

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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May 19, 2026
Start: 1:27 p.m.
Recess: 3:57 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - 8th Floor - Hearing Room 1

B E F O R E: Justin E. Sanchez
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shahana K. Hanif
Ty Hankerson
Virginia Maloney
Kayla Santosuosso
Shanel Thomas-Henry
Sandra Ung
Inna Vernikov
Susan Zhuang

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2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mic check, mic check.

3 This is a mic check for the Committee on Sanitation
4 and Solid Waste Management. [2026-05-26]

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: is May 19th, 2026,
6 recorded by Walter Lewis in Hearing Room 1. Good
7 afternoon and welcome to today's New York City
8 Council hearing for the Committee on Sanitation and
9 Solid Waste Management. If you would like to testify,
10 you must fill out a witness slip with one of the
11 sergeant-at-arms in the back of the room, even if you
12 signed up already online. You may submit testimony at
13 testimony@council.nyc.gov.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: At this time, please
15 silence all electronic devices, and no one may
16 approach the dais at any time. Chair, we are ready to
17 begin.

18 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Good afternoon,
19 everyone. Uh, it is a lovely day to be inside. I
20 think I'm funny. Um, okay, uh, well, welcome to the
21 Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management.
My name is Justin Sanchez. I am council member and
chair of this committee. I want to thank all of my
members of the committee and the representatives from

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3 the admin for joining us today. I'd also like to
4 thank all the members of the public who are here to
5 testify. Again, to minimize disruption, please place
6 your electronic devices on vibrate or silent. I would
7 like to start by acknowledging the council members
8 who are here with us today, and in no particular
9 order. We have Councilmember Maloney, uh, we have
10 Councilmember Ung, we have Councilmember Schwan, we
11 have Councilmember Hankerson, and for his first
12 committee meeting ever, we have Councilmember Wilson.
13 You can clap for that, thank you. Uh, we have
14 Councilmember Brewer, Councilmember Hanif, and
15 Councilmember Thomas Henry. Uh, so I— when I ran for
16 city council, I ran on 4 simple words: Clean the damn
17 streets. And so what are we here today to talk about?
18 Street cleanliness. Um, today we're going to be
19 learning all about the Department of Sanitation's
20 current work to keep the city's streets and sidewalks
21 clean. Street cleanliness, ah, affects all of us: our
quality of life, urban aesthetics, public safety,
physical and mental health, stormwater management,
economic development, tourism, and community dignity.
Where cleanliness lacks, there are higher risks for

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3 disease transmission and exacerbated tension. New
4 Yorkers deserve sound and physical- sound physical
5 and mental health and access to a wide range of
6 opportunities available in this city. One thing
7 necessary to realize this promise is always to ensure
8 a high level of cleanliness. In addition to
9 oversight, we will be hearing 8 bills today, 2 of
10 which I am sponsoring. First, intro- first, Intro 883
11 would require the DSNY Commissioner to establish an
12 Office of Sidewalk and Roadway Cafe Sanitation. The
13 office would receive 311 service requests relating to
14 sidewalk and roadway cafe cleanliness, such as
15 debris, trash, vermin, foul odors, and food scraps.
16 Using the- this information, the office would
17 establish lists of sidewalk and roadway cafes that
18 receive a certain number of DSNY violations or 311
19 service requests and share such lists with the
20 Department of Transportation. The office would also
21 be required to report to the council and the mayor
and to conduct outreach to sidewalk and roadway cafe
operators about cleanliness standards. The other bill
I'm sponsoring is Intro #906, which would establish
procedures for DSNY once it receives at least 3

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3 complaints of dog waste on the same block within 7
4 days. DSNY would be required to either remove the
5 waste on that block or to inform property owners of
6 their obligation to remove the waste and issue
7 violations to those who do not remove the waste. Next
8 up is Intro 857, sponsored by Council Member Julie
9 Menin, our speaker, which would require DSNY to
10 install and regularly fill dog waste- dog waste bag
11 dispensers on or next to all public litter baskets on
12 city streets. This bill would also require DSNY to
13 work with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
14 to conduct a public awareness campaign to educate the
15 public on the negative public health consequences
16 associated with dog waste. Next up, we have Intro
17 Number 31, sponsored by Council Majority Leader
18 Shauna Breiu, which would expand the categories of
19 businesses that can be designated by DSNY to, to
20 subject to requirements regarding separation and
21 disposal of organic waste and would require DSNY to
designate additional covered establishments. Any
covered establishment so designated would be required
to comply with requirements regarding separation and
disposal of organic waste when the commercial waste

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3 zone in the establishment it is located goes into
4 effect. Or within 6 months of DSNY's designation if
5 the commercial waste zone is already in effect. I
6 will speak briefly on Intro 31 on behalf of our
7 Majority Leader Abreu. This bill will help ensure
8 more establishments participate in our organics
9 recycling system and practice responsible waste
10 management. The bill also builds on the growing
11 success of our city's organics waste system, helping
12 reduce strain on landfills and supporting our
13 environmental goals. Households are now required to
14 separate their organic waste, and we believe
15 businesses should be held to the same standard. What
16 is important to note that Intro 31 will be good for
17 businesses' bottom lines by reducing waste disposal
18 costs. Under the city's current commercial waste zone
19 rules, carters that collect commercial waste are
20 required to charge less for organic waste collection
21 than general refuse collection. By requiring new
types of establishments to separate out their organic
waste, Intro 31 will, will help save these businesses
money as more of their waste is collected at the
mandated lower rates for organic waste collection.

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3 Ultimate— it will— ultimately, it will cost
4 businesses less to do the right thing for our
5 environment. Intro 31 will help foster a more
6 sustainable and environmental-friendly commercial
7 waste system in our city. Thank you. Thank you,
8 Majority Leader Breu. Moving on, we have Intro 872,
9 sponsored by Councilmember Shahana Hanif. This bill
10 will require the Commissioner of Health and Mental
11 Hygiene, in consultation with DSNY Commissioner, to
12 develop and conduct a public education and outreach
13 campaign in all designated citywide languages to
14 inform the public about dog waste removal and the
15 dangers of failing to remove dog waste. I'm sure you
16 guys are tired of hearing my voice, so I will gladly
17 pass it over to Councilmember Hanif to discuss her
18 bill.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you, Chair
20 Sanchez. Good afternoon, I'm Councilmember Shahana
21 Hanif. Thank you, Chair Sanchez— Chair Sanchez,
excuse me, for convening today's hearing and for
including my bill, Intro 872, creating a citywide dog
waste education campaign. And thank you to Speaker
Menin for her dogged commitment to this issue. New

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3 York City has a dog poop problem. We've all seen it,
4 and unfortunately many of us have stepped in it. But
5 this is not just a quality of life issue. Dog waste
6 is a serious public health and environmental hazard.
7 According to the EPA and CDC, pet waste can pollute
8 waterways and spread harmful bacteria and parasites,
9 including E. coli, Salmonella, and roundworm. Yet
10 many New Yorkers simply do not know the risks. That's
11 where Intro 872 comes in. This bill would require a
12 multilingual public education campaign so dog owners
13 understand the health impacts of failing to scoop the
14 poop and share— and the shared responsibility we all
15 have to keep our city clean and safe. Every New
16 Yorker deserves sidewalks that are safe, accessible,
17 and poop-free. I urge my colleagues to support Intro
18 872 because New Yorkers are tired of this crap. Thank
19 you.

20 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you, Council
21 Member Hanif. We're also tired of this crap. Um, next
is Intro Number 736, sponsored by Council Member
James Gennaro. This bill would codify a requirement
that a sponsor of any street activity permitted by
the Street Activity Permit Office perform solid waste

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3 disposal and recycling practices. The sponsor would
4 also have, have to ensure that food vendors at street
5 activities, not including food service
6 establishments, provide beverage stirrers beverage
7 splash sticks, straws, eating utensils, eating
8 containers, condiment packets, and napkins only upon
9 request. The items would have to be compostable
10 except for straws and condiment packets. As
11 applicable, sponsors would be required to maintain a
12 sufficient supply of single-use plastic beverage
13 straws that are not, uh, compostable and display
14 signs indicating straw availability. SAPO and DSNY
15 would have enforcement power. Sponsors would have to
16 submit compliance plans to SAPO, and SAPO would have
17 to inform sponsors of their responsibilities. And
18 include on their websites information about
19 permissible items. I would be passing the floor over
20 to Councilmember James Gennaro. However, uh, we are
21 sending our thoughts and prayers as they- he is
dealing with a horrific shooting that just happened
in his district. So he had to turn around. As such,
he will not be joining us today. Um, but we will
continue to discuss his bill. Uh, moving on, Intro

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3 Number 899, sponsored by Councilmember Ty Hankerson,
4 is another bill on today's agenda. Pardon me. This
5 bill would require the applicants for permits related
6 to the construction of new buildings and the
7 alteration or demolition of existing buildings to
8 submit to the Department of Buildings a construction
9 waste management and disposal plan. DOB, in
10 conjunction with the DSNY and Department of
11 Environmental Protection, would be required to verify
12 the permit holder's compliance with their plan and
13 could issue a civil penalty of \$1,000 for failing to
14 comply with the plan. DOB and the Department of
15 Consumer Worker Protection also could suspend or
16 revoke contractor licenses for repeated failure to
17 adhere to the bills. I now pass the floor to
18 Councilmember Hankerson to discuss his bill.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Thank you,
20 Chair. Uh, illegal dumping is a quality of life issue
21 across New York City. Construction debris left near
homes, parks, green spaces, neighborhood corridors,
waterways, and beaches create eyesores and brings
down the value of the surrounding area and harms the
environment. Construction waste should not leave a

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3 job site without a clear plan for where it will go or
4 who will handle it. Before a permit is granted,
5 contractors should be able to show that debris will
6 be taken to an appropriate disposal location by a
7 licensed or properly authorized hauler, disposer, or
8 disposal company. When disposal records are not
9 required, contractors can cut corners, use
10 unauthorized or unreliable disposers, avoid proper
11 disposal costs, and leave communities to deal with a
12 mess. A permit should not be approved on trust alone.
13 Especially when construction debris can end up in
14 communities. This legislation requires applicants for
15 certain DOB permits to submit a construction waste
16 disposal plan before the permit is actually granted.
17 It also requires proof that the waste was taken to a
18 lawful disposal site before the permit can be closed.
19 That proof may include receipts, transfer station
20 records, disposal facility records, hauling records,
21 or other documents showing where the material went
and who handled it. Requiring disposal planning
before permit approval and verification before permit
closeout will help prevent illegal dumping, protect
public spaces, and hold contractors accountable. Uh,

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3 thank you, Chair Sanchez, for, uh, allowing me to
4 share, uh, about this bill.

5 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you,
6 Councilmember Hankerson. Uh, I look forward to the
7 dialogue today, and I would like to thank everyone on
8 my team, um, especially our council committee,
9 Morgan, um, for their work on this legislation and
10 oversight, um, and to the entire sanitation and solid
11 waste management team Um, we will start by hearing
12 testimony from the DSNY, followed by some questions
13 to the agency. Hmm, you know, I accidentally- I don't
14 see it, but I accidentally skipped over Council
15 Member Brewer. So before I give closing remarks and
16 get to our lovely, uh, admin, I would like to turn
17 the mic over to Councilmember Brewer to speak on her
18 bill.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very
20 much. It is Intro 92, and it has to do with restoring
21 notification stickers to enforce alternate side
parking regulations. I think we know that street
cleaning only works when cars move. When they do not,
sweepers cannot properly clean the curb lane. The
litter, the debris, the dog waste and grime builds

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3 up. That's why I introduced Intro 92, which would
4 restore the Department of Sanitation's ability to
5 place warning stickers on vehicles that fail to move
6 for alternate side parking. The Sanitation Department
7 used these stickers in the past. I remember I voted
8 for it 100 years ago, and they were a practical tool
9 to improve compliance and help keep streets clean. In
10 2011, I voted with my colleagues to limit— I must
11 admit— the use of these stickers in what became Local
12 Law 20 of 2012. Now, 14 years later, many of us have
13 noticed a significant change in alternate side
14 compliance, as well as the overall cleanliness of our
15 streets. I don't know if it was the pandemic, but
16 people do not move their cars. Constituents voiced
17 frustration upon seeing street sweepers weaving
18 around parked cars, some with drivers in them. I
19 don't know what they think they're doing, except
20 they're holding on to the parking place in case
21 nobody gives them a ticket, so they just stay there.
Thank you to the Department of Sanitation for their
support of this legislation. New York City's
Strongest, thank you for efforts day in and day out
and evenings to keep our streets and sidewalks clean.

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3 I want to thank Chair Sanchez for including this bill
4 in the hearing and for caring about street
5 cleanliness. I do think it's time to restore this
6 practical tool that has proven effective as keeping
7 our streets clean. And if in Albany there is a camera
8 on a street sweeper, I think you still need to have
9 a, an ability to do a sticker for those intransient
10 individuals who refuse to move, and they would get
11 the sticker and not be able to get the, uh, adhesive
12 to come off their car, so they would have that for
13 the rest of their natural lives. Thank you very much.

14 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you, member
15 Councilmember Brewer, and I have to agree. Let's put
16 a sticker on it. Um, and if you get that reference,
17 thank you. Um, if you didn't, I'm sorry for you. Um,
18 So now finally, we will start by hearing testimony
19 from DSNY, followed by some questions to the agency,
20 and then we will hear testimony from members of the
21 public. I will now turn it over to our committee
counsel to administer the oath.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Good afternoon, uh,
members from the administration. Will you please
raise your right hands? Thank you. Do you affirm to

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3 tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
4 truth in your testimony before the council members,
5 and to respond honestly to council member questions
today?

6 GREGORY ANDERSON: I do.

7 ANTHONY PENNELLINO: I do.

8 REBECCA KRIEGMAN: I do.

9 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. You may
begin.

10 GREGORY ANDERSON: Great. Good afternoon,
11 Chair Sanchez and members of the Committee on
12 Sanitation and Solid Waste Management. I am Gregory
13 Anderson, Commissioner of the New York City
14 Department of Sanitation, and I am joined today by
15 Chief of Department Anthony Pennellino and Rebecca
16 Kriegman, Assistant Commissioner for Policy and
17 Planning. Every New Yorker deserves not just a clean
18 street, but a clean city. For decades, public space
19 cleaning programs have been a bureaucratic patchwork
20 with confusing responsibilities that facilitated
21 finger-pointing and inaction. As with so many other
issues, the Maldonado administration is rejecting
this status quo, and as part of the new era for New

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3 York City, the Department of Sanitation is taking an
4 expansive view of what it means to keep the city
5 clean. It isn't just about emptying litter baskets
6 more frequently or clearing dumpouts more quickly or
7 enforcing our cleanliness laws more effectively. It's
8 about understanding that every part of this city is
9 impacted by sanitation issues and services, from
10 street sweeping to enforcement to public education.
11 In the coming years, the members of this council and
12 the people of your districts will see that change,
13 will feel it, will smell it, as we bring equitable
14 cleaning resources to every part of the 5 boroughs.
15 We need New Yorkers to be our partners in this
16 effort. To keep their properties clean, to pick up
17 after their dogs, to throw their trash in the litter
18 basket, and largely they do. However, I have to
19 address one area where many New Yorkers often do not
20 do their part and where our hands are very much tied.
21 The street sweeper, or mechanical broom, is among our
most effective tools for keeping streets clean,
picking up as much as 1,500 pounds of trash, leaves,
and street debris in a single shift, and they're out
across our city 6 days a week. Street cleaning

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3 regulations, known as alternate side parking or ASP,
4 exist to give our street sweepers access to the curb.

5 For 90 minutes, once or twice a week, regulations
6 require drivers to move their cars to allow our
7 street sweepers to do their jobs. If you take a look
8 around neighborhoods across the city, you will see,
9 unfortunately, far too many New Yorkers who own cars
10 have become accustomed to disregarding these basic
11 rules and leaving their personal property occupying
12 valuable public space, creating dirty streets in the
13 process. Simply put, the current system is broken.

14 The risk of enforcement, done manually by our
15 sanitation supervisors and by traffic enforcement
16 agents, is minimal. The price of noncompliance,
17 combined with the low risk of getting caught, is a
18 cheaper option for drivers than the opportunity cost
19 of moving their car or the cost of paying for
20 off-street parking. Meanwhile, good neighbors who
21 sweep their properties and who obey ASP regulations
are left angry, frustrated, even irate when fellow
drivers leave their cars on the street with no
concern for the cleanliness of the neighborhood.

During a survey last month of 35 street cleaning

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3 routes, We found that on average, nearly 500 vehicles
4 remain parked illegally on each route. That means
5 that on over 1,200 routes each week, nearly 500,000
6 cars violate street cleaning regulations and prevent
7 us from cleaning more than 3,000 miles of New York
8 City streets. But don't just take my word for it.
9 Watch this video. Let's see if we can pull it up. Do
10 we have the video?

11 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you,
12 Commissioner. I've just let the administrator of the
13 video, uh, know that we are ready to play.

14 GREGORY ANDERSON: Uh, so that video
15 showed a mechanical broom struggling to maneuver
16 around parked cars on its assigned route, leaving
17 behind dirty streets in the process. To clean your
18 neighborhoods and change the culture of filth on our
19 streets, that must change. Last week, I was in Albany
20 asking legislators to give New York City the
21 authority to enforce against this practice via
automated enforcement. A street sweeper camera
enforcement program has passed the state Senate for
multiple years in a row, but has stalled in the
Assembly. Our message to Albany is clear: let us

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3 clean. Just this morning, a mechanical broom operator
4 in Manhattan District, uh, 10 was working her route
5 when she encountered a parked car blocking the broom
6 at 119th Street and Morningside Avenue. Without the
7 benefit of automated enforcement to issue a ticket,
8 And without a supervisor in the immediate vicinity to
9 write a ticket manually, she did what many broom
10 operators do every day. She honked the horn to
11 encourage the driver to move so she could do her job
12 and clean the street. Instead of moving, the occupant
13 of the vehicle reached in the back seat of the car
14 and grabbed a firearm. He waved it in the air, and
15 the sanitation worker, fearing for her life, quickly
16 left the scene. Before calling for supervision and
17 NYPD assistance. That would not have happened if we
18 had automated enforcement. So I say again, let us
19 clean safely. Authorizing automated enforcement by
20 DSNY street sweepers will lead to more reliable and
21 consistent enforcement without the need for conflict
or manual intervention. This will encourage
compliance and improve DSNY's access to the curb,
ensuring cleaner neighborhoods. And that is not to
say that we want to issue more summonses. I would be

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3 thrilled if we could go through a day in this city
4 without having to issue a single ASP ticket at all.
5 With this new program, New Yorkers will only receive
6 a summons if they actually block the sweeper,
7 preventing it from cleaning our streets. And as we
8 get better compliance and cleaner streets in the
9 process, we will be able to reevaluate the current
10 street cleaning regulations potentially reducing the
11 frequency and duration of ASP regulations. This will
12 lead to cleaner streets and a more convenient way of
13 life for New Yorkers who do their part, benefiting
14 all New Yorkers from Jamaica to Jackson Heights and
15 from East Chester to the East Village. I ask every
16 City Council member who wants cleaner streets to put
17 their strong vocal support behind this bill. Call
18 your colleagues in the state legislature. Tell them
19 to let us clean. We thank you for your advocacy and
20 support of this, uh, important state legislation.
21 This hearing also includes, uh, several pieces of
city legislation that touch on a number of topics
related to street cleanliness. Several bills address
the fact that far too many New Yorkers with dogs
simply fail to pick up after them. This practice is

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3 disgusting. It is despicable. It is deplorable. And
4 to New Yorkers, I say this: if you fail to pick up
5 after your dog, you are showing the utmost disrespect
6 for your neighbors and for the community you live in.
7 Speaker Menin's bill, Intro 857, would require DSNY
8 to install and fill dog waste bag dispensers— that is
9 quite a mouthful, Chair Sanchez— uh, on all public
10 litter baskets. I am proud to share that our pilot of
11 these dispensers is going quite well. With dispensers
12 now on baskets in parts of the Bronx, Manhattan, and
13 Brooklyn. In all cases though, DSNY has a maintenance
14 partner, an elected official, a business improvement
15 district, or a community group that is committed to
16 refilling bags when they run out. DSNY simply does
17 not have the resources at this time to routinely
18 restock bags at any kind of scale. And what would be—
19 what could be worse than walking your dog expecting
20 to find bags available and finding an empty
21 dispenser, forcing you to leave the poop on the
ground. Intro 872, sponsored by Councilmember Hanif,
would require Sanitation and Department of Health to
implement a public education campaign around dog
waste. We are eager to work with the council to

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3 increase awareness about this issue, and again, uh,
4 do not have resources for a broad marketing and
5 outreach campaign at this time. On Chair Sanchez's
6 bill, Intro 906, regarding the removal of dog waste
7 DSNY shares the council's frustration with repeat
8 offenders who make certain blocks entirely
9 unwalkable. We do have concerns about the practical
10 application of this requirement if 311 complaint
11 volumes were to increase substantially, but we look
12 forward to discussing those further. Intro 883, also
13 sponsored by Chair Sanchez, would establish an office
14 of sidewalk and roadway cafe sanitation at the
15 Department of Sanitation. We agree with the council
16 on the importance of upholding cleanliness standards
17 for outdoor dining setups. I'm happy to say that
18 Sanitation today has a collaborative relationship
19 with the Department of Transportation on this topic,
20 and the outdoor dining program has clear requirements
21 regarding cleanliness and sanitation, which I will
say the COVID-era temporary program did not. As the
Council considers expanding this program year-round,
we are working with DOT and the Mayor's Office to
identify additional requirements and potentially

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3 regulations that will ensure that sidewalk and
4 roadway dining setups do not create cleanliness
5 conditions in our commercial corridors. On
6 Councilmember Hankerson's bill, Intro 899, regarding
7 construction and demolition waste, we strongly feel
8 that this industry needs more and better regulation.
9 Shady contractors often dump waste illegally in our
10 parks and our neighborhoods, and those who do should
11 be severely punished. However, this is a very
12 complicated issue. and we want to better understand
13 the implications that new requirements will have for
14 all construction projects, including for badly needed
15 affordable housing. We see this bill as the beginning
16 of, uh, very robust discussion around this important
17 topic and look forward to working with the council,
18 our partner agencies, and the contractor community to
19 develop appropriate regulations. Councilmember
20 Gennaro's bill, uh, Intro 736, builds on the Skip the
21 Stuff program that the council passed several years
ago. We support efforts to reduce unnecessary waste
whenever and wherever possible, and we're happy to
support this bill. The last 2 bills have DSNY's very,
very strong support. Intro 31, sponsored by

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3 Councilmember Abreu, and Intro 92, sponsored,
4 sponsored by Councilmember Brewer. Intro 31 would
5 authorize DSNY to expand the requirement to separate
6 compostable material to all businesses that produce
7 food waste. Fighting rats, and keeping food waste out
8 of landfills. This bill is a critical step in
9 reducing the amount of food waste that we dispose of.
10 It will save businesses money as the commercial waste
11 zones program requires carters to provide organics
12 collection at a reduced rate compared to trash
13 collection. We also want to make sure that the bill
14 prioritizes the overall reduction of food waste and
15 the donation of edible food to food pantries and
16 those in need. Intro 92 undoes a grave mistake made
17 by a prior city council in prohibiting the use of
18 stickers to deter drivers from, uh, violating ASP
19 rules. We welcome any tool that will help us ensure
20 our sweepers can effectively clean the city streets.
21 This bill is a great local counterpart to the state
legislation I discussed earlier, which remains our
main focus and priority. So thank you for the
opportunity to testify before you today. I am now
happy to answer any questions you have about specific

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3 cleanliness programs or needs in your district.

4 Together, we really can have a cleaner city. We just
5 need to have the will to get it done.

6 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Uh, thank you so
7 much, Commissioner. Um, you know, we- I do want to be
8 mindful of my colleagues, so I'm going to go, um, and
9 make sure that they can ask questions about their
10 bills. Um, and I really appreciate you going into
11 detail about how the, uh, department currently feels
12 about many of the bills. Um, especially with the dog
13 waste bills, I just want to make sure that we are
14 understanding that more families are having dogs now
15 than they are babies a lot of the time. Um, so we
16 need to make sure that our street sanitation is
17 transforming itself in a way that is being responsive
18 to our new families of today and in the future, which
19 seems to be even more dogs. Um, and so we should be
20 leading and finding ways to address the resource
21 concerns to make sure that we're modernizing the
department in a way that addresses the fact that our,
uh, four-legged friends are now a bigger part of our
city than ever before. Um, having said that, um, I
absolutely, uh, love the, uh, street ballet video.

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3 Um, and I think there was no better way to transition
4 into the need for our sticker program, uh, than, um,
5 that video. So I want to turn it over to
6 Councilmember Brewer to ask any questions, uh, about
Intro 92, uh, on her bill.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very
8 much. I appreciate your support. Um, again, we don't
9 know what's going to happen in Albany. You maybe have
10 a better sense than I do, but say, for instance, it
11 doesn't pass, um, or even if it does, um, how will
12 you decide, um, which road users— obviously those who
13 are not moving— but how would you decide when a
14 sticker would go on a car? I don't know, I should
15 remember because I remember seeing cars in the past
16 where they had the sticker adhesive still on the car.
17 We all knew what that meant. So my question is, how
18 would you decide which cars would get the sticker?

19 GREGORY ANDERSON: Thank you,
20 Councilmember. And I, I do think, uh, I, I understand
21 where the past city council, including yourself, um,
as you remember in, in 2011, uh, was coming from
because the department was, I think, quite profligate

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3 in its use of the stickers in the past. Uh, I think
4 if we-

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: David Greenfield,
6 I can tell you.

7 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yes.

8 GREGORY ANDERSON: But it was- the bill
9 did pass unanimously at the time. Um, I will say You
10 know, our, our approach now would be to use this
11 mechanism where absolutely necessary. Everyone knows
12 these cars in their district that just don't ever
13 move. You can see the, the litter and the leaves
14 piled up underneath. Those are the kinds of places
15 where we would find the repeat violators. We would
16 use the sticker as a tool to not only tell those
17 people that they have an obligation to move their
18 car, but also to tell their neighbors that there is
19 someone on this block who is disrespecting your
20 quality of life, uh, day in and day out. And so I
21 think that's how we would focus our efforts, is on
those who either have a substantial number of
adjudicated ASP complaints or who, from just looking
at the street, you can tell they haven't moved their
car in quite a long time.

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3 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay, and that
4 would be the same whether Albany passes the camera
5 bill or not? It would be the same progress or
6 proposal. Okay. Yeah. The other qu-

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Go Ahead.

8 GREGORY ANDERSON: if Albany were to pass
9 the camera bill, we'd probably need the stickers a
10 little bit less. If they don't, you know, the
11 stickers is just another tool in the toolbox. And,
12 and if we're allowed to use them, we certainly will.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay. And then the
14 other question that you'd use the same adhesive, cuz
15 people are wondering about that. I don't know the
16 answer. I mean, I don't know, I can't remember what
17 adhesive you used before, so I don't know if it would
18 be the same adhesive again.

19 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, that was, uh,
20 that was quite some time ago, so I don't know if the
21 same product-

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: It wasn't so long
ago-

GREGORY ANDERSON: necessarily exists. Um,
it was 14 years ago.

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3 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Uh-Hmm. Not that
4 long for me.

5 GREGORY ANDERSON:: That was, that was a
6 bit of time. Adhesive technology has come a long way
7 in that period of time. So, you know, I think we, we
8 definitely, uh, want to balance the, the interest of
9 having very visible stickers on the car with, you
10 know, we don't want to damage people's personal
11 property necessarily.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I'd love to do
13 that.

14 GREGORY ANDERSON: So we'll We'll probably
15 test out a few samples.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay, my other
17 question is, and I should know this, but does it- is
18 it accompanied by a fine or is it just a sticker? I
19 mean, obviously with the camera, with the police
20 officer or sanitation giving, uh, you're not moving,
21 that's a fine. This sanitation sticker also
accompanied by a fine?

GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, so we would write
a ticket alongside.

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3 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: It would be the
4 same as one would get as a normal not moving for
5 alternate side of the street parking?

6 GREGORY ANDERSON: Correct.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay, the other
8 question I have finally is that Um, do you know- I
9 think if I saw correctly, there were about 1.2
10 million summonses given last year, I think, or fiscal
11 year, for lack of moving alternate side of the street
12 parking. Um, do you think that having this sticker
13 would hopefully limit- we all want less people to get
14 fines, we just want them to move their car. Do you
15 think that would reduce the 1.2 million people who
16 get summonses? Obviously there are so many times when
17 there's no police, there's no sanitation, so that's
18 probably a low number compared to the number of
19 people don't move.

20 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, so, uh, based on
21 at least calendar year 2025, it's actually 1.8
million summonses. Um, NYPD issued about 1.3, we
issued about 500,000. Uh, I, I do think that both the
camera enforcement bill and the sticker bill would

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3 increase compliance, and so we would hope to see
4 those numbers come down down pretty substantially.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay, thank you,
6 Mr. Chair.

7 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Uh, thank you,
8 Councilmember Brewer. Um, some more questions on, uh,
9 Intro 92. Um, will the department distribute
10 educational materials to road users about the
11 reimplementation of parking stickers? Um, and will
12 this material include ways to safely remove whatever
13 damaging adhesive?

14 GREGORY ANDERSON: Well, we'll put
15 something on the sticker itself that includes some
16 instructions on removal.

17 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Um, okay, cool.
18 Thank you so much, Councilmember Brewer. Um, I'm
19 gonna, um, go into a few questions about street
20 cleaning before I turn it over to Councilmember
21 Hanif. Um, so the 2023 Mayor's Management Report
announced the suspension of the street cleanliness
grading program administered by the Mayor's Office of
Operations and promised a successor program. At the
last street cleanliness hearing in September 2025,

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3 the administration Sanitation testified that field
4 block inspections of block faces had resumed and that
5 public-facing data would be forthcoming sometime in
6 2026. Could you please provide a date when this
7 public-facing data should become available?

8 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, so, uh, they have
9 been conducting the, the block face surveys, um, in
10 the background for quite some time, and they're
11 sharing that data with Sanitation right now. I, I
12 think our hope, uh, and I have yet to, to sit down
13 with the new director of the Mayor's Office of
14 Operations, Annie Levers, a good friend of mine, uh,
15 to discuss this formally. But my hope would be, uh,
16 maybe at the beginning of the fiscal year we'd be
17 able to stand up a regular reporting cadence.

18 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Awesome, thank you.
19 Um, could you also please describe, um, to the extent
20 that you can already, the differences between the
21 upcoming successor program and the earlier scorecard
22 program?

23 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, so the, ah, a
24 number of the changes were actually made in response
25 to an audit done of the scorecard program that showed

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3 that it was really inconsistently applied, that, um,
4 you know, some blocks that were 100 feet long were
5 getting rated with the same weight as a block that's
6 1,000 feet long, uh, which, you know, just skews the
7 numbers and, and doesn't create an accurate picture
8 of how clean, uh, a neighborhood is. In addition,
9 the, the ratings were all aggregated up to the
10 sanitation section or sanitation district level which
11 is dozens of blocks. Uh, what we're doing right now,
12 and, and what I, what I would hope we can do when we
13 start to share the data publicly, is actually go to a
14 granular detail of the specific block face. So say,
15 uh, you know, on 12th Street from— and I'm gonna get
16 my avenues wrong because I don't really hang out on,
17 on 12th Street— but like from 6th Avenue to 7th
18 Avenue, that street got this grade. And it was rated
19 on this date. That's— we know that's a snapshot in
20 time. We know that that may not be representative of
21 how that block looks today if it was, if it was rated
3 months ago, but at least it's more, more data about
how blocks actually look. Um, they've also sort of
changed the way that they do the rating a little bit.
I think the rating initially came out of, um,

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3 something done by, uh, by, I think, maybe ABNE, uh,
4 or, or something like that back in the '70s. Our
5 standards of cleanliness today are much, much higher
6 than they were in the 1970s. What was considered
7 filthy in the 1970s would be absolutely unacceptable
8 today. What was considered clean in the 1970s would
9 be considered dirty today. So they've done some
10 updates to how those ratings are calculated, um, and
11 we look forward to hopefully rolling something out
12 soon.

13 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you. Um, and
14 just for your own personal knowledge, uh, 12th
15 between 6th and 7th is a real place, so you are all
16 good. You are not fired yet. Um, in fiscal year 2026-

17 GREGORY ANDERSON: I think there's a bike
18 lane there.

19 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Um, in fiscal year
20 2026, how many days were met with an unplanned
21 suspension and alternate side parking regulations?

22 GREGORY ANDERSON: We don't have that
23 number in front of us right now, but I think there's
24 something like 40 3 or 44 ASP holidays, plus we, I
25 think, had upwards of 50 suspension days for winter

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3 weather so far this year. So, um, together that's
4 close to a quarter of the full year.

5 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Um, what would you
6 say, um, would be— and I think you kind of answered,
7 but maybe there's more— about the most common reasons
8 for these unplanned, um, ASP suspensions?

9 GREGORY ANDERSON: The most common reason
10 is, is winter weather. Um, and that's in part because
11 we don't want folks unnecessarily driving and in part
12 because we need all the resources we can operating
13 our plows and salt spreaders. And even in a smaller
14 storm where we don't need the full contingent of
15 plows and salt spreaders, we want to make sure we can
16 keep up with the trash collection, uh, so we put
17 whatever resources we can on that.

18 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you. Um, and
19 we wouldn't be talking about street cleanliness if we
20 weren't talking about dog poop. So with that, I, uh,
21 turn it over to Councilmember Hanif.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you, Chair.
23 Okay, well, first I, I just want to thank Frank. Uh,
24 we, we are really grateful— that's the Kensington
25 community— for being a part of the pilot of the dog

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3 waste, uh, bag dispenser. And certainly it has been a
4 little challenging to coordinate and make sure that
5 once one roll is done, that we've got people seeing
6 and changing and making sure that we have enough, uh,
7 uh, bags. Um, but I do think that this is an
8 important, important initiative, and I, I look
9 forward to seeing its expansion. So on my bill, you
10 mentioned that you don't have resources for outreach.
11 What actions is the admin taking or has taken, uh,
12 around educating residents about the hazards of dog
13 waste and other animal waste?

14 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, so, uh, first,
15 uh, thank you for, uh, your partnership on the, the
16 pilot of the dispensers. And I do want to say that
17 the dispenser model that we have out there on some
18 bins right now is something that's off the shelf
19 from, uh, a large, uh, on-demand delivery company
20 that we're all familiar with. Um, and so what we're,
21 what we're doing is we're trying to identify if
there's a better model out there, um, if there are
there are, you know, 1,000 bag rolls of bags that we
could use or something like that in order to not have
to replace the bags as often and to just make it

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3 easier for New Yorkers to use. So that's something
4 that we're working through. And I think if we were to
5 advance some version of the speaker's bill, I think
6 that's— we'd wanna be able to take into account the
7 timeline for identifying the right product to be able
8 to use on our litter baskets, uh, in doing so.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Right, 'cause we
10 don't want people hoarding on bags.

11 GREGORY ANDERSON: We don't want people
12 hoarding our bags, but we also don't want people—
13 and, and, you know, as a dog owner myself, I, I can
14 identify with the fear when you look down at the
15 leash and you see, oh, I don't have any bags on me, I
16 really hope my dog doesn't take a crap right now. Um,
17 you don't want to get to a litter basket, think
18 there's going to be a bag there, your dog's already
19 done its business, and then you're like, oh crap. So
20 you like reach in the litter basket for a piece of
21 newspaper and you're like trying to pick it up as
best you can. That's a terrible situation. No one
wants to be in that situation. Um, on your actual
question around public education, you know, I think,
I think the dispensers and the, the, um, the press

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3 that we've done around them has been, uh, effective.
4 I do think this winter, um, given the extended 2.5+
5 week period of deep, deep cold weather, um, made it
6 particularly problematic. New Yorkers just- I think
7 they thought if it's on the ice, if it's on the snow,
8 it just goes away. When it all melted, we saw that it
9 doesn't. Um, and so I do, I do agree that we can do
10 more on the public awareness, um, side of things. I
11 don't think there's anyone out there who-

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: I mean, I don't
13 think I've seen what could be a very fun campaign,
14 uh, about picking up your dog's waste. Do you know
15 how many 311 complaints came in?

16 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yes.

17 REBECCA KRIEGMAN: that's in calendar
18 year.

19 GREGORY ANDERSON: Okay, so, so far this
20 calendar year, 2,354.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: 2,354. And where,
um, what's the geographical pattern here?

GREGORY ANDERSON: Uh, I mean, it's a lot
of Upper Manhattan. I mean, Manhattan District 12 has
165, uh, total out of that number, um, which beats

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3 the next one by over 50. Um, and then it's parts of,
4 you know, uh, denser parts of Brooklyn, uh, Central
5 and South Bronx are the, the biggest, uh, districts
6 there.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: And then what do
8 you all do with that data?

9 GREGORY ANDERSON: So we, we use it to do
10 enforcement, um, when we can. Uh, the enforcement--
11 we, we assign enforcement resources. They are not
12 productive, uh, because we have to, one, witness the
13 action happening. We have to witness the dog pooping
14 and the person failing to pick up the poop. We have
15 to then stop them in, in their business, get them to
16 give us their actual name, which they're not
17 compelled to do--

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Right?

19 GREGORY ANDERSON: because they're-- our
20 officers are peace officers. They're not, they're
21 not, uh, NYPD police officers. We're not going to
arrest someone for--

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: No, totally
understand that it's circumstantial.

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3 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah. And so, and so we
4 do that enforcement, but it is, it is not
5 particularly productive, um, in situations where— and
6 I know—

7 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: I know we're done
8 with my time, Commissioner. I'm sorry. Go ahead. Are
9 there times when a sanitation worker picks up dog
10 poop?

11 GREGORY ANDERSON: There are times, yes,
12 but in general sanitation workers don't sweep the
13 sidewalk. That's the responsibility of the property
14 owner, and so the property owner, uh, would, uh, be
15 responsible for that.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Got it. And then,
17 um, how does the presence of dog waste affect, uh,
18 other animal populations in our city?

19 GREGORY ANDERSON: Dog waste certainly
20 does attract rats. Uh, that's something that we've
21 seen in the past, and I think there's a, a good
correlation between places that have higher rat
populations and higher dog waste complaints.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: I'll come back for
second round.

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3 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: You can continue your
4 questioning, Councilmember.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Oh, thank you. So,
6 uh, rats, and is that something that the Sanitation
7 Department and maybe DOHMH are collaborating on in
8 terms of like, here are the, the effects and, you
9 know, we're trying to get rid of rats, but here's—
10 you're out here not picking up your dog's crap. Like,
11 is, is there—

12 GREGORY ANDERSON: yeah, it's, it's
13 something that we definitely collaborate with them
14 on. I think the, the bigger, uh, the bigger food
15 source for rats is trash, and so containerizing trash
16 is making a huge impact on the rat population and rat
17 sightings. Uh, year over year, rat complaints are
18 down over 30% citywide. Um, and that's on top of
19 improvements made in the past several years. So we're
20 making good progress there, but certainly there's
21 more to do.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: And are you seeing
19 any geographical correlation between dog waste 311
20 complaints and rat 311 complaints?
21

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3 GREGORY ANDERSON: We would have to look
4 at that more specifically.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Yeah, I mean, I, I,
6 I'd like to understand just how dog waste is truly,
7 uh, negatively affecting our city. And, ah, as much
8 as I sympathize with the Sanitation Department not
9 having the urgent resources to tackle this issue, I
10 do think this is one of the issues that will continue
11 to grow. The population of dogs in Carroll Gardens is
12 outrageous. And like, it's just getting- it's just, I
13 mean, it's a positive thing, I love dogs, but their
14 population is, is high, at an all-time high. And I
15 think the city really needs to take this issue very,
16 very seriously and plan for something more public,
17 in-your-face, on the bus, in the trains, so that
18 we're constantly reminded that this is not okay and
19 we're gonna internalize this issue. Um, does DO- does
20 the Sanitation Department communicate regularly with
21 DOHMH, um, on issues related to, uh, dog waste or
other animal waste, vermin?

GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, we're in regular
communication with DOHMH on a number of topics, uh,
predominantly on rodents and rats. Uh, but we do

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3 coordinate on, uh, dog waste as well, and, and
4 obviously they run the, the licensing program for,
5 uh, canines, uh, which we do some very limited
6 enforcement of.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Wonderful. And then
8 I just want to— oh, is my time done again?

9 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: No, no, go.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: I'm sorry. Uh, I
11 wanted to ask a few questions about— not my bill,
12 Chair Sanchez. Cool. I wanted to, um, understand how
13 sanitation's responding to litter baskets which are
14 repeatedly found overflowing?

15 GREGORY ANDERSON: So I think the, the
16 occurrence of that luckily has, um, has decreased
17 substantially because we are at the highest level of
18 baseline litter basket service in New York City
19 history, or at least since we have been recording our
20 level of litter basket service, which goes back
21 several decades. Um, we do, you know, I think litter
baskets are one of the most visible things, uh, that
are out there that are markers of street cleanliness.
And so that's something that we take very, very
seriously. And, uh, you know, if, if we identify that

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3 increased service is necessary or that a specific
4 location needs to be on multiple routes, we will do
5 so. Uh, we will also, uh, work with— if it's outside
6 of a business, for example, and, and our, uh, dear
7 friend Assistant Chief Frank Latera was just doing
8 this yesterday, uh, with a, a pizza shop, uh, on the
9 Lower East Side. Um, you know, if a litter basket is
10 full of trash from just one business, maybe that
11 business should be responsible for managing the
12 trash.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Mhm.

14 GREGORY ANDERSON: That's what we did with
15 the pizza shop yesterday. We said, you know, maybe
16 you should put out some of your own trash cans for
17 when you're open so that your patrons who are buying
18 your pizza can use your trash can and not have to,
19 um, make the streets around the Lower East Side
20 filthy. Um, And they were very amenable to that
21 because they saw that it was a real, a real impact.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: And how often, uh,
23 are you all updating the litter basket routes, uh,
24 generally and in response to the complaints?

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3 GREGORY ANDERSON: We're looking at them
4 on a regular basis. Uh, it's- I wouldn't say it's
5 something that we are doing sort of real time or on a
6 dynamic level, but we look at, uh, needs along
7 certain commercial corridors, and if we identify that
8 there's recurring complaints, uh, along the corridor,
9 we'll take action, uh, both through, uh, changing
10 service, increasing service, as well as, uh, if
11 necessary, taking enforcement action, uh, where
12 baskets are being misused.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: And for areas that
14 are like scaffolded, no lighting, uh, how do you all
15 respond to, uh, trash-related complaints in those
16 parts of our city? I've got- I just witnessed, uh,
17 Nevin's Street and Baltic Street corridor. It is- it
18 looks like a dump, but also it's a, it's an
19 industrial area, and also it, uh, has construction
20 going on. There's, um, just other, uh, sort of like
21 no life in that area situation, but also it, it's
adjacent to, um public housing. And in other parts of
my district where we don't have to- I don't have to
speak about these kinds of spot hotspots. And the
hotspots we've had in Kensington, we've had great,

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3 great, um, work thanks to, uh, Frank and just
4 strategy through talking through sort of what's
5 working, what's not working, and then, um, revising.
6 But would love to understand just like the hotspots
7 that we know exist. Like, how do you all address
8 those sections?

9 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, so it, it remains
10 the property owner's responsibility to clean the
11 sidewalk. If there is, uh, a dump out or a large
12 accumulation of trash, we'll assign one of our, uh,
13 one of our TNT crews to go through and clean it. I
14 think one of the areas that I would love to work with
15 the council on is how do we hold, um, either vacant
16 properties or sites that are under construction
17 accountable? Because right now, you know, it's, it's
18 very difficult. And I live in Long Island City where
19 there's probably 7 or 8 new giant apartment buildings
20 going up within a 2-block radius of my building, and
21 some of them maintain their sidewalks and curb lines,
many of them do not. Uh, we would love to have better
tools to be able to hold those buildings accountable.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: And finally, uh,
with the trash bin deadline, uh, in June, um, bins

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3 have been appearing to be out of stock at many retail
4 locations. What is your plan to increase the
5 availability and distribution of bins citywide?

6 GREGORY ANDERSON: So we are on phone
7 calls every day with the bin manufacturer and with
8 Home Depot to try to make sure that they're making
9 enough bins to keep up with demand. Uh, you know,
10 this week they're making 20,000 bins, next week
11 25,000 bins. Uh, so they are, they are producing bins
12 and getting them to Home Depot as quickly as
13 possible. Uh, I'm gonna, uh, I was hoping, uh, to
14 make a video with the chair and a certain council
15 member from Staten Island, uh, to, to make some news
16 on, on a warning period there. Um, so more to come. I
17 think, in the next couple days, uh, on what we plan
18 to do as far as enforcement.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Great, thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much,
21 Councilmember Hanif. Um, just picking up one last
thing on the litter baskets. So in fiscal year— the
executive budget '26, litter basket service was given
\$29.7 million enhancement, increasing to \$31.2
million in fiscal year '29 and the out years, uh,

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3 Which litter basket service operations or programs
4 has the department allocated these resources to?

5 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, so that's for our
6 core litter basket service operations. So that's
7 across all 59 districts. Uh, it includes, uh, both
8 regular service on Monday to Saturday as well as
9 overtime service on Sundays. And it's the highest
10 level of service on both weekdays and weekends that
11 we've had in history. Um, we did an exercise, uh, as
12 we were expanding that service, uh, and baselining
13 it, where we made sure that we were properly
14 allocating the service across all 5 boroughs, uh,
15 rather than the sort of historical practice that the
16 Sanitation Department had of really concentrating
17 litter basket service here in Manhattan. So we do
18 have record levels of service in parts of, uh, the
19 Bronx, in parts of Central Brooklyn, um, out in
20 Flushing in Queens, uh, that we historically did not
21 have. So we, we have done that.

18 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Uh, speaking of
19 record, record, record levels of service- geez, um, I
20 can't speak today. Um, record levels of service, uh,
21 in the South Bronx currently until the end of the

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3 fiscal year. Um, as mentioned before, we have an
4 additional 21, uh, sanitation workers, uh, that have
5 been working through there, making sure that they're
6 doing everything possible to keep, um, our streets
7 clean, uh, given the history of the area, um, and
8 curious to know if, uh, we will continue to see that
9 level of service in and around the hub, um, by the
10 department, or what has— any updates there?

11 GREGORY ANDERSON: We're continuing to
12 have conversations around, uh, that additional
13 service, the supplemental service in the hub, uh, as
14 part of the budget process. We're not currently
15 funded for it, but I would hate to see it go away.
16 So, um, we'll continue having conversations with your
17 office, with the bid, with the mayor's office on how
18 we can continue that.

19 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: I'm looking directly
20 at the camera. We would very much hate to see this go
21 away, so you can put that on video anywhere that
needs to be seen because the South Bronx needs our
sanitation workers. Also, again, huge shout out to
Frank Lutero for everything that he has done. Um,
okay, moving on, uh, about street cleanliness, let us

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3 bring us over to our man of the hour, Councilmember
4 Wilson.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON: Thank you, Chair
6 Sanchez. And, uh, hello, Commissioner. It's great to
7 see you. And this is my first hearing, my first
8 questioning. So I'm very excited about this. But I,
9 as we were saying earlier, uh, we've had a great
10 relationship with DSMY in District 3, and I'm looking
11 forward to that continuing. I had a couple of
12 questions, uh, regarding that are related to street
13 cleanliness, and also wanted to pick up on some
14 questions around corner, the corner basket. So in, in
15 our district, um, I, I've received, uh, complaints
16 about them going away, disappearing, uh, and, and not
17 being replaced. For example, recently just at the
18 corner of West 21st and 9th Avenue, West 23rd Street,
19 10th Avenue. It happens a lot in Chelsea. So I'm just
20 curious, what is the process for the removal of a
21 bin? Uh, how's that decided? And, and how long before
that bin can be replaced in good time?

GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, in the past the
department had a practice where, uh, if bins were
routinely being misused or or if we did not have the

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3 appropriate level of service for a bin, that we would
4 consider taking them away to, um, avoid creating
5 something that would draw additional trash. Uh, we no
6 longer have that practice. Um, I think it, it just
7 sent the wrong message to New Yorkers that the
8 department didn't care about their neighborhoods and,
9 and wouldn't provide service to their neighborhoods.
10 Um, we do have, I think, somewhere on the order of
11 3,000 litter baskets that are currently missing or
12 misplaced, um, based on where we think we are
13 supposed to have litter baskets and the inventories
14 that we do on a regular basis to see if they're
15 actually there. There's a number of reasons they can,
16 uh, go missing. Sometimes they, they grow legs, they
17 get stolen, they get taken by a business and used for
18 their own personal use. Um, sometimes they just get
19 broken, uh, and our sanitation workers will, will
20 recycle them and it takes some time before we can
21 have new bins to put out. Um, on very rare instances,
we will either remove or more often relocate a bin.
So if there's, uh, if there's a bin on one corner of
an intersection, um, we may move it to the opposite
corner or, uh, to somewhere nearby where we think

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3 it'll be more effective, particularly if it's, um, if
4 it's being used like, you know, I mean, In the pizza
5 shop example that I used earlier, if there's a
6 particular business that all of the, the trash in
7 that bin seems to be coming from that business, maybe
8 that business should have their own trash can instead
9 of, um, the public providing that, uh, that service
10 for them. So those are the, the situations. We, we
11 know that we have a number of locations where, uh,
12 trash cans are missing. I know, uh, we have put out,
13 I think, on the order of 1,300 or maybe 1,400
14 replacement baskets, uh, just so far this calendar
15 year to replace baskets that have been missing. So we
16 are working our way through that and hope to, uh,
17 make a significant dent in it, uh, over the summer,
18 especially as we get new OTPS funding at the
19 beginning of the fiscal year.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON: So if I notice a
21 basket is missing, I call 311, you know, how long
does it take for that basket to get replaced?

GREGORY ANDERSON: It depends on the, the
situation. There are some cases where, um, if we have
baskets in stock at that district, we can replace it

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3 same day. Um, we're also going through sort of
4 systematically, uh, across districts saying, let's
5 look at this entire corridor, make sure that all the
6 baskets are there. So we're doing both of those. We
7 do have to order more baskets in order to replace the
8 full 3,000 or so that are missing, but we do plan to
do that as soon as the new fiscal year starts this
summer.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON: Thank you. And I
10 have, um, a question about, uh, the Empire bins and
11 that rollout. Very excited to see that it's going to
12 be coming to Community Board 2. Uh, which is in my
13 district in Manhattan. Uh, there was an article in an
14 op-ed in the Daily News on the 18th that was asking
15 about-- was complaining about that smaller buildings
16 cannot, cannot use the Empire bins. That's a lot of
17 the building makeup that's in Community Board 2, or
18 smaller homes and brownstones. So, uh, you know,
19 those are taxpayers paying into a system that they
20 can't use. Is there, is there a plan for smaller
21 buildings to be able to have access to Empire bins?
In due course?

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3 GREGORY ANDERSON: Absolutely. So we are,
4 uh, we are rolling out the Empire bins in Brooklyn
5 Community District 2 this fall, and we intend to do
6 just that, uh, as we roll out, is to test shared
7 stationary on-street containers or Empire bins, uh,
8 with smaller 1 to 9 unit buildings there. I think
9 there are a few factors that we want to make sure we
10 are considering. One is that someone has to maintain
11 the bin, uh, they have to keep the area around it
12 clean. Sanitation comes through, and our— actually,
13 our contractor comes through 4 times a year and does
14 a deep clean of the bin, cleans the inside, cleans
15 the outside, takes off any graffiti, um, but someone
16 has to just, you know, sweep up the litter that, uh,
17 can accumulate. Um, so we need that first and
18 foremost. Second, someone needs to agree to have it
19 in front of their property. Um, I think, you know,
20 you can imagine a beautiful brownstone block in the
21 West Village where everyone wants to be able to put
their trash somewhere, but no one wants the trash
right in front of their house. We wanna make sure we
have a, a way of determining where that, that bin
should go. Um, and then third, you know, I think we

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3 do have to, to think, have to think through, you
4 know, if there are some buildings on that block that
5 wanna continue using their New York City bin, the
6 smaller bins available at Home Depot, can we allow
7 them to do that while also having the Empire bins?
8 What's the right sort of order? Uh, what's the right
9 scale that makes an Empire bin actually an effective
10 way to manage waste? But we're thinking through all
11 of that and look forward to working with you next
12 year when we roll out to Manhattan Community Board 2.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON: Great, thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Great. Okay, um, so,
15 um, going back to, uh, the removal of dog waste, I'm
16 gonna go to my bill 906, um, and then I will turn it
17 over to, um, Councilmember Thomas-Henry. Um, are
18 there instances where the department removes reported
19 animal waste? Um, and if so, So what are the likely
20 circumstances in those situations?

21 GREGORY ANDERSON: I would say generally,
no, I think our crews may in the course of their
business, but generally, uh, they do not. If we get a
dog waste, dog waste complaint, that is considered an
enforcement complaint, not a cleaning complaint. Um,

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3 and it is the property owner's responsibility to
4 clean the sidewalk in front of their property. So if
5 it's on their sidewalk, they have to clean it.

6 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Uh, would the
7 department require additional operational or
8 personnel support to comply with the proposed
9 legislation?

10 GREGORY ANDERSON: Uh, I think there's,
11 there's two things there. One, uh, the current volume
12 of blocks that would be covered by the legislation is
13 relatively small. Uh, so far this calendar year, 63
14 blocks would meet the 3 complaints within a 7-day
15 period, uh, as outlined in the bill. That's a
16 relatively reasonable number of blocks considering we
17 have I, who knows how many across the city, is
18 200,000 plus. Um, once you create an incentive for
19 people to call 311 over and over and over and over
20 again, they will do so. Uh, so I worry that that 63
21 could turn into 6,000 pretty quickly, um, and that
would be challenging for our current resources. The
bill also, um, does allow for us to either clean the
waste or, um, do enforcement on the property owner,
which I think is a good a good optionality for us.

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3 Um, so as long as that remains the case, I think we,
4 we would be able to handle it with a reasonable
5 increase in the number of blocks.

6 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Um, under the
7 current circumstances, how are 301 complaints for
8 animal waste, uh, handled?

9 GREGORY ANDERSON: So we have a canine
10 enforcement unit within our, uh, our sanitation
11 enforcement agents that they will go out and see if
12 they can see someone failing to pick up their dog
13 waste. Um, I will say, uh, we did a 3-day stakeout in
14 Mott Haven in 2024 that yielded 1 summons. We did,
15 uh, in 2025, a week-long patrol in Washington
16 Heights, Harlem, Morningside Heights, and Flatbush,
17 all in response to 311 requests, and got 0 summonses
18 out of that week-long patrol. So it, it is very
19 challenging. Once someone sees someone in green
20 walking down the block, then all of a sudden they
21 remember the right thing to do. It's when they think
no one's watching that, uh, they don't.

CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Great. Um, and now,
um, before Councilmember, uh, Thomas-Henry speaks, I
also want to give a huge shout out to Junction

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3 Boulevard in their need for trash cans. Please,
4 Frank. Um, and turning Literally. And with that, I
5 turn it over to Councilmember Chanel Thomas-Henry.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Thank you.

7 And thank you for plugging more trash cans in my
8 district. Um, thank you. I have a question first
9 about alternate side street parking. So predominantly
10 in my district, we have one side of the street per
11 day, but I have noticed throughout the city there are
12 various days for the same side of the street. How
13 does the department, or, um, how do you determine
14 which areas, warrant additional cleaning on multiple-
15 the same side for multiple days?

16 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, so it's
17 predominantly, uh, denser and more commercial areas
18 have multiple, uh, days of cleaning on each side. So
19 the, the common, uh, setup is you'll have one side is
20 Monday, Thursday, the other side is Tuesday, Friday,
21 uh, which then means that there's 4 potential times
that you'd have to move your car if you park on that
block. Um, I will say if we can, as I mentioned in my
testimony, if we can substantially increase
compliance, we are committed to reducing the

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3 frequency of alternate side parking down to just 1
4 day a week, at least on, on residential blocks, um,
5 citywide. And that's something that I would, I would
6 really be excited about doing.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Got it. Um,
8 next question. As Frank has been shouted out numerous
9 times today, I wanna shout him out as well for the,
10 um, always being responsive. Of the entire team to,
11 um, our needs. Um, I have one situation the team is
12 helping me with now, but I just wanna ask, um,
13 particularly in my district, and I can imagine
14 probably throughout the city, um, households are
15 becoming larger and larger. So there's a lot more
16 trash and individuals are either taking their
17 household garbage and putting it in the nearest
18 litter box or the bins at that particular residence
19 is just overwhelming. Um, have you guys kind of
20 looked at how to, mitigate or help with this
21 overabundance of increased trash?

22 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, we do a lot of
23 enforcement in that area. Buildings are— 1 to 9 unit
24 buildings are responsible right now for
25 containerizing their trash. The trash has to fit in

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3 the bin, not next to the bin, not on top of the bin,
4 not exploding out of the bin. It has to be in the
5 bin. The lid has to close. Um, so we've done a
6 tremendous amount of enforcement on that as that, uh,
7 requirement has uh, taken effect over the last, uh,
8 16 months or so, and we will continue to do so. Uh,
9 we also have increased the enforcement that we're
10 doing of misuse of litter baskets. Uh, we had a bill,
11 uh, that the City Council enacted a few years ago
12 that allows us to, uh, use identifying information on
13 an Amazon box or a piece of mail that's in, uh, a
14 trash bag in a litter basket to issue a, an improper
15 disposal summons, and we have, uh, really
16 dramatically increased the amount of that enforcement
17 that we're doing.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Okay. And my
19 last thing is more of a comment on behalf of some
20 young constituents. Um, students in the 5th grade at
21 PS Q19 are working towards earning a certificate of
civic readiness. Part of the process involves each
class getting involved in a take-action project. Each
class was tasked with identifying a community problem
and selecting a community leader to contact about it

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3 as part of their Take Action initiative. Here is the
4 work regarding the topic of garbage in their
5 community. So I did receive approximately 50 letters
6 from 5th graders, including some photos. I do wanna
7 read one of them. Um, did you know a lot of garbage
8 gets thrown away in the street? I don't really like
9 that because it could sometimes smell. So I think we
10 need more sanitation police, and they should give,
11 uh, lots of tickets to people that throw garbage. You
12 can help us make the community better and healthier.
13 Thanks a lot. P.S., have a good day, and I hope you
14 make the streets cleaner. So approximately 50 letters
15 from 5th grade students at P.S. 19 sent letters, sent
16 photos. This is a photo with less police and a lot of
17 trash, flies, rats, and cleaner streets. So that is
18 on behalf of some of my younger constituents, um, to
19 the Department of Sanitation.

20 GREGORY ANDERSON: Great. Well, I would
21 love to come out and meet with those 5th graders
myself and share—

COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: I would
definitely arrange it—

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3 GREGORY ANDERSON: My strong, strong
4 interest in cleaner streets with them.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you, member,
7 uh, Councilmember Thomas-Henry. Um, I do want to
8 echo, um, I've also had number of students come and
9 visit our office, um, all on dog waste initiatives.
10 Um, so, um, as many schools that you want to visit
11 and talk about, uh, street cleanliness, that would be
12 awesome. Um, going back to, um, something you
13 mentioned earlier, the K-9 Enforcement Unit, the CEU,
14 um, so the Sidewalk Cafe Initiative, the office of
15 the Sidewalk Cafe Initiative, um, plays places like
16 Paris have tried things like poop scoopers and, um,
17 you know, poop machines. Um, are there any thoughts
18 on, uh, transitions from the CEU to an actual office
19 of, like, dog poop cleanliness? Would that be
20 something that the, uh, department would be open or
21 curious about?

18 GREGORY ANDERSON: I think that because of
19 the challenge with enforcement in that area
20 generally, as I've discussed before. It's, it's a
21 challenging, uh, place to try to dedicate our limited

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3 resources. We can get a lot more, um, a lot more
4 enforcement done on other areas of cleanliness in a
5 much more productive, uh, and impactful way that
6 leads to cleaner streets than assigning a sanitation
7 enforcement agent to patrolling for dog waste uh,
8 violators and issuing maybe one ticket every couple
9 days. Um, so I think it's— and, and I, I want to make
10 sure that, that you all are, are not hearing me
11 saying that I don't think this is an important issue,
12 because it certainly is, uh, but it is one that I
13 think really demands, um, creative solutions. And I
14 think just accountability, uh, from New Yorkers for
15 their fellow New Yorkers. Uh, it's not something that
16 the sanitation department can do alone.

17 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Uh, appreciate that.

18 Um, I do want to flag, we do have other uniformed
19 officers that patrol our subways and patrol our other
20 places, so, um, maybe we should transition from
21 subway patrols to poop patrols. And, um, even if we
don't, uh, have tickets, our streets would be
cleaner. Um, okay,

GREGORY ANDERSON: I can't speak for those
other uniformed agencies.

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3 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Um, Moving on, I
4 want to make sure that I'm touching on— oh, uh, about
5 the, uh, Speaker Menin's Intro 857. I just want to
6 ask quickly, um, what would be required to install
7 dog waste basket dispensers on all or adjacent to all
8 public waste receptacles? Um, and then are there some
9 baskets that are easier than others, um, to, uh, act
10 as better scaffolds for these dog waste bags?

11 GREGORY ANDERSON: Uh, the, the dispensers
12 that we have right now, uh, only really work with the
13 Better Bin litter baskets that we've been rolling out
14 for the last few years. So that's around 6,000 of the
15 23,000 litter baskets, uh, that could host dog waste
16 dispenser— dog waste bag dispensers. Um, they— we
17 can't put them on the wire litter baskets because
18 the, the sanitation workers actually just pick up the
19 entire basket and dump them in the truck and and
20 having something on the outside would be dangerous
21 for them. Um, there obviously would be an upfront
cost for purchasing and installing the dispensers.
That's a one-time, uh, OTPS cost. I think that where
the bigger resource need is, and this is— this gets
into the conversation around having community

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3 partners, is in having someone checking the dispenser
4 on a very regular basis to make sure that there are
5 bags in there, that the bags are accessible, that the
6 bags aren't, you know, tied up and clogged and
7 whatever, um, because we don't wanna be in a
8 situation where we're telling people they don't need
9 to take a bag with them and then there's no bags
10 available. So that's, I think, where the greater
11 resource need is. And I think where having community
12 partners has been a tremendous help in the early
13 pilot.

14 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Absolutely. Um,
15 speaking of sanitation vehicles, um, can you talk to
16 us about the current status of our city sanitation
17 fleet? In terms of repairing and maintaining the
18 vehicles? Um, you know, what obstacles currently
19 stand in the way to, uh, promptly repair, um, for
20 out-of-service vehicles? And how many of the DSNY
21 fleet, uh, mechanic vacancies exist? Um, and what is
the department doing to hire and retain, retain these
mechanics?

22 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, I would say
23 mechanic staffing is one of the most important issues

3 that we face right now. Uh, in the last
4 administration with the, the the recurring hiring
5 freezes and restrictions on civilian hiring, we
6 really lost a lot of mechanics, uh, to retirement and
7 were not able to replace them. So our fleet
8 out-of-service rates have increased substantially. I
9 think, you know, where, where our target used to be,
10 uh, less than 20% out of service on a given day,
11 today we're happy if we get 26, 27%. Um, and often,
12 uh, we'll see certain types of equipment go over 30%,
13 even as high as 40% out of service. Um, and that is
14 a- that's a big challenge because that means that we
15 can't assign the resources we need to do the job that
16 the public expects of us. Um, and it's an issue that
17 we are having regular conversations with the mayor's
18 office about. Uh, that's something- yet another
19 example of the previous administration leaving, uh,
20 something behind that, um, we're trying to grapple
21 with.

18 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: A really great joke,
19 but I'm gonna hold myself back. Um, can you, uh, talk
20 about, um, the- so one of the things that I notice,
21 um, is that our sanitation trucks don't have, uh, any

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3 brooms or, um, anything hanging off the sides to help
4 potentially with any of the trash juice or trash
5 debris spills from the collection trucks. Um, and
6 curious, um, are the sanitation workers required to
7 sweep glass or debris from the street that results
8 from collections? Um, and then what are the trucks
9 equipped with, um, to collect juice that results from
10 refuse or, uh, recycling collection?

11 GREGORY ANDERSON: Sure. Uh, so absolutely
12 yes, they're required to have brooms, uh, and they're
13 required to use them to sweep up spillage. Um, I'll
14 let Chief of Department Pennellino talk a little bit
15 more about how specifically we enforce that with the
16 sanitation workers. Um, obviously we need to balance,
17 you know, them being able to do their job effectively
18 while also keeping streets clean and not causing a
19 mess themselves, but I'll let Anthony speak to that.

20 ANTHONY PENNELLINO: Thank you,
21 Commissioner. Thank you, Chair. Uh, so yeah,
absolutely every sanitation crew that goes out is
required to have a broom and shovel on them. Uh,
equipped on the truck. Uh, they are required to pick
up any spillage that is caused by them when they do

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3 service any material. Uh, liquid, however, is a
4 little tougher to sweep and shovel into a truck, uh,
5 and that does happen from time to time. But we do
6 have, uh, hopper plugs that are supposed to be, you
7 know, on, on the truck so that the juice stays within
8 the truck. But if you do have any instances where you
9 did not see, uh, spillage being cleaned up, I'd love
10 to know those locations and look into it personally.

11 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Absolutely. Thank
12 you so much. Thanks. And, um, let's talk about
13 e-waste. Um, how— what is the current state of
14 residential e-waste curbside pickup? Um, and if none,
15 when could residents expect this service to resume?

16 GREGORY ANDERSON: Uh, there is currently
17 no residential curbside e-waste collection. I know,
18 shocking.

19 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Uh—.

20 GREGORY ANDERSON: And I think it's
21 unlikely that we would restore that service, uh, in
the future. Um, it was created in response to, uh,
the initial implementation of the New York State UAS
disposal ban, uh, which, you know, was— and I know
Councilmember Brewer is going to say 11 years ago was

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3 not that long ago, but, uh, you think about the, the
4 way that TVs have changed over the last 11 years. At
5 the time, we were, you know, people were throwing out
6 40-inch CRT TVs that weighed 250 pounds. Uh, now, you
7 know, you have a, a 65-inch, uh, LCD TV and it weighs
8 25 pounds. So it's much easier for New Yorkers to
9 take advantage of the disposal options that are
available to them under the— and I will say this— New
York State law on e-waste recycling.

10 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Um—.

11 GREGORY ANDERSON: I think if, if there
12 are improvements that we want to make to, uh, the,
13 the options available to us, the convenience
14 standards for e-waste recycling, that's another great
15 conversation to have with our our state counterparts
16 around whether or not that program is actually
working for New Yorkers.

17 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Okay. Look at the
18 state. Um, and how does the, uh, department currently
manage batteries that enter the waste stream?

19 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah. Um, and I, I will
20 add just on that— besides them exploding— going back
21 to the e-waste question first, um, we do have a

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3 program for larger apartment buildings, uh, called
4 eCycle New York City that is, um, actually run
5 through the state, uh, take-back program. Uh, that
6 serves, I think, around 19,000, uh, households or
7 19,000 buildings. Yeah, 19,000 buildings, uh, with 10
8 or more units. So that is available for larger
9 buildings. That's something that e-waste
10 manufacturers and retailers pay for. Uh, so it's not
11 something that, that taxpayers are paying for. Um,
12 and that has been really productive. Um, you know,
13 tens of thousands of, of tons of e-waste diverted
14 over the life of that program. Um, for batteries, You
15 know, our number one goal is if you have a
16 lithium-ion battery, do not throw it out in the
17 trash. We have every week 2, 3, 4, 5 trucks that
18 catch fire because batteries are in the back of the
19 truck and they explode. That's really, really
20 dangerous. Um, so I ask every New Yorker, if you have
21 something that contains a lithium-ion battery, that's
basically anything that you can charge, don't throw
it in the trash. Um, the, the state again has a
battery, battery recycling law, um, where, uh,
retailers that sell products that contain batteries

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3 or that sell rechargeable batteries are required to
4 take back many of those battery, uh, products. Um,
5 unfortunately right now the state is the only entity
6 that can enforce that law. I think that's somewhere
7 that we have, uh, done advocacy in the past around
8 Uh, giving the city the ability- because we have
9 tremendous enforcement resources- giving the city the
10 ability to enforce, um, take-back and recycling
11 requirements around things like batteries, e-waste,
12 uh, while we're naming things that we could enforce,
13 the plastic bag ban, which we know a lot of
14 businesses are not complying with right now, but we
15 have no power to do that, to do anything about that.
16 Um, so I think those are all, all places where we
17 could do more.

18 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Sounds like an
19 I-womp to me. Um, um, let us go into, um, should we
20 finish the bills or go into containerization? Oh, if
21 Councilmember Brewer has additional questions before
I go on a question tirade, let's turn it over to
Councilmember Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very
much. I just want to talk the litter basket situation

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3 we have, um, on the streets obviously the ones that
4 are the mesh, and then you have the new ones that
5 are, you can pull it out. The trouble with the newer
6 ones that people complain about is they put stickers
7 all over them. This is ironic that I'm just talking
8 about stickers, but there are stickers all, all over
9 them. So I'm getting complaints, you know, can you
10 imagine people saying, I wanna go back to the mesh
11 ones. So how are we dealing with the cleanliness of
12 the ones that can take stickers? They all have
13 stickers on 'em. And then I have more stickers
14 sticker question, but have you thought about what to
do about that issue? Because it does give- it's not a
trash issue, but it gives an unkept image to the
trash receptacles.

15 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, I fully agree
16 with you, uh, and we are looking at where we have the
17 Better Bins and, and trying to put them in places
18 where we think they will attract fewer stickers. Um,
19 we know, for example, we put some of the early models
out in along Bedford Avenue in Williamsburg and those
things got totally trashed with stickers-

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: with stickers.

21

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3 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yes. Stickers, uh,
4 marker, graffiti-

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Exactly.

6 GREGORY ANDERSON: Everything, all kinds
7 of stuff. So I think, you know, we have learned that
8 there are some places, um, where those Better Bins
9 work really well. Um, there are some places where a
10 traditional wire litter basket is just fine. Um, as
11 we work to replace the roughly 3,000 or so missing
12 litter baskets this summer, we're gonna mostly do
13 that with wire litter baskets just because they're
14 more cost effective. We could get one of those for
15 just over \$200. One of the better bins costs \$1,200,
16 so we can get more bang for our buck.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay. The other
18 thing is, now maybe I should know this, but
19 Department of Sanitation is responsible for getting
20 stickers off of streetlights, et cetera, or is that
21 the Department of Transportation?

22 GREGORY ANDERSON: That's DOT.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: So if it's on a
24 DOT, uh, receptacle of any kind, then they would be
25 responsible. Responsible for getting it off.

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3 GREGORY ANDERSON: That's correct.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay, but so your
5 sanitation workers only would give, um, summons if
6 that's what's necessary, if it was on a sanitation,
7 um, infrastructure, so to speak, because it is
8 complicated for the- I was out cleaning this weekend
9 with people who pick up trash, the volunteers, and
10 we're with our little receptacles and we're trying to
11 figure out, um, cigarette butts being the number one
12 cleanup. So there's a real concern about- is there
13 anything we can do about- we're talking about dog
14 waste, now we got cigarette butt waste. Is there
15 anything we can do for that? Um, but the stickers
16 were everywhere. The kids were trying to get them off
17 the infrastructure. So you would only be responsible
18 for, you know, somebody who's advertising real estate
19 that's throwing their stickers all over your trash
20 bins. That would be you.

21 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: And not only
23 getting it off, somebody should go after that person
24 to state.

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3 GREGORY ANDERSON: And we can, we can do
4 enforcement if there is identifying information in
5 the sticker that, you know, a phone number, a
6 business, uh, name or address. We can then do posting
7 enforcement, uh-.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: if it's on your
9 receptacles or your infrastructure. No, any, any
10 public infrastructure. We can do enforcement. You can
11 do enforcement, but you don't take it off.

12 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, if, if it's a, a
13 paper posting, we can take it off, and we do. These
14 are ones with the enforcement.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: These are ones
16 with the adhesive, unfortunately.

17 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yes. And, and, you
18 know, those are difficult to remove. And so our
19 enforcement agents are not able to. And it's the
20 responsibility of the, um, maintaining agency of that
21 piece of infrastructure.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: So you would give
the- you would give the ticket to the offensive
persons who are putting up the stickers, but you
wouldn't take it off. You know what would be helpful

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3 would be for our, er, newsletters. We have a huge
4 newsletter to understand that the program you just
5 talked about for the larger buildings for e-waste,
6 etc.

7 GREGORY ANDERSON: E-Cycle.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yeah, E-Cycle.

9 Something to make it clear as to what it is. It is
10 not clear to the public who's responsible for what,
11 or even that these programs exist. So anyway, what
12 are we gonna do with the cigarette butts? Any idea?
13 Thousands of them.

14 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yes, I mean, the
15 cigarette butts are, are, you know, another issue
16 that's very challenging for us. Those Um, if they're
17 on the sidewalk, they're the responsibility of the
18 property owner. If they're on the— if they're in the
19 street, um, they do get picked up often by our
20 mechanical brooms. Uh, you'd be surprised if you see
21 a load dumped from a mechanical broom what kind of
stuff we can pick up with those brooms. Um, but at
the end of the day, uh, if it's on the sidewalk, it's
the property owner's responsibility.

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3 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay, all right,
4 thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you,
6 Councilmember Brewer. Um, I wanted to talk about
7 what- a question briefly about the position the
8 Precision Cleaning Initiative, um, that remains
9 active. Can you please describe the intent and the
10 impact of this initiative under our current mayoral
11 admin?

12 GREGORY ANDERSON: So the Precision
13 Cleaning Initiative was funded back in 2021, uh, to
14 fill, um, general cleaning resource gaps. This was in
15 the wake of, of really, really, really, um, bad
16 budget cuts during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the
17 Precision Cleaning Initiative was sort of a um, a, a
18 bucket of additional resources that we could assign
19 where problems arose. And, you know, as we heard from
20 elected officials and others, um, that there were
21 issues in their districts, uh, in the last
administration, uh, those resources were
predominantly used for, uh, addressing homeless
conditions and, and encampments in partnership with
DHS and the police department. Um, th-that this

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3 administration has, uh, changed its approach to those
4 cleanups. They're still happening, uh, but there's a,
5 a sustained amount of outreach and engagement that
6 happens ahead of any cleanup. Uh, but we are still
7 using those, those resources to address those
8 conditions, uh, as our partner agencies request them.

9 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Okay, great.

10 Actually, let's stay on this topic. Um, so we're
11 gonna be talking about the Interagency Homeless
12 Encampment Task Force. Um, can you please describe
13 the department's present role in the Interagency
14 Homeless Encampment Task Force. Um, specifically, if
15 you could go into how many of the department staff
16 are dedicated to this task force, um, what the
17 approximate cost, cost is for the department's
18 involvement in the task force, um, what is the
19 process by which the task force determines, uh, where
20 to conduct its operations, um, and then we will have
21 some more after, but let's start there.

22 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, so I'll start
23 with cost, uh, and, and resources. We have 21
24 sanitation workers that are funded through the PCI
25 program, the Precision Cleaning Initiative. Not all

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3 of those are on homeless encampments. If, if there
4 are not homeless encampment, uh, cleanings scheduled
5 for a given day, they are sent out to do other
6 productive cleaning work, either sweeping along
7 commercial corridors or emptying additional litter
8 baskets or whatever work there is to do in those
9 districts. Um, the current- the, the department's
10 current role, uh, in the, um, task force is that, uh,
11 when DHS identifies a location that is ready to be
12 cleaned, which means that they have done sustained
13 engagement over the course of several days with the,
14 um, the individuals and clients that are present, uh,
15 then they will call us and we will, uh, do a joint,
16 uh, engagement with DHS. Where DHS will, will help
17 to, um, get the client to housing if they can, or at
18 least get them to sort of identify what, uh, is trash
19 amongst the stuff that's, um, on premises. And we
20 will, we will take that material that is identified
21 as trash.

18 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Uh, is the
19 department staff permitted to issue a notice of
20 violation when performing task force operations, or
21 are they only present for cleanup purposes? Um, if

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3 you are permitted, what are the most common
4 violations cited during these operations?

5 GREGORY ANDERSON: They're generally
6 present for cleanup purposes only.

7 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Great. Um, and then
8 if you can talk about this, uh, how does the
9 department balance its interest in street cleanliness
10 with awareness that the city is dealing with an
11 affordability crisis and the impact that individuals,
12 um, are experiencing housing insecurity?

13 GREGORY ANDERSON: So again, we, um, we
14 only participate in, uh, in these kinds of cleanups
15 when DHS calls us in and after they've done sustained
16 engagement over the course of several days, um,
17 because we want to, one, treat, uh, individuals
18 experiencing homelessness as real people, um, that
19 have real, uh, sometimes often serious, uh, issues
20 that they, uh, need to deal with. and, um, DHS is the
21 best agency to be able to address those. We do come
in at DHS's request to, uh, clear any, uh, material
that's identified as trash.

CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you. Um, and I
heard the magic number, 21 workers in this Precision

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3 Cleaning Initiative. Uh, just 21 workers in the hub,
4 uh, also sounds very nice. Um, so speaking of
5 workers, there's also the Targeted Neighbor
6 Neighborhood Task Force, um, which remains active.
7 Can you please describe the intent and the impact of
8 this task force under the current mayoral, uh,
9 administration?

10 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, TNT is a great
11 program, uh, and, uh, for a bit of a history lesson,
12 there was a deputy mayor, uh, back in the 1980s, uh,
13 Nat Leventhal, who wrote a very, uh, boring, uh, but
14 now, um, sort of notorious memo that basically said
15 DOT does this, Parks does this, Sanitation does this,
16 and everything else is kind of no one's job. Uh, and
17 for 3 decades, the city followed that memo to a T. So
18 there were lots and lots of places across New York
19 City that had no agency that was responsible for
20 maintaining them or cleaning them on a regular basis.
21 TNT seeks to solve that problem, um, particularly as,
uh, over the course of the last decade we've created
new public spaces, new public infrastructure, things
like plazas and, uh, uh, like little daylighting
bulbs at the end of a street, uh, you know, all kinds

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3 of things that DOT is building on a regular basis.

4 That, uh, someone needs to maintain. And so TNT

5 exists to be able to clean those locations on a

6 regular basis. Uh, we have some 1,786 sites that we

7 clean on a regular basis through that program. Uh, we

8 are happy to add more locations to that list if you,

9 uh, have identified any in your district that should

10 be on it. Uh, and it's, I think, a really productive,

11 uh, and really effective, uh, use of resources.

12 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: How does TNT
13 interact with the department's illegal dumping
14 prevention and enforcement work?

15 GREGORY ANDERSON: So many, many times
16 those locations that, uh, were previously, uh, uh, no
17 man's land, uh, were also subject to illegal dumping.
18 So you'll find a lot of the places where we have TNT
19 crews assigned also now have our illegal dumping
20 cameras, uh, where we're doing illegal dumping
21 enforcement on a regular basis. Um, we will, uh, if a
TNT crew does encounter illegally dumped material,
uh, or piles of trash or a couch, they'll clean it
up.

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3 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Um, speaking of
4 piles of trash, let's, uh, just add these questions
5 real quick about, uh, Councilmember Hankerson's, uh,
6 legislation. Um, does GSNY track improper disposal of
7 C&D waste? Um, and what percentage of C&D waste is
8 improperly disposed of?

9 GREGORY ANDERSON: We don't track, uh,
10 improper disposal of C&D waste specifically. We don't
11 really differentiate um, when we're responding to
12 illegal dumping, what kind of trash it is. Uh, I
13 think by and large, most construction demolition
14 waste in New York City is managed through a
15 BIC-registered C&D hauler. Uh, I think a lot of what
16 you see, uh, as illegally dumped material comes from,
17 uh, smaller renovation jobs or contractors that may
18 not be licensed by DCWP. Um, and so I think that's,
19 that's definitely an area where, uh, we think that,
20 that greater coordination is possible, and I think
21 additional regulation and, and lawmaking, uh, is
probably needed. Uh, our, our concern about this
bill, uh, is not about the approach that it takes,
but just that we don't necessarily understand the
industry well enough as the Department of Sanitation

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3 to be able to um, to weigh in fully, uh, on how this
4 would impact construction. So we want to make sure
5 that we're working with DOB, DCWP, um, BIC, and
6 others to understand the, the full impact here and
make sure we're taking the right action.

7 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Given that you don't
8 understand this properly, I can understand if you
9 can't answer this next question, but, um, in your
10 opinion, is there a correlation between unpermitted
11 C&D waste, um, and the illegal dumping of this kind
of waste, or is something that you need more
information on?

12 GREGORY ANDERSON: I think there's,
13 there's likely a correlation there, but we haven't
14 done any data analysis to be able to back that up.

15 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Okay.

16 GREGORY ANDERSON: Um, so now, if I could,
17 just briefly on that topic, um, as you'll recall from
18 our last hearing on the Solid Waste Management Plan,
19 uh, one of the 8 subject areas that we are focused on
20 in the Solid Waste Management Plan for the first time
21 is the construction and demolition industry, um, from
a holistic waste management perspective. So I think

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3 at a minimum, as we do that work, engage with
4 stakeholders, um, and explore, uh, the potential for,
5 uh, you know, more sustainable, less impactful C&D
6 facilities, uh, across the city, I think this is a,
7 an issue that we should certainly, um, bring into
8 that conversation.

9 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Great. Um, thank you
10 for that. Um, just to give a roadmap of where we're
11 gonna go for the council, the rest of the council
12 members members. Um, we're gonna go into questions on
13 containerization, um, including Empire bins and the
14 wheelie bins. Uh, then we will go into, um,
15 Councilmember Abreu's, um, legislation on commercial
16 organic waste. Uh, then we will go into the side— my
17 legislation and Jenar's legislation, um, and then end
18 with highway cleaning. Um, we're almost Okay, so, um,
19 for Empire bins, uh, the department has begun
20 installation of on-street containers, um, also known
21 as the Empire bins, to hold residential trash and
recycling between collection days. How does the
department intend to enforce cleanliness standards to
keep the areas around them clean? Um, the white
bollards that are installed around the Empire bins to

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3 increase visibility to cars are occasionally knocked
4 off or you know, maybe not intentionally severely
5 damaged, who knows, um, but has the department
6 developed any strategy yet to minimize this
occurrence?

7 GREGORY ANDERSON: Absolutely. Uh, right
8 now we have Empire bins in Manhattan Community
9 District 9 alone, uh, and we are doing enforcement,
10 uh, up there, particularly around, uh, parking either
11 obstructing the bin, uh, or parking too close to the
12 bin, which prohibits us from collecting it because we
13 do need a few inches on either side in order to
14 safely get the get the truck in there, because we
15 don't want to drop a bin on someone's car, then it
16 becomes our problem. So we are doing that enforcement
17 today, and expect to scale that up in the future. The
18 cleanliness, that's something that we actually have a
19 rule that we published, I think last week, as we
20 expand the program to Brooklyn Community District 2,
21 that more clearly establishes the cleanliness
responsibilities of the property owners that host the
bin. uh, in terms of keeping the bins themselves, uh,
clean, keeping the area immediately around the bins

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3 clean, and also removing snow, particularly from the
4 tops of the bins, uh, so that we can collect them,
uh, following a snowstorm.

5 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Has the department
6 observed any, uh, technical issues making the Empire
7 bins inaccessible to the, uh, building's, uh, waste
8 management staff? And if so, what can staff members
9 do? Or who can they contact to regain access to these
bins?

10 GREGORY ANDERSON: We haven't actually
11 identified very many issues at all in that regard.
12 Uh, the biggest challenge that we've had is, uh, in,
13 in Community District 9 is that DOT has a, a really
14 ambitious million paving schedule, particularly after
15 this last winter. Uh, and so as they've had to, uh,
16 mill streets, uh, in order to repave them, we've had
17 to relocate some bins temporarily. Uh, and while
18 those bins are relocated, we do lock them so that
19 people aren't using them while we can't service them.
20 Uh, so that's a temporary, uh, change, uh, what— and
21 during that change, people are putting their trash
out in bags as they historically would.

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3 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Uh, can you also go
4 into any recurring maintenance issues, uh, that the
5 Empire- Empire bins have faced, if any?

6 GREGORY ANDERSON: I think they- I, I
7 mean, you can, you can go up to Manhattan Community
8 District 9 today and walk around and see them. I
9 think they look great. Uh, and they stay relatively
10 clean. Uh, we are- we have our contractor, uh,
11 cleaning them 4 times a year, uh, and I think are
12 looking to refine whether that's the right number of
13 cleanings. It might be- we might have to do it, uh,
14 more frequently in some parts of the city, less
15 frequently in others, but they've been out there for
16 a year. They look really good, uh, and I think we're
17 really pleased with them.

18 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Uh, I was excited to
19 see the new bins, uh, at the Belmont bid. Uh, I was
20 sad I wasn't there to help open them, but they look
21 really lovely. So speaking of Manhattan Community
District 9, can you describe lessons learned from
that pilot and how the department is taking that
information into the areas where the program is
expanding?

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3 GREGORY ANDERSON: So I think, uh, the,
4 the great thing about Manhattan Community District 9,
5 um, and one of the reasons that we started there is
6 that they have two things that make it really easy to
7 test a program like this, they have really straight
8 streets and really rectangular grid, and they have
9 relatively consistent building typologies across
10 individual blocks. So instead of solving for every
11 potential variable, we were just testing, do the bins
12 work? Can the trucks pick them up? Do people use
13 them? Um, and on those 3 factors, I think it's been
14 a, a wild success. As we expand to, to Brooklyn
15 Community Board 2 this fall, we'll get to a much more
16 varied streetscape. We'll get to a much more
17 complicated, uh, set of streets that, you know, have
18 one-ways, two-ways, um, more, uh, like, left and
19 right side, uh, trucks that we have to take into
20 account. Um, we'll also have some, you know, very,
21 very, very large buildings for the first time in this
program. That will require 3, 4, 5 bins, uh, to, to
set out their waste appropriately. And so I think
we're, we're looking forward to testing, uh, how
those different, uh, different factors affect the

3 bins. Um, do we need to change frequency of
4 collection in order to reduce the number of bins that
5 we're putting out? Uh, can we use, uh, as we
6 discussed before, the shared stationary on-street
7 containers, um, for smaller buildings that, um,
8 either 1 to 9 unit buildings that are currently
9 required to use the NYC bins or the 10 to 30 unit
10 buildings that have a choice between NYC bins and
11 Empire bins. Those are all things that we're looking
12 forward to testing this fall.

13 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Um, so in the test
14 pilot, curious, because all of the waste needs to be,
15 uh, containerized, how are residents expected to deal
16 with bulk materials like mattresses and whatnot when,
17 um, they are in the finalize containerization?

18 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, so they can set
19 their bulk material out, uh, for rear loader
20 collection. So we don't collect them in the container
21 trucks, we collect them with a separate rear loader
truck that continues to service every single street
in the neighborhood.

CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Awesome. And then
do, uh, enforcement agents have, uh, discretion when

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3 it comes to, um, summoning, um, the uncontainerized
4 trash?

5 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, our enforcement
6 agents always have discretion. We encourage them to
7 try to be as consistent in their application of the
8 law as they can be, uh, because enforcement is only
9 effective if it is consistent and expected, uh, and
10 so that's what we try to achieve.

11 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Uh, is the
12 department aware of any expansion of the rat
13 contraceptive pilot program in areas where Empire
14 Bins will be installed over the next year? Um, and if
15 you have, is there any information that you guys can
16 share with us about, um, the rat pilot program to
17 date?

18 GREGORY ANDERSON: I think we have to
19 defer to the Department of, uh, Health and Mental
20 Hygiene on that one.

21 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Hmm, thank you. Um,
we will circle back to them. Um, and then does the
department have, uh, Has it made any further
determinations as to the assignment of Empire bins to

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3 multiple residential buildings, um, as opposed to
4 one-to-one assignment?

5 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yes, that's what I was,
6 uh, referring to earlier on the, the shared bins.
7 Either, you know, you could see a case where you have
8 two buildings next to each other that are in the 10
9 to 30 category. They don't necessarily each need
10 their own Empire bin if one building is willing to
11 host and maintain the bin for both, great. Uh,
12 there's a lot of situations where you have smaller
13 buildings like that where they already have shared
14 building maintenance staff, um, or a shared super
15 across multiple buildings. That's a great example of
16 where you would have one bin serving multiple
17 buildings. We also are looking forward to testing,
18 uh, Empire Bins for blocks that have smaller
19 buildings, um, so long as we can, as I discussed
20 before, find someone who's willing to have it in
21 front of their property, someone who's willing to
maintain it, and, uh, get the right number of people
sort of on board to use the bin, uh, so that it makes
sense.

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3 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Uh, excited to see
4 that, um, in Bronx Community Board 2 where we have a
5 lot of our smaller houses where, uh, the bins will be
6 coming next.

7 GREGORY ANDERSON: They'll be there next
8 spring.

9 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Yes, very exciting.
10 Um, has the department begun to administer any fees
11 to the owners of residential buildings for the city's
12 installation and maintenance of these bins? Um, and
13 if so, So where are these fees being administered,
14 um, and/or when does the department begin— expect to
15 begin doing that?

16 GREGORY ANDERSON: So the City Council has
17 authorized us to, uh, assess fees up to \$55 per unit
18 for, uh, the provision and maintenance of the bins.
19 We have not at this time, uh, imposed any of those
20 fees. Right now we're just in one community district,
21 uh, we're expanding the pilot to another community
district this fall. I think we'll have that
conversation as we get to, uh, the larger citywide
rollout in the future.

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3 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Oh, how nice of you.
4 Um, and, uh, can you— oh, what is the current status
5 of our sanitation trucks that accommodate the Empire
6 bins? What's the procurement method to acquire these
7 trucks, and what is the timeline for when a U.S.
8 supplier might be able to establish the manufacturing
9 process, and does that align with the department's
10 goals of citywide containerization by 2032?

11 GREGORY ANDERSON: So the trucks are
12 currently, uh, largely built in the US. Uh, the
13 chassis is built, uh, at a factory in, uh, McKinney,
14 Pennsylvania, about 10 minutes away from where I grew
15 up. I was out there at the factory a couple weeks
16 ago. It's really cool. I encourage you to go out
17 there if you can. Um, the bodies are, are made right
18 now in Italy, uh, and they are shipped over and, uh,
19 assembled into the final truck. uh, out on Long
20 Island. Um, so much of the work is happening in the
21 United States. We would love to have the bodies
manufactured here in the US, uh, one, because we
believe in the power of American labor, uh, and two,
because we like to have our suppliers close so that
we can really hold them accountable. Um, so we have

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3 had, uh, some preliminary discussions with the
4 Italian body manufacturer about potentially
5 onshoring, uh, either individual component assembly
6 or the full manufacturing process here to the US. And
are excited about the prospect of doing that.

7 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Who would know that
8 our sanitary- sanitation trucks are Italian?
Arrivederci!

9 GREGORY ANDERSON: Um, the bins are
10 Spanish.

11 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Oh wow, we are quite
12 European here. Um, looks like we need a vacation on
13 this lovely summer day. Um, now let's talk about the
14 wheelie bins. Uh, the Department of Sanitation
15 dictates that the buildings with up to 9 residential
16 units use an official NYC BIN starting next month.
What can owners of these buildings expect in terms of
17 outreach, education, and enforcement after June 1st?

18 GREGORY ANDERSON: So we have done a
19 tremendous amount of outreach and enforcement- of-
20 we've done a tremendous amount of outreach and
21 education. Uh, we are, I think, as we do with any new
program, are going to start with a warning period.

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3 Uh, we're hoping to, um, to announce the, the details
4 of that warning period, uh, in the coming days. Uh,
5 but, you know, we, we have heard people that have
6 said, I've gone to Home Depot, I can't find the bins.
7 Uh, what can I do? And, and we absolutely want to
8 give them the opportunity to buy the bin, use the bin
9 properly. Uh, and they shouldn't be responsible for
10 the fact that, um, there are shortages of bins. So we
11 plan to, to be very, uh, flexible with that warning
12 period.

13 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Will the department
14 issue notice of violation to buildings which use a
15 bin that is not official but otherwise meets the size
16 requirements for such containers?

17 GREGORY ANDERSON: Uh, the, the department
18 will at some point in the future do that, yes.

19 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Are there any city
20 resources available for homeowners who may not have
21 immediate access to disposable income for replacing
their unofficial wheelie bins with official New York
City bins?

GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, the city council
did authorize a program for certain homeowners, uh,

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3 that meet, uh, certain eligibility criteria for, uh,
4 for some affordability programs to have reimbursement
5 for their bins. And the uptake on that program has
6 been, uh, very positive. Uh, lots of folks have
7 bought their bins and gotten reimbursed through the
8 Department of Finance.

9 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: How will, uh- so
10 people buy these new bins, they have to throw away
11 their old bins. So how is the department, um,
12 handling the throwing away of old bins? And, uh, how
13 are building owners required to recycle their old
14 containers?

15 GREGORY ANDERSON: So if they set their
16 old bin out, uh, on the recycling day, uh, we'll
17 throw it in the recycling bin.

18 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Well, you hear that?
19 Just put it out on the trash on recycling day. That
20 is a very-

21 GREGORY ANDERSON: Specifically on the
recycling day. On recycling day. Trash day, it might
go in the trash.

CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Okay. Okay. Um, Are
there any specific reasons outside of the last admin

3 that we're just using the Auto-branded wheelie bins
4 exclusively? Um, are the side-loading trucks unable
5 to accommodate similar bins of different brands?

6 GREGORY ANDERSON: So the, the NYC bins
7 are not collected with side-loading trucks. They're
8 collected with, uh, tippers on the back of our rear
9 loader trucks, which we are, uh, adding to every new
10 truck that gets delivered, uh, to us going forward.
11 Uh, so at some point, probably 3 or 4 years from now,
12 we will have tippers on every truck, and, uh, we
13 intend to use them to collect the bins. Um, you know,
14 I think the, the model that the last administration
15 pursued was an exclusive concession, uh, to one
16 company, um, as a way to keep the cost of the bins
17 low. The cost is I, I would say \$20 or \$30 less than,
18 uh, the equivalent, uh, off-the-shelf retail bin. Uh,
19 but, you know, one of the things that we've seen over
20 the last 6 months in particular is that having only
21 one supplier means that you, uh, sort of have to deal
with the, the whims of that supplier and whether or
not they wanna make bins on a given day. So, uh,
it's- I think it's something that we would explore in
the future is opening it up to more suppliers. But

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3 right now we have one supplier that is making the,
4 the New York City bins, and, uh, we don't intend to
5 change that, uh, in the immediate future.

6 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Um, and has Otto
7 fully cleared its backlog of orders and deliveries on
8 wheelie bins?

9 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, every, every
10 order that was placed online was delivered by April
11 1st of this year. So right now, uh, the only way to
12 purchase, uh, New York City bins is by either going
13 to a Home Depot or by ordering them through one of
14 Home Depot's online delivery partners, uh, Instacart,
15 Uber Eats, and DoorDash, I think. Um, so you can get
16 a bin through one of those mechanisms. Um, I think
17 one of the things that we'd like to explore further,
18 um, and we've heard interest from several council
19 members on, is can we do, uh, a local event, uh,
20 where we are offering bins for sale in the community
21 so that people, you know, if maybe you don't live
near a Home Depot or you don't have a car and you
can't drive to Home Depot you can just go to your
local, uh, park or green market and buy a bin there.
I think we'd have to think through the logistics of

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3 how that works and how the department could staff
4 that, but it's something that I would like to
5 explore.

6 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: That would be, uh,
7 I'll add a plus one to that. That would be great. I'm
8 more than happy to, uh, help host one in the South
9 Bronx. Uh, what strategies do you believe could be
10 implemented in neighborhoods, uh, where buildings
11 have limited frontage and very narrow sidewalks like
12 those in the South Bronx? Um, causing compliance with
13 containerization requirements by low-density
14 buildings to create pedestrian obstructions. Uh,
15 specifically, has the department performed any
16 analysis of how containerization-caused pedestrian
17 obstructions may impact liability for hazardous
18 sidewalk conditions?

19 GREGORY ANDERSON: We haven't done
20 specific analysis of that. I, we do understand that
21 it is a, uh, that this, the sidewalks are a
constrained environment, and particularly on streets
where you have commercial ground floor and
residential second and third floor. Um, you can have
a lot of bins out there because the business has to

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3 have a bin, the residential property has to have a
4 bin. There's just bins everywhere. So that's, that's
5 a place where I think the stationary, er, the shared
6 stationary on-street containers or shared Empire bins
7 could be really effective. You could have all of the
8 residents on one block put their trash in an Empire
9 bin. um, and reduce the number of, uh, wheelie bins
10 that are sort of floating around, uh, but we just
11 need to make sure that we can do that effectively and
12 that we have a maintenance, uh, agreement in place,
13 uh, for the Empire Bin.

14 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Great. Um, with, uh,
15 oh, Council Member BREWER.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: So I love my
17 wheelie bin, and I- but I just- when you get to
18 Manhattan, you got a different group of people. So we
19 purchased our wheelies. We like our wheelies, so we
20 have to give them up and do the stationary? That's
21 not gonna make people happy. In other words, we wanna
keep the, the smaller buildings all have the
wheelies.

GREGORY ANDERSON: The only bin-

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3 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: We love the
4 wheelies.

5 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, the only- I, I
6 appreciate that you love the wheelies. I love my
7 wheelie. The only buildings where we're saying that
8 you have to use the Empire bins are 30+ unit
9 buildings.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Oh, I understand
11 that.

12 GREGORY ANDERSON: Which generally do not
13 have wheelies.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I understand that,
15 but I'm just saying you said earlier that maybe you
16 would have more shared, uh, I, I don't know what you
17 call them, the Empire bins.

18 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Uh, that wasn't
20 clear what you were saying because you were saying
21 that maybe in the future would everybody on the block
could share the stationary waste.

GREGORY ANDERSON: We would, what I, what
I-

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Wasn't clear.

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3 GREGORY ANDERSON: What I was trying to
4 say was that, um, we would need enough people on the
5 block to opt in to using the Empire bin.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay. To choose to
7 using the Empire bin. Okay. In order for that to make
8 sense. When you get to Manhattan, can you be a little
9 bit clearer? Because people who already bought their
10 \$51 bin are not gonna wanna give it up. Up even for
11 \$51 to use the one that's stationary.

12 GREGORY ANDERSON: We appreciate that.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: All right, and
14 then secondly, I guess you're going to start charging
15 because they love it in District 9. They don't pay a
16 damn thing for it. Okay, I'm just being clear. So now
17 when you get to Manhattan and you have people charge,
18 they're not going to like it so much. You said that
19 the building that has a bin in front has to, has to
20 clean it, but I thought we were suggesting that we
21 pay the sanitation of the city so that the sanitation
department cleans that bin. Who's cleaning the bin.

GREGORY ANDERSON: So the sanitation
department and our contractor do maintenance and 4
times a year cleaning.

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3 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Uh-.

4 GREGORY ANDERSON: What the property owner
5 is responsible for is cleaning any litter or debris
6 that accumulates around the vicinity of the bin.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay, so that \$55,
8 which I voted against, um, on a regular basis, that
9 is what you're paying- we're paying- the co-op and
10 condo people are going to be paying for sanitation to
11 clean it 4 times a year.

12 GREGORY ANDERSON: We have not at this
13 time done a rulemaking to implement the 55-gallon.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I think you should
15 get rid of that 55-gallon. I know I didn't agree with
16 that. Thank you.

17 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah-.

18 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Talk about a notice
19 and comment. Um, let, uh, I want to actually go into,
20 um, further into the Empire bins, aka the new
21 LaBooboo of the New York City residents. Um, I- how
is sanitation taking measures to ensure that
enforcement doesn't unfairly penalize homeowners, um,
who have had their trash can LaBooboo stolen, um,
from them as they are, uh, hmm, have gone- done the

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3 process right, paid the \$51, then someone steals
4 their bin because they're \$51. Um, how do we make-
5 and how do we make sure that we're not unfairly
6 penalizing these homeowners at- if they're in the
process of getting a new bin?

7 GREGORY ANDERSON: So I think the, the
8 first thing is, um, right now we are not, uh,
9 enforcing the requirement to use a New York City bin,
10 and we ex- we expect to have an extensive warning
11 period in place. Um, you know, we have not seen a
12 tremendous amount of theft. Uh, if, if there are
13 specific locations where council members or community
14 members are seeing that there's a lot of theft
15 occurring of, of New York City bins, we'd love to
hear about it. It to try to talk through what the
potential solutions could be.

16 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Uh, just flagging
17 for like, uh, Bronx Community Board 2, uh, where it's
18 coming, a lot of times their regular trash cans are
19 being stolen from their homes. Um, so just imagine
20 once we have required trash cans, just understanding
21 what that will happen. So that is a huge concern in
the district, um, as it rolls out. Um, they're

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3 excited, but also they're like, what happens when
4 they steal our trash cans again, um, and this time
5 it's not— it's a \$51 New York trash can. Um, so
6 making sure that we have that, if there's, um, any
7 clearance or, um, guidance that you could provide,
8 um, in terms of, uh, what happens if there's a notice
9 of violation in this instance and kind of what steps
10 homeowners should take so that they can, uh, defend
11 against a notice of violation when, you know, they
12 had their it was just stolen. Um, okay,

13 GREGORY ANDERSON: Happy to work on that.

14 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much.

15 Uh, moving on, has the department considered
16 implementing temporary property-specific exceptions
17 to, uh, waste containerization requirements, um, for
18 when building owners need to manage atypical waste
19 volume, such as after a holiday or when a tenant
20 moves out? Um, if you could speak to if the
21 department still offers pre-scheduled bulk
collections from residential buildings and what
property owners should do if they're experiencing
atypical waste volumes, um, and having to choose
between putting themselves at risk of attracting

3 rodents due to storing excessive waste until
4 container volume becomes available, or putting
5 themselves at risk of receiving a citation for
6 placing waste directly on the curb?

7 GREGORY ANDERSON: So bulky waste should
8 not go in the containers. That'll just, uh, cause the
9 containers to overflow. Bulky waste can be set
10 outside— it can be set out on the curb as it normally
11 would. On the appropriate day for bulk waste
12 collection. Uh, in many parts of the city that are
13 denser, uh, they receive bulk waste collection
14 multiple times a week. In, uh, more, uh, low-density
15 areas, um, they may receive bulk waste collection
16 just once a week. You can go on our website
17 nyc.gov/sanitation, put in your address, and find out
18 your collection schedule for bulk waste, trash,
19 recycling, and compost.

20 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you. Um, can
21 you share any findings regarding time required to
complete collection routes in fully containerized
areas? Have you seen that it takes typically more or
less time, uh, than with the same area had not been
containerized?

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3 GREGORY ANDERSON: Right now we only have,
4 uh, Manhattan Community District 9 to work from, and,
5 uh, in general they're completing the routes as we've
6 designed them, uh, within Target. So, uh, we're,
7 we're very pleased with the effectiveness of of the,
8 the collection. I will say the fact that we have to
9 run left-side trucks, right-side trucks, and rear
10 loader trucks all on trash collection, all in the
11 same district on the same day, does mean that it is,
12 it is not more efficient at this moment than just
13 running rear loader trucks. But we think that the
14 benefit of containerization, uh, outweighs the, the
15 small additional cost of that, uh, collection
16 resource.

17 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Um, what What, uh,
18 analysis, if any, has the department undertaken to
19 determine an acceptable loss of parking space caused
20 by containerization?

21 GREGORY ANDERSON: I don't see it as a
loss of parking spaces. I see it as a, an allocation
of public space. Um, we, when we released the Future
of Trash report several years ago, we did an
assessment of all of the available street parking and

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3 projected what containers would take up. It's a
4 relatively small number. I think less than 4%
5 citywide. Um, and as we continue to expand the
6 program, uh, you know, we will, um, we will continue
7 to refine our approach. Um, as if we can use more
8 shared containers, that's less of an impact on
9 parking. Uh, we know that there are some places where
10 there may not be a parking lane at all. Um, and so we
11 have to look at, is there, uh, is the sidewalk wide
12 enough that we could put containers on the sidewalk
13 versus in the street? Um, there may be some places
14 where there's not enough sidewalk space and there's
15 no parking lane, so we need to find alternative, uh,
16 means to containerize those buildings. So we're sort
17 of taking an all, all of the above approach.

18 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Um, speaking about
19 adjustments, is there any conversation at all- I
20 understand that the tippers are being loaded to the
21 back of the trucks, um, but for, uh, routes where
cars are densely parked along the curb, that it might
not be fruitful- is there any conversation about the
potential of using side-loading tippers?

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3 GREGORY ANDERSON: Uh, not at this time,
4 uh, in part because the reloader trucks are, uh, are
5 so flexible because they can, they can collect
6 material from the containers. They can also collect
7 loose bag material. They can collect litter baskets.
8 They can collect bulk material. So they're really a
9 sort of Swiss army knife of a truck. Um, and, uh, a
10 dedicated, uh, side loader for just the, the New York
11 City bins I think would be um, a little too specific.
12 Okay, um, let us move on. Let's finish up the bills
13 and then- high wall cleaning- uh, high wall cleaning-
14 highway cleaning, um, and we will be wrapped up. Um,
15 so talking about, uh, Majority Leader Abreu's, uh,
16 Bill Intro 31, um, how does the department determine
17 which establishments are designated as covered under
18 existing commercial organic waste or separation
19 requirements?

20 GREGORY ANDERSON: So part of the
21 challenge with the existing law is that it's very
difficult to determine which businesses are covered
because, uh, there are thresholds in the law around,
uh, square footage, around the number of patrons, uh,
business serves, around the number of rooms in a

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3 hotel. And our enforcement officers may not have
4 access to that specific information at the time
5 they're doing an inspection or as they're going by a
6 building, uh, or a business. So, um, Um, you know, we
7 think that with the rollout of commercial waste zones
8 and the fact that commercial waste zones requires
9 carters to offer composting at or below the cost of
10 refuse collection, that this is the perfect time to
11 expand that requirement to all food-related
12 businesses, make enforcement much more
13 straightforward, and also make it so much easier to
14 communicate with businesses about what they're
15 required to do.

16 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Uh, do you— given
17 that, approximately how many businesses do you— does
18 the department expect will fall into the new
19 definition of covered establishment? Do you think
20 it's then everyone?

21 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, it will be every
22 food-related business. So every business that makes
23 or sells food, um, will be covered, uh, because there
24 is, there is just inherently some amount of waste
25 that comes along with that. So think about, you know,

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3 delis, bodegas, restaurants, grocery stores, food
4 manufacturers of all sizes, um, would all be covered,
5 but they will all receive their compost collection.
6 At or below the cost of their trash collection.

7 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Oh, what enforcement
8 issues, if any, does the department foresee, uh, when
9 considering the impact of this bill?

10 GREGORY ANDERSON: I really don't see
11 enforcement challenges. I think the fact that it will
12 roll out as commercial waste zones is rolling out
13 across the city makes, um, the outreach and, uh,
14 education component much easier because we'll already
15 be talking to every business in the zones as they
16 roll out multiple times. We will have to go back to
17 those zones that have already rolled out. We know
18 that right the adoption of organics collection is
19 quite low, less than 3%, uh, among businesses that,
20 um, have signed up for a hauler in one of the
21 existing 6 commercial waste zones. So there's a lot
more work to do there. Um, but we're certainly happy
to go back to those zones and do more outreach and
enforcement and education.

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3 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you. Uh, let's
4 switch gears and speak about, uh, Gennaro's bill,
5 Intro 736. Uh, how many street activity permits has
6 SAP SAPPO passed in the last 3 fiscal years, if you
7 know?

8 GREGORY ANDERSON: I don't have that
9 number.

10 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Um, then I would
11 also imagine you don't know if SAPPO has the staffing
12 needed to comply with this.

13 GREGORY ANDERSON: We can't speak for, for
14 them, but we know that the administration does
15 support this bill.

16 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Um, is a sanitation
17 responsible for waste removal from street activities,
18 or Do those responsibilities fall to private carters?

19 GREGORY ANDERSON: Uh, it's either. Um,
20 private events can either pay for sanitation
21 services, uh, where we will- and our, our practice,
um, today and going forward is that we send, uh,
trucks for refuse, paper, metal, glass, plastic, and
organics collection. So we send 2 dual bin trucks to

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3 collect 4 streams. Um, or they can pay for a private
4 carter to haul the material.

5 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Uh, are the city's
6 composting facilities capable of processing plastics
7 marked, uh, as compostable? If so, how are these
8 materials dealt with? If not, have such plastics in
9 the waste stream caused any issues for our municipal
10 composting facilities?

11 GREGORY ANDERSON: I wouldn't say that
12 they've caused issues. I will say that, uh, the
13 screens that separate out non-compostable plastics
14 from the compost, um, also do separate out
15 compostable plastics from the compost. A screen just
16 determines how big something is and can't tell what
17 kind of material it's made out of. That said, if a
18 compostable material does make it through the initial
19 screening process and through the composting process,
20 it is much more likely to break down into, um, the
21 actual compost than a, uh, traditional plastic, which
then gets screened out again at the end of the
process. So it's more likely that they get, uh, that
they actually get composted, uh, but generally they
probably are not.

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3 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Okay, moving on to,
4 uh, my bill Intro 883 about the sidewalk cafe, um,
5 sanitation within the department. How many, uh,
6 sanitation violations has the department issued to
sidewalk and roadway cafes in the last year?

7 GREGORY ANDERSON: So we don't actually
8 have a separate violation code for sidewalk and
9 roadway cafes, so that would just be in dirty area or
dirty sidewalk.

10 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Okay, um, and how do
11 roadway cafes impact, uh, the department's trash
collection service or street sweeping operations?

12 GREGORY ANDERSON: I would say during the
13 pandemic when we had the pandemic era program, uh,
14 which had much broader adoption, uh, there was a
15 greater impact. Right now I think the, the Department
16 of Transportation has done a really good job of
17 thinking through, uh, the siting requirements and the
18 regulations around, uh, where these things should be
19 and how they should be set up and maintained. And so
the impact on our operations is relatively minimal.

20 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you. And we
21 cannot talk about tree cleanliness without talking

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3 about our highways. Thank you, Robert Moses. Um, over
4 each of the last several fiscal years, the
5 department's highway unit has increased the number of
6 highway miles cleaned. Can you please describe
7 describes these expanded operations? Which highways
8 have been impacted by the expansion, and are there
9 any areas that have not been previously covered by
10 the unit, or is the increase due to repeated
11 cleanings in the same area?

12 GREGORY ANDERSON: I think largely the
13 increase is due to repeated cleanings in the same
14 area, uh, in part because as we have been able to
15 clean highways, then, uh, you know, we're sort of
16 starting from a better place and we can move faster.
17 We're also just learning, uh, as we go, uh, when we
18 first started this effort back in 20— uh, early 2023,
19 um, it was something that we had never done before.
20 And we were, I think rightfully so, very, very, very
21 cautious about putting our crews on highways and the
amount of, um, supervision and safety and, and
additional stuff that we needed to be able to feel
comfortable doing that. Now we have, uh, you know,
this is routine business for us, so we know how to

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3 set up a safe, uh, work area. Very quickly. We know
4 how to operate within the safe work area, um, and
5 we're able to cover more ground more, more quickly.

6 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Uh, since the
7 department officially took over highway cleaning in
8 2023, how often has the department had to call on DOT
9 for its equipment or personnel to complete highway
10 cleaning?

11 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, I will note that
12 our highway cleaning service is a supplemental
13 service. Uh, the primary responsibility for cleaning
14 and maintenance of highways still rests with New York
15 City DOT, and they do still do that. Um, we, we are
16 predominantly out there cleaning litter, uh, and
17 other trash, whereas they will send crews that do
18 sort of a, a more comprehensive, uh, maintenance of
19 the highways all at the same time. They might fix
20 some signage, they might fix a guardrail while
21 they're also cleaning. Um, so our, our crews are
dedicated to just cleaning the highways. Um, as we
have, as this program has grown and matured, we have
accumulated our own fleet of highway-specific
equipment. So we are less reliant on DOT equipment,

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3 things like attenuators and heavy-duty mechanical
4 brooms than we have been in the past.

5 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Uh, do you— from the
6 actions thus far since 2023, uh, does the department
7 have any, uh, insight as to, uh, would it be cleaner
8 if the Department of Sanitation had sole control of
9 cleanliness of the highways as opposed to, um, the
10 dual licensure, if you will?

11 GREGORY ANDERSON: Yeah, I think the
12 highways today are much cleaner than they were 3
13 years ago. Um, I think we're in a very good spot on
14 highway cleanliness, and, um, this shared
15 responsibility I think works where DOT is doing more
16 general maintenance. We're specifically cleaning the
17 trash and litter. Uh, we, you know, we know what
18 we're good at, which is trash and litter. They're
19 good at infrastructure maintenance and sort of more
20 general upkeep. And we, we know how to split that
21 between the two agencies.

22 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Great. And what
23 highways were cleaned most frequently over the last
24 12 months? And is there a procedure or process that
25 you use to decide which highways to clean?

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3 GREGORY ANDERSON: We have them all on a
4 rotating schedule and we're, we're out there every
5 day of the week. Some, some locations, hmm, Um, you
6 know, if we have to do lane closures or things like
7 that, we try to go in at times where it won't impact,
8 uh, traffic as much. Uh, but we're, we're out there
9 cleaning every highway, uh, on a regular basis.

10 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Uh, and how do
11 highway cleaning operations shift across seasons?
12 Does snowfall impact these operations?

13 GREGORY ANDERSON: It absolutely does, uh,
14 both in terms of our resource availability, if we
15 have to divert cleaning crews, uh, to snow removal,
16 uh, as well as just Um, you know, our, our ability to
17 access, uh, parts of the highway. Um, if there are
18 piles of snow on the side, we can't necessarily get
19 to the litter. Um, and, you know, I think the best
20 time for us to clean is sort of, uh, you know, March
21 through the beginning of May before the grass starts
to really grow. We can get in there, we can really
get the litter that's, um, underneath all of the, the
roadside plants and and, uh, landscaping.

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3 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Uh, and last but not
4 least, are there any questions that I have not asked
5 over these last 3 hours that I should have asked?

6 GREGORY ANDERSON: I think it's been
7 pretty comprehensive.

8 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much.
9 Uh, I appreciate it. And to all of my colleagues that
10 have still joined us here today, I appreciate you
11 spending time with me. Um, thank you. Uh, and now,
12 um, we will— I want to make sure I say the words
13 right. Uh, we're gonna take a 5-minute break, uh, and
14 then when we come back, we will begin with in-person
15 testimony from members of the public. Stay tuned.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: If everyone can
17 just please find their seat, we're getting ready to
18 begin shortly. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: We will be re-
20 starting. Can I first bring up, uh, just the Justins
21 and, uh, oh. I now open the hearing for public
testimony. I remind members of the public that this
is a government proceeding and that decorum shall be
observed at all times. As such, members of the public
shall remain silent at all times. The witness table

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3 is reserved for people who wish to testify. No video
4 recording or photography or music- singing- is
5 allowed from the witness table or Zoom. Uh, further,
6 members of the public may not present audio or video
7 recordings as testimony but may submit
8 sub-transcripts of your recordings to the
9 Sergeant-at-arms. for inclusion in the hearing
10 record. If you wish to speak at today's hearing,
11 please fill out an appearance card with the
12 Sergeant-at-arms and wait to be recognized. When
13 recognized, you'll have 2 minutes to speak on today's
14 hearing topics, street cleanliness in New York City,
15 or any of the legislation on our agenda today. If you
16 have a written statement or additional written
17 testimony you wish to submit for the record, please
18 provide a copy of that testimony to the
19 Sergeant-at-arms. You may also email written
20 testimony to testimony@council.nyc.gov within 72
21 hours of this hearing. Audio and video recordings
will not be accepted. I will now call the first
panel. I have called the Justins, and can I also get
Ryan from Sure We Can? Justin 1, whoever you decide
that is, you may begin.

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3 Justin 1: Hi, hi, Chair. Uh, thanks so
4 much for having us and, uh, for this hearing today.
5 I'm here to testify in support of Intro, uh, 031 and
6 greater participation of commercial composting. We
7 all know composting is a way to reduce methane
8 emissions from landfills and a key impact on New York
9 City's ability to reduce our climate impact. I also
10 want to thank City Council for its continuing its
11 essential funding for community composting work.
12 Through Schedule C initiatives for community
13 composting, funds 13 groups across the city doing
14 amazing work, um, from, uh, Red Hook Farms, East New
15 York Farms, Big Reuse, um, BK Rot, Brotherhood Sister
16 Soul, and the Botanical Gardens, and, ah, doing
17 essential composting education that Department of
18 Sanitation is not currently able to do. Um, I also
19 wanna support Intro 0899 for construction demolition
20 waste plans and reporting. It's a great start for
21 addressing the C&D waste crisis in New York. Um, C&D
waste accounts for 60% of the waste stream in New
York City, and there are very little requirements for
it to be, uh, monitored or even prove where it's
going. This bill starts along the path. Um, there are

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3 a lot more steps it could take, um, for adding, um,
4 uh, er, recycling and reuse. and prioritizing those
5 waste, um, diversion pathways for C&D waste. Um, it
6 helps address— reducing, uh, C&D waste helps reduce
7 our, uh, landfilling, which many of the— two of the
8 main landfills in New York State are starting to
9 reduce their C&D waste that they accept and will
10 eventually eliminate it. So having alternate pathways
11 for construction demolition waste is essential to,
12 um, reducing our climate impact and that waste
13 stream. Thanks so much for your test— for allowing me
14 to testify.

15 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much.

16 Uh, now we'll pass it over to Ryan.

17 RYAN CASTIGLIA: Good afternoon, Chair. My
18 name is Ryan Castiglia. I'm Executive Director of
19 Sure We Can, a Brooklyn-based redemption center and
20 nonprofit serving independent recyclers, the folks
21 who collect and redeem the bottles and cans that
other people just throw away. Uh, New York City's
waste situation is extremely complex and knotted with
many stakeholders, many systems striving to do their
part in managing the incomparable amount of waste

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3 that we generate. We're fortunate to have something
4 like the Bottle Bill, the state's most effective
5 recycling system in terms of outcomes, that
6 drastically and elegantly reduces street litter by
7 around 70% while also driving environmental justice.
8 Every New Yorker relies on this system, whether
9 they're aware of it or not, yet the workers who drive
10 its success and even the system itself are sidelined
11 and neglected, often as an afterthought. This is
12 despite the program's proven track record of success
13 and the even more significant benefits investment,
14 modernization, and expansion could bring, including
15 saving the city around \$80 million a year during a
16 time of critical- critically tight budgets. Uh,
17 Commissioner Anderson pointed out just now, that, uh,
18 successful waste management, for example, mitigating
19 overflowing litter baskets, means the whole community
20 pitching in. And there's a workforce of thousands who
21 are being held back from fulfilling their pitching-in
potential right now. The Bottle Bill works. It's
demonstrated its efficacy for decades. It's the most
effective recycling system we have. It's reduced
street litter by over 70%. 80% of the material that

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3 it captures is actually turned into new containers,
4 which is just a drastic difference in efficacy from
5 our curbside recycling contractors' actual rate,
6 which is under 20%. It supports small businesses,
7 drives a circular economy, and it's even become a
8 mechanism for environmental justice, creating
9 low-barrier ways for marginalized people of all
10 backgrounds to become independent recyclers who
11 contribute to our communities and earn a livelihood.
12 These workers deserve a voice as stakeholders in the
13 processes that rule their work. If they're denied
14 that voice, it's to all of our detriment. For
15 example, the issue of containerized waste is top of
16 mind for many in the city, and plans for citywide
17 containerization are well underway. But if this
18 effort were to result in bottles and cans trapped in
19 locked containers where canners are unable to access
20 them, this would not only harm the livelihoods of
21 some of our most vulnerable New Yorkers, but also
make those materials drastically less likely be
constructively recycled.

CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you for your
testimony. The rest of the written testimony could

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3 be, uh, submitted and we will have it on the record.

4 Thank you. And Justin number 2.

5 JUSTIN WOOD: Hi there. Thank you so much,
6 Chair and members of the committee, for the
7 opportunity to testify. Justin Wood, Director of
8 Policy at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest,
9 and I'm also representing the Transform, Don't Trash
10 New York City Coalition. Um, first and foremost, we
11 wanna testify strongly in support of Intro 31, uh,
12 which would increase the number of food waste
13 generating businesses that are required to recycle
14 organic waste. I wanna skip right to the, uh, for all
15 the reasons stated, we support that. I wanna skip
16 right to a suggested amendment, which is that food
17 donation and food rescue be, uh, incorporated into
18 this bill as the highest and best use of edible food,
19 far too much of which ends up ends up in disposal,
20 um, from businesses ranging from grocery stores to
21 caterers to restaurants. Currently, if we go back to
DSNY's 2018 implementation plan for commercial waste
zones, there was actually a very robust vision for
having food rescue organizations scale up, get the
funding they need, partner with the waste haulers and

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3 DSNY to make sure all food waste generating
4 businesses have a, an easy and accessible food rescue
5 SKU option. And of course, we have far too many New
6 Yorkers who are food insecure and hungry right now,
7 so this is just the simplest win-win to address
8 hunger and fight climate change, um, and reduce
9 disposal costs at the same time. Secondly, um, given
10 that upping this commercial composting and organics
11 recycling capacity requires additional compost
12 capacity, we think now is the time time for the
13 council and DSNY to begin planning for additional
14 commercial-scale composting facilities as opposed to
15 anaerobic co-digestion facilities. Um, composting is
16 just a far environmentally preferable way to do this.
17 We strongly supported in the last session, uh,
18 Councilmember Nurse's bill. It was then Intro 696 in
19 2024. We would urge the council to take that
20 legislation up again. If we have those kind of
21 composting facilities available to businesses and
DSNY in each borough. We can also reduce VMT, uh,
vehicle miles traveled to landfills and incinerators,
um, and create hundreds of good green sustainable
jobs. Finally, I'll just say we'll submit written

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3 testimony, um, in support of Councilmember Gennaro's
4 bill, Intro 736, which would expand the Skip the
5 Stuff bill, um, and it's just a common sense
6 expansion of the amount of waste diverted. Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Uh, as always, thank you so much
8 for your testimony, Justin. Appreciate it. Uh, and
9 with that, the first panel's concluded. Um, and the
10 second panel, I'll bring up Juan number one and Wendy
11 number one. Do we still have Juan with us? Number
12 One? Okay, no.

13 JUAN SARATI: All right, thank you, uh,
14 Committee Chair Sanchez. My name is Juan Sarati. And
15 I'm a lifelong Brooklyn resident. I live in Bushwick,
16 CB4. Uh, I'm not here representing the board in any
17 way. I'm here as a resident of the city who cares
18 about the, the city. And I came to support Bill Intro
19 857 by Speaker Menin and Intro 872 by Councilmember
20 Hanif. I believe in the power of education. And I
21 think access to resources is often neglected when we
have conversations related to sanitation and
cleanliness. And I believe that we should focus on
the public health implications that these
legislations have over our city. This is a matter of

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3 public health. I recently completed New York City
4 Trash Academy, and I'd love to see the effects of
5 programs such as things done by the Sanitation
6 Foundation, uh, expanded to other New Yorkers so that
7 they can learn how to access these resources for free
8 and have these things as accessible as possible, be
9 it the language, be it the way, the, the way these,
10 these materials are shown to them. Which can be
11 complex and complicated. We've seen the effects of
12 what disruption looks like through the pandemic, and
13 I didn't come here to blame anyone who's a dog owner.
14 I believe that we face a very lonely time, and I, I
15 completely empathize with the fact that they want
16 someone or something in their life to keep them
17 company. But the demand for pets hasn't kept up with
18 of the need to create more education and more
19 opportunities to give people resources such as bags.
20 You can hear the— read the rest of my testimony, uh,
21 offline, but please, please work with us as
constituents of the city to make this city better.
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you. And I
just want to take a moment to really thank you for

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3 taking the time to come here, um, and actually
4 testify about street cleanliness, about what you're
5 doing, and to encourage and to do that and have your
6 neighbors do it. Um, that's what it really takes,
7 especially for us that come from the outer boroughs
8 that don't get as much attention, um, to the things
9 that we see. And so I see you, I appreciate you, and
10 thank you for staying for this whole hearing to
11 testify on behalf of the community. So thank you.

12 JUAN SARATI: Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Ready to close this
14 out, Wendy?

15 WENDY FRANK: Showtime. My name is Wendy
16 Frank. And I'm a member of the Manhattan Solid Waste
17 Advisory Board. Uh, my temp- testimony represents the
18 opinions of the Manhattan's, uh, SWAB chair, Matt
19 Sevillo, and Brooklyn's SWAB chair, Mary Ellen
20 Sullivan, and myself. Regarding the introduction of
21 Intro 736 by Council Member Gennaro and Council
Member Epstein in the New York City Council, why we
all, ah, er, all members of our borough solid waste
advisory boards Um, our opinions and testimony are,
are our own. From open data, we estimated between

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3 December 2025 to 2026, there were over 36,000 permits
4 issued for parades, block parties, street fairs, flea
5 markets, and other special events. As the song goes,
6 I love a parade. The city which is the most diverse
7 places in the world creates a space where people from
8 different backgrounds and communities can celebrate
9 and connect and learn from each other. We appreciate
10 that. As citizens who care about reducing and
11 properly disposing of waste, we see our street fairs
12 and other similar events as a valuable and fun way to
13 educate and encourage New Yorkers as visitors on how
14 to properly and easily dispose of recycling,
15 organics, and waste. At New York City street fairs
16 and open streets events where food, drink, and other
17 fun items are sold, there is only one type of
18 receptacle for people's waste: trash bins lined with
19 black bags. For black bags picked, but picked up by
20 the, the DSNY or contracted carters, the contents
21 will end up in landfill or incinerations.
Additionally, there are 127 distinctly designated
open streets locations that also hold small events
throughout the summer. We think the street fairs and
open streets generated large amounts of waste and

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3 typically do not recycle. Information about the
4 volume of trash is not available to us at this time.

5 And I attended the 9th Avenue Street Festival last
6 weekend and witnessed deep-fried Oreos, oversized
7 turkey legs on steroids, and corn husks with no place
8 to go b-but black garbage bags. Can I read the rest?

9 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Yes, you can finish
10 your testimony.

11 WENDY FRANK: It's the last and best. Um,
12 to estimate the impact of legislation, we can
13 leverage the Street Activity Permit Office to
14 research the number, duration of street fairs. Events
15 from open streets should also be added to this
16 calculation. Using this data, the city could conduct
17 waste audits of representation at street fairs, open
18 street events. Waste audit data would enable the city
19 to estimate the amount of waste and recycling and
20 organics typically thrown away, and the data would be
21 also create a baseline for the amount of types of
waste impacted. The— after this legislation is passed
and implemented, the baseline would enable the city
to understand how good a job event attendees are
doing of disposing their waste in appropriate bins.

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3 If the diversion rate is not improving, the city
4 could tweak its approach to improve outcomes. Because
5 each street fair is unique, attendees may need help
6 being directed to the right bins so they can dispose
7 of their waste correctly to make it easier and to
8 minimize contamination. All three waste bins could be
9 located— recycling, organics, and trash. Organics
10 bins could be restricted to areas near food stalls.
11 However, trash and recycling bins could be co-located
12 throughout the fairs. Street—

13 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: thank you so much.

14 I'm gonna have to ask the, the rest.

15 WENDY FRANK: One last sentence is we just
16 had the Five Borough Bike Tour. There was a billion
17 bananas given, given out. There was no recycling. And
18 Justin in the past has, um, worked with that
19 organization, and it's bananas that we don't compost
20 bananas where 30— over 32,000 people attend that
21 event.

22 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: I completely agree,
23 it is bananas, and I think it's also bananas that,
24 uh, we did not have, uh, a representative from Sappo
25 here given all the Sappo questions that we had, uh,

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3 but maybe for next time. Uh, thank you all so much,
4 um, and you are dismissed. Uh, are there any other,
5 uh, folks for Oh, we have a Zoom panel, um, so we are
6 on a hold and we will now turn this over to Zoom. Who
7 do we have on Zoom? Uh, if we could have Danielle
8 number 1 from Zoom, please.

9 ZOOM HOST: Starting time.

10 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Danielle, going
11 once. Danielle, going twice. Thank you, Danielle. Uh,
12 do we have any other folks that would like to be
13 heard today? Going once, going twice. Seeing none,
14 that is all from the Committee on Sanitation and
15 Solid Waste Management, uh, today's hearing. Thank
16 you, everyone.

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5 C E R T I F I C A T E

6
7
8 World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing
9 transcript is a true and accurate record of the
10 proceedings. We further certify that there is no
11 relation to any of the parties to this action by blood
12 or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome
13 of this matter.



19 Date September 13, 2026