

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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June 11, 2025

Start: 11:02 a.m.

Recess: 11:07 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Shekar Krishnan, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

David M. Carr
Robert F. Holden
Linda Lee
Julie Menin
Mercedes Narcisse
Vickie Paladino
Sandra Ung

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Gale A. Brewer

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Hello. This is a
3 microphone check for the Committee on Parks and
4 Recreation. Today is June 11, 2025, located in the
5 Committee Room recorded by Squila Walker.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet down, please.
7 Good morning, and welcome to today's New York City
8 Council vote for the Committee on Parks and
9 Recreation.

10 At this time, we ask that you please
11 silence all electronic devices and at no time are you
12 to approach the dais.

13 Chair Krishnan, we're ready to begin.

14 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much,
15 Sergeant. [GAVEL] Good morning, I'm Shekar Krishnan,
16 Chair of the City Council's Committee on Parks and
17 Recreation.

18 Today, the Committee will vote on
19 Proposed Intro. Number 573-A, sponsored by my
20 Colleague, Council Member Gale Brewer. This bill
21 would require the Parks Department to install at
22 least 50 outdoor drinking fountains in parks no later
23 than June 1st, 2035. Each water fountain would have
24 to be installed within 100 feet of an entrance to the
25 park where it is located. The bill is a common sense

and sorely needed approach towards improving the amenities and resources offered by and throughout our park system to make them and also our city more livable and more eco-friendly. It is really shocking when we walk around our city to see how few bathrooms and how few water fountains that we have and that's especially true in our parks. I believe this bill will lead to a greater reduction in single-use bottles and offer more access to pedestrians who are in need of readily accessible water, especially during the hot summer months that we are approaching now, so I will definitely be voting in favor of this great bill and urge my Colleagues here to do the same.

I'd now like to turn it over to our sponsor of the bill, Council Member Brewer, to say a few words.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much, Chair Krishnan. I really appreciate your support.

As you suggested, New Yorkers shouldn't have to purchase a single-use bottle of water because there's no public option available. Intro. 573-A increases the number of durable and permanent

drinking fountains at park entrances citywide. By 2035, we need 50. We have amazing water in New York City, thanks to the Department of Environmental Protection and others, but it's one thing to have the resource and another to have access to the resource. My interest in free public access to drinking water started with Richard Murphy, who was Commissioner of Youth Services during the Dinkins Administration, where I was proud to serve. One of his practical ideas, in addition to starting the Beacon Program, was giving every public school student a refillable water bottle. I still want to try to do that, but we need drinking fountains at the same time. The problem was, and still is, that we need water fountains to fill them, and people want them. During the 2024 participatory budgeting cycle in my office, Westside has voted to allocate 375,000, you're not going to believe this, for five new water fountains in Riverside Park. They're so expensive, but guess what? We can only do three with all that money. God. So we're all fortunate to have great stewards of parks in our community. We all take care of our parks. We try really hard to maintain and enhance public spaces, and the Parks Department, however, as we all

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2 know, is very underfunded. This legislation adds
3 equity. Thank you very much.

4 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much,
5 Council Member Brewer. I'd also like to recognize all
6 our Colleagues who have joined us today. We are
7 joined by Council Member Holden, Council Member Lee,
8 Council Member Menin, Council Member Narcisse,
9 Council Member Ung, Council Member Carr, and Council
10 Member Paladino.

11 And I would now ask the Clerk to call the
12 vote, please.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
14 you. Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk.
15 Roll Call vote Committee on Parks and Recreation,
16 Proposed Introduction 573-A. Chair Krishnan.

17 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Holden.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Lee.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Menin.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ung.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Carr.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Paladino.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote
9 of eight in the affirmative, zero in the negative,
10 and no abstentions, the item is adopted by the
11 Committee. Mr. Chair, that is a full Committee.

12 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much.

13 Congratulations, Council Member Brewer.

14 This vote is now closed.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: [GAVEL]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date July 30, 2025