

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, RESILIENCY

AND WATERFRONTS

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION, RESILIENCY AND
WATERFRONTS

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December 18, 2025
Start: 1:37 p.m.
Recess: 1:44 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING
ROOM 1

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alexa Avilés
Robert F. Holden
Kristy Marmorato
Sandy Nurse
Lincoln Restler
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Joann Ariola

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee on Environmental Protection,
4 Resiliency and Waterfronts recorded on December 18,
5 2025, located in Hearing Room 1, by Nazly Paytuvi.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good afternoon, and
7 welcome to today's New York City Council vote for the
8 Committee on Environmental Protection.

9 At this time, please silence all
10 electronic devices, and no one may approach the dais.

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Thank you very much.
13 [GAVEL] Good afternoon. I'm Council Member Jim
14 Gennaro, Chair of the Committee on Environmental
15 Protection, Resiliency, and Waterfronts.

16 Today, we will be voting on Proposed
17 Intro. 403-A, sponsored by Public Advocate Jumaane
18 Williams, in relation to the inspection and cleanup
19 of catch basins and reports on catch basin
20 inspection, cleanup, and maintenance, and Proposed
21 Reso. 82-A, sponsored by myself, supporting the
22 mission and growth of the Climate Museum.

23 Proposed Intro. 403-A, now what I'm going
24 to do, now Council Member Ariola has an interest in
25 this bill as a, I think, co-prime sponsor, and she

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2 wishes to speak on this bill, so rather than me doing
3 it in the intro, I'm going to recognize her right now
4 to talk about Intro. 403. This sounds like big fun.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Thank you so much,
6 Chair. This is a joint statement by Public Advocate
7 Jumaane D. Williams and myself.

8 Each year there is an extreme storm in
9 this city, one that overruns our systems and our
10 streets, and one that puts New Yorkers' safety and
11 security at risk. We hear at least once in a decade,
12 once in a generation, or once in 500 years, but we
13 hear it once too often. These events are the new
14 normal. We need to be adequately prepared as a City.
15 Catch basins are a type of storm drain that serve a
16 critical function in reducing the likelihood of
17 inland flooding citywide. They serve as a component
18 of storm drains, collect debris, and that slows the
19 process of excess runoff water, and it hinders that
20 runoff water. The catch basins play a key role in
21 keeping New York City streets free of flooding, but
22 they require frequent attention and upkeep. Intro.
23 403A would require the DEP to unclog such catch
24 basins within eight days of an inspection or
25 complaint, and that the agency reports the catch

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2 basin clearance data each year. The bill would
3 require the DEP to inspect catch basins in accordance
4 with a multi-tiered inspection schedule based on the
5 data collected under the previous law from the Public
6 Advocate. This law I am so proud to co-sponsor
7 because for far too long we've seen a lack of
8 accountability from the DEP when it comes to catch
9 basins. This bill will provide us accountability, and
10 I am proud to co-sponsor this with our Public
11 Advocate. Thank you for the time.

12 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Thank you, Council
13 Member.

14 Now I'll move on to Proposed Reso. 82-A,
15 which would support the mission and growth of the
16 Climate Museum, which was created in 2015 as the
17 first museum of its kind in the U.S. The Climate
18 Museum is dedicated to educating and engaging the
19 public on climate issues and advancing just solutions
20 to the climate crisis. As New York City feels the
21 profound effects of climate change, including changes
22 in temperature, precipitation, sea level rise, and
23 extreme weather events, it is becoming increasingly
24 important to educate New Yorkers on the effects of
25 climate change, the scientific link between human

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2 activities and climate change, and possible solutions
3 to the crisis. The Climate Museum does this through a
4 thoughtful balance of science, art, and storytelling,
5 and I am very proud today to stand in support of such
6 a great institution, and they came here and
7 testified. You had to see them. They were, like,
8 crying. It was great. They're really a lot of kids.
9 It was all good stuff. Now, here we go.

10 I'd like to thank the... oh, no, let me
11 recognize the Members that are here first. I haven't
12 done that. Shame on me. We have Council Members
13 Nurse, Holden, Salamacá, Avilés, Restler, and
14 Marmorato, oh, and Council Member Arriola, of course,
15 who is joining to tell us about 403-A.

16 And, of course, I'd like to thank the
17 Committee Staff, Legislative Counsels Natasha Bynum
18 and Sierra Townsend, Policy Analyst Ricky Chawla,
19 Financial Analyst Tanveer Singh, as well as my
20 Legislative Director, Josh Gachette, for all their
21 hard work.

22 And I think that's it. I was going to say
23 more stuff because this is the last thing, but it's
24 just... it's now, like, you know, it's almost spring. I
25 think we should get over to City Hall. Oh, and so

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2 Chairing this Committee has been big fun. How about
3 that? Okay? It would just call it - call it, you
4 know, we're going to be very, you know, spare with
5 our words. And later on on the floor, everyone,
6 please be spare with their words as well because it
7 just... otherwise we're going to be for a long... we're
8 going to be for a long haul. I will now finally...
9 everyone is saying, are you going to get on with this
10 or what, I will now ask the Clerk to call the roll. I
11 urge a yes vote.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
13 you. Good afternoon. William Martin, Committee Clerk.
14 Roll call vote, Committee on Environmental
15 Protection, Resiliency and Waterfronts. Both items
16 are coupled.

17 Chair Gennaro.

18 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:
20 Salamanca.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brannan.
23 Holden.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Avilés.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye. And thank
3 you, Chair Gennaro, for all your work.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Nurse.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Yeah. Thank you,
8 Chair Gennaro, for leading this Committee. I have
9 learned a lot from you and really enjoyed working
10 with you, and I did not have a joint statement from
11 our Public Advocate and Minority Leader on our bingo
12 card for today, but I love to see that kind of
13 collaboration, and congrats on some great bills to
14 our Minority Leader. Aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Zhuang.
16 Marmorato.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: I vote aye on
18 all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
20 vote of seven in the affirmative, zero in the
21 negative, and no abstentions, both items have been
22 adopted by the Committee, Mr. Chair.

23 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Okay. So, we're not
24 going to hold the record open?

25 Okay. This vote is adjourned.

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 December 29, 2025