

New York City Council

Memorandum in Support of Legislation

This memorandum is authored by the sponsor and explains the need for the legislation referenced below, in accordance with Rule 6.00(d) of the Rules of the Council.

Introduction Number:

Int. No. 1301-2025

Prime Sponsors:

Council Member Amanda Farías

Bill Title:

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to notice requirements for food service establishment inspections

Submitted by:

Council Member Amanda Farías

Justification:

In New York City, food service establishments are currently subject to unannounced health inspections by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH). Though effective at revealing the usual operating and hygiene conditions of an establishment, the inspections and their unannounced nature can cause major disruptions in the lives of the owners. Whether it be a wedding, a religious event, a surgery, a birth, or another major life event, all could be disrupted and one's life filled with stress if DOHMH shows up unannounced when the owner is not present at their establishment. Furthermore, depending on the scenario the owner is in, such as having to undergo an unplanned surgery or attend a funeral, the stress of an unannounced inspection could be distressing and even harmful. These owners deserve the ability to enjoy and undertake the major developments and events of their lives without fearing a surprise inspection, as most New Yorkers currently can. This bill achieves that reality, balancing the considerations of life and hygiene, by requiring the DOHMH to provide at least two notices of inspection prior to a sanitary inspection. The first notice would be issued between 1 and 5 months prior to an inspection, and a second notice would be issued between 3 and 6 weeks prior to an inspection. These mandated notices will allow owners to plan their lives out with fair warnings of inspections, while, because of the long periods between notices and the inspection, retaining the element of surprise, maintaining the hygiene that is so critical to the health of our city.