

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, RESILIENCY

AND WATERFRONTS 1

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION, RESILIENCY AND
WATERFRONTS

----- X

December 20, 2023
Start: 10:12 a.m.
Recess: 10:17 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Jennifer Gutiérrez
Robert F. Holden
Julie Menin
Sandy Nurse
Lincoln Restler

1 COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, RESILIENCY
AND WATERFRONTS 2

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee on Environmental Protection,
4 Resiliency and Waterfronts. Today's date is December
5 20, 2023. We're located in the Council Chambers.
6 Recording done by Rocco Mesiti.

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 Resiliency, and Waterfronts.

11 Please silence all cell phones and
12 electronic devices.

13 Chair, we're ready to begin.

14 CHAIRPERSON MENIN: [GAVEL] Good morning,
15 I'm Council Member Julie Menin filling in for Council
16 Member James Gennaro, who is on Zoom and who is not
17 feeling well, I hope he feels better soon, so I am
18 serving as substitute Chair for the Committee on
19 Environmental Protection, Resiliency, and
20 Waterfronts.

21 Today, we will vote on Proposed Intro.
22 532-A, sponsored by Council Member Gennaro. We first
23 considered this bill on February 3rd of this year.
24 This bill seeks to bring all of the City's coastal
25 waters under the protection of the Federal

1 Environmental Protection Agency by preparing them to
2 be declared no discharge zones, in which both treated
3 and untreated sewage discharge from vessels is
4 prohibited.

5
6 To achieve this status, federal law
7 requires a body of water to host sufficient vessel
8 waste pump-out facilities. This bill would require
9 the Department of Environmental Protection, DEP, to
10 report on the additional construction and
11 installation needed to establish the City's coastal
12 bodies of water as no discharge zones and determine
13 how many pump-out facilities are necessary to achieve
14 that status.

15 DEP would be required to install at least
16 two pump-out facilities per year until each coastal
17 body of water hosts a number of operational pump-out
18 facilities DEP determines is required to achieve no
19 discharge zone status. This bill would also require
20 DEP to report every two years on its progress
21 regarding the foregoing and to make best efforts to
22 ensure that existing no discharge zones maintain
23 their status as no discharge zones once they are
24 established. Achieving no discharge zone status for
25 all of our City's coastal bodies of water would bring

our coastal waterways under federal protection and lead to cleaner, healthier coastal waters for all New Yorkers.

I want to thank the terrific Committee Staff who have done such great work over the years, Committee Counsel Claire MacLachlan, Policy Analysts Ricky Chawla and Andrew Bourne, Financial Analysts Tanveer Singh and Andrew Lane Lawless, and finally Council Member Gennaro's Legislative Director Nabjot Kaur for all of their hard work.

I want to thank the following Council Members who are here, Council Member Holden, Council Member Restler, Council Member Nurse, Council Member Gutiérrez.

Council Member Gennaro, did you want to make a statement?

CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Just very briefly. Thank you, Council Member Menin, for filling in.

Just the one item about the federal protection. The goal is to get the Coast Guard and the DEC, mostly the Coast Guard, would be in charge of enforcing the no discharge mandate once it is fully established, and that's really the crux of what we're going for here is to get the Coast Guard

2 involved because they really will do enforcement as
3 opposed to DEP that does not have the capacity and,
4 DEC where I used to formerly work was nowhere near
5 the capacity.

6 Once again, I thank you for filling in. I
7 am quite under the weather. Should I vote? I'll wait
8 until you call the roll.

9 CHAIRPERSON MENIN: Well, we certainly
10 hope you feel better.

11 I will turn it to the Clerk to call the
12 roll call.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
14 morning, William Martin. Committee Clerk. Roll call
15 vote Committee on Environmental Protection,
16 Resiliency and Waterfronts, Proposed Introduction
17 532-A. Chair Menin.

18 CHAIRPERSON MENIN: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Chair
20 Gennaro.

21 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Aye. Is that good?

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Yes.
23 Thank you. Holden.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye.
25

2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

3 Gutiérrez.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanks.

6 Nurse.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye. Feel
8 better, Chair.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye, and hope
11 you're doing okay, Jim.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
13 vote of six in the affirmative, zero in the negative,
14 and no abstentions, item has been adopted by the
15 Committee.

16 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: I want to thank my
17 Colleagues for their good wishes. I appreciate it.

18 CHAIRPERSON MENIN: Okay, that closes the
19 hearing. Thank you. [GAVEL]

20

21

22

23

24

25

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 22, 2023