funding, with
14 this continued support of these community
15 organizations, we can continue to show why we compost
16 in New York City and show that it is feasible and it
17 can be efficient and it can create funding in the
18 future.

19 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you. I certainly love
20 the work that you're doing.

21 RHONDA KEYSER: Thanks. It's hard to follow
22 Domingo but I'm going to try. Thank you so much
23 Council Member Abreu and members of the Sanitation
24 Committee. Thank you for this opportunity for all of
25 us to speak today. I'm Rhonda Keyser, I'm Program

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2 and Policy Director for the Environmental Education
3 Organization Cafeteria Culture. You heard from our
4 students today. They become climate leaders by
5 taking action in their own cafeterias and their own
6 city halls and this year, thanks to City Council
7 funding, we were able to expand our programs beyond
8 the plastic reduction in the cafeteria to composting
9 cafeteria food waste at nearby sites run by compost
10 power with our students leading the way.

11 In the classroom, we teach about the concept of
12 composting but onsite when our students discover
13 worms, chop their own food scraps, add in their
14 browns and turn the tumblers themselves, suddenly
15 composting isn't an abstract idea. It's real, it's
16 local and it's something they have access to and they
17 can do right now, right here in their community.

18 Local composting programs don't just process food
19 scraps, as you've heard today from a lot of people.
20 They build climate literacy. They grow community
21 ownership and they spark lifelong habits. We
22 envision every community composting site, all of whom
23 are here today that they can partner with nearby
24 schools to build on this model that we're piloting

25

1
2 this year, to not just learn about composting but
3 actually compost their own food scraps.

4 We're committed to advancing our cafeteria food
5 waste reduction program and expanding the local food
6 scraps processing across multiple school settings.

7 Our goal is to identify the most effective
8 infrastructure and systemic solutions for scaling up
9 local composting in schools. By placing students at
10 the center, we're not only diverting waste but
11 building a replicable model for our long term
12 community driven action.

13 So, we thank the City Council for funding this
14 year. We urge you to expand it for local composting
15 and compost education, not only for building this
16 important infrastructure but also for the education
17 that makes the work lasting and inclusive.

18 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you. Next.

19 MAGGIE CLARK: I'm Maggie Clark, PHD and thank
20 you for having this hearing. I'm a long time member
21 since 1988 of the Manhattan SWAB Committee Chair,
22 past Chair. The Council approved waste
23 characterization studies to tell us how much and
24 where the recyclables and organics are generated in
25 the city so that you site and size infrastructure

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1 properly, which is great. We support it but the city
2 is not - their studies have never been designed to
3 develop a municipal waste prevention and reuse
4 program and they're falling down miserably in that
5 area. We need to have that kind of program with
6 curbside collection of reusables and repair
7 infrastructure.
8

9 We've got all of this outlined in writing, which
10 we can send you. EPA's solid waste higher Archy has
11 prevention reuse as the highest priority above
12 recycling and composting. According to World
13 Resources Institute, reducing generation of goods and
14 food is 70 times as beneficial for the environment
15 and the climate compared to reducing export to
16 landfills and incinerators with recycling. So, to
17 comply with the city's new zero waste laws and the
18 states climate law, we must understand reuse and
19 prevention potential here in the city.

20 Therefore, we urge the Council to develop and
21 fund reuse and prevention characterization studies of
22 the types, distribution, quantity, condition, and
23 repaired value of reusable and repairable consumer
24 goods, like clothing, furniture, appliances,
25 electronics, books and toys as well as types of

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1
2 unrecyclable packaging like fused paper, plastic
3 and/or metal packaging that would be candidates for a
4 legislative ban.

5 Calculating the potential value per ton of
6 reusable items and prevention would make clear how
7 much we could save versus export costs and losing
8 that embedded value to incinerators and landfills.

9 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you very much.

10 MATTHEW SERVELLO: Hi, I'm Matthew Serello, Chair
11 of the Manhattan Sound Waste Advisory Board and I am
12 delivering this testimony on behalf of all four solid
13 waste advisory boards. Chair Abreu and members of
14 this Committee, thank you for holding today's
15 hearing.

16 The budget hearing, this budget hearing comes at
17 a propitious moment as we transition from the city's
18 2006 to the 2027 solid waste management plan. We
19 would stress how important it is that public input
20 into this plan be taken seriously and that this plan
21 is properly funded. After three decades of diversion
22 efforts, the takeaway is clear. It is not just how
23 much we spend but how we decide to spend it. Today,
24 80 percent of the roughly 2.8 million tons of
25 residential waste is exported to landfill and

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2 incineration annually at a projected 2026 cost of
3 \$500 million. Organics make up about 40 percent of
4 exported waste after the 4 percent that we've
5 captured for diversion.

6 Local Law 85 mandates source separation but we
7 must fund New York City's Community Composting
8 Network and give Intro. 696 serious consideration to
9 realize composts full environmental, social and
10 fiscal benefits because food scraps separated and
11 collected are not compost until they are composted.
12 Textile are five percent of exported waste and Intro.
13 256 would have studied the recycling mandate to
14 expand local textile reuse and recycling
15 infrastructure. If we solve for organics and
16 textiles, we are 50 percent closer to zero waste to
17 landfill and incineration.

18 Recently enacted Intro. 697 that requires the
19 DSNY to continue waste characterization studies over
20 the next five years should include pilot data, reuse
21 and prevention, testing and monitoring drinking water
22 for the presence of microplastics. An idea proposed
23 in Intro. 797 of 2022, requires a revisit. The data
24 would help manage one of the most troublesome parts
25 of our waste stream. All of this hinges on funding,

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2 outreach, education, ensuring residents fully
3 participate in recycling and composting so we can
4 reduce our reliance on waste export as called for in
5 the city's 2006 Solid Waste Management Plan. You
6 will hear more testimony today from other SWAB
7 members, I suspect online providing more detail on
8 some of these ideas. Once again, thank you for the
9 opportunity to provide this testimony to you today.

10 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you Matt. This panel
11 is excused. Thank you. Next up, by a show of hands,
12 how many of you all are feeling a little hot or you
13 guys are fine? Alright, Jimmy Martin from ACE, Shawn
14 Campbell, Lacey Tauber, and Julia Werner.

15 You may proceed.

16 JIM MARTIN: Good afternoon Chair Abreu and
17 members of the Committee. My name is Jim Martin and
18 I am the Executive Director of ACE New York. I'm
19 here to express ACE's strong opposition to the
20 proposed DSNY rule prohibiting Sanitation providers
21 like ACE from placing collective garbage bags next to
22 DSNY public waste receptacles.

23 ACE partners with the City Council each year to
24 provide sanitation service in over 40 Council
25 Districts. We are moving in excess of one million

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2 garbage bags a year from city streets. This rule
3 will require ACE to purchase anywhere from 200 to 230
4 containers. If you include the mandated cost of
5 purchasing, shipping, installing, ensuring and
6 maintaining these containers, the cost would adhere
7 to the new rule near \$4 million to \$5 million.

8 DSNY has suggested that the cost of purchasing
9 these containers should be either ACE's or the
10 responsibility of the City Council, the New York City
11 Council, New York City Cleanup Fund.

12 ACE is simply unable to afford these expenses.
13 The burden of which would result in ACE closing its
14 doors after nearly 33 years of service to New York
15 City. Should the cost of these containers be passed
16 on to our Council partners, it will leave almost
17 nothing to fund our work, resulting in the
18 discontinuation of ACE Sanitation Services in most
19 Council Districts, meaning the 165 ACE employees who
20 are outside today who provide these services will
21 lose their job.

22 For example, our estimate that we will need
23 roughly four containers in your district Chair Abreu
24 would cost about \$80,000, which is half of what you
25 generously fund us last fiscal year. That means our

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2 actual sanitation services in your district will be
3 cut in half and about two full time employees will be
4 laid off.

5 The men and women who serve us have overcome
6 homelessness, incarceration and addiction and this
7 job has been a lifeline for them as they begin their
8 journey towards economic independence. Though
9 unintended, this is a real and incredibly cruel
10 consequence of DSNY's containerization policy. It is
11 clear to me today that DSNY is shifting its
12 responsibility to adherence of containerization
13 mandate onto nonprofits like ACE without providing
14 necessary resources that cover those related costs.

15 We still have no idea what this will cost us. I
16 met with DSNY in calls and in person. No one has an
17 answer for me on how I'm supposed to pay for this.
18 The clock is ticking on my employees on ACE. We need
19 help. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Do you know what you
21 anticipate the cost would be for - because we're in
22 the budget process right now and you know I'm making
23 a push to get say you pay for bins, I would like to
24 know you know what would be the cost that would be
25 helpful for us to push for.

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2 JIM MARTIN: So, and I appreciate the question
3 and the feedback. So, the issue was understanding
4 the entirety of the problem and the lack of
5 information coming to me. We had an initial count
6 from the Department of Sanitation that we would
7 require 230 containers through our five boroughs.
8 There's a lot of unknowns in this count. DSNY
9 suggests you don't need that many containers. That
10 means our employees need to carry bags farther
11 distances, right? So, that's less sweeping, more
12 walking.

13 Two, once I purchase these containers Councilman,
14 Chair, I have to ensure them. I'm placing an object
15 on purchasing on a city street that needs to be
16 ensured against damage, theft, destruction. Okay
17 those costs are unknown. I have three brokers
18 currently searching and trying to get quotes for what
19 that insurance will cost. I still don't have an
20 answer. They also need to maintain weekly. It needs
21 to be painted, cleaned, you're talking about
22 maintaining painting and cleaning over 200 containers
23 across all five boroughs. I don't know what that's
24 going to cost. I know those containers start at
25 \$15,000 apiece. I know they need to be put on

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2 plywood, where they put on city streets, they need to
3 be put on plywood, they need to be shipped and
4 installed. Those prices are still unknown to me. We
5 run a very tight ship. We are a very small
6 nonprofit. You've been very generous with us; we
7 just are terrified and my employees who have had
8 nothing in their lives have fought so hard and come
9 so far and have done so much for this city. I ask
10 that you please consider funding the mandate because
11 otherwise after 33 years of doing what we do, it
12 might be gone.

13 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: I hear that and we certainly
14 need you. We need you to succeed and we need you to
15 operate with the resources you need. And so, I'm
16 going to continue - this is an obligation for the
17 Mayor's Office to be picking up the tab and so let's
18 - I'm going to keep pushing. Next up.

19 JIM MARTIN: Thank you.

20 SHAWN CAMPBELL: Yes that and good afternoon
21 Chair Abreu and members of the Committee. I'm Shawn
22 Campbell, I'm the District Manager of Brooklyn
23 Community Board 14 that Central Brooklyn, Flatbush,
24 Midwood. My board recently submitted its letter of
25 comment in response to agency responses to our budget

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1
2 priorities. DSNY responded to our priority requests
3 that there couldn't be accommodated enough stuff to
4 remove those requests. Bizarre.

5 The first priority is one that we have been
6 asking for since the days of the COVID epidemic and
7 that is for the restoration of manual litter patrol
8 MLP in the baseline budget.

9 Rather than reading testimony that I've submitted
10 to you in writing, I'm going to tell you a little bit
11 about my district. My 2.9 square miles of Central
12 Brooklyn has 54 dead ends, 20 road bridges, 12
13 trussells which are the sidewalks underneath the
14 elevated brightened line. We have five Council
15 Members, one of whom Rita Joseph gives DSNY an
16 allocation for cleaning. The other four do not and
17 that's okay because this is supposed to be
18 supplemental funding, not supplanting baseline
19 services from DSNY. Yet the Council is very generous
20 when it comes to DSNY. You all gave them about \$87
21 million in the last fiscal year budget. This is on
22 top of their \$1.8 billion budget. So, I am concerned
23 about how resets are being managed if the agency
24 needs another \$87 million in supplemental funds and
25

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1
2 still cannot provide MLP equitably and efficiently in
3 my district.

4 Uhm, we wrote about vendor enforcement and DSNY
5 enforcement practice in general. We made some
6 comments about DSNY's policy on containerization.
7 I'd also note that some of these supplemental
8 fundings coming from Council should be going to
9 organizations such as ACE for the supplemental
10 cleaning and I hope that you will consider the need
11 for restoring MLP to the baseline budget since it's a
12 baseline service. Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you for your testimony.
14 Next.

15 LACEY TAUBER: Good afternoon. My name is Lacey
16 Tauber. I'm here representing Brooklyn Borough
17 President Antonio Reynoso. I have five things I want
18 to touch on so I'm going to summarize and submit
19 longer testimony written. The first one, the biggest
20 priority for the borough president is commercial
21 waste zones. I want to lift up everything you've
22 heard from the advocates today and just say, I think
23 we all agree that you know the true efficacy of this
24 program is going to be when it's rolled out to all 20
25 zones citywide and thank you so much for your

1
2 questions today. I think they were exactly on point
3 because we all know that that's going to require more
4 funding for outreach, more funding for enforcement,
5 more civilian headcount and I really hope that
6 Sanitation gets back to you with those numbers so
7 that we can all be on the same page about what we
8 need to advocate for to get this done in the next
9 fiscal year.

10 The second thing is containerization, especially
11 lifting up what you heard from Clare earlier, just
12 about how you know we all support containerization.
13 We just want to see it done right and the BP has been
14 on record many times talking about wanting to fast
15 track the on street shared containers, making sure
16 that we're including recycling and organics and you
17 know just making sure that we're doing this also
18 correctly but also quickly so that you know we get
19 these bags off our streets.

20 The third thing is community composting. Thank
21 you so much to the Council for restoring that
22 funding. BP just wants to reiterate his support for
23 their ask for this budget year and including the
24 ecology centers ask for a new home in Brooklyn.

1
2 And the fourth thing is the solid waste
3 management plan. You've heard some folks talk about
4 that. Given that Sanitation brought it in house,
5 it's a little unclear what resources are being
6 devoted to it. It's such an important document and
7 we want to see it - the outreach and engagement start
8 and it's concerning that it hasn't.

9 Finally, just want to put in a plug for the
10 district 13 and 15 garages. They are among the worst
11 of [INAUDIBLE 03:30:55] plant and DSNY's inventory.
12 And so, every year we advocate for them to have new
13 homes and so I just want to just say that again.
14 Thank you so much.

15 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you. Next.

16 JULIA WERNER: Hi Council. My name is Julia
17 Werner. I am a resident of Bedstuy. I'm not
18 representing anybody. Thank you for the amazing
19 students and advocates who spoken before and often
20 [INAUDIBLE 03:31:19]. I just wanted to say thank you
21 so much for recognize the significant community and
22 environmental value of community composting and for
23 restoring funding to New York City's programs after
24 they were asked from the budget. After that
25 happened, I mean I was just despondent. You know my

1
2 partner was just what's wrong you know? And I was
3 like I just feel like I don't even want to be here
4 anymore. Like nothing really matters but seeing that
5 you picked that up was transformative and so thank
6 you for continuing to fund that.

7 We're in a window of criticality in terms of
8 climate action and resiliency at the local and state
9 levels, particularly as federal supports wanes due to
10 EPA cuts and climate change denial. It's impossible
11 to support grassroots initiative without composting
12 services.

13 Community composting is the literal biological
14 grassroots part of this effort. Thank you for
15 ensuring that these essential resources continue to
16 be available. Some suggestions that I have is, you
17 know like I was - this weekend actually literally I
18 was getting ready to sign up for the master composter
19 class and it felt more important to me than
20 certifications from my own job. I work in tech; I
21 work in cyber security so very far removed from the
22 groups that we have here.

23 But it feels more important to understand how to
24 do this correctly and realizing that that could go
25 away. I would just really love to see it continue

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2 and also just some opportunity for more education in
3 the neighborhoods. I compost. My building composts
4 but I'm constantly picking bottle caps and tinfoil
5 out of our composting bin and I try to talk to my
6 neighbors but we've recently gotten some new banners
7 down Malcom X and they're about not using scooters on
8 the sidewalks, which is very important. But I think
9 that maybe an opportunity is composting banners and
10 just signs so that local residents who don't partake
11 in these will know more. Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thanks for what you do when
13 no one's watching. That's really admirable. Next up
14 please. Next panel. Brandon, Julie Stein, Lauren
15 Collins, and Evan Sweet. Also, since Brandon left,
16 I'll have Francesca come up and join this panel. Is
17 Francesca here? Alright, she is.

18 Alright, alright. You can start.

19 Hi, good afternoon Chair Abreu and members of the
20 Sanitation Committee. My name is Julie Stein and I
21 am the Executive Director of Union Square
22 Partnership. The business improvement district for
23 Union Square in 14th Street. I appreciate the
24 opportunity to testify today about the Department of
25 Sanitations new rules on waste containerization and

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1
2 the cost of implementation. As you know BIDs play a
3 critical role in maintaining the cleanliness of the
4 sidewalks and public spaces. We share the city's
5 goals of creating clean, livable and vibrant streets,
6 however this transition requires resources. Right
7 now, there's no dedicated funding to support BIDs and
8 meeting the new waste containerization requirement
9 for the public trash that we bag even though doing so
10 comes with significant upfront costs.

11 For us to purchase the recommended city bins or
12 metro store containers and the container protection
13 elements for our district, we estimate an upfront
14 cost of at least \$100,000. This is a substantial
15 cost for our organization, a medium size bid and we
16 know many other medium and small bids face similar
17 financial hurdles.

18 BIDs operate within fixed budgets and can't
19 simply increase our assessment to cover one time
20 expenses like this. In fact, we cannot increase our
21 assessment at all without a legislative process that
22 can take up to two years. With the rule only
23 finalized at the beginning of March 2025 for
24 implementation in August, just five months later or
25 even at the end of this calendar year, these new

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1
2 costs for the recommended city bins or metro store
3 containers do not conform with our funding process.

4 That means that the city is asking us to play a
5 zero sum game, cutting funding for other critical
6 services that we provide in order to make this
7 investment in the recommended waste containers. The
8 only relatively budget friendly option for my
9 organization is to by tilt bins or tilt trucks, which
10 are not the state of the art management solution that
11 any of us are seeking. The Council has already
12 acknowledged the hardship of waste containerization
13 to property owners with the passage of Council Member
14 Salaam's bill to provide funding for containers with
15 secured lids for small residential buildings. While
16 we are called a business improvement district, the
17 members who pay our assessment also include
18 residential property owners like the ones that
19 Council considers worthy of financial relief related
20 to these rules.

21 To ensure the continued ability for BIDs to
22 provide the range of services specified in our
23 district plans, we ask for the Council or the
24 Administration to include funding in this year's
25

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1
2 budget to support BIDs acquiring the recommended
3 waste containers. Thanks so much.

4 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you. Next.

5 LAUREN COLLINS: Hello, good afternoon Council
6 Member. Hi, my name is Lauren Collins, I'm the
7 Executive Director of the Church Flatbush Community
8 Alliance, formerly the Church Avenue BID and the
9 Flatbush Avenue BID. We are business improvement
10 district. I'm going away from my prepared notes
11 because I was pretty inspired by a lot of what was
12 said. I was really happy to see the Committee ask
13 such careful questions about Sanitation. This
14 mandate, this unfunded mandate would cause such
15 hardship for a lot of BIDs like mine. We are a small
16 to medium size BID. Our total budget is \$589,000.
17 42 percent of that goes to Sanitation. We spent
18 \$255,000 on sanitation, which you'll find is very
19 typical of a lot of the BIDs as far as percentage.

20 For that money, we have a crew of three people
21 plus ACE. I think one person from ACE usually
22 cleaning more than 2.7 miles in Flatbush. Flatbush
23 is not very clean. There's a lot of trash to pick
24 up. We have about 55 bags a day of public litter
25

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1 plus about 35 bags on average that are just dumped
2 there throughout the day illegally.

3
4 30 percent of BID staff time is also spent on
5 sanitation monitoring and addressing issues. We get
6 funding from discretionary through Council Member
7 Rita Joseph that entirely goes to staff time because
8 of all the time we have to spend.

9 We did do clean curbs. We have three containers
10 through DSNY a few years ago. We have three funded
11 containers. Great program. We have to pay for
12 maintenance. We just spent \$1,300 for one that was
13 broken but that is a fair way to have us use
14 containers and to get bags off the street. To begin,
15 for us to begin to comply with this, it would cost us
16 a little over \$40,000 for just four bins. We already
17 did a site visit with DSNY. We do not have the money
18 to pay for this and I think you will hear that I'm
19 sure when you see the submitted testimony from many
20 of the bids, the money just isn't there and as
21 Council Member Nurse I believe said earlier, this is
22 DSNY's initiative. They should fund it and not force
23 other organizations, nonprofits to do that. Thank
24 you so much.

25 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you. Next.

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1 Good afternoon Council Members and my name is
2 Evan Sweet; I'm the Director of Neighborhood
3 Operations for the meat packing business improvement
4 district. Thank you for your time and the
5 opportunity to testify today. I'm here to ask the
6 City Council to allocate additional funding to
7 support BIDs, Neighborhood Associations and other
8 community groups as we attempt to comply with the
9 Administrations new burdensome public waste
10 containerization rule. Without Council funding this
11 rule will become an unfunded mandate that penalizes
12 not-for-profit organizations that work tirelessly to
13 supplement city agencies keeping streets clean. The
14 Meat Packing District is New York City's premier
15 live, work, play cultural district on Manhattan's
16 west side and central to our BIDs mission is managing
17 a public refuse and ensuring neighborhood
18 cleanliness. The BID allocates one-third of our
19 operating budget each year to sanitation services and
20 through our partnership with ACE employs 12
21 hardworking full time sanitation staffers.

22 These individuals service 100 waste receptacles.
23 We have 92 block bases and set out between 150 and
24 400 bags of public trash for DSNY collection every
25

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2 day. As a result of their hard work, over 60 percent
3 of public survey respondents site cleanliness as a
4 key positive feature of the meat packing district.

5 We believe trash containerization is good policy
6 and have even piloted new management practices in the
7 neighborhood. However, this rule and the lack of
8 funding to support the acquisition of containers,
9 collection vehicles, and other equipment creates an
10 undue burden on budget lines as cost for labor and
11 goods continue to rise.

12 Unlike household containerization which might
13 require a homeowner to purchase one to two \$40
14 containers. BIDs service large areas of the city
15 require multiple specially constructive containers.
16 In the meat packing district, it will cost over
17 \$100,000 to acquire the necessary totter storage
18 containers and additional equipment needed to comply.
19 In addition to these capital costs, our operating
20 budget will also need to be increased to reflect the
21 additional work that BID staff has undertaken to
22 manage this new program and the ongoing maintenance
23 necessary to upkeep these assets.

24 During the meat making process, the meat packing
25 district highlighted five concrete issues that needed

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2 to be addressed before implementation. Unfortunately
3 none of them were addressed and the new rule is now
4 in effect.

5 As a result, partners will be challenged at
6 keeping our Council Districts clean and the others
7 are worried about their ability to provide effective
8 supplemental sanitation services and in some cases,
9 are worried about being able to continue at all.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you Evan. Next.

12 FRANCESCA FERNANDEZ BRUCE: Hi, thank you so much
13 Chair Abreu for being here. My name is Francesca
14 Fernandez Bruce. I represent the Grand Street BID,
15 which is a small bid with a strapped budget in
16 Brooklyn, surveying in my community and I'm here to
17 speak about the containerization.

18 I want to first say I appreciate Frank and our
19 local DSNY Chiefs. I've worked in a city agency
20 myself and I have the upmost respect for public
21 servants. Though I wish they could have been here
22 for such compelling testimony today, can you call
23 this a hearing if no one hears? Maybe it's because
24 they didn't design this mandate to the extent that
25 it's been designed at all. They didn't hear us at

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2 the last hearing either and they continue to ignore
3 our feedback.

4 Throughout this process, DSNY has said that they
5 are working with us on tailored solutions but we all
6 know perfectly well there's no such thing as
7 solutions without funding. When pressed the agency
8 acts like funding will just materialize as they're
9 saying it will make it so. First, they have said it
10 will come from grants. Grants that we depend on to
11 serve our low income communities. Taking money out
12 of the mouths of our struggling mom and pops. Then
13 they say it could come from discretionary funding
14 from City Council, which as you know are already
15 facing unprecedented demand.

16 They also have responded to our repeated pleas by
17 claiming we have artificially inflated the cost of
18 this project and we are happy to submit detailed,
19 realistic packages to assure you that we are not.
20 Our upfront capital cost at our small bid would be
21 over \$25,000, not including maintenance and we are
22 one of 76 BIDs. We are already directing the bulk of
23 our budgets to make up for shortfalls in street
24 cleaning services for the city, even while districts

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1
2 like mine struggle to make ends meet and serve our
3 communities.

4 If funding doesn't come through in my district,
5 like many others, will have to end service to our
6 corridor. This will choke our businesses with litter
7 and rats, put folks out of work, and would be wildly
8 counterproductive. They are forcing us to make a
9 choice and our communities deserve better. The fact
10 that no one is here to hear testimony from our
11 communities is deeply disappointing. Thank you sir.

12 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you so much. This
13 panel is hereby excused. I have Noah Sheroff.

14 NOAH SHEROFF: Thank you. Good afternoon New
15 York City Council Sanitation Committee. Thank you so
16 much for providing me with the opportunity to once
17 again testify before you. My name is Noah Sheroff
18 and I represent the small business improvement
19 district in northeast Queens, the Bayside Village
20 BID.

21 While I certainly appreciate DSNY's willingness
22 to communicate and prompt response to any issues
23 reported, I must express a deep concern for the cost
24 of containerization. The BID relies on an
25 assessment, which will increase in fiscal year 2026,

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1 to cover costs associated with community events,
2 supplemental sanitation services, holiday lights and
3 decorations and the general rising cost of what seems
4 to be just about everything. In addition, my board
5 of directors has voted to increase the number of
6 receptacles with the district, placing an additional
7 can next to 16 current cans spread throughout Bell
8 Boulevard and 41st Avenue. We are doing this because
9 we rely on vehicles in the district with few options
10 for public transit. Two bus lines, one of which we
11 fought to keep on Bell in a LIRR station. The loss
12 of additional parking spaces will likely mean
13 hyperbole aside, the closure of a small business. We
14 have one sanitation worker caring for the entire BID
15 and having him lug bags to a particular destination
16 is particularly strenuous. There is a \$16,837.60
17 cost of 16 cans and since we are only able to
18 purchase certain cans, a \$4,209.40 cost of tariffs
19 since they will be shipped from Canada. The cans
20 will be shipped to a nearby garage, so a friend of
21 the BID must then be paid for pickup since this is
22 cheaper than freight. Our sanitation worker cleans
23 the BID six days per week. The cost of our
24 supplemental sanitation service provider to haul bags
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2 to the same garage would cost \$145 per day, that is
3 over \$40,000 per year. That's on top of the already
4 \$70,000 that we paid for service as is. So the
5 combined total would mean that we would spend one-
6 third of our assessment for Fiscal Year 2026 on
7 services. Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you so much.
9 Christopher Leon Johnson. Got here right on time.

10 CHRISTOPHER LEON JOHNSON: Yup. Yeah, hello my
11 name is Christopher Leon Johnson. Thanks for having
12 the hearing Mr. Abreu. I am calling on the City
13 Council and the Mayor's Office to indefinitely
14 postpone the June 26th mandate for the auto
15 containers.

16 That bill, that was done by the City Council, is
17 a real co-op initiative. Why do we have to put only
18 one container instead of just buy any other container
19 that we want to buy? Why is it we have to buy one
20 container. If we don't, we get fine \$100, then \$50.
21 That's not right for anybody. I understand that you
22 guys gave the developer the contract but that was not
23 right for anybody at all. I don't think that none of
24 the organizations agree with this. None of the BIDs,
25 none of the nonprofits like ACE, none of the

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2 nonprofits that agree with this stuff. This needed
3 to be postponed, definitely postponed, Eric Adams is
4 on his way out. If he really did the right thing on
5 his way out, he would postpone this law to make sure
6 that nobody - we could just use any container we
7 want. I understand we got rat issues in the City of
8 New York. We got a trash issue. We got a combust
9 issue but make it everybody going to buy containers
10 is not going to solve anything.

11 And we saw the posts that that container wasn't
12 doing anything. Like the rat completely ate through
13 the container, so that container is not even a viable
14 container. So, that's all and yeah, we got to save
15 all these nonprofits in the City Council that deal
16 with sanitation, preserve all these nonprofits, make
17 sure they fund especially ACE. ACE does great work
18 in the community, in my district intact. The DOE
19 Fund, Ready, Willing and Able, all these
20 organizations, they do the right thing.

21 But Mr. Abreu, I know you're backing Adams but to
22 do the right thing, he has to indefinitely postpone
23 this law. This is - just take that money and give it
24 to these nonprofits that were out here today that
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2 want their money for the budget this cycle. So,
3 thank you so much and have a good day.

4 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you. Are there any
5 other individuals who are here testifying in person?
6 Seeing none, we'll move on to remote testimony on
7 Zoom. We'll begin with am Joyce Bialik.

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

9 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Alright, not seeing Joyce on
10 Zoom. I will now go to Mary Arnold.

11 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

12 MARY ARNOLD: About what is needed for New York
13 City's new Solid Waste Management Plan. Most
14 fundamentally, the Solid Waste Management Plan should
15 be structured with enough actions, commitments, and
16 budget in each year of the plan to fulfill existing
17 city and state laws, including the City's Zero Waste,
18 Waste Equity, and Commercial Waste Zone laws, as well
19 as the New York State Climate Leadership and
20 Community Protection Act.

21 Zero Waste, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Waste
22 Equity, and Environmental Justice can only be
23 achieved through a Solid Waste Management Plan that
24 includes how these laws will be fulfilled. Also
25 needed is crucial input from the City Council's and

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2 Borough Presidents Offices' internal experts, like
3 Lacey Tauber and the SWABs and a handful of people
4 working in isolation will not yield the most
5 effective results.

6 In addition, the new Solid Waste Management Plan
7 needs to have a Sustainable Materials Management
8 orientation. The requirements of Sustainable Plans
9 include:

10 1. Establish goals, such as 90 percent diversion
11 rate within 10 years via prevention, reuse,
12 recycling, and local composting.

13 2. Lay out sufficient planned actions and
14 commitments in each year of the plan, covering all
15 discards, to reach the goals on time.

16 3. Conduct product-based characterization studies
17 and tie the results to annual planned actions and
18 commitments.

19 4. Design education and outreach to reach and
20 motivate all segments of the population, maximizing
21 the participation rate.

22 5. Establish and enforce sufficient incentives
23 and disincentives to increase motivation to
24 participate.

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2 6. Commit sufficient budget and staff to
3 accomplish the annual planned actions and
4 commitments.

5 Thanks to the City Council and New York State
6 Legislature, some laws to Sustainably avoid and
7 manage discards are in place. The new Solid Waste
8 Management Plan needs to be the city's blueprint for
9 achieving them.

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Your time is expired. Thank
11 you.

12 MARY ARNOLD: Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you Mary. Next up we
14 have Mohammad Attia.

15 MOHAMED ATTIA: Good afternoon, Chair Abreu and
16 members of the Committee. My name is Mohamed Attia,
17 I'm the Managing Director of the Street Vendor
18 Project. Thanks for the opportunity to testify
19 today.

20 The Street Vendor Project is a membership-based
21 organization with over 3,000 street vendor members.
22 As the only organization in New York City dedicated
23 to serving the street vendor population in the five
24 boroughs, SVP is the centralized hub for street
25 vendors to access resources and receive essential

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2 services as the smallest businesses in our city. We
3 respectfully request support from the City Council to
4 expand our Community Outreach and Education Program
5 along with the Small Business Consultations Program
6 for street vendors.

7 The demand for street vendor education and
8 services continues to grow. It is really important to
9 highlight how resources are being allocated in our
10 city. As you are probably aware, the Office of
11 Street Vendor Enforcement is housed under Sanitation
12 Police, and their budget is increasing. It ranges
13 from \$3.7 million to almost \$5 million over the
14 fiscal years.

15 And that is really not including the NYPD, DOHMH,
16 Parks and other agencies that are conducting
17 enforcement on the street vendors. Now we look at
18 the city's allocation to pretty much you know the
19 education of street vendors, there is no city agency
20 that provides support. There is no city agency,
21 Sanitation, DCWP, SBS, nobody is going out to educate
22 the vendors, only SVP, such a small nonprofit that
23 receive roughly around \$200,000 from the speakers
24 initiative and all the individual council members
25 support that we receive.

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2 When you look at the numbers Council Member, it
3 is a scale of 25 to 1. For every dollar the city is
4 spending on education and support to the vendors, it
5 spends \$25 on enforcement and our small team, as you
6 probably know, we conduct the outreach and education
7 program in seven different languages. We really need
8 the resources. We need to expand the work because
9 the demand is skyrocketing right now and we really
10 try our best to meet that demand and be in every
11 neighborhood and every district.

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Your time is expired. Thank
13 you.

14 MOHAMED ATTIA: Thank you so much for the
15 opportunity.

16 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you Mohamed. We now
17 have Pedro Suarez.

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

19 PEDRO SUAREZ: Can you hear me? Okay sorry, I
20 accidentally unmuted. Alright, so I am the Executive
21 Director of the Third Avenue Business Improvement
22 District in the South Bronx neighborhoods of Mott
23 Haven and Melrose, which is one of the oldest and
24 most heavily trafficked commercial districts in the
25 entire city. We have and continue to take steps

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2 towards implementing containerization and making
3 additional investments in our supplemental sanitation
4 program, but it will take time to get to where I
5 think my BID needs to be.

6 Additionally, I want to thank DSNY's sanitation
7 workers on the ground, including the Bronx Chiefs,
8 for working closely with my BID to address trash
9 issues. My district continues to navigate challenges
10 with severe quality of life issues like illegal
11 dumping, littering, homeless encampments, and medical
12 waste and especially syringes.

13 As the city moves towards containerization in
14 BIDs, I'd like to advocate that the DSNY budget
15 include additional investments in the following:
16 Allocating more funding to local garages, like Bronx
17 1, for more frequent litter basket collections in the
18 HUB and addressing severe illegal dumping and
19 littering situations.

20 Allocating more funding for DSNY cameras to
21 address illegal dumping issues in District 17.
22 Allocating more funding for DSNY enforcement to hire
23 additional personnel and conduct additional
24 operations related to unlicensed vending, illegal
25 dumping, and sidewalk obstructions.

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2 Currently, 40 DSNY enforcement personnel for 5
3 boroughs, which includes 76 commercial districts, is
4 not enough to address quality of life issues and hold
5 bad actors accountable on a consistent basis. The
6 creation of a fund to assist smaller BIDs with the
7 purchase of containers, especially as many BIDs need
8 customized solutions to meet the unique needs of
9 their districts. There is no one size fits all
10 strategy for BIDs.

11 Allocating funding to the priority areas above
12 would help ensure that economic centers, especially
13 in low-income communities, have the resources needed
14 to remain clean, safe, and vibrant for all New
15 Yorkers. Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you for your testimony.
17 We now have Corazon Valient.

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

19 CORAZON VALIENTE: Hi, good day. Thank you CM
20 Abreu and the Committee for this opportunity to
21 speak.

22 My name is Corazon Valiente and I am from and
23 still live in Flatbush, Brooklyn 11226. Composting
24 is physical health, how many members of council have
25 participated in a compost build day at any of the

1
2 botanical gardens, the composting partners around the
3 city or your local community garden. That's work and
4 cardio.

5 Composting is mental health and wellness. It
6 creates an outlet for frenetic energy, calms the mind
7 and soothes the soul. It keeps tons of food waste
8 from the landfill which reduces the amount of methane
9 going into our ozone that otherwise endanger our
10 lungs, affects our minds and environment. Community
11 composting builds jobs. Many have turned
12 volunteering at a local community garden into a
13 paying job not just in this city but in different
14 parts of this country. Composting builds
15 intergenerational community ties. Watching children
16 and young people work with elders and learn from each
17 other is a beautiful thing and adds pride to our
18 neighborhoods.

19 The health of our communities and neighbors
20 should never fear being the first on the chopping
21 block by the city of New York. Should some of the
22 paychecks of those in the mayor's office and council
23 be on the chopping block?

24 Composting is not just a suburban issue, as some
25 of the students said earlier, this is an Earth issue,

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2 Urban, suburban, and rural. Please continue to fight
3 on our behalf to not only continue funding community
4 composting but also increase its funding. Thank you
5 for your time, your attention and your support to
6 this matter.

7 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you. Appreciate you.
8 We now have Camilia Tepelus.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

10 CAMILIA TEPELUS: Oh hello. My name is Camelia
11 Tepelus, I am the Executive Director of the Morris
12 Park BID in the East Bronx. Firstly I want start by
13 thanking DSNY staff on the ground for the open of
14 centers of open centers to our issues. I have on TV
15 to put it that way.

16 So, I want to focus on the issue of the cost. I
17 want to focus on the issue of the guarantee of this
18 new regulation asking BIDs to stop the usage of bags
19 and containerization.

20 I as manager, I do not have the right to place on
21 the sidewalk in front of a persons property, no type
22 of container. I do not have this right. it is
23 illegal for the city to ask me to do this without
24 explanation of that property owner or of that
25 business and I [03:58:17] that the form that is on

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2 the DSNY program for bins, that put on top bin logo
3 and the property owner, the BID decided to place
4 trash in front of somebody's private property. It's
5 not true. If DSNY is contradicting this, it should
6 be their logo or the DOT logo on the notification for
7 the property owner. Yeah, we decided to place a
8 bunch of trash from 20 blocks in front of your
9 business or in front of your residential building
10 because if [03:58:51]. Because I do not make that
11 decision. They should sue DSNY and the DOT that are
12 imposing this on him. The solution, a lot of city's
13 have this. New York City is like a European City, I
14 suggest to read the report by that lady that
15 testified in the red sweater, her organization is the
16 Center for Zero Waste Design.

17 Page 31, we suggest that DSNY through
18 collaboration -

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Your time is expired. Thank
20 you.

21 CAMELIA TEPELUS: Okay, I will submit. Thank you
22 so much.

23 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you, yeah please submit
24 your written testimony online within 72 hours.

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2 CAMELIA TEPELUS: Thank you because it's a lot of
3 substance that could be used. Smart things, thank
4 you.

5 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you and be safe on the
6 road. We'll next have Anna Sachs.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

8 ANNA SACHS: Hi, my name is Anna Sachs, I'm with
9 the Save our Compost Coalition. We're asking for
10 \$11.4 billion for community composting organization,
11 which includes the Lower East Ecology Center, Earth
12 Matter, Big Reuse, Compost Power, Cafeteria Culture,
13 Queens Botanic Gardens, BK Rott, Snug Harbor, Green
14 Theme Organics, Brotherhood Sister Sole, Red Hook
15 Initiative, East New York Farms, New York Botanical
16 Garden, Bronx Urban Alliance, Center for Zero Waste,
17 Astoria Pug, and Uptown Health Project.

18 So, this increase in amount that we're adding,
19 additional groups are requesting funding and the
20 groups that are already funded are requesting
21 additional funding, so that they can expand the scope
22 of the work they do. And so that the Lower East
23 Ecology Center can build out a physical site in
24 Canarsie. We would like to make this more permanent,
25 a more permanent future of New York City's waste

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2 landscape so that it's less of a fight each year or
3 up in the air and one of the ways to do this is to
4 build up these community composting sites so that
5 DSNY can pay for this physical infrastructure similar
6 to the way that they pay for recurring contracts to
7 waste management for the anerobic co-digestion and
8 Denali for the fresh hills composting sites.

9 So, we're hoping that with more community
10 composting sites processing more material that this
11 can be something that DSNY views as like an ongoing
12 recurring waste disposal expense and it's also
13 important to view this as an ongoing education cost,
14 especially as we try to get the capture rate up for
15 organics, which right now is around 4 percent, which
16 is very low.

17 So, we would like the Council to consider
18 increasing funding to \$11.4 million for all these
19 groups and the good work that they do and to use this
20 as an investment in processing and processing food
21 scraps and in ongoing education, especially education
22 for our school kids and especially education about
23 the curbside organic program.

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Your time is expired. Thank
25 you.

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CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you Anna for all that
you do. Raul Rivera.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Seeing that he is not online.
One more time, Raul Rivera? Seeing that he is not
online. This hearing is hereby adjourned. [GAVEL]

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 May 5, 2025