

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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May 8, 2017

Start: 1:55 p.m.

Recess: 2:17 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E:

COSTA G. CONSTANTINIDES  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Stephen T. Levin  
Rory I. Lancman  
Donovan J. Richards  
Eric A. Ulrich

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

[sound check]

[pause]

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: Good

afternoon. I am Costa Constantinides, chair of the Environmental Protection Committee and today the Committee will have a hearing and vote on Intro 1346-A, a Local Law in relation to water pollution control, including provisions relating to stormwater management and control of discharges into storm sewers.

While much of New York City's storm sewers are combined sewers, some areas in the City have a separate storm sewer system consisting of two different systems of sewer pipes, with one system of pipes that carries wastewater from buildings to wastewater treatment plants and the other system of pipes, known as municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), that carries water from the streets directly to local waterways.

Since 1990, large cities have required to obtain a permit to discharge stored water from MS4s. Up until August 2015, these DEC-imposed requirements were incorporated into the State Pollution Discharge

2 Elimination System, permits that DEP had obtained in  
3 order to operate 14 DEP wastewater treatment plants.

4 On August 1, 2015, DEC issued a new  
5 comprehensive MS4 Permit for the City, which included  
6 new requirements and which significant expands the  
7 City's obligations to reduce the entrance of  
8 pollutants into the City's MS4 sewer system. Under  
9 the new MS4 Permit, there are 14 City agencies that  
10 have significant obligations; DEP is responsible for  
11 coordinating interagency efforts in order to meet the  
12 City's MS4 requirements.

13 To implement the requirements of the MS4  
14 Permit, DEP must develop a Stormwater Management  
15 Program and submit it for approval to the state  
16 Department of Environmental Conservation. The MS4  
17 Permit also requires by August 2017 the City  
18 demonstrate that it has adequate legal authority to  
19 administer the programs that are necessary for the  
20 City to comply with the MS4 Permit, including  
21 authority to prohibit illicit discharges, prohibit  
22 spills, require compliance and take enforcement  
23 action, require installation, implementation and  
24 maintenance of control measures, receive and collect  
25 information and inspect. This legislation fulfills

2 the requirement in the MS4 Permit that the City  
3 demonstrate legal authority to implement and enforce  
4 the terms of the Permit and provides the City the  
5 authority to act in a regulatory capacity to oversee  
6 and/or enforce requirements regarding activities that  
7 have the potential to contribute to pollutants to  
8 stormwater runoff and the water bodies surrounding  
9 the City.

10 With the enactment of this legislation,  
11 the City will take measureable steps forward to  
12 restore local waterways long subject to degradation  
13 and impairment. I recommend a yes vote on this  
14 legislation.

15 I want to recognize my colleagues -- all  
16 from Queens -- Council Members Ulrich, Lancman and  
17 Richards, and I do recommend a yes vote. Clerk, if  
18 you can call the roll.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,  
20 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on  
21 Environmental Protection, Introduction 1346-A. Chair  
22 Constantinides.

23 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: I vote aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I vote aye.  
3 Congratulations.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I proudly vote  
8 aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the  
10 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
11 the item has been adopted by the Committee.

12 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: We'll leave  
13 the vote open for a few minutes, as one of our  
14 Committee members is on their way. I want to make  
15 sure I thank Samara Swanston, our Legislative  
16 Attorney, for her strong work on this over the last  
17 six months and.. close to a year.. and Bill Murray as  
18 well, our Policy Analyst, and our Finance Analyst,  
19 Jon Seltzer, and of course, my staff, Nick Widzowski.  
20 With that, I will gavel this committee hearing of the  
21 Environmental Protection Committee closed.

22 [gavel]

23 [pause]

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call,  
3 the Committee on Environmental Protection. Council  
4 Member Levin.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote on  
7 Introduction 1346-A is now adopted by a vote of 5 in  
8 the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no  
9 abstentions.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date June 7, 2017