



sanitation

Kathryn Garcia Commissioner

Opening Statement of Bridget Anderson, Deputy Commissioner Bureau of Recycling and Sustainability

Hearing before the New York City Council Committee on Sanitation & Solid Waste Management

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

1:00 P.M.

City Hall – Committee Room

Oversight Hearing

Intro No. 1439: In relation to requiring agencies to notify food rescue organizations before disposing of food; and

Intro No. 1514: In relation to facilitating food donations

Good afternoon and thank you Chair Reynoso and members of the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste for inviting the Department of Sanitation to appear at this hearing and for your ongoing commitment and support of our recycling sustainability programs. I am Bridget Anderson, Deputy Commissioner for the Department's Bureau of Recycling and Sustainability. I am also joined today by representatives from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Mayor's Office of Food Policy. I have some opening remarks and will address each bill under consideration today after which I'm happy to answer your questions.

Households and businesses in New York City discard approximately 1.5 million tons of food waste each year, equating to roughly a quarter of the City's waste stream. Food loss and food waste happen across the broad food supply chain, in food manufacturing, at distribution facilities and supermarkets, during transportation, and in preparation at homes and in commercial food establishments. While our primary goal must be to prevent food waste from occurring in the first place, donating surplus wholesome and nutritious food for human consumption diverts food waste from landfills and puts food on the table for individuals and families in need.

The issues of food waste and food loss are gaining attention in New York City as well as across the country, and the Department is working to build on the energy, motivation, and innovative ideas to tackle these issues. The Department's goal is to maximize the capture of excess food that would otherwise be discarded by restaurants, caterers, stadiums, corporate dining rooms, hotels, and other such sources of excess food.

DonateNYC is the Department's program to support and expand the reuse sector in NYC. The donateNYC website and mobile app connects residential and commercial donors of reusable or salvageable goods to appropriate outlets [nyc.gov/donate]. In addition, it facilitates capacity building for non-profit organizations that rescue and redistribute goods, including food rescue organizations, such as City Harvest, Food Bank NYC, Salvation Army, Bowery Mission and others.

Typically these and other food rescue or food bank organizations each maintain their own distribution systems with call centers for donors to schedule pick-ups of food suitable for donation. Some of these organizations provide both rescue and distribution services. Although there is a wide range of logistical capabilities in performing this work, capacity and technological assets vary from operation to operation, and can be a challenge. And there is an opportunity to improve the coordination between these organizations, so that food not usable by one group can be redirected to another.

Turning now to today's bills, I would first like to address Intro No. 1514 that would require, within six months, the Department, or an agency or office designated by the Mayor, to work with DoITT to create and maintain a portal to facilitate food donations between potential donors such as food service establishments, grocers, produce markets and food rescue organizations, and potential recipients.

The Department supports the objective of Intro No. 1514 and believes that with sufficient development, donateNYC could support an innovative and expanded food rescue effort that streamlines and improves connections between donors and the organizations that best meet their respective logistical needs, rather than developing a new and separate portal. We have concerns, however, that the six month timeline proposed under the bill may be insufficient to adequately study what is needed and to also implement the solution. DonateNYC could also consider a communication tool to assist donors and organizations with direct coordination, and allow the city to track donations data to measuring waste reduction impacts and other outcome metrics. The Department would like to examine this concept further to understand the need and scope of this program and what is necessary to develop such a system. This would include engaging stakeholders – both non-profit and for profit, reviewing and assessing existing technologies and systems in place to understand their strengths and weaknesses, and evaluating the development needs to best leverage and expand on existing tools and operations, and we would be happy to report back to this Committee and the Council on what we believe could work successfully to meet this mutual objective.

The second bill on today's agenda, Intro No. 1439, would amend Title 17 of the New York City Administrative Code by requiring any agency at least 24 hours in advance of confiscating and disposing of food from a business, to notify at least two food rescue organizations of the food's availability which it may retrieve at its own expense.

While several food confiscation processes exist within other agencies, the Sanitation Department does not make the determination of what businesses are subject to enforcement action from where food will be confiscated, although we will provide the ancillary service of disposal when requested by another sister enforcement agency and could assist other agencies and partners in data tracking for food recovery and waste reduction assessment. Other agencies are present here today to help explain their agency protocols.

For example, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene currently works to facilitate rescue of confiscated food, so long as the food is safe for consumption. However, the process requires a food rescue organization to pick the food up immediately after confiscation and often without prior notice. That is because the City has no facility to store confiscated food and we typically do not know in advance that an enforcement action will result in food available for rescue. For these reasons, complying with the 24-hour notice period set out in this bill would not be possible. We look forward to working together with the Council and all involved agencies to discuss some of these obstacles and to craft a practicable way to enable more food rescue.

We certainly applaud the goals set forth in this bill, and want to note that the City has a strong working partnership with several food rescue organizations that already pick up excess food from restaurants, grocers, manufacturers, wholesalers and greenmarkets, and deliver the food to soup kitchens, food pantries, day care and senior centers, and homeless shelters throughout the five boroughs.

Efforts to minimize food waste and loss, raise awareness of food waste, and facilitate food recovery that helps provide nutritious food for New York families and individuals that need it, saves consumers and businesses money and reduces our overall carbon footprint. The Department supports creative solutions to address food waste and recovery, and we look forward to hearing from the other stakeholders here today in order to continue this conversation with this Committee and the City Council.

I would like to thank Chair Reynoso and the Sanitation and Solid Waste Committee for its continued leadership in helping to improve solid waste management, for your interest in reducing food loss in the City, and for holding this hearing this afternoon.

We are now happy to answer your questions.



Testimony of David D DeVaughn, MPA, Director of Policy and Community Engagement
Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management

Int 1439-2017 & Int 1514-2017

Good afternoon Chairperson Reynoso and members of the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management. Thank you for holding this hearing today not only to address how food that would otherwise go to waste moves through New York City, but also how that food can and should alleviate hunger. With a proposed national budget that calls for more scrutiny, and dramatic cuts to a growing number of social service programs, organizations like City Harvest and the emergency food providers (EFPs) we work with are vital to ensure the well-being of New Yorkers struggling to make ends meet. We know the people we serve will continue to face difficult choices in the coming years, and City Harvest will continue to be there for them, as we have been since our founding.

City Harvest pioneered food rescue in 1982 and, this year, will collect 55 million pounds of excess food from all segments of the food industry, including restaurants, supermarkets, greenmarkets, corporate cafeterias, manufacturers, and farms to help feed the nearly 1.4 million New Yorkers struggling to put meals on their tables. Approximately 18 million of these pounds will come from over 2,000 donors in the city. Through relationships with farms, grocers, restaurants, and manufacturers, City Harvest collects nutritious food that would otherwise go to waste and delivers it free of charge to 500 EFPs including soup kitchens, food pantries, homeless shelters, AIDS care providers, senior centers, and children's daycare centers that serve hungry New Yorkers in all five boroughs. We also collaborate with Build it Green!NYC to compost the organic waste from our Long Island City Food Rescue Facility. **Since our founding, we have collected and delivered over 545 million pounds of food, and prevented over 500,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas from being produced – which is the equivalent of taking 100,000 cars off the road for a year.**

We do this by accepting fresh food, refrigerated and frozen food, dried food, food in boxes, cans, and bottles. This donated food must be prepared by a regulated or licensed food business, such as a restaurant, caterer, wholesaler, or bakery. We **do not** accept products containing alcohol, food that has been previously served, or food that does not meet our food safety standards. I will discuss in a moment, how this connects to the legislation we are discussing today.

We are energized by the Council and de Blasio administration's ambitious food donation and food waste goals. We support the Mayor's Zero Waste Challenge by helping to measure the amount of food that participants donate to City Harvest and ideally, donations to City Harvest will continue to increase because of the Challenge. We are also appreciative of the process the city is taking to answer big questions about strategy and impact. The recently commissioned baseline study of food waste in New York City, as well as the food system resilience study sponsored by NYC EDC are two large pieces of work that will and do yield significant information from which to base future decisions on.

We are eager to see how NYC agencies and offices can embrace strategies to reduce food waste, identifying donatable food. From School Food, to NYCHA, the need is great, and finding solutions will likely yield cost savings in the long term that pay for investments in the short term.

We must remember that America wastes more than 1,250 calories every day and 35 pounds of food every month.¹ As a country, this amounts to up to \$218 billion, or 1.3% of GDP², spent each year on wasted food. For a family of four, this means at least \$1,500 spent annually on food they never eat.³ Just one third of the country's wasted food could provide the caloric equivalent of the entire diet for the 48 million food insecure Americans, if it could only be distributed properly.⁴ Imagine what that means for families in your district.

This brings me to the matter at hand today, Introductions 1439 & Int 1514.

Int. 1514-2017

We are encouraged by the introduction of this bill reenergizing conversations about food rescue across the five boroughs. This piece of legislation can be another touchpoint to bring together food rescue partners and EFPs across the city and has the potential for public education. Alleviating hunger in our city must be a collaborative effort, and we appreciate that this initiative aims to bring together city agencies, non-profits, businesses, and individuals for a common goal to reduce food waste and help feed hungry New Yorkers.

With that said, we are not currently seeking a new city-run portal to facilitate food donation, as we have been working closely with Department of Sanitation's (DSNY) existing portal, DonateNYC, and helping to ensure that the portal works for food rescue organizations to increase the amount and types of food EFPs

¹ Buzby, J. et al. "the Estimated Amount, Value, and Calories of Postharvest Food Losses at the Retail and Consumer Levels in the United States" USDA Economic Research Service Economic Information Bulletin No. (EIB-121) 39 pp, February 2014 <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/eib-economic-information-bulleting/eib121.aspx>

² ReFed, "AA Roadmap to Reduce U.S. Food Waste by 20 percent." March 2016. www.refed.com USDA estimates \$161 billion but does not include the full supply chain and uses 2010 food prices as opposed to 2015.

³ Buzby, J. et al. "the Estimated Amount, Value, and Calories of Postharvest Food Losses at the Retail and Consumer Levels in the United States" USDA Economic Research Service Economic Information Bulletin No. (EIB-121) 39 pp, February 2014 <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/eib-economic-information-bulleting/eib121.aspx>

⁴ A. Coleman-Jensen et al. "Household Food Security in the United States in 2013" USDA Economic Research Service, Economic Research Report No. (ERR-173) 41 pp, September 2014. This source states that just over 49 million individuals are food insecure. It would take 32% of total losses and waste reported in Hall, et al., to provide 2500 kcal/day to that many people, which would equate to a toad diet. Of course, distribution challenges would and quality of nutrition are not considered in this back of envelope calculation.

need. In addition, if a new web portal were implemented, we would want to ensure that those donating and receiving rescued food through it understand what kinds and amounts food can be rescued and how that food needs to be stored to ensure food safety. City Harvest ensures that our staff, donors, and EFPs we work with are trained in donated food safety, but we know that general public and excess food generators may not be. I am happy to share our latest Food Donor Packet with the Committee upon request.

In addition, we want to ensure that anything new that may come out of the bill leverages existing systems, processes, and investments, as well as allows for greater efficiency and reductions in logistical costs for food rescue organizations. Through the New York City Food Assistance Collaborative we have been working with the United Way of New York City, Food Bank For New York City, HRA, and the New York State Department of Health-Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) to direct emergency food resources equitably and efficiently to residents in need.

Many soup kitchens and food pantries are limited by their ability to store food; they might not have refrigerators or freezers, or they may not have enough space to receive increased amounts of food. Alternatively, they may have inconsistent hours of operation, which make scheduling deliveries difficult. Infrastructure, like trucks, pallet jacks, staff, refrigerators all must be considered when determining how to direct donated food for use in the emergency food system.

Int. 1439-2017

I hope that we were all appalled by the video footage of boxes of fruits and vegetables from a sidewalk produce stand near the Williamsburg Bridge being thrown into a DSNY truck in February of 2016. Since that incident and a directive by the de Blasio administration to change city policy, we have rescued over 63,000 pounds of fresh produce through confiscations. We have a process with the Department of Health and the Department of Sanitation whenever a retailer or produce cart is in violation with food that is safe for consumption. We do our best, depending on the timing of the confiscation, to pick up the food and deliver it to an open EFP in the area that has the capacity to receive the food.

Let me share some highlights of our experience with this process:

- The NYPD conducts investigations on whether the store vendors or produce cart vendors in question are in compliance with city laws and contacts both the Department of Health and/or the Department of Sanitation, informing them of the probable confiscations.

- The Department of Health will determine if the product is safe for consumption and either the Department of Health or the Department of Sanitation will reach out to City Harvest via email, informing us of the possible confiscations.
- City Harvest will start our internal processes to rescue the food; this can become challenging if we are given a short turnover time, given our trucks are on regular routes.
- When the City Harvest driver rescues food items, they will issue the onsite contact with a receipt, and the driver will continue on their regularly scheduled route to deliver the rescued produce.

We are certainly open to this process explicitly including more food rescue organizations, as challenges do emerge when we cannot meet a short time window to pick up the product due to regularly scheduled pickups. We in no way want to see donatable food wasted, so we are open to hearing ideas.

In closing, I do want to be clear that diverting food waste to increase food donations will not end hunger. There are many systemic forces effecting families ability to afford and secure nutritious meals. However, as we look to increase the variety and quantity of donatable food in the city, we must take into account how food safety, public education, data tracking, process simplification, food rescue organization & EFP capacity, parallel processes, donor relations, and disaster resiliency come into play when designing and implementing legislation.

Again, thank you for your attention to these urgent matters and for all your work on to improve the lives and conditions of low-income New Yorkers.



David D DeVaughn, MPA, Director of Policy and Community Engagement

ddevaughn@cityharvest.org

646-412-0627



50 BROAD STREET, SUITE 1103
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10004
212-825-0028
HUNGERFREEAMERICA.ORG



Testimony of Will Thomas, Director of Research, Policy, and Advocacy

Hunger Free America

Hearing Before The New York City Council Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management

April 26th, 2017

My name is Will Thomas, and I am the Director of Research, Policy, and Advocacy at Hunger Free America. Formerly called the New York City Coalition Against Hunger, Hunger Free America changed its name in 2016 to better reflect the broad scope of our national work. This was also accompanied with intensifying our local efforts under the new name, Hunger Free New York City.

I would like to thank Chairman Reynoso and the rest of the Committee for your work, and especially for the opportunity to testify. I come before you in support of Int. 1439-2017 and Int. 1514-2017. While we believe that hunger in America will never end without a broad-based solution to poverty that tackles our long-standing and growing national income and asset inequality and provides an adequate government food safety net, focused food rescue efforts can fill in some of these gaps.

Citywide, approximately 1.4 million people lived in food insecure households between 2013-2015, according to our tabulation of USDA data. This represents approximately 17% of all individuals in NYC, 22% of all children, and 14% of all seniors (defined as those over the age of 65). According to our 2016 survey of emergency food providers across the city, demand for emergency food services increased 9 percent in 2016 when compared to the previous year, and out of the emergency food providers that indicated they could not meet current demand, 75% indicated that increased funding or resources for food would be most helpful for their program(s).¹

According to ReFED, an organization dedicated to reducing food waste in the U.S., approximately 40 percent of the 63 million tons of food waste come from consumer-facing

¹ Hunger Free America. *The State of the Working Hungry: Low Wages Chief Cause of Malnutrition*. 2016. <http://www.hungerfreeamerica.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/2016%20Annual%20Hunger%20Survey%20Report%20Final.pdf>

ENDING HUNGER LIFTS US ALL

~~HUNGER~~ FREE AMERICA

50 BROAD STREET, SUITE 1103
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10004
212-825-0028
HUNGERFREEAMERICA.ORG

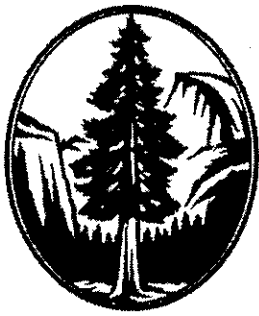


businesses such as supermarkets, full-service restaurants, and other food service providers.² While some of that volume of food is too old to be safe for human consumption, or is bones, by-products, or other inedible materials – and while other food waste may be economically inefficient to recover – we believe that the proposed solutions in this legislation could lead to marginal improvements the methods by which we divert nutritious food that might otherwise go wasted to those in need, and we look forward to seeing this idea progress in New York City.

Additionally, we would like the Council to be diligent in ensuring that the development and implementation of this proposal be done in conjunction with existing food recovery and food rescue organizations. We hope the City's attention to this issue supplements and amplifies ongoing work instead of overshadowing it.

² ReFED. A Roadmap to Reduce U.S. Food Waste by 20 Percent. https://www.refed.com/downloads/ReFED_Report_2016.pdf

ENDING HUNGER LIFTS US ALL



SIERRA
CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

One Penn Plaza, Suite 6285
New York, NY 10119-0002
www.nyc.sierraclub.org

Hearing by the City Council Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management,
Wednesday, April 26, 2017

My name is Bonnie Lane Webber, Vice Chair of the NYC Group of the Sierra Club. I am testifying on behalf of the NYC Group regarding the legislation before the Committee. Thank you for holding this hearing.

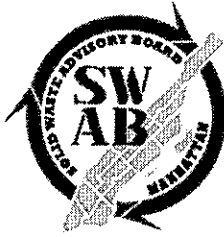
Further discussion is needed to decide how these food rescue operations will operate. City Harvest knows what they are doing and how to decide whether food is usable or not; they have facilities for storing, refrigerating, and distributing the food. But they don't seem to be able to handle all the food that is available, or they cannot time their pickups to coincide with the hours when the food is discarded. Entrepreneurs are getting involved in the food waste issue.

I think allowing less-structured organizations or individuals--like us--to get involved in this is not a good idea unless there can be substantial training that would make sure these smaller groups can handle the materials properly.

On the store/manufacturers' side, more info is needed on how to sort and package food that can be salvaged and how to time its disposal.

Studies have shown that a better use of the cities time and money would be to go to the source and educate people to the amount of energy, water, fertilizer and soil used to grow food and in turn wasted when the food is not consumed. People could find satisfaction in knowing they could take action to fight climate change through not wasting food. The Ad Council here in NYC working with NRDC has done a campaign on food waste <http://www.adcouncil.org/Our-Campaigns/Family-Community/Reducing-Food-Waste> .

The message has been created now money must be spent to get the information out to the people. If people knew that “trashing one egg is wasting 55 gallons of



TESTIMONY OF THE MANHATTAN SOLID WASTE ADVISORY BOARD

*NYC City Council Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management
Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 1:00pm, Council Chambers – City Hall
Int 1439-2017, Int 1514-2017*

Good afternoon, Chair Reynoso and members of the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management. I am Jacquie Ottman, and I serve on the Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board, or Manhattan SWAB, as Secretary.

The Manhattan SWAB is thrilled to see legislation addressing food waste being introduced by this body. Food waste is a lost opportunity to feed some of the 1.1 million New Yorkers who experience food insecurity.¹ Regarding environmental impacts of food waste:

- Worldwide, food waste produces 3.3 billion tons of greenhouse gases annually²
- Globally, producing uneaten food uses 38 times the water footprint of all US households³
- In the US, 30% to 40% of our food is wasted—worth \$161 billion⁴

With climate denial gaining ground in the White House and crucial programs like Meals on Wheels under attack, New York City can be a leader and inspire other cities. **Given that food waste reduction is strongly aligned with Mayor de Blasio's Zero Waste Plan, we eagerly anticipate the City's action.**

When the City does take action, we will join a worldwide food waste reduction movement with victories from Korea to Hong Kong to France to the US itself. The USDA and EPA have led this movement in the US, via their joint US Food Waste Challenge. But the future of EPA programs is now in question. Action by other entities, like large cities, is particularly meaningful now.

The EPA's Food Waste Recovery Hierarchy is: Source Reduction, Feed Hungry People, Feed Animals, Industrial Uses and Composting, followed by Landfill/ Incineration. Considering that the City has been focused nearly exclusively on organics collection for composting, we commend

¹ Feeding America's 2014 Nationwide Food Insecurity Map, which maps hunger by county. <http://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2014/overall/new-york> (accessed on April 14,2017)

² *Food Wastage Footprint: Impacts on Natural Resources*, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 2013. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3347e/i3347e.pdf> (accessed on April 14,2017)

³ *Food Wastage Footprint: Impacts on Natural Resources*, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 2013. <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/overview-greenhouse-gases> (accessed on April 14,2017). This water waste equals 3.6 times the water footprint of total USA consumption, including industry, which just shows how much water industry uses.

⁴ USDA website. 2010 data from the USDA's Economic Research Service. <https://www.usda.gov/oce/foodwaste/faqs.htm> (accessed on April 14,2017)

your efforts evidenced in the two proposed bills, Intros 1439 and 1514, to try innovative ways to reduce wasted food via an emphasis on feeding people. And we applaud efforts to try to experiment with new (digital) technology to do so.

That said, we encourage you in future efforts to also look into ways to address food waste through reduction strategies that incentivize residents, institutions and restaurants and other away-from-home meal servers to reduce the amount of food they waste in the first place through more efficient purchasing, processing and disposal practices, including donating uneaten edible food to shelters and food pantries.

We also urge the City to generate more robust data on how much edible food is wasted. We know that roughly 31% of our residential waste and 35% of our commercial waste is organic material, but how much of that was edible food that was discarded and why is it being wasted? This data can prove the value of food waste reduction programs and show us if they are not working. **Indeed, we urge DSNY to track data on *all* reusable products that end up in the trash, so that the City can design effective reuse strategies.**

If this committee moves forward with passing Intro 1439, we would like the Council to define “agency” and include City agencies in this definition. For instance, it is our understanding that the NYC Department of Education and the Department of Corrections do not donate *any* food to local charities because of legal concerns over liability, even though the *Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act* minimizes all donors’ liability. These two agencies purchase a tremendous amount of food and therefore likely waste the greatest amount of food. We are asking the City to walk the walk and make its own entities models for food waste reduction.

The Manhattan SWAB strongly supports addressing food waste and thanks the Committee for its work in this area, and we would be glad to be a part of any future discussions.

The Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board

Chair: Sarah Currie-Halpern; Vice-Chair: Laura Rosenshine; Secretary: Jacquelyn Ottman;
Assistant Secretary: Christina Ciambriello

Members: Emily Bachman, Robin Barton, Margot R. Becker, Kathleen Ceccarelli, Matthew Civello, Maggie Clarke, Debby Lee Cohen, Posie Constable, Naomi Cooper, Phillip Corradini, Christine Datz-Romero, Matt de la Houssaye, Helena Durst, Leslie Faulkner, Stephanie Gitter-Feldman, Katherine Hanner, Tony Hillery, Christine Johnson, Nicholas Knoll, Matthew Krumholtz, Dan McSweeney, Debra Menich, Kate Mikuliak, Mutale Nkonde, Diane Orr, Jennie Romer, Brendan Sexton, Marc Shifflett, Martha Sickles, Shien-ru Tsao, Meagan van Harte

The Manhattan SWAB – a non-profit, non-governmental organization – is a joint creation of the City Council and the Borough President, dedicated to increasing recycling, reducing solid waste, and advancing solid waste policy in New York City. The Board is composed of waste and recycling industry experts and concerned citizens, nominated by sitting Board members or Council Members and appointed by the Manhattan Borough President’s Office.



**Testimony of Adriana Espinoza
New York City Program Manager
New York League of Conservation Voters
Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management
Intro 1514
April 26th, 2017**

Good morning. My name is Adriana Espinoza, and I'm the Manager of the New York City Program at the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV). NYLCV represents over 28,000 members in New York City, and we are committed to advancing a sustainability agenda that will make our people, neighborhoods, and economy healthier and more resilient. I would like to thank Chair Reynoso and all members of the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management for the opportunity to testify.

NYLCV would like to offer support for Intro 1514, which would establish an online portal to facilitate food donations. The benefits of this proposal are significant, with both the social benefits of reducing food insecurity and environmental benefits of reducing waste.

Nearly 1.4 million New Yorkers face hunger every year, including a staggering 1 in 4 children.¹ Hundreds of food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and other charities work diligently to feed the hungry, but the number of food insecure New Yorkers has grown since the Great Recession and maintaining an adequate supply of fresh food requires constant effort.

At the same time, our city is generating 33 million tons of waste per year, with organic waste representing almost a third. That breaks down to nearly 4,000 pounds of organic waste per day. If this waste is landfilled, it begins to decompose and releases methane, a greenhouse gas that is many times more potent than carbon, thus contributing to global climate change. These figures are unacceptable.

Intro 1514 can help facilitate coordination between producers of large quantities of edible food waste with the charities and food banks who feed our most vulnerable. NYLCV applauds the efforts of our elected officials in thinking creatively and using technology to divert food from landfills. Intro 1514 can help feed hungry New Yorkers, reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfills and protect the environment.

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

¹ <https://www.cityharvest.org/hunger-in-nyc/>



**Testimony of Adriana Espinoza
New York City Program Manager
New York League of Conservation Voters
Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management
Intro 1514
April 26th, 2017**

Good morning. My name is Adriana Espinoza, and I'm the Manager of the New York City Program at the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV). NYLCV represents over 28,000 members in New York City, and we are committed to advancing a sustainability agenda that will make our people, neighborhoods, and economy healthier and more resilient. I would like to thank Chair Reynoso and all members of the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management for the opportunity to testify.

NYLCV would like to offer support for Intro 1514, which would establish an online portal to facilitate food donations. The benefits of this proposal are significant, with both the social benefits of reducing food insecurity and environmental benefits of reducing waste.

Nearly 1.4 million New Yorkers face hunger every year, including a staggering 1 in 4 children.¹ Hundreds of food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and other charities work diligently to feed the hungry, but the number of food insecure New Yorkers has grown since the Great Recession and maintaining an adequate supply of fresh food requires constant effort.

At the same time, our city is generating 33 million tons of waste per year, with organic waste representing almost a third. That breaks down to nearly 4,000 pounds of organic waste per day. If this waste is landfilled, it begins to decompose and releases methane, a greenhouse gas that is many times more potent than carbon, thus contributing to global climate change. These figures are unacceptable.

Intro 1514 can help facilitate coordination between producers of large quantities of edible food waste with the charities and food banks who feed our most vulnerable. NYLCV applauds the efforts of our elected officials in thinking creatively and using technology to divert food from landfills. Intro 1514 can help feed hungry New Yorkers, reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfills and protect the environment.

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

¹ <https://www.cityharvest.org/hunger-in-nyc/>

Committee on Sanitation & Solid Waste Management, New York City Council
Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 1:00pm
Committee Room, City Hall, New York, NY

New York City Hospitality Alliance Comments on Int. No. 1514. A local law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to facilitating food donations.

My name is Andrew Rigie and I am the executive director of the New York City Hospitality Alliance, a not-for-profit trade association that represents thousands of eating and drinking establishments throughout the five boroughs.

Today I am testifying in support of Int. No. 1514 that will facilitate food donations.

Our city's restaurants don't only serve food to paying customers; they are also deeply involved in serving the needs of their communities. This is exemplified in the tons of food they donate and the millions of dollars the restaurant industry raises and contributes annually to feed hungry New Yorkers', a cause that is in the ethos of the hospitality industry.

We all know there are well-established organizations doing incredible work rescuing food and serving hungry New Yorkers. We urge the city of New York to continue supporting these vital organizations, while always seeking innovative ways to rescue food and serve it to those who are in need. Even if one New Yorker goes hungry for one day, that is one too many. Unfortunately, many more do. That is why the creation of the food donation portal, as proposed by Int. No 1514, will be another tool in connecting restaurants and other entities that have food to donate with local organizations and people who need it in a customized way and in real time.

We urge the City Council and Mayor to pass this legislation into law.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Rigie
Executive Director
New York City Hospitality Alliance
arigie@theNYCalliance.org

**City Council Committee on
Sanitation and Solid Waste
Management**

**Lower East Side Ecology Center Testimony
April 26, 2017**

The Lower East Side Ecology Center is a nonprofit organization founded in 1987 that works toward a more sustainable New York City by providing community-based recycling and composting programs, developing local stewardship of green space, and increasing community awareness, involvement and youth development through environmental education programs.

Through our composting program we have an intimate view into the organic waste stream in NYC. We see New Yorkers throwing out perfectly edible food and while they are choosing to compost this food instead of sending it to landfill, it is unfortunate that these food resources, which could have gone to feeding another, are being wasted.

We support the proposed local laws to amend the administrative code of the city of New York in relation to requiring agencies to notify food rescue organizations before disposing of food.

Not only does sending organic waste to landfill help to perpetuate the creation of methane, a greenhouse gas, but also it takes up unnecessary space in our landfills. By ensuring that food makes its way into the hands (and stomachs) of more people, we are able to reduce our environmental impact and also feed those in need.

To facilitate an amended administrative code, a food web portal is a great way to start facilitating communication between food waste generators and rescuers. Food pantries, churches, and other food rescue facilities would be able to directly communicate and correspond with stores and other food providers. Once created, the appropriate outreach and education is needed to ensure that all relative parties are aware of its creation and intended purpose.

We see that by creating stronger connections to food rescue organizations, NYC can get closer to achieving its zero waste goals.

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Damon Versaggi

Address: _____

I represent: Scrappy Meats

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 4391514 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 04/26/17

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Gregory A. Offman

Address: NYC Manhattan SWAB

I represent: NYC Dept of Social Services

Address: 2569 NYC 10021

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/26/17

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Bonnie Webber

Address: 1135 PARK

I represent: Sierra Club NYC

Address: _____

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

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1439/1514 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/26/2017

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Molly Harman

Address: _____

I represent: Mayor's office food policy

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Corrine Schiff

Address: Deputy Commissioner, Environmental Health

I represent: ~~DOHMH~~ DOHMH

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1439+1514 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

more info needed Date: 4/26/17

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: David DeVaughn

Address: 6 E 32nd St 4th floor

I represent: City Harvest

Address: 6 E 32nd St 4th fl

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1439, 1514 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 26 April 2017

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Wally Thomas

Address: 50 BROAD ST NY, NY 10004

I represent: Heritage of America

Address: 50 BROAD ST NY, NY 10004

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: BRIDGET ANDERSON, Dept. of Sanitation

Address: DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR

I represent: RECYCLING + SUSTAINABILITY

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1439-2017 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 4/26/17

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Gretchen Roth

Address: 200 E 119th St. Apt 2A NY, NY 10035

I represent: The Bowery Mission

Address: 227 Bowery NY, NY 10002

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 4391514 Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 4/26/17

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Corinne Schiff

Address: NYC DOHMH 125 Worth St NY NY

I represent: Health Dept

Address: Same

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

Date: 4/26/17

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Richie O'Hara

Address: _____

I represent: Dept. of Consumer Affairs

Address: _____

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