

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.

Prime Sponsors:

Council Member Marte

Bill Title:

A Local Law in relation to requiring the department of city planning to conduct a study on hostile architecture

Submitted by:

Council Member Marte

Justification:

In an attempt to dissuade and/or prevent the city's homeless population from resting and/or sleeping in public spaces, cities across the country have implemented the use of "hostile architecture" or "exclusionary design", defined as "an attempt to restrict a person's ability to use public space." This can be categorized as spikes on a ledge or platform, benches with numerous railings to prevent laying down, and even bike racks that prohibit an individual from resting. In 2017, 2021, and 2025, the MTA removed numerous benches from train platforms and replaced them with metal leaning bars; again, targeting the homeless population. Hostile architecture, however, affects everyone, not just the intended target. In the case of the MTA's leaning bars, multiple riders have expressed concern about the issue of accessibility. This bill would simply require an in-depth study be done by the Department of City Planning in collaboration with the Department of Buildings, the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Transportation. This bill would also require DCP to report the findings of the study to the Mayor and the Speaker of the Council and post the report on its website within 18 months after the effective date of the local law.