

## **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 Harvey Epstein

#### **Bill Title:**

A Local Law in relation to establishing a pilot program for collecting dog feces at dog runs for the purpose of composting

#### **Submitted by:**

Council Member Harvey Epstein

#### **Justification:**

According to the Sanitation Foundation, New York City dogs produce over 500,000 pounds of dog waste each day. This significant waste stream is primarily directed to landfills, where it sits producing methane, a harmful greenhouse gas. Diverting dog waste from landfills and composting it is a proven way to lower greenhouse gas emissions and produce a nutrient-rich end product that can support plant life. The Marsha P. Johnson State Park and the Battery Park City Authority are currently composting dog waste on their grounds.

This bill would require the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation to establish a pilot program to collect dog feces from dog runs under the Department of Parks and Recreation's jurisdiction for composting. At dog runs, the Commissioner would install dog feces collection bins, provide compostable dog feces bags, and post a sign at each bin recommending that individuals deposit dog feces in the bins. The dog feces would be transported to appropriate compost facilities.

This bill would also require the Commissioner to report to the Mayor and the Speaker of the Council and post online on the amount of dog feces collected and composted, where the compost was used, the efficacy of dog feces composting efforts, program implementation challenges, and potential program expansion. The Commissioner would have to make best efforts to coordinate with compost facilities to obtain the information required in the report