

1 COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, RESILIENCY
AND WATERFRONTS 1

2 CITY COUNCIL
3 CITY OF NEW YORK

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5 TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

6 Of the

7 COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL
8 PROTECTION, RESILIENCY, AND
9 WATERFRONTS

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10 March 16, 2023

Start: 9:30 a.m.

11 Recess: 9:37 a.m.

12 HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

13 B E F O R E: James F. Gennaro, Chairperson

14 COUNCIL MEMBERS:

15 Robert F. Holden

16 Julie Menin

Sandy Nurse

17 Lincoln Restler

18 OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

19 Joann Ariola

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Check one, two. Check
3 one, two. This is a prerecorded sound test for the
4 Committee in Environmental Protection. It's being
5 recorded by Michael Leonardo in the Committee Room.
6 Today's date is March 16, 2023.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
8 welcome to today's New York City Council hearing for
9 the Committee on Environmental Protection.

10 At this time, please silence cellphones
11 to minimize disruptions.

12 Chair, we are ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Thank you, Sergeant.
14 [GAVEL] Good morning. I am Jim Gennaro, Chair of the
15 Committee on Environmental Protection, Resiliency and
16 Waterfronts.

17 Today, we'll be holding a vote on Intro
18 210A by our Colleague, Joann Ariola, regarding the
19 creation of a Marine Debris Disposal and Vessel
20 Surrendering Office. It goes on and on about how
21 great this bill is, but I think it is, and it is, but
22 I think rather than have me steal the Council
23 Member's thunder, I'm going to turn it over to
24 Council Member Ariola in a moment for a full
25 description of her bill.

2 Before I do that, I would like to thank
3 the terrific Committee Staff who has done such great
4 work over the years, Counsel to the Committee Samara
5 Swanson, Policy Analysts Ricky Chawla and Andrew
6 Bourne, Financial Analyst Andrew Lane-Lawless, and
7 finally my great Legislative Director Nabby Kaur for
8 all their hard work.

9 We're joined by Council Members Nurse and
10 Menin and Restler. That gives us a quorum.

11 It gives me pleasure to recognize Council
12 Member Ariola for a description of her good bill.
13 Council Member Ariola.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Thank you, Chair.
15 Good morning, everyone. Today, we're going to discuss
16 Proposed Intro 210A for a vote. This bill is
17 something that impacts the lives of New Yorkers in
18 all five boroughs. The health and cleanliness of our
19 waterways from Pelham Bay to Jamaica Bay to New York
20 City's waterways are littered with abandoned vessels
21 and marine debris that are not only unsightly but
22 they are detrimental to the health of our waterways.
23 Every day these vessels leak oil and other chemicals
24 into the water, while debris creates microplastics
25 and other hazards to sea life. That's why I urge all

2 of my Colleagues to vote yes on Intro 210 which would
3 create a dedicated Office of Marine Debris Disposal
4 and Vessel Surrendering. Through the creation of that
5 office, we as a City will be able to better
6 streamline plans to remove and, if possible, recycle
7 the debris and vessels they left on our shores.
8 Additionally, the office will be able to establish a
9 dedicated location for boat owners to leave unwanted
10 vessels, providing a viable alternative to
11 abandonment and will also develop recommendations for
12 enforcement against those who do not choose to
13 legally abandon their boats. This would be a
14 tremendous step towards improving the waterways all
15 around New York City so that we can all enjoy them
16 and hopefully be able to enjoy for generations to
17 come.

18 That is why myself and my co-prime
19 Sponsor, Selvena Brooks-Powers, are asking you to
20 vote yes on this bill. Thank you so much for your
21 time.

22 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Thank you, Council
23 Member Ariola. Certainly appreciate your leadership
24 in bringing this bill forward. I am a co-sponsor
25 myself and would like to sponsor the bill. I urge my

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1 WATERFRONTS 5

2 the Members of the Committee to vote yes on this good
3 bill.

4 Billy, I think we're ready to call the
5 roll.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
7 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
8 vote Committee on Environmental Protection,
9 Resiliency and Waterfronts Proposed Introduction
10 210A. Chair Gennaro.

11 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: I vote yes, and yes,
12 this is a new suit.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Holden.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I congratulate my
15 Colleague, Joann Ariola, and this is long overdue. I
16 vote aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
18 you. Gutierrez. Hanks. Menin.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: I vote aye and
20 congratulate my Colleague, Council Member Ariola, on
21 her bill.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Nurse.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye and what
24 a great bill. Thank you.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: I vote aye, and
3 we appreciate this bill in Newtown Creek and Gowanus
4 Canal so thank you very much, Council Member.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote
6 of five in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and
7 no abstentions, item has been adopted by the
8 Committee.

9 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Thank you. We're
10 going to leave the record open for now for other
11 Members who may want to come and register their vote
12 on this good bill.

13 With that, I thank all the Members of the
14 Committee. Sorry I was late. The haircut and suit
15 doesn't make up for it, so I still owe you.

16 Thank you to everyone. This hearing is
17 adjourned. [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 March 28, 2023