

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

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

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

Chair, we are ready to begin.

CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Thank you very much.

[GAVEL] Good afternoon. I'm Council Member Jim
Gennaro, Chair of the Committee on Environmental
Protection, Resiliency, and Waterfronts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Thank you, Council Member.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chair Gennaro.

CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:
Salamanca.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brannan.
Holden.

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Avilés.

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

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Nurse.

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

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

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Zhuang.
Marmorato.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: I vote aye on
all.

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

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

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