

COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 1  
CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID  
WASTE MANAGEMENT

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June 7, 2023  
Start: 2:10 p.m.  
Recess: 2:30 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - COMMITTEE ROOM, 14TH  
FLOOR

B E F O R E: Sandy Nurse, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Erik D. Bottcher  
Amanda Farias  
James F. Gennaro  
Julie Menin  
Chi A. Osse  
Kristin Richardson Jordan  
Marjorie Velazquez  
Kalman Yeger

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Shahana Hanif

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a sound check  
3 for the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste  
4 Management. Today's date is June 7, 2023. Being  
5 recorded by Danny Huang (phonetic) on the 14th Floor  
6 Hearing Room.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All right. Welcome to  
8 the New York City Council Committee on Sanitation and  
9 Solid Waste Management vote.

10 Please silence all cell phones.

11 Chair, we're ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: All right. [GAVEL]  
13 Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to the Committee on  
14 Sanitation and Solid Waste Management. I'm excited to  
15 be here with you all.

16 We're going to save all the big remarks  
17 for tomorrow, so we'll let you all get out of here,  
18 but just want to note that right now New York City is  
19 grappling with the worst air quality in the world  
20 because of climate-change-fueled forest fires burning  
21 hundreds of miles away in Canada, and we are watching  
22 the climate crisis in real-time, and we have to act.  
23 It feels really meaningful and significant to be  
24 voting on the Zero Waste Act now during this week,  
25 actually putting some kind of solution forward. This

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2 is a major environmental justice victory for New York  
3 City and beyond, and it's a vital part of our ongoing  
4 efforts to build a more equitable and sustainable  
5 waste management system.

6 Today, we are voting on five pieces of  
7 legislation starting with the two bills that I  
8 sponsored. I have Intro. 274A which establishes a  
9 goal of diverting recyclables and organic waste 100  
10 percent by 2030 from landfills and incinerators.  
11 Intro. 275 requires the New York City Department of  
12 Sanitation to annually report on the City's progress  
13 on achieving these zero waste goals.

14 It also includes bills from my partners,  
15 Council Member Shahana Hanif and Keith Powers. Intro.  
16 244A sponsored by Council Member Shahana Hanif  
17 creates a mandatory citywide curbside organics  
18 program for residential buildings with language-  
19 accessible outreach and education.

20 Intro. 280 sponsored by Council Member  
21 Keith Powers establishes community recycling centers  
22 and community recycling events.

23 Intro. 281B sponsored by Council Member  
24 Keith Powers requires organic waste drop-off sites  
25 and community composting facilities.

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2 Together, these laws represent a  
3 comprehensive sweeping approach to advancing zero  
4 waste and tackling the over-11,000 tons of  
5 residential waste New Yorkers generate every single  
6 day. This Act is a landmark achievement for New York  
7 City that advances sustainable waste management and  
8 tackles our climate crisis.

9 Now, I will turn it over to the Clerk to  
10 take the vote.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:  
12 Greetings, everyone. William Martin, Committee Clerk.  
13 Roll call vote Committee on Sanitation and Solid  
14 Waste Management. All items are coupled. Chair Nurse.

15 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: I vote aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Gennaro.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Bottcher.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: I vote aye, and  
20 I want to commend Chair Nurse and Council Members  
21 Hanif and Powers. I think what we're doing today is  
22 so incredibly significant, and the great news, the  
23 good news always doesn't make the biggest headlines,  
24 right, but what we're doing today by establishing a  
25 zero waste goal by 2030, mandatory curbside compost

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2 for New York City buildings, and establishing  
3 recycling centers in all neighborhoods, it's going to  
4 be transformative, and I'm really proud of this  
5 Committee and what we've done already in the last  
6 year and half and we're just getting started. Thank  
7 you.

8 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: Clerk, can I  
9 interrupt? Sorry. I didn't realize we had Council  
10 Member Hanif online who wanted to make a statement. I  
11 turn it over to you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you so much.  
13 I am just really overjoyed right now. Sorry that I'm  
14 not there in person. The air quality issues are a  
15 huge concern to my own health, and I hope that you  
16 all are practicing safe health measures to protect  
17 yourself.

18 What a huge, huge win for us. Thank you  
19 to Chair Nurse for including 244A on today's agenda  
20 and your incredible partnership on this bill over the  
21 past year plus. I want to express tons of gratitude  
22 to the co-prime sponsors who introduced this bill  
23 alongside me, Speaker Adams, Chair Nurse, Brooklyn  
24 Borough President Reynoso, Council Members Powers,  
25 Won, Bottcher, Gennaro, Menin, Hudson, Caban, Brewer,

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2 and Rivera. I also want to thank so many other  
3 Council Members for signing on and bringing us to 42  
4 sponsors. I also want to thank DSNY, CLA for their  
5 collaboration in moving this bill forward. The  
6 overwhelming support and leadership behind this bill  
7 really demonstrates that universal residential  
8 composting is a commonsense solution that will  
9 solidify New York City as an environmental justice  
10 leader and save our City money. Right now, we know  
11 that more than a third of all trash New Yorkers  
12 produce is organic waste. Currently, the vast  
13 majority of this waste is either incinerated,  
14 predominantly in communities of color, damaging their  
15 health, or it rots in landfill, emitting methane, a  
16 greenhouse gas 25 times more destructive than carbon  
17 dioxide, and this bill will create a citywide  
18 curbside composting program for residential buildings  
19 diverting organic waste to productive uses like  
20 nourishing our City's soil or heating our homes. The  
21 bill also requires the upcoming Solid Waste  
22 Management Plan to maximize the usable composting of  
23 this organic waste. Collections will be mandatory  
24 weekly and year-round, allowing us to reach the  
25 needed environmental impact to meet the climate

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2 crisis and the economic efficiencies that will help  
3 the City financially.

4 I want to close by thanking the countless  
5 advocates who have been instrumental in advancing  
6 this bill including TREEage, WE ACT, NRDC, 350BK,  
7 Sunrise, NYCLV, and countless more. I want to thank  
8 my team, Alex Liao, Michael Whitesides, Nora  
9 Brickner, Musarrat Lamia, and Hannah Henderson-  
10 Charnow, Anelle Hernandez from Chair Nurse's team,  
11 Hayley Goldstein and Ben Jacobs from Council Member  
12 Powers' team, and Brad Reed, Audrey Son, Ricky  
13 Chawla, (INAUDIBLE), and Kris Sartori from the  
14 Council's Legislative Division.

15 Together with the passage of the other  
16 bills from the Zero Waste Act, passing Intro. 244A  
17 would mark a major step towards a truly green future  
18 for New York City. I encourage my Colleagues to vote  
19 yes. Thank you. Back to you, Chair.

20 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: Thank you, Council  
21 Member Hanif. I turn it back to you, Clerk.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
23 you. Farias.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIAS: I vote aye on all.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Menin.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: I vote aye on all  
3 and just want to congratulate my Colleagues on these  
4 tremendous bills.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
6 you, Council Member. Osse.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSE: I vote aye and  
8 congratulations to all my Colleagues, most especially  
9 Council Member Nurse. Really, really amazing  
10 leadership and work on this package.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:  
12 Richardson Jordan.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: I vote  
14 aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote  
16 of seven in the affirmative, zero in the negative,  
17 and no abstentions, all items have been adopted by  
18 the Committee.

19 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: Awesome. Thank you.  
20 Thank you, everyone. We will see you tomorrow.

21 [GAVEL]

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Quiet,  
23 please. Quiet, please. Continuation roll call  
24 Committee on Sanitation. Council Member Velazquez.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER VELAZQUEZ: Aye on all.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
3 you. Vote is currently at eight in the affirmative.

4 Continuation roll call Committee on  
5 Sanitation. Council Member Yeger.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you. I vote  
7 aye on 274, 275, and no on the remaining.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: All  
9 right. Final vote now Committee on Sanitation. We  
10 have Introductions 274A and 275A adopted by the  
11 Committee with nine in the affirmative, zero in the  
12 negative, and no abstentions, and Introductions 244A,  
13 280A, and 281B adopted by the Committee with eight in  
14 the affirmative, one in the negative, and no  
15 abstentions.

16 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: Thank you. Closing  
17 out. [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 June 13, 2023