

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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September 24, 2020  
Start: 1:05 p.m.  
Recess: 2:24 p.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing

B E F O R E: Antonio Reynoso  
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Margaret S. Chin  
Andrew Cohen  
Fernando Cabrera  
Costa Constantinides  
Justin Brannan  
Chaim M. Deutsch

## A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Ed Grayson, Acting Commissioner  
Department of Sanitation

Gregory Anderson, Assistant Commissioner  
of Policy and External Affairs  
Department of Sanitation

Paul Visconti, Chief of Cleaning  
Department of Sanitation

Kathy Nizzari  
Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board

Eric Goldstein  
Natural Resources Defense Council

Sabrina Rezy, Director of Communications  
and Legislation for Assembly Member  
Rodneyse Bischotte

Debora Rivas  
The Bushwick Initiative

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

3

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Okay. Good afternoon.

3 At this time, will Sergeants please start the  
4 recordings? Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to  
5 today's remote New York City Council hearing of the  
6 Committee on Sanitation. At this time, would all  
7 panelists please turn on the video? To minimize  
8 disruption, please place electronic devices to  
9 vibrate or silent. If you wish to submit any  
10 testimony, you may do so at  
11 [testimony@Council.NYC.gov](mailto:testimony@Council.NYC.gov). Again, that is  
12 Council.NYC.gov. Thank you for your cooperation. We  
13 are ready to begin.

14 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council member  
15 Reynoso, are you ready to begin the hearing?

16 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Yes. I don't have  
17 a gap, so I will be using some tools that I had here.

18 [gavel]

19 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Thank you for  
20 joining our virtual hearing today on street and  
21 sidewalk cleanliness in New York City. First, I  
22 would like to acknowledge my colleagues that have  
23 joined us. I see Council member Brannan, Council  
24 member Chin, Council member Cabrera, Council member  
25 Cohen that have currently joined us. Thank you. I

2 want to give a reminder that there is a significant  
3 delay, about two minutes, when loading the live  
4 broadcasting and when I'm muting and muting for about  
5 10 seconds, so we want to just make sure that we give  
6 an opportunity for panelists to speak with time. And  
7 I think I'm going to now get this over to the  
8 moderator, Nicole Abene.

9 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. I'm  
10 Nicole Abene, committee counsel to the Committee on  
11 Sanitation and Solid Waste Management at the New York  
12 City Council. Before we begin, I want to remind  
13 everyone that you will be on mute until you are  
14 called to testify when you will be un-muted by the  
15 host. I will be calling on panelists to testify.  
16 Please listen for your name to be called. I will be  
17 periodically announcing the next panelists will be.  
18 We will begin with testimony from the administration  
19 followed by the public testimony. The first three  
20 panelists for the public testimony portion will be  
21 Kathy Nizzari, followed by Jeffrey Le François,  
22 followed by Eric Goldstein. I will call you when it  
23 is your turn to speak. During the hearing, if  
24 Council members would like to ask a question, please  
25 use the zoom raise hand function and I will call you

2 in the order that you have raised your hand. We will  
3 be limiting Council member questions to five minutes.  
4 Thank you. Chair, if you would like to give your  
5 opening statement.

6 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Yes. Good  
7 afternoon. I am Council member Antonio Reynoso and I  
8 am the chair of the Committee on Solid Waste in  
9 Sanitation. Welcome to this hearing on street  
10 sidewalk cleanliness in New York City. As I am sure  
11 you are all aware, the Department of Sanitation  
12 budget was reduced dramatically in the budget for  
13 fiscal year 2021. There is about 24.5 million glass  
14 in the SRI budget to keep our streets and sidewalks  
15 clean then there was in fiscal year 2020. Alternate  
16 side parking was suspended for most of the summer and  
17 is now in effect, but with the reductions. Streets  
18 are being cleaned and little baskets are being  
19 emptied less frequently. New Yorkers are reporting  
20 overflowing litter baskets, garbage on the streets  
21 and sidewalks, and an increase in rat sightings. The  
22 Department of Sanitation to be funded to do the work  
23 that we all rely on them to do. These cuts are  
24 making it difficult for DSNY to keep our streets and  
25 sidewalks clean. There was just an announcement that

2 some funding is being reallocated to reinstate some  
3 of the services that have been reduced. I'm  
4 interested to understand where this money came from  
5 and how it will be distributed throughout the city.  
6 Litter baskets are not only being filled with litter,  
7 but, in some cases, they are being filled with bags  
8 of household or business garbage. This is illegal  
9 and is adding to the garbage on our streets. We made  
10 businesses and households to dispose of garbage  
11 properly and keep litter baskets for their intended  
12 use. The cuts made the DSNY were too extreme and we  
13 are seeing the consequences of this throughout the  
14 city. New Yorkers deserve clean streets and  
15 sidewalks and, I, as an advocate for restoring  
16 funding, I want to also ask individuals to be mindful  
17 of where they are placing their trash. Please do  
18 your part to keep our streets litter and rat free and  
19 dispose of business and residential garbage properly,  
20 not in litter baskets. I look forward to hearing  
21 DSNY's testimony on how we can do a better job  
22 keeping our streets clean. I'm also interested in  
23 where the reallocated funding will be able to  
24 increase litter basket pick up. I want to be sure  
25 that this money is being distributed equitably that

1  
2 there is a plan to keep all of our streets garbage  
3 free. Thank you.

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: I will now call on  
5 members of the administration to testify. Acting  
6 Commissioner Ed Grayson, Assistant Commission for  
7 policy and external affairs Gregory Anderson, and  
8 chief of cleaning Paul Visconti. I will now deliver  
9 the oath to the administration then I will call on  
10 each of you individually to record your answers.  
11 Speak loudly and clearly when you answer. Do you  
12 affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth, and  
13 nothing but the truth before this committee and to  
14 respond honestly to Council member questions? Acting  
15 Commissioner Ed Grayson?

16 ACTING COMMISSIONER GRAYSON: I do.

17 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Assistant  
18 Commissioner for policy and external affairs Gregory  
19 Anderson?

20 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER GREGORY: I do.

21 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Chief of cleaning  
22 Paul Visconti?

23 PAUL VISCONTI: I do.

24

25

2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Can you respond  
3 again? Your video didn't pop up. Chief of cleaning  
4 Paul Visconti?

5 PAUL VISCONTI: I do. Can you hear me?

6 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Yes. That was  
7 good. Thank you. And you may begin when you are  
8 ready.

9 ACTING COMMISSIONER GRAYSON: Thank  
10 you. Good morning. Good afternoon, rather. Good  
11 afternoon, Chair Reynoso and members of the city  
12 Council Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste  
13 Management. I am Edward Grayson and acting  
14 Commissioner of the New York City Department of  
15 Sanitation. With me here today was just sworn in as  
16 Gregory Anderson, our Assistant Commissioner for  
17 policy and external affairs and Paul Visconti, chief  
18 of cleaning operations. Thank you for the  
19 opportunity this afternoon to discuss sidewalk and  
20 street cleanliness in New York City. Before I begin,  
21 I would like to thank Commissioner Catherine Garcia  
22 for her 6 1/2 years of service and leadership to the  
23 department. Under her leadership, the department has  
24 accomplished many things, creating the nation's  
25 largest curbside composting program, working with

1 this Council to pass landmark ways to equity and  
2 commercial wastes on laws, implementing new state of  
3 the art technologies to modernize operations, and  
4 making New York City cleaner than at any time in  
5 history. And for all of us here, we wish her all the  
6 best in her future endeavors. In addition, I would  
7 also like to recognize our first deputy commissioner  
8 Stephen Kostis who recently announced his retirement  
9 for October 1st this year. Commissioner Kostis has  
10 been steadfast in his commitment to the department  
11 for over the last 34 years and I'm thankful to him  
12 for his leadership, censorship, and, most  
13 importantly, friendship over the course of my entire  
14 career. While I was appointed acting Commissioner  
15 less than a week ago, I have, for the last 21 years,  
16 a variety of roles in the department. Including the  
17 director of Bureau cleaning and collection for the  
18 last three years, the operations chief during the  
19 2016 Jonas blizzard, the largest snowstorm in city's  
20 history, and I am proud to dedicate my career to this  
21 department. I am honored to have been named to the  
22 acting Commissioner by Mayor DeBlasio and I look  
23 forward to working with all of you to continue to  
24 keep New York City safe and clean. New York City has  
25

1  
2 been the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak. In this  
3 country and on a scale of nearly unimaginable earlier  
4 this year. I am extremely proud of the men and women  
5 of the Department who work hard to deliver essential  
6 sanitation services daily in all five boroughs.

7 Throughout this crisis, our employees have shown  
8 incredible commitment and dedication. Coming to work  
9 every day despite fear and anxiety, despite the  
10 terrible disease taking a devastating toll on our  
11 workforce. This global health pandemic has  
12 dramatically upended all of our lives and the  
13 economic fallout is unprecedented. Unfortunately,  
14 the FY 21 budget reflects that reality. As with all  
15 other agencies, this department has had to make some  
16 very difficult choices and cuts to programs that are  
17 important to many New Yorkers and, unless the city  
18 receives relief in the form of support from the  
19 federal government or long-term borrowing authority  
20 at the state level, additional cuts loom on the  
21 horizon that could be truly devastating to our core  
22 services. The budget cuts this year include major  
23 reductions in DSNY's cleaning resources. These  
24 include a 63 percent reduction in litter basket  
25 collection trucks compared to last fiscal year, a

1 reduction from 736 trucks to just 272 trucks weekly.  
2 This includes the elimination of all Sunday and  
3 holiday litter basket service. A 30 percent  
4 reduction in baseline funded weekday litter basket  
5 service. Elimination of the supplemental litter  
6 basket collection that was part of the neighborhood  
7 rodent reduction and Clean NYC programs, as well as  
8 the nonrenewal of the 8.6 million in funding for  
9 supplemental basket service added at the budget  
10 adoption of FY 20. So, in addition to the budget  
11 included-- in addition, that budget also included a  
12 30 percent reduction in headcount for the lot  
13 cleaning unit, elimination of highway on and off ramp  
14 cleaning services, elimination of the dedicated  
15 syringe litter-- syringe collection team. Together,  
16 these cuts have had a real impact on the street and  
17 sidewalk cleanliness in New York City. As more and  
18 more New Yorkers have taken to our streets to play,  
19 dine, learn, and unwind, the amount of litter and  
20 waste has increased, particularly in parts of the  
21 outer boroughs that were hardest hit by COVID-19. As  
22 I sit before you today, I recognize this reality.  
23 Our streets and sidewalks are not as clean as you  
24 become used to, particularly compared to the record  
25

2 service levels and cleanliness we have experienced  
3 over the last several years. I assure you that,  
4 despite these budget cuts, we are committed to  
5 maximizing the value of these limited resources we  
6 have to improve the quality of life in our  
7 communities. This crisis has also given us an  
8 opportunity to test new approaches to street  
9 cleaning. In conjunction with the city's stay all  
10 mortars, the city suspended alternate side parking  
11 regulations for a total of 17 weeks. In large part,  
12 the city streets remain clean during the height of  
13 the pandemic, despite the suspension. In June, Mayor  
14 DeBlasio announced a new pilot for alternate side  
15 parking where most residential streets would be swept  
16 only once per week to alleviate the impact of ASP on  
17 New York City drivers. While many neighborhoods  
18 already had once per week sweeping, particularly in  
19 the less dense neighborhoods. In other areas,  
20 streets have been swept twice or three times per  
21 week. We continue to evaluate this pilot with the  
22 goal of balancing street cleanliness and convenience.  
23 Sweeping schedules in needed areas, though, have not  
24 changed. There is good news. Last week, the Mayor  
25 announced several issues focused on improving

1 cleanliness and reducing litter in our neighborhoods.

2 This announcement included a partial restoration of

3 litter basket service, restoring 65 litter basket

4 trucks per week with a focus on the neighborhoods

5 hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as a

6 few other areas across the city that will see

7 increased pedestrian traffic as employees return to

8 the workforce. Through the Economic Development

9 Corporation, Clean NYC initiative, the city will

10 provide funding to the Dole funds to provide

11 supplemental cleaning services in neighborhoods and

12 parks across the city through the end of the calendar

13 year. The supplemental cleaning will support the

14 efforts by DSNY and the Department of Parks and

15 Recreation, as well as business improvement districts

16 and other community partners. The Dole fund provides

17 employment, career and training, and social services

18 to homeless and formerly incarcerated individuals.

19 Lastly, the City will expand efforts to partner with

20 community-based organizations, elected officials, and

21 the private sector to sponsor community cleanups and

22 mobilize volunteers to collect litter on streets and

23 parks. The city will provide tools and logistics

24 support to those groups who host cleanups. We have

1  
2 also received nearly 1.9 million in funds from the  
3 New York City Council members through NYC cleanup  
4 initiatives. These funds will enable DSNY to restore  
5 additional services and supplement our budgeted  
6 services. Now, more than ever, we rely on the  
7 cooperation and support of our fellow New Yorkers to  
8 help us keep New York City clean. We need all New  
9 Yorkers to do their part. Don't litter. Use the  
10 baskets properly and clean up after yourselves and  
11 your pets. But even more, we encourage residents,  
12 community organizations, business owners, and others,  
13 to help clean our city. Already, dozens of local and  
14 state elected officials have hosted community cleanup  
15 events in our parks, plazas, neighborhoods. We  
16 encourage groups of volunteers to do the same and we  
17 provide tools and resources to any groups interested  
18 in doing such. I think the Counsel for their past,  
19 present, and future support as the Department  
20 continues to provide essential services during this  
21 unprecedented crisis. And now my team and I will be  
22 happy to respond to any questions. Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Thank you. Sorry.  
24 We're going to be hearing some feedback from my son  
25 in the background often, I guess, at this point.

1  
2 Yeah. So, I want to just thank you, Commissioner,  
3 for your words. Your kind words related to  
4 Commissioner Kathy Garcia. This is the first hearing  
5 that we are going to have without her and it is a sad  
6 day. She has been absolutely amazing. Working  
7 together with her we have been able to accomplish a  
8 lot, but I'm looking forward to your 10 year, as  
9 well. We also have been working together and have a  
10 relationship and I know how much you care about the  
11 city and how much you care about the Department of  
12 Sanitation. A lot of people don't know your  
13 background, but I know that garbage has been in your  
14 life for a long time, Commissioner. So, if you could  
15 just speak-- I actually would like to take some  
16 time, if you could just speak to a little bit of that  
17 background in your history so the folks on this  
18 committee that are meeting new from the first time  
19 can get to know you.

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER GRAYSON: So, my  
21 pleasure. So, I am the son of a retired sanitation  
22 worker and my mother also worked for the department  
23 many years ago when they started the recycling  
24 program. She was one of the first outreach  
25 coordinators who tried to get the people of the city

1  
2 to get on board back in the late 80s. My father  
3 worked the truck and he retired as a supervisor in  
4 Brooklyn North and, after both of them had long been  
5 past their prime here, I joined the department  
6 through the regular civil service channels and I  
7 started my career in Queens Community board three,  
8 the garage there. I remember quite well doing the  
9 basket truck every midnight on Roosevelt Avenue and  
10 throughout East Elmhurst in Jackson Heights.  
11 Additionally, I have a little bit of synergy also  
12 with the Chair because I grew up in Ridgewood and I--  
13 where I went to junior high is right in his district,  
14 so very familiar with the day-to-day. I love the  
15 department. Have been doing this for over two  
16 decades and I am not agnostic to what everybody is  
17 seeing out there and my team here, particularly Chief  
18 Visconti, dedicate ourselves every single day to  
19 cleaning the city and we are glad to have this  
20 hearing and try to bring some clarity into what is  
21 going on because we're all in this together.

22 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Thank you. I  
23 appreciate that. Thank you so much, Commissioner.  
24 So, my first question is going to be about the cuts  
25 that were made so that the city understands or the

1  
2 folks that are watching understand exactly what was  
3 cut. It's 24.5 million that was directly reduced  
4 services that keep our streets and sidewalks clean.  
5 And I want to go through them and, if you could just  
6 let me know what these mean in real terms. Because  
7 we are seeing them as cuts, but what does that mean  
8 on a day-to-day operation? I will give one example  
9 is the basket service unwrap mitigation zones. There  
10 was 718,000 cut. So, what does that mean in, ghosts,  
11 and operations? What is that reduction look like?  
12 What does it look like?

13           ACTING COMMISSION GRAYSON: So, in  
14 conjunction with the initiative to add additional  
15 service, both refuse removal and litter basket  
16 service trucks in the areas hardest hit with the  
17 Mayors rat and rodent mitigation program, we were  
18 running additional service to try to eliminate food  
19 source and keep the place extra clean. That funding  
20 is gone, so those tracts no longer run. Now--

21           CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: And--

22           ACTING COMMISSION GRAYSON: those areas  
23 still get regular service. Just the additional  
24 service that was added for that specific goal was  
25 reduced in this budget.

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: And these rat  
3 mitigation zones were in and around like NYCHA  
4 developments in those areas that I remember the rat  
5 mitigation zones prioritizing NYCHA developments.  
6 Are you familiar with that or--

7 ACTING COMMISSION GRAYSON: Yes. So, I'll  
8 let Commissioner Anderson speak on some additional  
9 Nuance stuff with that, but primarily, those  
10 additional services were in Manhattan and up in the  
11 Bronx. And, yes, they are around the areas most  
12 impacted where the reports of rat burrows. The  
13 Department of Health, they monitor that and they  
14 receive those health complaints. So, working in  
15 conjunction with that team, the places that have the  
16 highest amount-- and there are a few Nuance things  
17 that I will let Commissioner Anderson weigh in on, as  
18 well.

19 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Assistant  
20 Commissioner?

21 ACTING COMMISSION GRAYSON: Yeah. He's  
22 muted.

23 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Yeah. There's  
24 going to be a slight delay.  
25

1  
2 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: There we  
3 go. So, as the Commissioner mentioned, we have the  
4 neighborhood rat reduction initiative which the Mayor  
5 announced back in 2017. The Department of Sanitation  
6 has been a very close partner with the Department of  
7 Health, the Department of Parks, Schools, etc. Also  
8 NYCHA as you mentioned, Chair. And that was focused  
9 in three rat mitigation zones. One in the lower East  
10 side and Chinatown and East Village in Manhattan, one  
11 in the Bronx, along with grand Concourse, and one in  
12 Brooklyn, Bushwick and Bed-Stuy. And so those zones  
13 were receiving supplemental litter basket collection  
14 service. Some of them had extra household collection  
15 service, as well as intensive efforts by the Health  
16 Department and others to inspect for rat activity,  
17 perform rat elimination activities as necessary, and  
18 really just try to cut down on the food and housing  
19 that the rats need to survive.

20 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: And that funding  
21 was-- the 718,000 dollar cut, was that the entire  
22 program was cut or a part of the program?

23 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So, the  
24 sanitation portions of that program were reduced.  
25 So, the supplemental litter basket service, the

1  
2 supplemental refuse collection service were both  
3 eliminated. The Health Department portion of the  
4 program which has the intensive inspection is still  
5 ongoing. We still have our monthly task force  
6 meetings with the Health Department and others where  
7 we really dive into the data. Unfortunately, we just  
8 don't have the supplemental collection. So, as the  
9 Commissioner mentioned, we are still providing  
10 service in those neighborhoods. Still keeping a very  
11 close eye on them, just have lower service levels  
12 than we did previously.

13 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: And then we had a  
14 fourth day of collection service in rat mitigation  
15 zones, so, when combined, it's more closer to 2.2  
16 million in cuts related to rat mitigation zones. The  
17 fourth day of collection service, is that just like  
18 picking up one extra day of basket pick up in these  
19 areas?

20 ACTING COMMISSION GRAYSON: That's exactly  
21 that.

22 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Okay. Then we have  
23 week day, Sunday, and holidays service and I have  
24 here that it says enforcement. In that was almost 10  
25 million dollars. 9.45 million. What exactly-- what

2 are the effects of that cut? I have week day,  
3 Sunday, and holiday's service.

4 ACTING COMMISSION GRAYSON: Oh, yes. So,  
5 in essence, we have reduced our baseline weekday and  
6 holidays services on basket trucks. So, we were  
7 running the baseline level service, as well as Sunday  
8 and holiday's service to make sure that there were  
9 not-- there wasn't a single day that we didn't get  
10 out there to the main commercial hubs and now we are  
11 not running. We took a baseline hit on the six day a  
12 week trucks, the Monday through Saturday regular  
13 operation and then the supplemental Sunday and  
14 holiday cleaning trucks that would go out every  
15 Sunday, every holiday. They were also eliminated.

16 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: The highway ramp  
17 cleaning. So, we're getting some complaints. I'll  
18 just speak to North Brooklyn. Underneath the BQE,  
19 for example. Would highway ramp cleaning affect that  
20 in any way, shape, or form? And, if not, what  
21 exactly are we talking about when we see the highway  
22 ramp cleaning being caught by 864,000 dollars?

23 ACTING COMMISSION GRAYSON: So, highway  
24 ramps are predominantly a DOT thing and we are not  
25 doing a pass the buck here. We were supplementing

1 the regular highway ramp sweeping schedule that DOT  
2 has by going up. We worked with them. We built  
3 routes. Chief Visconti seen they built specific  
4 dedicated broom rounds to not get the big, bulky  
5 debris that could sometimes be on the main bed of the  
6 highway, but the litter that builds up on the on and  
7 off ramps that, you know, frequently get trapped it  
8 become an eyesore. So, we had a routine schedule  
9 that we were working with them to supplement their  
10 efforts to keep the highway clean and that is what  
11 that is. So, it wasn't so much stuff underneath the  
12 ramps. This was more the ramp shoulders to make sure  
13 that that litter that accumulates, the windblown  
14 litter and stuff. And also we would be out there  
15 with our cruise and we would also take some of the  
16 bulk that was on that route and one of our lead  
17 vehicles when we were out there. But it was  
18 supplemental to what DOT was doing.

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: And then the next  
21 two are the ones that I think people are seeing a lot  
22 of, which is lot cleaning. Can you just explain the  
23 timeline and exactly how much longer it takes because  
24 of the almost 2 million dollar cuts to lock cleaning?  
25 We are seeing a lot of illegal dumping now in these

1  
2 lots and a long time or long time for response from  
3 the Department of Sanitation. Can you just go into  
4 what that 1.9 million does and how it affects the lot  
5 cleaning?

6           ACTING COMMISSION GRAYSON: I going  
7 absolutely let Chief Visconti weigh in. They were  
8 directly for him, that team. That is one of the legs  
9 of his unit. But before I turn the mic over, I just  
10 want to say that, yes, lot cleaning, in addition to  
11 cleaning the vacant lots, both private and city-  
12 owned, but it's a very administrative have a process  
13 in order to get, sometimes, permission and writs and  
14 consent orders because some of it is-- especially on  
15 private property. They're also the go to unit for  
16 the specialty cleanings that pop up that can't be  
17 mitigated by the day-to-day district personnel  
18 because all the men and women assigned there have  
19 specialized training. They know how to use specific  
20 pieces of equipment to do bulk debris removal in  
21 hard-to-reach places, so to speak. So, the reduction  
22 of those resources is definitely a hit and, most  
23 recently, our biggest asset in the storm respond to  
24 the ICA event where the trees-- where we are on the  
25 tree debris task force, we were using lot cleaning to

2 do all that. Those men and women have specialized  
3 training. So, we took a 30 percent reduction in not  
4 with definitely leads to service delays, but I will  
5 let chief Visconti related with some more granular  
6 info. Go ahead, Chief.

7 CHIEF VISCONTI: Okay. Can you folks  
8 hear me?

9 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Yes.

10 CHIEF VISCONTI: Good afternoon. So,  
11 yes. As the commissioners said, we took a reduction  
12 in lot cleaning to the tune of about a third of the  
13 workers there. It is a citywide unit, so no  
14 particular borough got affected more than another.  
15 It's a citywide unit. It just happened recently  
16 within the last couple of weeks, so I can't answer  
17 your question as far as how much longer is it taking.  
18 I don't have that because it's pretty new, however,  
19 there is a lot of obstacles that go into it as far as  
20 a dirty lot. When someone sees a dirty lot,  
21 naturally, the first glance is not, you know, all the  
22 nuances that go into it. Like is that private? Is  
23 it city? City lots we can get to relatively quickly.  
24 I mean, immediately. Private lots are a different  
25 story, as some of you may or may not know. It

1 depends on whether it is fenced or locked, whether it  
2 is accessible or not accessible. We need to do a  
3 ownership search. We petition the owner-- Actually,  
4 we petition the Department of Health and Mental  
5 Hygiene to notify the owner that there is a condition  
6 on his or her law and we give a prescribed time frame  
7 of a couple of weeks for them to correct that. If  
8 they do not correct it, we do a follow-up. If they  
9 do not correct and the lot is accessible, we move in  
10 to clean the lot. So, that whole process takes a  
11 couple weeks. That is pre-cuts. It has nothing to  
12 do with the cuts. That is a couple of week's process  
13 right there. If we go back to that private lot and  
14 it is inaccessible, we can't just go into that lot.  
15 If there's no access, then we have to petition the  
16 judge to let us get into that lot and that is not  
17 something that is quickly or easily done. It's like  
18 asking someone to go into your home, basically, when  
19 they grant that kind of an access warrant. So, for  
20 that, that can take months and we have to show an  
21 egregious condition, rat droppings, if we're in West  
22 Nile virus time a year, so on and so forth. So, even  
23 without the cuts, some of these lots take a long,  
24 long time to get to. And through no fault of our  
25

1 own, it's just their legalities. But we're still--  
2 I mean, for fiscal year 21, we have already clean  
3 north of 270 lots and another hundred non-lot  
4 cleanings. Those are the ones you mentioned briefly  
5 about underneath the highway. Anything that is not a  
6 lot that is kind of heavy-duty, uncut streets,  
7 [inaudible 00:27:35] areas, things of that nature,  
8 brush that is growing, we address those. Address  
9 hundred so far just this fiscal year alone.

11 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Thank you, Chief.

12 I have a lot of questions that I want to ask, but I  
13 want to allow for my colleagues to get some time  
14 because I can stay on after. So, I am going to take  
15 a pause on my questions, but I do want to say to the  
16 DSNY, I am deeply grateful for the work that you guys  
17 are doing every single day. You are asking to do  
18 just as much with less and I just don't see how that  
19 math adds up, so I understand that things are going  
20 to get more difficult, but I think later on I'll be  
21 asking about this increase in funding by the Mayor  
22 for basket pickup and how that affects the work that  
23 we're doing and whether or not it will start daily  
24 and with the more apparent garbage that we are seeing  
25 every single day. But, again, I want to allow for my

2 colleagues to have some questions. So, I'm going to  
3 go ahead and turn it over to Nicole again.

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: I will now call on  
5 Council members in the order they have used the zoom  
6 raise and function. Council members, please keep  
7 your questions to five minutes. The Sergeant-at-arms  
8 locate the timer and they will let you know when your  
9 time is up. So, first we will hear from Council  
10 member Cohen, followed by Council member Brannan,  
11 followed by Council member Chin.

12 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts-- Time  
13 starts now.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Thank you very  
15 much, Chair. It is good to see you. It's good to  
16 see my colleagues. I want to congratulate the acting  
17 Commissioner. Congratulations. I also want to and  
18 knowledge that I was a big fan of Commissioner  
19 Garcia, as well. And I also want to say that, you  
20 know, this budget was, obviously, the most difficult  
21 budget we have had to tackle in my time in office and  
22 I would tell you that I don't think I fully  
23 understood the impact or the scope of the cuts on  
24 sanitation. I think it really would have given me  
25 pause because I don't think that the mission of DSNY

1  
2 is tenable with the funds that we provided and the  
3 thing that makes me believe that is, in my entire  
4 time in office up until, you know, the last few  
5 months, I, literally, almost never got complaints  
6 about DSNY. Like peoples trash got picked up. The  
7 city baskets got picked up. You know, people  
8 complained sometimes that they got tickets for  
9 alternate side, but they didn't complain that they  
10 didn't come. And it was really one agency that just  
11 did not require a lot of attention from my office and  
12 that is not been the case in the last few months.  
13 So, I think it is, obviously, directly correlated to  
14 the budget cuts. My first question, maybe, is-- But  
15 alternate side. In Community Board eight where they,  
16 basically, had one alternate side on one day of the  
17 week on each street, they got no cut in alternate  
18 side parking. In CB seven, which is, you know, is  
19 greater density, has been determined based on past  
20 studies that it needs more alternate side, they got a  
21 50 percent cut. So, I don't understand how that  
22 makes any sense. I think it is unfair and it is just  
23 led to, you know, significantly dirtier streets in CB  
24 seven, so I am concerned about that and, you know, I  
25 just think that that is, from a management

1 perspective, and planning and asset allocation, I  
2 just don't think that that is equitable or fair and  
3 it really puts a burden on the people in CB seven.  
4 You know, highway ramps, I have the major Dagan, the  
5 Henry Hudson Parkway, in the Bronx River and I have  
6 multiple exits. And I use the major Dagan ramp a lot  
7 and it is filthy. I was wondering if you could talk  
8 about staffing levels based on the cuts. When we cut  
9 service, what is happening to the people who used to  
10 do those services? And I do have one more question  
11 about Sunday's service. I gave discretionary money,  
12 it's not a huge amount. It's about 50,000 dollars  
13 for Sunday service. What is going to happen with  
14 that money? So those are really the two.

16 ACTING COMMISSIONER GRAYSON: Well,  
17 thank you for your question and for your support.  
18 And, yes, we truly appreciate your support to put out  
19 additional funds and provide additional funding for  
20 service. So, what happened to the people was, in our  
21 budget, we had planned attrition to get to lower  
22 heads. So, for right now, despite the threat of  
23 either, you know, personnel actions that we have all  
24 read about with the budget and potentials, the  
25 Department of Sanitation has not had to lay anybody

1 off. However, we had an attrition plan to get down  
2 to a specific headcount because of these service  
3 cuts. The sad reality is a lot of the cleaning that  
4 was being done, because it wasn't baselined and  
5 because it wasn't six days away, was sometimes based  
6 upon a formulaic overtime model. So, when we cut the  
7 funding, we didn't lose the heads immediately, but we  
8 lost the service because we're not running the over  
9 time trucks are were not adding on Saturday  
10 mechanical brooms that we normally would run for the  
11 highway. So, that is why, right now, it's not a  
12 complete where you cut the people. Right now, we are  
13 planned on entering this coming winter with a lower  
14 headcount amount just because of the attrition plan,  
15 agnostic of anything else that comes down the pipe.  
16 So, that is where we are on the heads. And as far as  
17 what is going to happen as we get any additional  
18 resources from Council members or any other funding  
19 source, we are going to work with those providers to  
20 find out where the best use is in, to that end, I  
21 will let Chief Visconti way again. His team and his  
22 whole staff as part of the team that works with all  
23 of the members of the Council and various other units  
24 to make sure that we are getting the right message  
25

2 across, especially when you're committing your funds  
3 and where you need it.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: But we don't have  
5 the capacity to do Sunday basket pickup at this point  
6 in time?

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER GRAYSON: It  
8 depends. And I will at the Chief weight. You can,  
9 but there's caveats. That's all.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Chief, I've got  
11 Johnson Avenue and 235th Street. I mean, every  
12 Monday morning my email basket is filled with photos  
13 of that can--

14 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time expired.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: We're waiting for  
16 Chief to be un-muted.

17 CHIEF VISCONTI: Yes. Thank you. I was  
18 waiting to be un-muted. Council member Cohen, first  
19 of all, thank you for your continued partnership. I  
20 know you like that Sunday basket truck each year.  
21 You service at each and every year. We've been  
22 waiting for your email, by the way. We are ready to  
23 go with that Sunday service. Yes. So, the city  
24 cleaning initiative money is separate from the cuts  
25 and, by all means, if you want that Sunday service

2 and you want to contribute again this year to us,  
3 will reach out to the community affairs like you  
4 normally do through channels and--

5 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: It's in there.

6 CHIEF VISCONTI: Nick or Henry. Whoever  
7 you want to deal with and, by all means, we will get  
8 that route going as soon as you would like.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Okay. I appreciate  
10 that. Thank you thank you, Chair.

11 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Okay. Do you have  
12 any-- anything else you would like to ask, Council  
13 member Cohen? Anything else last-minute you wanted  
14 to ask?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I covered all of  
16 the things-- all my notes.

17 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Okay. Thank you,  
18 Council member. I appreciate it.

19 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. Next  
20 will hear from--

21 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Just really quick.  
22 Sorry, Nicole. I just want to acknowledge the fact  
23 that we have been joined by Council member Costa  
24 Constantinides. It's really, really good to see you,  
25

1  
2 Costa. Nice of you to be on. Thank you. Go ahead,  
3 Nicole.

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Now, we'll hear  
5 from Council member Brannan followed by Council  
6 member Chin. Council member Brannan?

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Thank you.  
9 Thank you, Chair. Thank you so much. Acting  
10 Commissioner, welcome aboard. It is great to meet  
11 you. I've heard only great things about you from a  
12 lot of folks I grew up with who are on the job right  
13 now. So, people are texting me right now telling me  
14 how great you are. So, a lot of guys I went to high  
15 school with her on the job. So, that means a lot to  
16 me. And certainly we miss Kathy, but I think you'll  
17 do a great job. Yeah. I mean, some of my colleagues  
18 have mentioned- I don't think you needed to be in  
19 Oracle to know that the budget cuts to sanitation  
20 were going to be felt and seen immediately and they  
21 sure were. Because of budget constraints, you know,  
22 I had to take most of the funds that are  
23 discretionary, the sort of extra discretionary  
24 funding that we get that I would normally give to a  
25 dual fund or wildcat to do sort of detailing, we had

1  
2 to take that money and give it back to sanitation  
3 just to sort of get the baseline of what we used to  
4 have back in the Gilded Age before COVID. I mean, I  
5 think I know sort of anecdotally what the challenges  
6 are with budget cuts, but certainly with the MLP that  
7 we had which is important for illegal dumping and  
8 that kind of stuff, what are kind of some of the  
9 immediate challenges that you are seeing with the  
10 budget cuts in addition to, you know, the overflowing  
11 corner garbage cans? Are there other areas that we  
12 are not thinking about that we are seeing an impact  
13 on?

14 ACTING COMMISSIONER GRAYSON:

15 Absolutely. And thank you for your support. You  
16 are always a good partner to us and I know how much  
17 you care about the city and the cleanliness,  
18 particularly. And, yes. It's not just the litter  
19 baskets where we've seen it. Where out there every  
20 day and we would love to do more. In addition the  
21 letter basket reduction, we had also a reduction in.  
22 We had a solid partnership with the GTP program where  
23 we were getting manual street cleaners out there  
24 every week and, because of the COVID crisis, that is  
25 suspended for a while. I won't say it is gone

1  
2 forever, but that is a noticeable impact. Not having  
3 those manual resources to get into some of the fence  
4 lines and some of the drop off and dump out areas.  
5 Additionally, you know, sadly, it is also true that  
6 we are seeing an uptick in illegal dumping. The  
7 exact root cause of that, I mean, and fairness, the  
8 root cause of any illegal dumping, depending on what  
9 it is, is an interesting myriad. There is no right  
10 answer as to why someone would put half a load of  
11 concrete on an abandoned street or something. But we  
12 have seen an uptick in that. That is been a  
13 challenge for us. We are using our enforcement  
14 personnel to try to stake out those high event areas  
15 and we're doing the best we can with that, but that  
16 is a challenge to keep on top of and keep clean. You  
17 know, just circling back to the corner litter  
18 baskets, on the other side of it, too, is that some  
19 of it is also COVID-related meaning we are imploring  
20 everyone to use the frequencies service. So, the  
21 department comes either two or three times a week for  
22 you for regular pickup for your household refuse,  
23 depending on what neighborhood you live in. However,  
24 we are also cognizant that, sadly, some of the people  
25 who live in the apartments or houses, may be because

1 of COVID fears, they are getting rid of material.  
2 They don't want to hold it an extra day. You know,  
3 you never know how people are reacting to just  
4 getting rid of waste or what have you in the world.  
5 So, we have seen some anecdotally they are. I can't  
6 scientifically prove it, but we have seen some  
7 behavior change. And, in some cases, because of more  
8 and more people telecommuting or being at home or the  
9 stay-at-home order, we have certain areas of the city  
10 where tonnage was up on all of our residential  
11 household collections. So, maybe, there was an  
12 increase at the curb which then, coupled with our  
13 outage-- so, in the beginning, think of the way the  
14 optics of cleanliness. It's a cumulative effect.  
15 So, whether or not it's directly cleaner directly  
16 dirty, just if you have this-- you know, it's that  
17 reticulated in your sensor in your brain where you  
18 can see something every day and then you are looking  
19 for it. And that's not saying that it's not dirty.  
20 It is. It's dirtier. The streets are dirtier. But  
21 the truth of the matter is we've come through this  
22 long six-month process where we had no mechanical  
23 brooms running. And some days, the collection  
24 service is delayed because of staff outage or just us  
25

1  
2 not being able to man it. At some point, during the  
3 height of the pandemic, the department had a 20  
4 percent outage on field effective workforce. In  
5 these men and women came in every day with fear. You  
6 know, they braved it through. They are real heroes  
7 throughout the city. One day, when we are all in a  
8 much better place on COVID we can look back and  
9 highlighted all the various people who did just some  
10 amazing--

11 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time expired.

12 ACTING COMMISSIONER GRAYSON:

13 Sanitation will be in there. But those are some  
14 of the challenges, Councilman. It's not just the  
15 litter baskets. We're having challenges in just  
16 about every front.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Yeah. I  
18 appreciate it. Yeah. My time is up. We just had an  
19 electronic waste recycling event last weekend then  
20 the turnout was insane and, I mean, that is a  
21 testament to how much people appreciate it when we  
22 were able to do that for DSNY, certainly something I  
23 hope eventually we can bring back. And also getting  
24 a lot of folks who are reaching out about the  
25

1 hazardous to waste removal sites. I guess that have  
2 been-- there still close, apparently. So--

4 ACTING COMMISSIONER GRAYSON: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: So, you know,  
6 doing what we can to get by in a make sure that folks  
7 are, obviously, keeping your workers safe and not  
8 throwing stuff out but they are not allowed to throw  
9 out. But I appreciate the work you guys are doing in  
10 a safe neighborhood is-- a safe and clean  
11 neighborhood is the foundation for everything else.  
12 So, nothing but respect for you guys and I look  
13 forward to working with you.

14 ACTING COMMISSIONER GRAYSON: Same

15 here. Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Thank you, Council  
17 member Brannan. And I just want to follow up on a  
18 couple of things. Are we looking to maintain ASP or  
19 the alternate side parking as is and for how long?  
20 Has there been a discussion to bring it back to what  
21 it was originally? I just want to know what the  
22 internal discussions regarding alternate side of the  
23 street parking is in the administration.

24 ACTING COMMISSIONER GRAYSON: Oh,

25 absolutely. So, everybody knows were working for a

1 pilot right now where we are only coming on the last  
2 posted sign. So, as I stated earlier, one time a  
3 week areas are still getting the one time a week that  
4 they normally had and then, in areas that had ASP for  
5 multiple days, it's the last posted day on the sign.  
6 This is to alleviate the need to leave the house, to  
7 give some relief on both convenience and just public  
8 safety and we really are reevaluating with the  
9 administration, the best way to do street cleaning in  
10 the modern city. And there are certain areas of the  
11 city where the sweeping schedule was, perhaps,  
12 insufficient. We get requests all the time for more  
13 sweeping and we have other areas of the city that are  
14 saying, you know, our area is relatively clean.  
15 Maybe we could do something that provides more  
16 opportunity to park or more opportunity to do  
17 [inaudible 00:43:01] to do business and maybe we need  
18 less sweeping. At that point, taking into all of  
19 that and then, on the backend of the COVID pandemic  
20 and train open back up and keep residents safe and  
21 healthy, we are into this new pilot program. We are  
22 working towards something that is with all  
23 stakeholders, nothing is coming out yet, but our  
24 intent is to keep working towards that. Someone who  
25

2 has been involved at some of the policy level at City  
3 Hall and other stakeholders is our Assistant  
4 Commissioner Greg Anderson. I'm going to let him  
5 weigh in on any of the nuances stuff, but we are  
6 continuing working and what you are seeing now is not  
7 where we will be. It's just the current program.

8 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Yeah.

9 And I would echo what Commissioner Grayson said. We  
10 are continuing to evaluate the pilot. I think what  
11 we saw during the height of COVID was that the  
12 streets actually stayed really clean when people were  
13 staying in their homes. As people, you know, came  
14 out and started using the streets more, using public  
15 space more, using outdoor dining, hopefully starting  
16 next week, learning, you know, I think we have seen  
17 more litter and we want to find the right balance of  
18 how frequently we have to clean the streets and how  
19 frequently people have to, you know, have to go  
20 through the inconvenience of moving their car. You  
21 know, it is something I think we are going to have to  
22 keep working through over the next few months, but  
23 right now the once a week pilot is extended  
24 indefinitely. We're continuing to evaluate it. I  
25 think we want to see what happens in the winter and

1  
2 how that changes things. But we are working at other  
3 factors, as well, to try to really think through what  
4 are other cities doing. Look to best practices to  
5 see how can we get that current access and really  
6 clean the streets, but also do so in a way that, you  
7 know, doesn't make someone double parked the car for  
8 90 minutes or sit in their car for 90 minutes or, you  
9 know, circle the block 10 times trying to find a  
10 parking space on Monday night. So, that is what  
11 we're trying to achieve.

12 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Okay. I just want  
13 to let you know that I've never seen so many people  
14 ask for more cleaning or to bring back ASP the way it  
15 was originally than before. So, I'm surprised that  
16 folks are advocating for that and I do want to say,  
17 because it's happening once a week in some areas like  
18 in Williamsburg, I just want to make sure you guys--  
19 the enforcement needs to be stronger. Many cars are  
20 staying parked and, if an area doesn't get cleaned,  
21 we have to wait one more week before it gets cleaned  
22 again. And just the timeline there, the amount of  
23 dirt that piles up in two weeks worth of trash, a lot  
24 of cleaning, I think it's a big problem. So, I just  
25 want to make sure that you know that enforcement

2 should be happening very aggressively, more  
3 aggressive than ever, because it's only one day we  
4 are asking this time and we need people to help us  
5 help the city and they are not doing that right now.  
6 So, just to advocate for more enforcement on that one  
7 day, Commissioner. Okay. Nicole? Sorry. Thank  
8 you.

9 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thanks. Next we  
10 will hear from Council member Chin.

11 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Chair,  
13 and welcome, Commissioner. Looking forward to  
14 working with you. I have a couple of questions.  
15 Regarding like one of the rat mitigation zones is in  
16 my district in Chinatown in the lower East side and  
17 it was doing quite well. I mean, I think Assistant  
18 Commissioner Anderson worked with us and we worked  
19 with the Department of Health and the good thing  
20 about it was that we got a lot of big belly trashcan  
21 in the communities and I think that really was a  
22 significant improvement, even though we had some  
23 sabotage going on in the beginning where people were  
24 doing illegal dumping. Instead of saying, you know,  
25 with bricks and all kinds of weird stuff. So, one of

1  
2 the questions is that I wanted to ask was what about  
3 looking at some of the problematic areas in terms of  
4 having, you know, big belly at the street corner and  
5 seeing if there is a way to do partnership with local  
6 merchants? I mean, fortunately, in my district, I  
7 have quite a number of business improvement  
8 districts, so they are responsible with [inaudible  
9 00:47:43] the garbage and putting it on the side.  
10 And, with the budget cut, I mean, those garbage still  
11 pile up. So, that is one question. The other  
12 question is maybe Assistant Commissioner can answer.  
13 The whole plastic bag, you know, band that we pushed  
14 on the education effort. So I wanted to see is there  
15 was like any data on reduction of the plastic bag  
16 ways the Sanitation Department sees because there was  
17 so much effort that went in it and I remember in my  
18 office we are still giving out those orange  
19 recyclable bags and people really like it a lot. In  
20 my last question is that, because of the pandemic, so  
21 many people work from home and I see, you know, all  
22 these deliveries. All these boxes from Amazon and  
23 whatever. So, my question is around the recycling  
24 program. Like, I mean, how do we make sure that  
25 these apartment buildings, you know, that they've got

1  
2 to like compact those boxes? Because I still say  
3 when I walk down the street that people don't fold up  
4 the boxes. It just creates so much more recyclable  
5 garbage. So, there's ways that we can work together  
6 to mandate that they've got to do their part because  
7 it definitely has increased because more people are  
8 staying at home.

9                   ACTING COMMISSIONER GRAYSON:       Thank  
10 you, Councilwoman. Yes. I look forward to working  
11 with you and I will just take your points as quickly  
12 as I can. I will defer for the latest on the back  
13 legislation and where that is headed to Commissioner  
14 Anderson in one second. As to the big bellies, so we  
15 are always-- we just recently, last year, the  
16 department took the Better Bin Campaign and we are  
17 always in search for the right litter basket.  
18 Always. It's the thing we're going to do. We're  
19 always looking, literally, for the best possible way.  
20 Big bellies, interestingly enough, just a thing the  
21 think of. They have more volume when used correctly  
22 because they have a compaction in there. Interesting  
23 thing post-COVID, for the limited number of big  
24 bellies-- and, again, don't have scientific  
25 background. I don't have a real survey that's

2 empirical that I could share, but, anecdotally, a lot  
3 less people are using them because you have to touch  
4 it. So, that challenge with something that you have  
5 to pull on the handle is that becomes a challenge to  
6 implement, especially now. So, moving forward in  
7 time-- and that is why a lot of times, I think  
8 everybody is seen some, sadly, some of those cases of  
9 the big bellies where people are using it almost like  
10 a stack table and there is the plenty of capacity  
11 left in that basket and yet they are stacking things  
12 on top of the broad top. So, that is an optics  
13 thing, however, I am definitely willing to work  
14 together to try to find the right solution in a post-  
15 COVID world. And, again, I'm not blaming the handle.  
16 It's just that that is a game changer because big  
17 bellies are great.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well, a lot--

19 ACTING COMMISSIONER GRAYSON:

20 [inaudible 00:50:49]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: of them you can  
22 just use your foot. There are a lot--

23 ACTING COMMISSIONER GRAYSON: Well  
24 yeah.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Just step--

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER GRAYSON: They have  
3 the foot pedal one.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah.

5 ACTING COMMISSIONER GRAYSON: It  
6 depends on the model.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: The Mayor  
8 demonstrated the foot-- Yeah.

9 ACTING COMMISSIONER GRAYSON: No. No.

10 But, also they have a maintenance thing with them  
11 with regard to the fact that, sadly, they become an  
12 attraction for graffiti and other things that then  
13 have another component. They are not bad, they're  
14 not good. But I'll definitely work with you and talk  
15 to you and we can discuss the best ways to move  
16 forward with something like that and, hopefully, more  
17 economically favorable times. To the recycling,  
18 yeah. I think that we can certainly--

19 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time expired.

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER GRAYSON: outreach.  
21 Because I do think that people's behavior did change  
22 on how they buy. Amazon was on an upswing anyway,  
23 but, clearly, in the wake of the pandemic, a lot more  
24 people bringing boxes home. So, may be just  
25 education coupled with some enforcement where it is

2 completely egregious. But, education and say, hey,  
3 there is a proper way to bundle this so that it is  
4 not all over the sidewalk. And this is your  
5 recycling day. So, I will gladly work on that,  
6 Commissioner Anderson can weigh in on where we are  
7 right now with plastic bags and moving forward on  
8 that.

9 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: Hi,  
10 there. Can you hear me?

11 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Yes. We can.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yes.

13 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER ANDERSON: So, we  
14 work together for probably six or more years, Council  
15 member, on fighting plastic bag waste, so I  
16 appreciate your long-standing advocacy there.  
17 Unfortunately, the state got sued back in March. Not  
18 surprising. The plastics industry is very litigious  
19 and they love suing us for every great thing we tried  
20 to do. That lawsuit just got resolved a little bit  
21 over a month ago and breaking news as of a few days  
22 ago, the EC actually announce that they are starting  
23 enforcement on October 19th. So, we don't  
24 technically yet live in a world where plastic bags or  
25 bands, but, less than a month from now, we can

1  
2 finally celebrate living in a plastic bag free New  
3 York City. So, we are talking to TEC about how to  
4 amplify their enforcement efforts. I think we  
5 definitely want to try to do as much outreach as we  
6 can, understanding the limited resources available to  
7 us to do that outreach. I think we are really  
8 optimistic that stores that are giving out paper bags  
9 will be charging the paper bag fee which can help to  
10 support some of our reusable bag distributions and  
11 really, you know, try to get as many reusable bags  
12 into the hands of New Yorkers because, if you take  
13 your reusable bag to the grocery store, you don't  
14 have to pay the fee. It is totally free to use and  
15 much better for the environment. So, that is where  
16 we are there. And I want to actually build off of  
17 what the Commissioners sat on the recycling peas.  
18 Interestingly enough, even though, you know, it seems  
19 like everyone is ordering from Amazon everything, the  
20 paper recycling actually hasn't increased that  
21 substantially over the past six months. It's been an  
22 increase of, on average, around three or four percent  
23 of a month by month basis. The metal, glass, plastic  
24 recycling is skyrocketing. Around a 25 percent  
25 increase for most months since the beginning of

2 COVID, which is really fascinating. I think we can  
3 all sort of guess why that might be. But, you know,  
4 we're keeping an eye on the recycling and really  
5 trying to ensure that New Yorkers are still  
6 recycling, especially now that they're spending more  
7 time at home.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. Thank  
9 you, Chair.

10 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. Now, we  
11 will hear from Council member Costa Constantinides.

12 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Okay.  
14 So, Commissioner, great to see you. Congratulations  
15 to Commissioner Anderson. Good to see you, as well.  
16 Thank you, Chair, for that warm introduction. I'm  
17 glad to be here with everyone here today. So, just  
18 very quickly because I have to run to another  
19 meeting. Number one, I gave 10,000 dollars through  
20 cleanup initiative money for additional letter basket  
21 pickups. Are those happening? Will they be  
22 happening? I want to ensure that our business  
23 corridor are funded because last time I got sent a  
24 video with the rats scurrying around garbage in those  
25 same corridors which was a little concerning. So, I

1  
2 want to make sure that that money is going to be put  
3 to good use and then, secondly, what is the impact of  
4 the alternate side of the street reduction on our  
5 waterways? How much more debris is getting sent into  
6 our sewer system then causing, you know, CSO debris  
7 in our waterways? Have we seen an uptick there? And  
8 I know the DEP is not on the call, but, you know, I  
9 know DSNY, you do the street cleaning, so I want to  
10 know the answer to that question, as well.

11           ACTING COMMISSIONER GRAYSON:       Thank you  
12 for your question, Councilman. We appreciate your  
13 partnership and we know your dedication to cleaning  
14 in your community. In your counsel. Yes. So,  
15 sadly, only anecdotally I can tell you we don't have  
16 a tonnage report or contamination report from DEP.  
17 But, we can all see that if we have more, more things  
18 that could be considered floatables or litter that  
19 get into the catch basin prior to being swept up,  
20 that we would have normally gotten too prior to that  
21 happening, clearly, there's more than likely some  
22 more getting in. Whether or not that is making its  
23 way past any treatment center, I don't know, but we  
24 can certainly follow up. And it's a very good point  
25 were not agnostic to it. And, as far as your support

1  
2 that goes in, going to let Chief Visconti talk  
3 directly to that. Go ahead, Chief.

4 CHIEF VISCONTI: Good afternoon, Council  
5 member. Thank you for your contribution. Can you  
6 hear me? Okay. Yes. The answer to your question is  
7 yes. You funded, I believe, basket truck, partial  
8 basket truck on Saturdays that went into effect  
9 September 5th. So, it is been a couple of Saturdays  
10 now. If you are not seeing the result of that, we  
11 can sidebar on that. My office or yourself with me  
12 and I'll take a look at the route and tweak it or we  
13 could discuss exactly what you have in mind in your  
14 area of focus and I'll make sure you're getting the  
15 service that you're supposed to be getting.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Thank you  
17 very much.

18 CHIEF VISCONTI: You're welcome.

19 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Thank you,  
20 Councilmember Constantinides. I just want to  
21 recognize that we've been joined by Council member  
22 Chaim Deutsch. Council member Deutsch, if you want,  
23 you can ask questions now.

24 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.  
25

2 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: I don't think he's  
3 going to ask any questions. I'm going to follow up  
4 with some questions before we turn it over to the  
5 folks who are testifying today. The Mayor announced  
6 an initiative to restore a portion of the FY 21  
7 sanitation services citywide. Can you walk us  
8 through how this will be funded? You know, how we  
9 found the money and what the details are? Where is  
10 it happening? Where exactly are we sending this  
11 extra service? You talked about equity, not  
12 equality, which I love to hear. So, I want to know  
13 what that means. And then, is this over time or  
14 additional uniform sanitation headcount increase? I  
15 just want to understand the parameters of the entire  
16 increase.

17 ACTING COMMISSIONER GRAYSON:

18 Understood and thank you for your question. Yes.  
19 So, no. This is currently not a headcount increase.  
20 We are still on our plan, attrition plan. As far as  
21 the areas that are impacted. So, 27 specific areas  
22 were identified as being hardest hit and we tried to  
23 tailor the routes to address those with COVID, that  
24 is. Hardest hit with COVID. And coupled with our  
25 institutional knowledge of where the overflowing

1 baskets have been and the field observations that  
2 come in. So, working together with the  
3 administration, we have devised 65 additional basket  
4 trucks per week and we can certainly give you all the  
5 breakdown of where exactly those areas are. That's  
6 not a problem. It is not a headcount program. It is  
7 an overtime program. And as far as how we are  
8 funding it, we are working with OMB and we are moving  
9 around existing resources that the agency has to try  
10 to get that done. And we got it off the ground. So,  
11 the key for us is noticeable. We ran our first  
12 series of these trucks starting this weekend, in the  
13 areas that saw the-- clearly, like anything, and  
14 empty basket is a good basket. So, that worked out.  
15 And we are still yet to see for the rest of that  
16 initiative with regard to the partnerships with the  
17 Dole fund or community cleanups or BID. That is  
18 still being worked out. The announcement is like a  
19 week old. So, we're going to have to see how that  
20 cascades, what that actually means in the real time.  
21 But it seems to be promising. Anytime we can solicit  
22 additional help to help us maintain our core job of  
23 keeping the streets clean, for anybody who wants--  
24 for the Dole fund folks who come in and do a great

1  
2 job and the Business Improvement Districts, how they  
3 intend to use any support that comes in through that,  
4 we love the BID's. All of the BID's go out and try  
5 the best to keep their areas clean and we try to  
6 support that effort in every way possible. So, those  
7 are hanging moments that I can't really speak to  
8 because it is still being formed. For us, the  
9 immediate termed benefit is 65 basket trucks a week  
10 on an overtime program that doesn't impact our heads.

11 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: That's good to  
12 know. If you can please get me the locations of  
13 where they are or what the routes look like. I want  
14 to be able to communicate that to individual Council  
15 members, especially the ones who are extremely  
16 concerned. And I'm glad to hear that they're going  
17 to be focused mostly on communities that were most  
18 affected by COVID which really does help. I want to  
19 pause the questions again and just allow for the  
20 testimony, the public testimony to me again at this  
21 moment. So, thank you again, Commissioner, for  
22 answering all of our questions and should a Council  
23 member join hereafter, we might give them an  
24 opportunity to ask questions, as well.

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER GRAYSON: Thank  
3 you.

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: We will now turn  
5 the public testimony. I would like to remind  
6 everyone that, unlike our typical Council hearings,  
7 we will be calling on individuals one by one to  
8 testify. Council members who have questions for a  
9 particular panelist should use the raise hand  
10 function in Zoom and I will call on you after three  
11 panelists have completed their testimony. For a  
12 panelist, once your name is called, member of our  
13 staff will unmute you and the Sergeant-at-arms will  
14 give you the go-ahead to begin upon setting the  
15 timer. You will have three minutes to deliver your  
16 testimony. Please wait for the Sergeant to announce  
17 that you may begin before delivering your testimony.  
18 I would now like to welcome Kathy Nizzari to testify  
19 followed by Eric Goldstein.

20 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

21 KATHY NIZZARI: Good afternoon, Chair  
22 Reynoso, Nicole, and members of the Sanitation  
23 Committee. I am Kathy Nizzari of the Manhattan Solid  
24 Waste Advisory Board or SWAB. We want to first think  
25 New York City [inaudible 01:02:31] sanitation workers

1 who have kept us safe as we have hunkered down in our  
2 homes these past six months. The men and women of  
3 the Department of Sanitation and also lead the city's  
4 massive and complicated hunger relief efforts that  
5 have provided food assistance to nearly 1 1/2 million  
6 city residents during the pandemic. Their valiant  
7 work ensure that our health and safety were  
8 protected. Next, we want to thank the Mayor's Office  
9 for reallocating funds to supplement sanitation's  
10 efforts to keep streets and parks clean and we also  
11 wish to thank Council members for allowing us this  
12 opportunity to present testimony today. SWAB  
13 strongly believes that any further reductions in  
14 sanitation [inaudible 01:03:11] without cooperations  
15 from its citizens and support from other city  
16 agencies will compromise the health and safety of all  
17 New Yorkers. The reason increase in local rat  
18 populations since the compost program has cut is  
19 evidence of that. We are grateful that essential  
20 food scrap drop-off sites have been restored and are  
21 hopeful that proper outreach and education will help  
22 ameliorate this issue. We ask that Council members  
23 and the Mayor's office [inaudible 01:03:39] budget  
24 and services for the foreseeable future to allow time  
25

2 for the review and improvement of their services to  
3 efficiently and effectively protect the health and  
4 safety of its residents, while meeting the city's  
5 zero waste employment goal. In addition, the said  
6 continue evaluating long-term solutions that include  
7 policy changes that will shift the city's waste  
8 burden back to producers and consumers through  
9 adopting policies like extended producer  
10 responsibility and save and [inaudible 01:04:12].

11 All near-term solutions to abridge service gaps may  
12 include service swaps. For example, substituting a  
13 ways collection service for a recycling collection.

14 We understand the present budget crisis is like no  
15 other faced by New York City and department citywide  
16 of been subject to dramatic cost-saving [inaudible  
17 1:04:33] measures. DSNY's budget was reduced by 106  
18 million dollars this fiscal year, resulting in the  
19 suspension of its landmark organics collection  
20 program, reduced street cleaning and litter basket  
21 services, and suspension and reduction of other  
22 important ways reductions. We are still reeling from  
23 the loss of these crucial services that help the city  
24 progress towards zero waste goals with potentially  
25 more cuts to come. While we understand the necessity

2 of these cuts, any further reduction in DSNY's budget  
3 will affect essential services that protect the  
4 health and safety of New Yorkers. As the city  
5 considers its options, SWAB will be happy to assist  
6 Council members and the Mayor's office as they work  
7 on strategies to achieve these critical goals. And  
8 just on a personal note, I have--

9 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time expired.

10 KATHY NIZZARI: I happily have  
11 participated in community sweep up to do my part and  
12 will continue to do so. Thank you for your time.

13 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Thank you so  
14 much, Kathy. Thank you for your testimony and your  
15 effort and everything all the SWABs are doing to  
16 assist of the Department of Sanitation. So thank you  
17 again for your testimony. We really appreciate it.

18 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thanks, Kathy.  
19 Next, we will hear from Eric Goldstein followed by  
20 Sabrina Rezzy followed by Debora Rivas. Eric?

21 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

22 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Eric, your muted.  
23 You have to accept the unmute.

24 ERIC GOLDSTEIN: Sorry. Eric Goldstein,  
25 Natural Resources Defense Council. Good afternoon,

2 Chairman Reynoso and members of the committee and,  
3 welcome to Commissioner Grayson. We wish you and  
4 yours have the best in all of your efforts. I am  
5 going to summarize my written testimony. New York's  
6 streets and sidewalks are a key part of our  
7 environment. For city dwellers, our streetscapes are  
8 what we mean when we say we are going out. For most  
9 of us, they are the main place that provides our  
10 daily interaction with fresh air and open space.  
11 When these streets are overrun with litter, waste,  
12 dog poop and other trash, we feel less joy walking  
13 down the street and persistent litter on our streets  
14 lowers property values in neighborhood pride.  
15 Unfortunately, in recent months, the cleanliness of  
16 our streets and sidewalks have declined sharply in  
17 many areas and we detail some of the facts about that  
18 in our testimony. Keeping the streets clean ought to  
19 be considered an essential city service. This task  
20 should not be viewed as a secondary consideration.  
21 The same is true, by the way, for organics collection  
22 and composting. Sending food scraps and yard waste  
23 to landfills or incinerators generates additional air  
24 pollution and global warming omissions. In the  
25 short-term, we urge City Hall to reallocate funds,

1  
2 perhaps from the snow removal budget, and other  
3 sources, to litter basket collection. But the budget  
4 challenges that City Hall is facing are real and we  
5 need more creative strategies to help fund these  
6 essential services over the long term. One way of  
7 accomplishing this is by reforming sanitation  
8 collection schedules so as to substitute one trash  
9 collection with a collection for organics and/or  
10 recyclables. This would provide a similar level of  
11 service at reduced cost. The savings and funds which  
12 could amount to tens of millions of dollars a year  
13 would be reallocated for more frequent street  
14 cleaning and to establish citywide universal curbside  
15 organics collection. This strategy of performing  
16 collection schedules is exactly the approach being  
17 followed in cities around the nation. For example,  
18 in Seattle and Denver, they have adjusted their waste  
19 collection schedule so that they now provide once  
20 weekly trash collection, once weekly collection of  
21 organics in food scraps and yard waste, and every  
22 other week recycling collection. In New York City,  
23 where our residential trash collections are more  
24 frequent, adjustments could be made accordingly with  
25 different schedules for different neighborhoods,

1 depending upon the waste loads. The total number of  
2 collections could stay the same, but the collections  
3 in different categories of waste on different days  
4 would create more efficient and more sustainable  
5 waste practices in the nation's largest city. So, in  
6 conclusion, in addition to reallocating funds to  
7 address the short-term needs for restoration of  
8 litter basket collections, we urge the Council to  
9 help jumpstart the process of reforming DSNY's trash  
10 collection schedule as a mechanism for generating  
11 additional funds for both street cleaning and  
12 curbside organics collection. As a first step, we  
13 recommend that the Council advance legislation  
14 directing DSNY in cooperation with--

15  
16 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time expired.

17 ERIC GOLDSTEIN: in cooperation with its  
18 unions and the Mayor's Office of Sustainability to  
19 complete a comprehensive study of what other cities  
20 have done in terms of root adjustments to save funds  
21 and to outline possible options in this area with the  
22 Department in the Council to consider down the line.  
23 Thank you for your attention.

24 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Thank you, Eric.

25 And I just want to say I'm a big fan of changing the

1  
2 schedule or how frequently we pick up, general  
3 refuse, let's say for example. Limiting the pickup  
4 of general refuse, let's say, to once a week would  
5 incentivize or motivate folks to do better with  
6 recycling knowing that that would be picked up more  
7 frequently. If we do that two or three times a week,  
8 everyone would make sure that all their recycling is  
9 out and just not to have all the general refuse out  
10 or in their homes. So, we have been advocating for  
11 this for quite some time amen you are right. If we  
12 do some modification, there could be some cost  
13 savings while also achieving many of our goals that  
14 we have when it comes to recycling. So, it is  
15 something that I am definitely going to be looking  
16 into, Eric, and I appreciate your testimony very  
17 much. Thank you.

18 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: If any Council  
19 members have any questions for the previous two  
20 panelists, can you please use the zoom hand raise  
21 function now? Seeing no hands raised, we will move  
22 on and hear from Sabrina Rezzy next followed by  
23 Debora Rivas.

24 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.  
25

2                   SABRINA REZZY:     Good afternoon.    I am  
3 Sabrina Rezzzy, the director of communications and  
4 legislation for Assembly member Rodneyse Bischotte.  
5 Assembly member Bischotte represents the 42nd  
6 assembly district which includes Flatbush, Midwood,  
7 and Ditmas Park.   I just want to say thank you to  
8 Chair Reynoso and the members of the committee for  
9 holding this meeting and, Commissioner Grayson, it is  
10 a pleasure to meet you too and we look forward to a  
11 committed relationship.   I just want to speak a  
12 little bit about what we have heard from our  
13 constituents on the trash pickup and that is that our  
14 district has experienced an increase in overflowing  
15 trash bins, litter, and agricultural overgrowth.   We  
16 have received the largest number of complaints over  
17 the summer and they were centered on the areas  
18 surrounding Brooklyn College.   Constituents have also  
19 noted that there is a significant lack of trash bins  
20 in areas where there is high pedestrian traffic and  
21 that, you know, the trash bins that are there are  
22 older and not the rat prove trash cans.   One  
23 constituent group noted that two days after a  
24 community trash pickup, litter was back because there  
25 are no bins.   And you know, I, unfortunately,

1  
2 experienced this personally over the summer. I was  
3 driving and ran over a nail that was heading in, you  
4 know, some of the street garbage that has been  
5 blowing around on our local streets. So, you know,  
6 I'm glad to see that trash pickups are being restored  
7 by the Mayor with the increase of 65 trucks and I  
8 would like to think the Mayor's office for restoring  
9 those services. Trash, as we know, breeds rodents  
10 and germs and our residents deserve a clean and  
11 healthy environment and our current public health  
12 crisis means that we need to do more than ever before  
13 to clean up the streets, sidewalks, and parks. So, I  
14 think you, Commissioner, Chair Reynoso, and members  
15 of the committee. Thank you to Kathy Nizzari and  
16 SWAB for all your efforts to clean up our  
17 neighborhoods. We are grateful for all of your work  
18 to improve the situation. Thanks.

19 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Thank you,  
20 Sabrina. I want to make sure that we can get back to  
21 you and the Assembly member on whether or not the 65  
22 new trucks or the expanded trucks are running through  
23 your district. And I believe Assembly member  
24 Bischotte's district was one of the hardest hit  
25 districts during COVID, so I would assume that they

1 are the ones that are going to receive the services.

2 But, again, I don't have that information readily

3 available to me, but, when they get it to me, I will

4 get it to you and hopefully, you know, we can see an

5 impact, positive impact, on your district.

6 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you.

7 SABRINA REZZY: Thanks.

8 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Next, we will hear  
9 from Debora Rivas.

10 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

11 DEBORA RIVAS: Hi. I'm Debora Rivas.

12 I'm part of a grassroots community cleanup group

13 called The Bushwick Initiative. I want to thank our

14 city councilmember Antonio Reynoso. He is been very

15 gray at supporting our group. And I also want to

16 thank DSNY. They have been really great. We

17 actually hold regular meetings with the DSNY rep and

18 they have been completely supportive of, you know,

19 our street cleaning crusades. Since the budget

20 cutbacks, we have experienced a significant amount of

21 trash in the streets. And it's been a challenge for

22 us to maintain the cleanliness of the community

23 because, not only is there a lot of trash in the

24 streets, there is trash in the park and, like what  
25

1 was said earlier, we will have a community cleanup  
2 and then about an hour later the trash will be back  
3 on the street. So, I do have some recommendations  
4 regarding how that could be mitigated. I feel like  
5 the city should focus on marketing and implementing a  
6 campaign, a litter free campaign. I think that will  
7 help. I feel like the city can also-- well, now we  
8 are seeing the budget, but I think some money should  
9 be allocated towards may be a text message system  
10 reminds building and commercial owners of the pickup  
11 schedule or the recycling schedule. I think part of  
12 the issue is that a lot of garbage is being put out  
13 on days where it is not a pickup day and then what  
14 happens is a lot of the homeless people dig through  
15 the bags and then the bags get scattered. The  
16 garbage is scattered all over the street. On the  
17 other recommendation could be may be, you know,  
18 instead of having the black bags, clear bags put out.  
19 Because I think that will help reinforce the  
20 recycling. Those are my suggestions. As far as  
21 restaurants, I think part of the reason why we see an  
22 abundance of garbage is because we did have outdoor  
23 dining and a lot of restaurants for using single use  
24 dinnerware and plastics which created a larger  
25

1  
2 abundance of garbage and that is what you would see  
3 on top of the litter baskets. It was like overflows  
4 of like plastic spoons and plastic containers. I  
5 know that September 30th we're going to be allowing  
6 people to go inside, but I also feel that there  
7 should be some kind of messaging to those restaurant  
8 owners that, you know, they don't have to use single  
9 use dinnerware anymore. There is nothing  
10 statistically to show that COVID is transmitted  
11 through, you know, regular plates and spoons. I'm  
12 sorry. Bear with me because of outside and I'm in my  
13 car because I'm actually working. Any suggestions to  
14 improve the city cleaning operations and physical  
15 challenges-- yeah. I do think that the main thing  
16 that we should focus on is just creating an  
17 awareness. I think that a lot of the litter problem  
18 is people and I think that if we don't emphasize the  
19 importance of recycling and keeping things clean,  
20 people will continue to adjust their things out--

21 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time expired.

22 DEBORA RIVAS: on the street. That's  
23 it for me.

24 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Thank you,  
25 Debora. And I just want to highlight the work that

1 Debora is doing in the community is really special.  
2 It's about changing culture and making sure people  
3 understand that littering is a problem and it seems  
4 like since the Bushwick Cleanup Initiative, we have  
5 done a mural. They've been out there doing the work  
6 that the city should be doing regularly. We have  
7 seen an increase in foot traffic in and around  
8 Bushwick. We have also seen the outdoor dining is  
9 made it so that, you know, trash is an output to the  
10 left or right structures and they are compounded in  
11 the middle of the block. But the work that the  
12 Cleanup Bushwick Initiative is second to none and  
13 they are really changing minds and culture, which I  
14 think is the most important thing here. If everyone  
15 were just to throw the trash away in their home and  
16 keep it in their pocket and not throw it out on the  
17 street, it would make a huge difference, but were not  
18 there yet. And I'm grateful for the work that Ms.  
19 Debora Rivas is doing in our community. So thank  
20 you, Debora, for that. I really appreciate it.

22 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: If any Council  
23 members have questions for the last two panelists,  
24 please use the zoom hand raised function now. And,  
25

1  
2 if not, there are no more panelists, so Chair, you  
3 can wrap up the hearing.

4                   CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO:       Yeah. So, I want  
5 to say again that I want to emphasize that it seems  
6 like it is a consensus. We are extremely grateful  
7 for the work that DSNY is doing. We care deeply  
8 about the men and women of the Department. We know  
9 that we are asking them to do the same or do more  
10 with less, so we recognize the changes-- that we are  
11 going to see a change in how our trash is picked up,  
12 but it doesn't mean that we can walk away from the  
13 problem. We need to address it and I am grateful  
14 that the Mayor was able to find funding through over  
15 time or whatever it is, to be able to get 65 more  
16 trucks in. I'm hoping that we can have conversation,  
17 maybe, and a couple of minds to see what impact that  
18 has had on these communities and whether or not we  
19 will start seeing something different. But I do want  
20 to encourage New York City to do better, as well. If  
21 we are all contributing one way or another, and if we  
22 are able to not litter, it would be a huge impact in  
23 a huge difference. Thank you, again, to all the  
24 members of DSNY who are here speaking the day, to all  
25 my Council members for your questions and I'm looking

1 forward to a lot of follow-ups so that we can see  
2 where exactly they used trucks are going to go in the  
3 impacts they are going to have. So, again, thank you  
4 so much, Commissioner. To the Chief. To the  
5 Assistant Commissioner. I really appreciate your  
6 time and I think, at this point, we're done with the  
7 hearing. Thank you. Take care everyone. Peace and  
8 love.  
9

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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 \_\_\_\_\_ September 30, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_