

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SNOLID
WASTE MANAGEMENT

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March 16, 2026
Start: 10:41 a.m.
Recess: 1:53 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING
ROOM 2

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Frank Morano
Carmen N. De La Rosa
David M. Carr
Kamillah M. Hanks
Pierina Ana Sanchez
Gale A. Brewer
Lynn C. Schulman
Linda Lee

A P P E A R A N C E S

Javier Lojan, Acting Commissioner of the New York City Department of Sanitation

Joseph Antonelli, Deputy Commissioner of Management and Budget at the New York City Department of Sanitation

Joshua Goodman, Deputy Commissioner of Public Affairs and Customer Experience at the New York City Department of Sanitation

Rebecca Sabnam, Cafeteria Culture

Rhonda Keyser, Policy and Program Director for Cafeteria Culture

Leon Feingold, Co-Founder of House of Good Deeds

Ellen Cooper, self

Eric Goldstein, New York City Environment Director at the Natural Resources Defense Council

Christina Datz-Romero, Executive Director of the Lower East Side Ecology Center

Justin Wood, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

Mary Ellen Sullivan, Chair of the Brooklyn Solid Waste Advisory Board

PS15 Fourth Graders

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

Jaimere Rush, Compost Coordinator at Cafeteria
Culture Coordinator

Megan Ortiz, Cafeteria Culture

Justin Green, Executive Director of Big Reuse

Sydney Scott, self

Mary Arnold, Civics United for Railroad
Environmental Solutions

Clare Mifflin, self

Alex Stein, self

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3 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is
4 a microphone test for the Committee on Sanitation and
5 Solid Waste Management. Today's date is March 16,
6 2026. Recorded by Preston Cameron in HR2.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and
8 welcome to today's New York City Council hearing for
9 the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste
10 Management.

11 At this time, I would like to remind
12 everyone to silence all electronic devices.

13 Also at this point, going forward, no one
14 is to approach the dais.

15 Chair, we're ready to begin.

16 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Good morning,
17 everyone, and welcome to this beautiful, sunny day,
18 Monday morning in the City of New York, and welcome
19 to the Fiscal 2027 Preliminary Budget Hearing for the
20 Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management.
21 My name is Justin Sanchez, and I am the Chair of the
Sanitation and Solid Waste Management Committee.

Today, we'll review the Department of
Sanitation's Fiscal 2027 budget to understand how it
addresses the sanitation needs of all New Yorkers. I

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3 would like to begin by thanking the men and women of
4 the Department of Sanitation for their hard work
5 keeping our city clean and livable. When collecting
6 refuse in the early morning hours, clearing snow from
7 our streets, which we had a lot of this year, or
8 managing the city's growing waste export needs, the
9 work of DSNY's workforce is essential to the daily
10 life of every New Yorker.

11 The Department of Sanitation's Fiscal
12 2027 Preliminary Budget totals approximately 3.1
13 billion dollars. The Preliminary Plan includes a
14 number of new needs and adjustments, and the
15 Committee looks forward to discussing how these
16 resources are being deployed to address the City's
17 most pressing sanitation challenges. During our
18 hearing today, the Committee would like to focus on
19 several key areas, including the Department's chronic
20 overtime reliance and whether the Preliminary Plan
21 takes meaningful steps towards structural reform, the
expansion of containerization across the City,
including its costs and implementation timeline,
waste export costs and the City's long-term strategy
for managing exported waste as the 2026 Solid Waste
Management Plan is implemented, and lot cleaning

2 operations, and how the Department is allocating
3 resources to address vacant lot conditions across the
4 five boroughs. Over the past year, the Committee has
5 conducted active oversight of Sanitation operations,
6 including a hearing on the City's engagement around
7 the 2026 Solid Waste Management Plan. We also
8 anticipate holding a hearing on street cleanliness in
9 the coming months as maintaining street clean streets
10 remains a top priority for our constituents and this
11 Committee.

12 I would like to thank our Committee Staff
13 for their hard work, our Senior Financial Analyst
14 Tanveer Singh; our Policy Analysts Ricky Chawla and
15 Dirk Spencer; our Committee Counsel, Morganne
16 Barrett and Samia Shell.

17 I would like to thank and welcome Acting
18 Commissioner Lohan and the men and women of the
19 Department of Sanitation for the essential work they
20 do every day, and I'm looking forward to today's
21 discussion and the Committee Counsel will now swear
you in.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL BARRETT: Good morning.

My name is Morgan Barrett. Will you please raise your
right hands?

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2 Thank you. Do you affirm to tell the
3 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth
4 before this Committee and to respond honestly to
5 Council Member questions?

6 ADMINISTRATION: (NO AUDIBLE RESPONSE)

7 COMMITTEE COUNSEL BARRETT: Thank you. You
8 may begin when ready.

9 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: I'd like to
10 also recognize my colleagues who are joining us here
11 today. We start with Council Member Morano, Council
12 Member Zhuang, Council Member Hanif, Council Member
13 De La Rosa and Council Member Carr. And we have
14 Council Member Maloney joining us via Zoom.

15 Commissioner, please begin when you're
16 ready.

17 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Thank you.
18 Good morning, Chair Sanchez and Members of the
19 Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management. I
20 am Javier Lojan, the Acting Commissioner of the New
21 York City Department of Sanitation, and I am joined
today by Joseph Antonelli, Deputy Commissioner of
Management and Budget, and by Joshua Goodman, Deputy
Commissioner of Public Affairs and Customer
Experience.

3 I've worked at the Department of
4 Sanitation for 27 years, and even with that level of
5 experience, it can still be a challenge to grasp the
6 enormity of our work. The 10,000 members of service
7 at DSNY are responsible for three primary areas,
8 which I will list and then explain in as much detail
9 as time allows, with an emphasis on new innovations
10 and strategic initiatives.

11 Broadly speaking, our three core
12 functions break down to collection, cleaning, and
13 snow removal. Beginning with collection. New Yorkers
14 set out 24 million pounds of residential trash,
15 recycling, and compostable material each day. That's
16 24 million pounds today, 24 million pounds tomorrow,
17 24 million pounds the next day, and so on. It is a
18 job that, by its nature, can never be completed. At
19 the end of our third shift of the day, the next day's
20 material is already waiting at the curb. We run a
21 massive house-to-house operation, traversing every
part of the city each day to get this waste off the
sidewalks. While collection operations have been at
the core of our work for over 140 years, there have
been remarkable innovations in just the last few
years. We bring trash to a network of transfer

3 stations and processing facilities where increasing
4 shares are put to beneficial reuse in the form of
5 recycling, composting, and anaerobic digestion. The
6 export of waste out of the city accounts for roughly
7 one quarter of the Department's budget, and this is a
8 fixed cost that is extremely difficult to adjust. We
9 are making long-term changes, though, by reducing the
10 amount of waste that cannot be reclaimed, most
11 notably with our Citywide Curbside Composting
12 Program, the largest and easiest composting program
13 in the country. This was long derided by both inside
14 and outside the Department as impossible. We got it
15 done by making it simple. No signups, no opt-ins, no
16 special rules or bin restrictions, and this
17 universalist approach has worked, with record-setting
18 tonnage diverted from landfill multiple times last
19 year. While outreach and education around this
20 program will continue for years to come, it is now
21 formally normalized in keeping with Local Law 89 of
2023, and failure to properly separate this material
from trash can result in a fine, just like with
traditional recycling. We have knocked on close to
800,000 doors to increase awareness about the
program, and we are giving more of the finished

3 compost back to New Yorkers than ever before, with
4 millions of pounds provided free to the public in
5 compost give-back events set to start in early April,
6 much earlier than in past years. There is one gap
7 remaining in this program, and that is a universal
8 requirement for commercial organic separation. DSNY
9 does not collect waste from businesses, but we do
10 regulate this industry. The expansion of Commercial
11 Waste Zone Reform, which I will speak about in more
12 detail later, incentivizes businesses to compost by
13 saving them money, but very few businesses are
14 actually required to compost, unlike all residences.
15 Local law 146 of 2013, which regulates compostable
16 material from businesses, is badly out of date and
17 not aligned with the goals of the Administration or
18 this Council. We strongly urge you to set a single
19 standard for both residential and commercial
20 diversion by updating this law.

21 The other core collection innovation of
recent years is, of course, containerization. For 50
years, New York was the only major city in the
developed world where trash wasn't just allowed to be
placed directly on the sidewalk. It was, in fact,
required to be placed there. Visitors would come here

2 from all over the world to gawk at our piles of
3 trash, and New Yorkers were asked to defend this
4 disgusting and outdated practice. In October of 2022,
5 we began incentivizing containerization through new
6 rules around waste set-out times, pairing this with
7 major changes to DSNY operations and picking up more
8 of the trash far earlier. In the spring of 2024,
9 container rules went into effect for all businesses
10 of every type in New York City, requiring them to get
11 their trash off the streets and into a secure bin. We
12 wrote 70,000 warnings to businesses as this rule went
13 into effect, and we have written over 100,000
14 summonses since, gaining broad compliance and
15 bringing bins to restaurants, delis, bodegas,
16 drugstores, boutiques, and everywhere else on our
17 commercial corridors. The first containerization
18 requirement for residential buildings in more than 50
19 years went into effect on November 12, 2024,
20 requiring all buildings with one to nine residential
21 units to use these bins. This could either be their
own or the official New York City bin, which is the
cheapest, high-quality bin available. Starting in
June 2026, the New York City bin will be the only bin
that one- to nine-unit properties are permitted to

2 use for trash to facilitate safer, cleaner,
3 mechanized collection. This program was designed
4 thoughtfully so that these bins would be, by far, the
5 cheapest of their quality on the market, around 50
6 dollars, a reasonable responsibility for most New
7 York City property owners, and New Yorkers have
8 purchased around one million of these bins at
9 www.bins.nyc or at New York City Home Depot
10 locations.

11 Still, in order to meet the needs of
12 certain property owners, DSNY, in partnership with
13 the City Council, created a bin reimbursement program
14 for owners of one- and two-family homes who qualify
15 for the State STAR or eSTAR tax exemption. To date,
16 approximately 9.1 million has been spent on these
17 reimbursements. The bins have fundamentally altered
18 the look and feel of our streets, replacing piles of
19 black trash bags that attracted rats, impeded
20 pedestrians, and generally made New Yorkers feel that
21 no one cared about their neighborhoods. These bins
may look like simple pieces of plastic, but they have
led to 15 straight months of declining rat sighting
citywide. About 10 months ago, we took a giant leap
forward in waste collection strategies with the start

2 of the Empire Bin Stationary On-Street Container
3 Program in Manhattan Community District 9. Serviced
4 by new automated side-loading trucks, this is the
5 first European-style on-street container program in
6 North America, taking those huge piles of trash bags
7 that are generated by the largest buildings off the
8 streets and, instead, storing them in secure
9 containers. West Harlem is home to approximately
10 1,100 Empire Bins, covering more than 80 percent of
11 their apartment units. Unlike in other parts of the
12 world, the bins are not shared by the entire block.
13 Bins are assigned to a single large building using R
14 density, which had long been thought of the Achilles
15 heel of containerization to our advantage, by
16 allowing for greater oversight. Property owners and
17 residents have responded extremely well to this
18 program, and the second district has already been
19 announced, with planning underway to have Brooklyn
20 Community Board District 2 fully containerized later
21 this year. Funding to continue this program appeared
in last year's November Plan, and we are currently
working to estimate costs and timelines for a
citywide expansion plan. Collection may seem like a
solved problem, particularly considering how much of

2 it happens outside of public view, but it is
3 something we are refining and reinventing each day.

4 Turning to our second core function,
5 cleaning public spaces, we are also continuously
6 expanding our approach. When I began my career, no
7 one was sure which agency was responsible for
8 cleaning median strip streets, underpasses, and other
9 areas of public property in a sustained and ongoing
10 way, a result of a Koch-era interagency memo that has
11 long created confusion about agency roles around
12 cleaning. As a result, DSNY was not then resourced to
13 clean these areas. That began to change a few years
14 ago, with the formal recognition of DSNY as the only
15 agency with a dedicated competency around cleaning
16 and program design and funding to match that skill
17 set. Since the creation of the first-ever DSNY
18 Highway Unit in 2023, we have added specialized
19 highway cleaning equipment and implemented important
20 highway safety trainings. We now clean every single
21 highway, the areas that visitors to our city often
see first on a regular basis.

19 Another new unit, our Targeted
20 Neighborhood Task Force, provides regular cleaning to
21 over 1,700 areas that had been left out of prior

3 plans. There are most certainly several in every one
4 of your districts, areas where your constituents are
5 finally seeing results, from Snake Road to West 230th
6 Street steps to Conduit Boulevard. We additionally
7 took management of the City's graffiti removal
8 program, increasing the number of 3-1-1 service
9 requests closed by 80 percent. We are also using new
10 technology and tactics to streamline public space
11 cleaning. While this has always been a data-driven
12 agency for decades, cleaning condition logs were
13 maintained manually and locally. We have removed
14 barriers between districts and created one single
15 digital log that is used across the agency. This
16 allows for far greater pre-planning around chronic
17 conditions, and the valuable data produces an ongoing
18 analysis that means more areas of your district
19 service in an even more timely manner. And we have
20 heard concerns from Members of this Council on two
21 major cleanliness issues, median cleaning and, of
course, dog waste. Pedestrian malls or medians that
are not properly weeded and maintained can attract
and catch litter. To address this, we are working
with a new mall spraying contract to ensure in a
cost-effective way that the grass in these areas does

3 not become overgrown. We expect to spray across the
4 city this spring to avoid summer overgrowth and will
5 notify your offices and community boards as we do so.

6 Before I discuss our dog waste strategy,
7 let me be clear about the issue here. Dog owners know
8 that they have a legal responsibility to pick up dog
9 waste, regardless of the weather conditions on the
10 ground. It is irresponsible and just gross to leave
11 this behind anywhere, whether it's a sidewalk, a
12 patch of grass, or a snow pile. At the same time, all
13 property owners are legally required to keep their
14 sidewalks clean as well as 18 inches into the
15 roadway, and this would include removing dog waste
16 from their sidewalks. All 3-1-1 complaints related to
17 dog waste are investigated daily, and we do issue
18 summonses to property owners for dirty sidewalks and
19 surrounding areas, 8,999 this calendar year alone,
20 although that was for any kind of dirty sidewalk
21 area, not just dog waste. Summonses for dog owners
are much more difficult to issue because our
enforcement officer would have to catch the owner in
the act of leaving a pile behind. We have done many
special patrols in areas with high rates of 3-1-1
service requests for dog waste, and they have yielded

2 almost zero summonses. In 2024, we did a three-day
3 stakeout in Mott Haven that yielded just one summons.
4 Then in 2025, we did special week-long patrols in
5 Washington Heights, Harlem, Morningside Heights, and
6 Flatbush, all in response to 3-1-1 service requests,
7 and none of them yielded any summonses. The chances
8 of someone not picking up after the dog while an
9 enforcement officer is watching is very, very slim,
10 so slim that we issued just two summonses for failure
11 to remove canine waste in 2025. It is clear that
12 people only leave piles behind when they know no one
13 is watching. We have also done and continue to do
14 several ad campaigns and educational outreach on the
15 issue of dog waste, but really, every dog owner knows
16 what they are supposed to do. In consideration of
17 their neighbors, they should do the right thing and
18 pick up after the dogs. That said, we are working
19 with Members of this Council to add dog waste bag
20 dispensers to some of our litter baskets. This
21 dispenser pilot is now underway with dispensers
affixed to our new Better Bin Corner litter baskets.
Unlike the old green wire baskets which forced New
Yorkers to look at trash all day and leak garbage
onto our corners, the new baskets have no holes for

3 the first eight inches and much smaller openings
4 throughout. They are harder to misuse and take longer
5 to fill up and are far easier for Sanitation workers
6 to service. This is in addition to the modular design
7 that means only the least expensive part ever needs
8 to be replaced. We appreciate our Council partners
9 who have purchased Better Bins over the past two
10 fiscal years with the discretionary funds. We are
11 excited to work with your offices in the next year to
12 keep Better Bins rolling out, and we are proud today
13 to be servicing baskets at the highest level ever.
14 Whereas for decades, litter basket service was the
15 subject of political negotiations, the highest level
16 is now baselined, yet another innovation in cleaning.

17 Last, among our three core functions is
18 something that all new Council Members have already
19 learned a great deal about, snow removal. We train
20 year-round for snow, and as discussed at last month's
21 snow oversight hearing, this was a challenging
winter, with the most snow in a decade and a top ten
blizzard, but it was also a winter that has bred
innovation at the Department. Heading into next year,
we will continue to look to improve, including by
expanding our fleet of brine-flushing trucks, by

3 refining the brand new geocoding of pedestrian
4 infrastructure, and by formalizing successful pilot
5 expansions of the emergency snow shoveler program.
6 Given that we spoke about snow at great length at
7 recent oversight hearing, I will leave this topic
8 there for now, except that it relates to budget. The
9 City's snow budget is unusual among municipal budget
10 lines, in that the formula for determining is set by
11 the City Charter, outside the bounds of political
12 negotiations. That formula calls for budgeting an
13 average of the actual amount spent on snow removal
14 the last five years, and given the low snow totals
15 over the last several seasons, the budget has
16 generally been in the 80- to 100-million-dollar range
17 for the last several years. This winter required an
18 adjustment of approximately 100 million dollars to
19 reflect spending thus far, made in the January plan.

20 Earlier I mentioned Commercial Waste
21 Zones. The program began implementing under Local Law
199 of 2019 to reform the commercial waste hauling
system by establishing new safety standards for
workers in the commercial car industry, improving
services for businesses, increasing diversion rates,
and reducing vehicle miles travel, as well as harmful

3 emissions from waste hauling vehicles. When fully
4 implemented, we are looking at about 12 million fewer
5 miles traveled by commercial carting vehicles, and
6 making good on a promise from when this program was
7 created, businesses will pay less for the collection
8 of recyclables and compostable material than they do
9 for trash at a citywide average of 32 percent less
10 for recycling and 18 percent less for compostable
11 material. That means businesses will have a
12 meaningful financial incentive to separate their
13 waste properly. This program is a major change for
14 every one of the city's 200,000 businesses, and we
15 are committed to rolling it out thoughtfully with
16 detailed and culturally competent outreach. The
17 program is now fully operational in five of the
18 city's 20 zones, and we will complete full citywide
19 implementation by the end of 2027. Staffing for the
20 DSNY Bureau of Commercial Waste will continue to
21 expand to meet the needs of this program over the
next 20 months.

 The expansion of DSNY regulatory and
enforcement authority is not restricted to commercial
waste zones. Since April 2023, Sanitation has been
the lead agency on enforcement of the City's laws

3 around street vending. Our Sanitation police officers
4 enforce these laws where they focus on cleanliness
5 and pedestrian access, and they conduct routine
6 enforcement operations rooted in the belief that all
7 New Yorkers across every neighborhood and every
8 borough deserve clean, safe sidewalks.

9 I have mentioned different forms of
10 camera technology multiple times today, and one of
11 the most successful recent deployments of camera
12 technology by the Department of Sanitation is our
13 illegal dumping program. With a network of 334
14 cameras citywide set in places that illegal dumpsters
15 consider out of the way, we are now busing people for
16 this crime hundreds of times every year, impounding
17 their vehicles and issuing summonses that start at
18 4,000 dollars. New Yorkers can even send a video to
19 illegaldumpingtips@dsny.nyc.gov and potentially get
20 paid. We have issued about a dozen summonses to
21 people brought to our attention via this tip line in
the last year. We also continue to seek authority up
in Albany to operate cameras, our mechanical brooms
to encourage compliance with alternate side parking
regulations. We thank the Council for your

2 partnership in passing a home rule message in
3 support.

4 I know this was a tremendous amount of
5 information. After more than a quarter century at
6 DSNY, I'm still amazed at the breadth and depth of
7 our work. We are in every community every day, and if
8 the time ever came that we didn't show up, people
9 would notice immediately. Fortunately - hello? I
10 don't know if the mic - maybe I spoke too much. Let
11 me try this. Okay. I'll try this mic.

12 Okay, I'll try this one. Can you hear me
13 now? No.

14 The mic's not -- oh, there it goes. Okay.
15 Okay.

16 Fortunately, thanks to the work the
17 Council and the Administration do to keep this agency
18 running, that day will never come.

19 I will now provide a more detailed
20 budgetary update. The preliminary budget includes a
21 2.25 billion in expense funds in Fiscal Year 2026 and
2.08 billion dollars in Fiscal Year 2027, reflecting
increases of 261 million and 38 million respectively
from the budget adopted last June. The Fiscal Year
2026 budget includes 1.33 billion dollars for

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3 personal services to support a total budgeted
4 headcount of 9,625 full-time positions, including
5 7,957 uniform positions and 1,668 civilian positions,
6 and 905.4 million dollars for other-than-personal
7 services, or OTPS. DSNY's Fiscal Year 2027
8 preliminary capital budget includes 3.26 billion in
9 capital funding in the 10-year plan, 1.09 billion
10 dollars of which is for garages and facilities, 2.04
11 billion dollars for equipment, 59.28 million for IT,
12 and 70.22 million dollars for solid waste management
13 infrastructure. The capital budget includes funding
14 for several major facility projects, including 488
15 million in funding for the construction of a new
16 garage for Bronx Districts 9, 10, and 11 with
17 demolition, 284 million in funding for the
18 construction of a new garage for Queens District 1,
19 which is slated to begin design later this year,
20 upgrades to the facility that serves the home for
21 Bronx District 12 garage, which has an overall budget
of 52.5 million, and began construction this year,
and the 10 million dollars finishing touches on the
223-million buildout for the brand-new home for
Staten Island District 1 and 3, which is slated to be
completed this year. That project, along with the new

2 BK3, means we will be opening three new districts at
3 two buildings this calendar year, a rare milestone
4 for this Department and a sign of this
5 Administration's serious investment in the safety and
6 well-being of Sanitation workers and the
7 neighborhoods they serve. Thank you for your advocacy
8 of a cleaner, more sustainable New York City, and we
9 look forward to taking your questions.

10 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you,
11 Commissioner.

12 Before we continue, I just want to
13 recognize my following Colleagues that have joined
14 us, Council Member Pierina Sanchez, Council Member
15 Vernikov, Council Member Hanks, Council Member
16 Brewer, Council Member Schulman, and Council Member
17 Lee, and walking this way is Council Member
18 Hankerson.

19 So, in the interest of also my
20 Colleagues' time, the way that I will structure this
21 is we will start with the headcount and overtime
22 questions, then I will turn it over to my Colleagues,
23 and then we will finish up with remaining questions.

24 Let's get started. So, the Fiscal Year
25 '27 preliminary budget includes 9,901 positions, with

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2 overtime budgeted at 257.9 million compared to 204.7
3 million in Fiscal Year '25. Given that, what is the
4 Department's current filled staffing level compared
5 to these budgeted positions, and what is the vacancy
6 rate expressed as a percentage, and how does this
compare to the past three Fiscal Years?

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, DSNY is
8 currently staffed for all uniform positions, and
9 we're nearly at the full civilian attrition
10 headcount, with a vacancy rate of a little over 3
percent. This is in line with previous Fiscal Years.

11 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: What
12 percentage of DSNY's 1.344-billion-dollar personal
13 services budget is allocated to the budgeted overtime
14 versus regular wages, and how has this percentage
15 changed over the past five Fiscal Years, given that
actual Fiscal Year overtime was 204.7 million?

16 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So,
17 257.9 million represents about 19 percent of the
18 1.344-billion PS budget, which also includes 160
19 million dollars of snow overtime, and that percentage
20 of overtime fluctuates due to the variability of snow
21 and winter weather events. Sometimes we have
predicted weather events where we don't get the

3 actual snowfall, but we have to prepare for it, so
4 that's a factor into the snow overtime. And then,
5 last year, 204.7 million of overtime represented
6 about 16 percent of the total year NPS budget.

7 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: What is the
8 average overtime hours performed by a uniformed
9 worker annually, and what is the percentage of
10 workers that exceed 200 hours of overtime per year?

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, for Fiscal
12 Year '25, the average overtime hours per uniformed
13 employee was about 225 hours per person, and then for
14 snow overtime, it was an additional 39 hours per
15 uniformed worker annually, and we are still working
16 on getting the actual percentage of that 200, but
17 we'll definitely get that to you, Chair.

18 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Okay. I also
19 would like to recognize that we've been joined by
20 Council Member Shanel Thomas-Henry.

21 What steps is the Department taking to
reduce reliance on overtime without compromising
essential services, such as waste collections, snow
removal, street cleaning?

ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So, I
have weekly meetings with my Deputy Commissioner of

2 Management and Budget, which is Joe Antonelli. We go
3 over top overtime earners list for uniformed and
4 civilian. One of the things that I implemented also
5 this recent Fiscal Year is that every week uniformed
6 unit heads have to go over within their area of work
7 the number of budgeted posts, and when they go over,
8 they have to verify that they authorized that for
9 whatever reason. For example, sometimes we have
10 blockades. You know, sometimes we work with NYPD to
11 have blockade operations there, so that's something
12 that we're not really anticipating from event to
13 event. Sometimes we have transport of the vehicles
14 because the nature of our operation requires us to
15 shift equipment around, so those are things that, for
16 example, that we work with my uniformed chiefs, and
17 they have to verify with the borough commands and
18 make sure that they are not going over that, so
19 that's one of the processes that I've implemented in
20 my tenure here.

18 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: And have you
19 guys done a cost-benefit analysis comparing, you
20 know, the per hour cost of overtime versus, you know,
21 time and a half versus the fully loaded cost of just
bringing on additional full-time staff?

3 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So one
4 of the things with the nature of our operation, which
5 is, you know, unique compared to some of the other
6 uniformed agencies, is that our staffing is very
7 fluid, so you could be assigned to a district in
8 Queens, but you could be going to a district in
9 Brooklyn or Manhattan, depending on where the needs
10 are, so that's a little bit tough sometimes to become
11 the full-time post versus overtime, but there's also
12 posts that are just seasonal in nature, so as I
13 mentioned, transporting of vehicles, stadium
14 cleaning, so sometimes when we have events at, like,
15 the Barclays Center, things like that, we book extra
16 personnel, Yankee Stadium cleaning, Citi Field, we
17 book extra personnel to clean the perimeters just to
18 make sure everything's tidied up, so those in nature
19 wouldn't require us to hire full-time positions. As I
20 mentioned, you know, blockades. Salt receiving is
21 another one, you know, when we're in snow season, we
have to book extra personnel to receive the salt and
put it in our salt sheds. And then there's functions
by nature that, and, you know, I obviously want to
thank the Council, when we have Council Member-funded
cleaning, whether it's litter baskets, you know,

2 mechanical brooms, those are not year-round
3 positions, so those really are ones that we kind of
4 just, in nature or overtime, budgeted posts that, you
5 know, benefit us to continue that.

6 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: And what is
7 your employee turnover rate, and how does this
8 compare to other uniformed City agencies?

9 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, our
10 uniformed staff member, the 12-month turnover rate is
11 approximately 7 percent, which is roughly the same
12 from year to year, and our civilian staff members
13 rolling 12-month turnover rate is about 9 percent. I
14 can't really speak to the comparison of the other
15 uniformed agencies, I'm not sure.

16 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: What
17 percentage of new hires remain after a year, after
18 three years?

19 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, right now,
20 we don't really have those stats available, but I can
21 tell you it's very, very low, especially after the
year, and the three years we're looking at that, but
we really don't have a challenge with retention as
far as the uniformed ranks go.

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2 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Does the
3 Department track or monitor excessive overtime usage
4 by employees, and have there been a percentage of
5 workers that have been flagged as potential overtime
6 abuse?

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, as I
8 mentioned before, I go over with my Deputy
9 Commissioner of Management and Budget the top
10 overtime earners list, and that's the initial round
11 of review. After that, then, if somebody's a higher
12 percentage than really what I notice compared to the
13 rest of the Bureau, the Deputy Commissioner of that
14 Bureau has to then respond as to why that's going so
15 high, and I've rectified a few of them. A lot of it,
16 nothing obviously illegal, it's more of just, you
17 know, mostly responding to, like, emergencies for
18 building maintenance trade titles when we see
19 something like that. Sometimes it's IT titles where
20 we have patching that, you know, we have to have
21 people on standby for, we can't do it during the
week, so things like that. And then, anything that is
flagged, we do immediately work with. We have an
internal investigation team who always communicates
with DOI on anything major like that, but I haven't

3 had anything particular as far as, you know, flags
4 specifically.

5 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: And so, going
6 deeper into the previous Mayor's Directive on
7 overtime, is there an understanding of what
8 percentage and reduction in overtime spending the
9 Department achieved since the previous Mayoral
10 Directive was implemented, and how does this compare
11 to the targeted reduction?

12 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, one of the
13 things that we had recently been doing, and I think
14 that's going to continue is we were meeting with the
15 Budget Director and the First Deputy Mayor and going
16 over our overtime targets, everything was justified
17 in terms of why we went over. Sometimes it was, you
18 know, holiday weeks. For example, Fourth of July of
19 this current Fiscal Year fell on a Friday. Normally,
20 on a Monday holiday, we have enough days following
21 the holiday where we can catch up, so to speak. When
we go into a Friday holiday, we have very limited
time, so we intentionally went ahead of time and
staffed workers to work on Sunday to catch up with
the recyclables of the holiday. So, things like that

2 were all justified, and we went over with Budget
3 Director.

4 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Awesome.

5 I'd like to recognize my Colleague,
6 Council Member Ung, for joining us.

7 What specific remediation plans has the
8 Department submitted to OMB to address any instances
9 of excessive overtime expenditures?

10 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: I'm going to
11 pass it on to our Deputy Commissioner of Management
12 and Budget.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANTONELLI: So, I know
14 the Commissioner mentioned that there were monthly
15 meetings with the Budget Director and the First
16 Deputy Mayor under the prior Administration. We also
17 continue to have staff level meetings with the Office
18 of Management and Budget, conducted by myself and my
19 team, and we actually go over in detail and provide
20 daily overtime information. So, while there's no
21 specific remediation plan, we certainly talk about
the day-to-day challenges and justify all of it, and
we've really had no issues on that front.

CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Could you
speak to a little bit by what percentage has the

2 Department reduced its overtime budget allocations
3 from Fiscal Year '25 to the Fiscal Year '27 plan
4 level?

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANTONELLI: I think we
6 obviously always plan to reduce overtime and limit
7 our overtime as much as possible. It's just the
8 day-to-day things that come up that have really
9 created that challenge. So, while we do have that
10 plan level of 185 million, I think in blue skies, if
11 we don't have snow and things go well, that can be an
12 achievable number, but I think just the realities of
13 the field conditions that we have make it very
14 difficult, although we do continue to monitor it
15 daily.

16 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: And just for
17 clarity, can you just define and categorize what the
18 emergency overtime versus non-emergency overtime is?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANTONELLI: Sure. So,
20 well, the main emergency overtime is always snow, and
21 when we're in snow operations, we categorize our
overtime as snow overtime, and then when we're not in
snow operations, it's just categorized as regular
overtime.

3 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you so
4 much.

5 I'm going to pass it over to Council
6 Member Lee for some questions on finance.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Hi. Good morning.
8 So, going into the Chief Savings Officer initiatives,
9 has DSNY designated a Chief Savings Officer or
10 equivalent position as proposed by Mayor Mamdani to
11 identify the efficiencies and cost savings
12 opportunities, and also what percentage of this
13 position's time is dedicated solely to savings
14 initiatives versus other administrative duties?

15 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Good morning,
16 Chair. Thank you for the question. So, yeah, I have
17 identified a Chief Savings Officer, which is Deputy
18 Commissioner Joe Antonelli, our Management and Budget
19 Deputy Commissioner, and as far as percentage, you
20 want to talk about?

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANTONELLI: Yeah. I
mean, I don't know that I could necessarily put a
percentage on it, but it has been a heavy part of
what we've been working on as we work towards the
March 20th deadline.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: And how much
3 authority do you have to implement the cost reduction
4 measures without going to OMB or external entities,
5 or does that have to go through?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANTONELLI: It has to
7 work its way through the process.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Okay. And what
9 specific cost-saving targets or benchmarks has been
10 established for FY27, and what percentage reduction?
11 I know you're still working on it, but if at all,
12 what percentage reduction in operating expenses or
13 improvement in operational efficiency do these
14 targets represent? Sorry. This is a loaded question.
15 And what mechanisms are in place to track progress
16 towards these goals on a quarterly basis with
17 transparent reporting to the Council?

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANTONELLI: So, the
19 targets that were set was 1.5 percent for this year
20 and 2.5 percent for next year, which was the standard
21 target given to agencies. And, I mean, in terms of
benchmarks, again, it really depends on where we
land, on what initiatives that we work out, but, you
know, we'll certainly have monitoring tools in place
for whatever gets decided.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: As you just
4 mentioned, I know that it's tough, because when
5 there's a lot of snow over time and other costs tend
6 to add up, more so for Sanitation, I would say, than
7 any other Department. So, we thank you for all the
8 work you're doing.

9 And just how does DSNY ensure that
10 cost-savings measures pursued by yourself do not
11 compromise service quality because obviously we want
12 to make sure it doesn't compromise on that, public
13 safety or regulatory compliance, and what percentage
14 of proposed savings initiatives have been rejected
15 due to potential negative impacts on operations,
16 because that's something we would want to know as
17 well as what cannot be done because it sacrifices too
18 much on services, and what oversight mechanisms exist
19 to evaluate whether implemented savings have
20 unintended consequences on agency performance or
21 public service delivery.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANTONELLI: So, I
think a lot of that we won't really know until we,
you know, work our way through the process and have
the actual initiatives that the Administration would
like to pursue.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Okay, great. And we
3 look forward to the reports.

4 And then two more questions around, one
5 is abandoned vehicle removal and the other is one of
6 our favorites, which is illegal dumping enforcement.

7 So, for the abandoned vehicle removal,
8 PMMR shows abandoned vehicle removals increased 35
9 percent from 7,337 in the first four months of FY25
10 to 9,884 in '26. With nearly 10,000 abandoned
11 vehicles that were removed from the city streets over
12 the reporting period, so what is the cost per vehicle
13 removed, and what is the total annual budget for this
14 program, and how does this compare to the cost of
15 vehicles remaining on the streets?

16 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, as far as
17 abandoned vehicles removed, right now we just entered
18 into a contract with four additional vendors. And
19 then, you know, we've had discussions with those
20 vendors, and we're sending out letters to anybody,
21 any lien holders or property owners when it comes to
their vehicles. The initial fee is about 150 dollars
for the initial tow, and then there's about a
25-dollar storage fee for the first few days, and
then that escalates a bit after a few more days. That

2 will only be imposed if the owner actually comes to
3 reclaim the vehicle. Otherwise, the vehicle is then
4 discarded and crushed by the vehicle vendor. Do you
5 have a number on the budget? I'm sorry. We'll have to
6 get back to you on the budget.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: And just out of
8 curiosity, was that just through a normal RFP
9 process?

10 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Correct, yeah.
11 Yeah, normal RFP process.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Okay. PMMR also
13 shows revenue from abandoned vehicles is budgeted
14 conservatively at 100,000 dollars annually, despite
15 actual collections of 61.3 million in FY24 and 57.9
16 million in FY25. So why is there such a large
17 discrepancy between the budgeted and accrual revenue,
18 and what accounts for the vehicle auction salvage
19 value volatility?

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANTONELLI: So, I
21 think there may have just been a discrepancy in the
22 numbers. The first number that you cited is actually
23 57,913.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: 57,9- -- okay.

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANTONELLI: Yeah. And
3 the second one was 61,256. So, they're within the
4 budgeted ranges.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Of 100,000, okay.
6 Thank you for that clarification.

7 Considering the large increase in vehicle
8 removals, do you think, and this may be based on the
9 other numbers, budget can support continued removals
10 and enforcement? And are there additional vehicles
11 that could be removed if more resources were
12 budgeted?

13 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: I'm sorry. I
14 could just take that. So, there's two types of
15 vehicles. There's the derelict vehicle, which has to
16 meet a certain criteria. Essentially, the vehicle has
17 to be valued of less than 2,250 dollars. We have a
18 criteria and a policy that we follow, our field
19 supervisors follow. And then there's the rotation tow
20 program, which NYPD handles, which is basically
21 anything above 2,250 or anything with vehicle plates.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Wait, the car?
Sorry, just to clarify. So the car is valued at
2,250?

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2 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Less than
3 2,250.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Less than 2,250.

5 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Right. The
6 main criteria is it can't have any plates. If it has
7 plates, then it's not deemed derelict. So, it can't
8 have plates. And then there's a certain criteria,
9 like if the vehicle is burnt out, has severe damage,
10 the type of vehicle. So, there's different criteria
11 in order for us to deem it as derelict. If it's
12 deemed derelict, then we work with our vendors that I
13 mentioned before, and then they bring it to their
14 facility, and we send out a letter to the lien holder
15 or property owner available. If it's a rotation tow,
16 NYPD will take that vehicle, and they have vendors.
17 We do monthly tag and tow operations with NYPD
18 because a lot of times what happens is we'll have an
19 area where we get complaints on, and there's derelict
20 vehicles, and then there's not derelict vehicles. So,
21 in order for us to be more efficient and not just
take some vehicles and not the other, we work closely
with NYPD, who's been a great partner, either the
local precinct or we have the vehicle recovery team

2 that works with us on trying to remove some of these
3 vehicles.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Great. And I trust
5 there's a way you have to figure out what's derelict
6 or not, because I'm just saying I had my '93 Camry,
7 which I drove until it had 265,000 miles on it. So,
8 it may not look great from the outside, but the
9 engine may still be good.

10 Okay. So, moving on really quickly to
11 illegal dumping enforcement. PMMR shows illegal
12 dumping enforcement improvements, which is great, 15
13 percent more summons issued from 246 to 283, and 80
14 percent more vehicles impounded from 101 to 182,
15 nearly 50 percent of the 417 total impounded in all
16 of FY25. What is the total number of illegal dumping
17 cameras deployed? I think it was 337 as of FY25.

18 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Correct.

19 And what is the conviction/fine
20 collection rate for violations caught on camera?

21 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, we really
22 don't have those numbers as far as the conviction
23 rate. That's processed to the Office of
24 Administrative Trials and Hearings, OATH. But I can
25 say as far as illegal dumping cameras, first I want

2 to thank the Council for their partnership because a
3 lot of these are put up with funding, Council Member
4 discretionary funds. One of the things that we
5 actually did in my current tenure is we were getting
6 a lot of cameras that had no hits, meaning that we
7 weren't getting any impounds or summonses. We had a
8 few Council Members where we worked on it because it
9 is some money to move the cameras. So, we moved the
10 cameras, and we saw a substantial increase, as you
11 mentioned, but as far as Calendar Year goes, from
12 Calendar Year '24 to Calendar Year '25, there was a
13 62 percent increase in impounds, and then summonses,
14 we had a 49 percent increase in summonses. So, I
15 think that's something that we're exploring. We are
16 working with a vendor. Right now, it's a little
17 premature, but I'm finding that hopefully it will be
18 successful, where we have mobile cameras, and we can
19 maybe deploy them in every area. But once we get more
20 details on that, we have to test it first. I think a
21 great tool in our arsenal to stop some of this
illegal dumping.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: And what is the
20 average fine amount for illegal dumping violations,
21 and what percentage of fines are actually collected?

2 And how do you track repeat offenders, and what
3 enhanced penalties exist for habitual violators? And
4 just out of curiosity on a personal note, how has
5 technology or lack of technology helped or hurt that
6 endeavor?

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: You mean
8 technology as far as identifying the vehicles?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Right, or just the
10 cameras and how you guys are tracking it.

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, the
12 cameras have an LPR, license plate reader, which has
13 been very, very helpful in helping us identify if
14 there's a vehicle involved, because that's the only
15 way we can consider something illegal dumping, if
16 it's maybe a material thrown out from a vehicle. And
17 as far as the fines, it's about a 4,000-dollar fine
18 if we catch somebody and impound their vehicle, plus
19 the impound fee and the clean-up fee.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Okay. And what is
21 the annual revenue generated from illegal dumping
fines and vehicle impoundment fees, and how does this
compare to the cost of operating the actual illegal
dumping enforcement program?

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Trying to find
3 it here. He's looking for it now, but maybe we just
4 get back to you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Sure, no, that's
6 fine.

7 And this is definitely an issue we've
8 seen all across areas of Eastern Queens, Southeast
9 Queens, and my District as well. So we appreciate all
10 your efforts on this. So thank you, and thank you,
11 Chair.

12 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Thank you very
13 much.

14 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you.
15 Now I'd like to pass it over to Council
16 Member Carr.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Thank you, Chair.
18 Commissioner, always a pleasure to see you. I want to
19 thank you for your responsiveness to me personally
20 during the latest storm and the removal operations.
21 Appreciate that from you and your team.

But I do want to review a little bit of
the situation from that period, particularly as it
relates to the coming budget. Our delegation, along
with the Chair of this Committee, sent a letter over

2 with some questions in advance of this hearing, and I
3 want to focus in on a couple of them. In particular,
4 how the Department determines its allocation of
5 resources. There's been a lot of discussion of this
6 over the years, lane miles, is it land area, is it
7 population, what should it be, and to what extent
8 that permits you to have flexibility to respond to
9 real-time conditions. And so that's my first
10 question, is what is the formula for general resource
11 deployment, and then what, if any, ability does that
12 leave you to rearrange that in advance of a coming
13 storm, particularly when forecasts indicate certain
14 parts of the city will be impacted harder than
15 others, and how did that play out with that recent
16 storm from last month?

17 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So, as
18 far as snow operations go, our main focus obviously
19 is going to be salt-spreading operations and plowing
20 operations. It's all determined by, as you mentioned
21 before, there's mileage and then there's lane miles,
and that's all allocated. And we try to have, it's a
general rule of thumb, depending on the type of, for
like plows, it's like 8 to 12 miles per sector, but
we always look for efficiencies after every snow

2 season to see what worked and didn't work. As far as
3 salt-spreading operations, a little higher, it's
4 probably like 18 to 20 miles, and that's because we
5 have less salt spreaders than plows. So that's all
6 how we break down the plow plans and the spreader
7 plans.

8 As far as the, as you mentioned, so storm
9 like the one we had last month, one of the things
10 that I did, and I'm glad I did it, is we have a
11 requirements contract, which is a few vendors that we
12 have every year that has the ability to give us extra
13 resources, such as skid steers, front end loaders,
14 dump trucks, and then tow trucks. The tow truck
15 contracts we always activate generally just because
16 if we get anybody impeding us on the roadway, we just
17 move the vehicles over and get the plows in. So that
18 was one contract that's, it's really easy to
19 essentially just call because you know you're always
20 going to, you could always use them. The one thing
21 that I, you know, I think what allowed me to kind of
have extra resources available was the emergency
contracts. So, if you recall, the Governor declared a
state of emergency the Saturday before the storm. I
then took the opportunity, obviously got approval

3 from the Deputy Mayor of Operations, to start
4 initiating approval for emergency contracts. The
5 emergency contracts allows me to expand a little
6 further as far as number of resources, and then we
7 actually did call in extra contractors. So, we had
8 over 500 pieces on average between the requirements
9 contract and the emergency contract, and those were
10 the resources that we immediately deployed once we
11 started seeing some of the issues in Staten Island,
12 as we all know.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: So, I think that's a
14 good segue to my next point because, you know, Staten
15 Island, I think, gets the short end of that stick on
16 the lane miles equation, but it doesn't take into
17 account the difficulty of the topography and the fact
18 that we're not on a grid system the way much of the
19 rest of the city is, and so I think what we saw in
20 that recent storm was the longer it took to get to
21 us, the more difficult the job was at the back end.
And so I think that raises the point about the
equipment that you're kind of alluding to, which is
that you have to rely on these contracting
situations, these opportunities. And is there not a
chance now that we've kind of been through this

2 recent storm to do some acquisition on behalf of the
3 Department so that you're less reliant on those
4 emergency contractors?

5 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. And
6 those are one of the conversations that we've had
7 internally with, you know, obviously my Deputy Mayor
8 and OMB on that. You know, after the storm, we did an
9 after action and we're going to have to do a after
10 snow season after action just because every snow
11 season obviously brings challenges and things that we
12 obviously want to improve on. And one of the things
13 that we are internally talking about is, you know,
14 those areas that you're mentioning, some of the hill
15 blocks and things that we know that if we get that
16 amount of snow, we will continue to have challenges.
17 So, there's different things, again, like we're
18 talking about maybe doubling up some sectors, using
19 equipment like front end loaders in there on the
20 onset. So, I think we want to be a little bit more
21 agile and we have right now the equipment. I think
just looking at the terrain, the narrow streets,
things like that, obviously one of the biggest
factors also that when it comes to snow operations,
it's the nature of down events. You know, it's snow

2 equipment that's out there and the conditions and,
3 you know, salt obviously corrodes everything so,
4 taking that into account, we are looking at that
5 closely. And that's one of the things we're
6 definitely making adjustments for, not only in Staten
7 Island, but in other areas. You know, there's always
8 areas across the city we could always improve service
9 time, and that's definitely one of the things we're
10 looking at this year.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: And Chair, if I
12 could just ask one quick question just to wrap up.

13 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Sure.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Thank you.

15 I appreciate that. I look forward to
16 working with you in aid of that goal.

17 And then last, unrelated, is I understand
18 the Department's been undertaking an internal
19 investigation with respect to the organics composting
20 facility and the smell effects that it's having on
21 nearby neighborhoods, in particular the town of
Travis. Can you let me know when you expect that to
conclude? And is that considering things like capital
improvements to the site that could potentially
mitigate that nuisance?

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANTONELLI: Sure.

3 Absolutely. And that's one thing we're working
4 closely with DEC on. We've been engaged with DEC in
5 the last, you know, year or so on that. And one of
6 the things are we are working with some capital
7 improvement upgrades on that. Do you want to speak
8 about what we have in the budget for the Staten
9 Island compost facility? But we are working on
10 finalizing a number for upgrading the facility
11 because of the compost facility used to be just the
12 yard waste. And now with the program, we're accepting
13 coal collection, food waste, and yard waste.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: And it's growing?

13 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: It's growing,
14 correct.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Thank you,
15 Commissioner. Thank you, Chair.

16 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you,
17 Council Member Carr.

18 I think based on assessment, this is a
19 good time just to talk about some budget
20 transparency, specifically the pooled versus the
21 borough allocations. So, the Department's budget
structure consolidates most of its operational

2 funding into citywide program areas rather than
3 borough-specific allocations. This makes it difficult
4 for the Council to assess whether resources are being
5 distributed equitably across neighborhoods. It is
6 Monday. I can't speak. I don't know what's going on.
7 I need more coffee. What percentage of the
8 Department's Fiscal '27 operating budget is allocated
9 to specific borough operations versus pooled into
citywide/general program areas?

10 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, the pooled
11 versus borough allocation, I think for DSNY, I think
12 why it's structured that way actually plays a benefit
13 in a sense of, I'll give you an example, targeted
14 neighborhood task force operation, right? So, there's
15 about 38 Sanitation workers that we assign daily, and
16 there's 1,700 locations citywide that we have to
17 clean, right? If we are structuring those heads for
18 each district specifically and now we don't move
19 them, if some areas don't need cleaning every month,
20 some of them need cleaning every two months,
21 depending on, you know, the weather plays a factor.
In the cold weather, people apparently don't like to
dump, which is helpful for us. But in those cases,
then we would move them around more fluidly, and I

3 think that's a benefit for us to continue to have
4 that structure. And the other things that, you know,
5 I'm very excited about, and I mentioned in my
6 testimony, but I want to go into it a little bit
7 more, is that we have shifted our operation as far as
8 identifying cleanliness issues across the city by
9 leveraging our internal -- we have an internal field
10 data collection application that the supervisors all
11 have on their phones, the superintendents and the
12 chiefs at the boroughs have on their desktop, and our
13 Analytics Team has done a great job of creating
14 dashboards on these entries and seeing where these
15 conditions are. Because, you know, relying on 3-1-1
16 data, obviously I think everybody would agree, it's
17 not the best use of identifying cleanliness issues
18 because somebody in the neighborhood may not complain
19 a lot, doesn't mean the neighborhood doesn't need
20 resources. So, I think this shift of having that
21 approach plus having 3-1-1 data in there is going to
play benefits for us to be able to allocate resources
more efficiently, but I think having that flexibility
of having the resources across the city and not just
designated to one district I think is beneficial for
all neighborhoods.

3 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Beyond that
4 system that you just mentioned, does the Department
5 find other ways to internally track or allocate
6 pooled resources to borough-specific operations? Are
7 there any accounting systems that are used to ensure
8 equitable distribution?

9 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So that
10 is all, there's a few things. So, we have the
11 collections, which are, we kind of work on those, we
12 call them productivity targets on a year-round --
13 every year we make adjustments to that program and
14 then each district is allocated a certain amount of
15 truck shifts depending on the day of the week, and
16 that's all driven by tonnage and productivity. And
17 then we have the cleanliness resources that I
18 mentioned, TNT, PCI, and then litter baskets. And
19 then a lot of those are adjusted depending on if
20 we're seeing any issues across the city. And we have
21 an internal application called SMART. So, in there we
have what we call utilization. In the utilization
snapshot, which I, again, this is another thing that
I've done with my uniformed chiefs, is where we go
over a weekly snapshot of utilization and see are the
resources adequate. Our Chief of Cleaning looks at

2 things all the time and he always asks for additional
3 resources in certain areas where we're seeing issues
4 and then those adjustments are made. So, you know, we
5 have a really good tool that tracks all these
6 resources and we make adjustments, you know, weekly
7 or even daily sometimes where we know something's,
8 you know, coming up ahead of us.

9 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: With these
10 systems, how does the current structure allow for the
11 Council's ability or impact the Council's ability, if
12 you will, to hold the Department accountable for
13 borough level performance and spending and like
14 ability to identify disparities in service levels
15 across neighborhoods or advocate for increased
16 resources in underserved areas?

17 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So, I
18 think there's a few areas there. So, you know, we
19 have some external reporting. So, we have a report
20 that we submit to the Council on litter basket
21 service. So, that's one way that obviously the
Council can use to obviously give input on where
they're seeing gaps. You know, the MMR, PMMR, other
areas. I mean, that's not at a district level, but I
think obviously when we're seeing those kinds of

2 issues, then, you know, obviously happy to work with
3 anybody in the Council if they're seeing any issues.
4 You know, 3-1-1 data is another one where we can see
5 if there's any issues. We have seen a decline year
6 over year as far as, you know, overflowing litter
7 basket complaints, which is great because those are
8 one of the metrics that we want to make sure that we
9 continue to either keep flat or decline. So, decline
10 in litter basket service, overflowing litter basket
11 complaints are one of the things that we're finding
12 to be successful across most of the Council
13 Districts.

14 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Could you
15 give us an understanding of which boroughs have the
16 highest rates of missed collections per 1,000
17 residents, street cleanliness complaints per capita,
18 litter basket overflow complaints and average
19 response time to 3-1-1 service requests.

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, as far as
21 the highest rate per capita of dirty conditions,
which is at 8 per 1,000 residents, Manhattan had the
highest amount for FY25. And then, as far as street
sweeping complaints, which, you know, it's the
highest, but I think it's actually not that bad, is

2 Brooklyn had the highest per capita rate of street
3 sweeping complaints with two per 1,000 residents. And
4 then, let's see here, dirty conditions, the average
5 time to resolve was one day and then dirty conditions
6 was on an average time of three days to resolve in
7 FY25. But these are one of the things that we look at
8 internally, you know, the SLA times, and we always
9 want to stay above 90, 95 percent. Obviously, we want
10 to respond to, you know, residents' complaints as
11 timely as possible. So those are one of the things
12 that we track as far as, you know, resolving these
13 issues.

12 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Does the
13 Department also track cost per resident or cost per
14 ton metrics by borough? And if you do, do the metrics
15 reveal anything about resource allocation equity?

15 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: No. Right now,
16 we do not track those two metrics, but, you know, our
17 resources are basically allocated on more of just the
18 productivity program. As I mentioned, we have an
19 agreement with the Sanitation Workers Union, which is
20 to making sure that we have enough productivity, and
21 then we make those adjustments on targets, truck
shifts, every fiscal year with them.

2 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: What is the
3 ratio of uniformed Sanitation workers per 1,000
4 residents by borough? Are there any significant
5 disparities that correlate with service quality
6 metrics?

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: No. So, our
8 current headcount, as far as uniformed personnel,
9 we're budgeted for 7,960 uniformed Sanitation
10 workers, supervisors, superintendents, and chiefs. I
11 think our budgeted number is a little under 7,000.
12 No, Sanitation workers. It's a little under 7,000. I
13 think one of the things as far as we do what's called
14 a staffing parity analysis every year, and what we do
15 is we take the, we call them post-quotas. So, the
16 post-quotas have what we should have for collection
17 operations, and then after that, we take actuals of
18 everything that we had throughout the year. So, the
19 litter basket quotas, TNT, PCI, and then we go into
20 any, you know, things that aren't targeted per se, as
21 I mentioned before, things like transport blockades.
And then we then roll those all up into a really
in-depth analysis, and then we have what we think the
headcount should be per district. The one thing I
just want to point out is that our staffing structure

2 is very fluid, where just because a district has,
3 let's say, 100 Sanitation workers assigned to them in
4 the district, doesn't mean that those 100 Sanitation
5 workers are only going to work in that district. They
6 have the ability to be sent out of town, we call it,
7 so you can, as I mentioned before, you can go from
8 one district to another, or, you know, we can go and
9 they can work night shifts. So, there's a lot of
10 fluidity in that sense, which makes it easier for us
11 so we're not boxed into a number in each district.

12 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Building on
13 that, what specific mechanisms exist within the
14 Department's budget and operational planning to
15 address service equity concerns raised by Council
16 Members, especially if they represent underserved
17 districts?

18 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So, we
19 have a few external facing tools that allow the
20 public to see, you know, DSNY's activity in progress.
21 So, everybody's familiar with PlaNYC, which was
heavily used this past season, that's one. Sweep NYC
is another external application tool that the public
can use to see if their street was, you know, swept
at the time they were supposed to, so that's a very

2 effective tool. You have the PMMR and the MMR, and
3 then you have just Open Data, which we have a lot of
4 data sets in there that the public or anybody can
5 look to see, you know, what's on there. As far as
6 regular reporting, we have the report on street
7 cleanliness, which is submitted twice a year, litter
8 basket service, which is submitted twice a year. We
9 have our borough-based snow plans, which we have one
10 draft and then one final report per year. And then we
11 have various reports related on fleet. So those are
12 some of the things that, you know, the public and the
13 Council can use to, you know, identify any gaps or
14 any issues as far as DSNY resources go.

15 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Given that
16 there is already so much data already available, does
17 the Department or would the Department be open to
18 alternative reporting mechanisms that could help
19 improve transparency, like quarterly reports on
20 service metrics and resources appointed by borough,
21 public dashboards showing real-time allocation of
trucks, workers, and equipment by district, or annual
reporting on cost per ton collected and cost per
resident served by the boroughs?

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. I think
3 my goal is always to be as transparent as possible. I
4 think the Administration as well. You know,
5 obviously, there's a resource constraint there, you
6 know, making sure that we have the adequate resources
7 to make sure that something is possible. But I think
8 the more that we can be transparent and explain why
9 things are done a certain way with our agency, I
10 think, can only help us and has helped us in certain
11 regards. So, I'm always open to, obviously, having
12 additional reporting mechanisms or things that, as
13 you mentioned, Chair, obviously, something that will
14 be productive, right, and I'm sure we can work
together on finding what those areas are and where
you're seeing and seeing what would be great for
beneficial use.

15 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: I appreciate
16 that. And just to put a little bow on this section,
17 if a borough is constantly underperforming on key
18 metrics like cleanliness scores or collection
19 liability or response times, how does the
20 Department's pooled budget structure facilitate or
21 hinder the ability to direct additional resources to
improve performance?

3 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, I think
4 that does help us. So, we have weekly meetings. The
5 Chief of Department, who's with me today, has weekly
6 meetings with the borough commands. There's seven
7 zones. Each borough command comes down with the
8 district superintendent, and they go over stats. We
9 go over 3-1-1 stats, and those 3-1-1 stats are from
10 little baskets, 30 conditions, enforcement, you know,
11 stats, things like that, productivity measures. And
12 then the Chief of Department goes over with each
13 borough and seeing, like, where are these issues, why
14 are you having chronic complaints, you know, what are
15 we doing to fix it with the existing resources? And
16 sometimes we find that maybe additional resources may
17 be necessary. Obviously, we want to try to keep
18 things internal with each borough, and that's why I
19 think the pooled approach is definitely effective for
20 us. So, if we have an area where we need more
21 resources, at least for, you know, a certain amount
of time, we'll try those out and see if that works.
Obviously, we don't want to impact any other
district. We don't want to take from one district,
give it to another, and then we're having issues. So,
that's one of the things that we do every week. I

2 think it's proven to be very effective, and I think
3 we learn a lot, obviously, because we're not always
4 on the ground, but the district superintendents are,
5 and I think them voicing the concerns and challenges
6 they're having help us identify the resource needs
7 and then where we should allocate them to.

8 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you.

9 Two quick questions on commercial waste zones before
10 I turn it back over to my Colleagues. Really quickly,
11 the admin fees had jumped to 5.9 million in the
12 budgeted FY27. Is this growth due to an expansion of
13 operational zones, fee rate increases, or improved
14 collection rates?

15 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, the fee is
16 set at it's about a little over 107,000 dollars per
17 awarded carter, right, so I think we're projecting to
18 have close to 7 million dollars once all 20 zones are
19 online. Those fees are there to offset the PS costs
20 related to the program and the OTPS costs. So, that's
21 essentially just a franchise fee, and that was set by
a user cost analysis before the zones were
implemented, and a lot of things went into account
for that, and as I mentioned, most of it's personnel,

2 office space, OTPS, things like that, and that's
3 where that money that you're mentioning is going to.

4 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Okay. And
5 what is the projected trajectory for the CWZ fee
6 revenue as the program reaches full citywide
7 implementation?

8 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, as I
9 mentioned, that 107,000, once we get all 20 zones
10 implemented, will be close to 7 million dollars
11 annually.

12 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Okay. Cool.

13 And now I will turn it over to Council
14 Member Pierina Sanchez.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Thank you
16 so much, Council Member Justin Sanchez. Thank you,
17 Chair. Good morning, everyone.

18 In December of 2025, Commissioner, as the
19 Council voted to enact sweeping street vending
20 reform, Mayor-elect Mamdani publicly committed to
21 support the critical work of implementing these
reforms. The Mayor guaranteed that we will process,
and this is in quotes, new licenses and staff our
enforcement agencies. However, the Administration's
Fiscal '27 preliminary budget includes no new funding

2 for the Office of Street Vending Enforcement within
3 Sanitation, and as we know, there are just 40
4 Sanitation officers for more than 20,000 complaints
5 per year. So, my first question is, with a
6 significant number of new licenses legislated to roll
7 out in this Fiscal Year, how is the Department of
8 Sanitation complying with Local Law 54 of 2026 and
9 appropriately staffing the Office of Street Vending
Enforcement?

10 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Morning,
Council Member. Thank you.

11 So, right now, our headcount is about 40
12 positions dedicated to street vending. 35 of those
13 are Sanitation police officers. I think we first need
14 to assess what the impact is as the as the initial
15 onset of increasing licenses go out. We're happy and
16 definitely determined to make sure that we are
17 complying with this local law. So, I know it's 80
18 percent of the licenses that we have to inspect on an
19 annual basis. I just think, you know, right now,
20 until we see what that is like, we really won't be
21 able to assess. But I think obviously DSNY is
committed to making sure that we are maintaining that
that goal and inspecting the licenses. So, I just

2 think it's just a matter of seeing how this is going
3 to play out and then how that plays out in the actual
4 street and make sure that we're efficient in making
5 those inspections.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Thank
7 you, Commissioner.

8 Would you say that you have enough
9 resources to cover the licenses and illegal activity
10 that we are seeing out there today?

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, yeah, I
12 think I think right now where we have adequate
13 resources. I think right now the unforeseen challenge
14 is going to be knowing once we get these licenses
15 out, what that's going to look like. But I think
16 obviously we are definitely committed to making sure
17 I mean, we don't have a choice, right? Local law is
18 something we have to comply with, right? So, we're
19 committed to reaching that goal of at least 80
20 percent, and we're working with OMB and the
21 Administration to make sure that that we are getting
the adequate resources as that ramps up.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Thank
23 you, Commissioner.

3 And as I sit here next to my sister from
4 Flushing, Fordham and Flushing, we're besties. I am
5 going to just continue to push on this point. I do
6 think that you need increased resources to handle
7 what you're seeing on the ground now, just from, you
8 know, what we're feeling on the ground in terms of
9 complaints and the agency's capacity to respond. So,
10 you know, just foreshadowing that.

11 And then my second question is that
12 although DSNY is the lead enforcement agency for
13 street vending, vendors often face enforcement
14 actions from NYPD. This can be incredibly confusing
15 for vendors. They might receive a ticket from
16 Sanitation in the morning and then another from NYPD
17 a few hours later. Furthermore, the uniforms that
18 DSNY officers wear look very similar today to what is
19 worn by ICE. And you can understand, of course, why
20 this can be alarming for street vendors in this
21 environment, more than 90 percent of whom are
immigrants. So, here's the question in the interest
of not having redundancies in our budget and being
effective with our resources and as you scale up the
Office of Street Vending Enforcement, how will you
coordinate with NYPD to streamline enforcement? And

2 is it possible for just DSNY to issue street vending
3 tickets and summonses?

4 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, as far as
5 coordinating, I think we've done a great job
6 coordinating with NYPD. You know, we still have
7 Community Link where we work with them on any issues
8 and doing, you know, whether it's operations
9 together. I think as far as us being the only agency,
10 I think that's something we have to evaluate. You
11 know, obviously, there's a component of counterfeit
12 items, things like that, that we don't enforce. So, I
13 think probably, I can't speak for NYPD, but there
14 might be some level of involvement on their end. But
15 I think having them involved in this is probably at
16 least for now still necessary. And as far as you
17 know, our goal is never to confuse anybody. I mean,
18 going back to the beginning of when we took over
19 enforcement from DCWP, we always did, you know,
20 outreach and education, and I still think that that's
21 the best approach. I'm always happy to work with any
of the Council Members on seeing if there's areas
where we need to do more of that, and I think we've
come up with, you know, literature and things that
might help that. And I think once we get that piece

2 through, then I think we can then focus on where the
3 enforcement is necessary in your districts.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Thank
5 you.

6 Chair, if I may, just a quick question on
7 body cameras. Thank you, Chair.

8 Did DSNY receive funding in Fiscal '26
9 for body cameras? And if so, can you help us
10 understand if this is being prioritized over
11 additional personnel?

12 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So, we
13 did receive funding for body cameras, and that is for
14 the entire popular universe of Sanitation police
15 officers. We have about 140 total between various
16 units. And the funding for that was, we received
17 about 492,000 in FY26 and then 200,000 in FY27.

18 I'm sorry, what was the second part of
19 your question, Council Member?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Are the
21 cameras being prioritized over adding?

ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: No. This was,
again, going back to transparency, I think this was
one of the things that we felt was important because
as we're doing enforcement out there, we had previous

2 instances of issues where somebody, the public said
3 one thing and our officers said another thing. And
4 now having the body camera, you can clearly see where
5 the issue is. And I think that's beneficial for us to
6 be out there now. And then as street vending, like
7 you mentioned, the license is increased to have that
8 transparency for us to make sure that it protects the
public and our workforce.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Thank
10 you, Commissioner. Thank you, Chair.

11 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you,
12 Council Member Sanchez.

13 I want to stay on this topic of street
14 vending quickly. What is the estimated additional
15 annual cost to the Department for increased litter
16 basket servicing, street cleaning, and enforcement in
17 areas with expanded street vending under the proposed
18 legislation? What percentage of this cost could be
19 offset through vendor fees or fines? And does the
20 Department have sufficient equipment and personnel to
21 maintain cleanliness standards and high-density
vending zones without impacting service levels in
other areas?

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So, as
3 far as increased litter basket servicing, so the
4 vendors aren't supposed to be putting their waste in
5 the litter basket. So, I think going back to one of
6 the benefits of having more licensed vendors is them
7 being more aware of that these are some of the things
8 that they shouldn't be doing so I think that's going
9 to help us. You know, I think that we have as I
10 mentioned before, we have the baseline budget now of
11 one of the highest service levels that we've ever
12 had, and I think just making any adjustments on
13 overflowing litter basket complaints is where we
14 would do it. But I don't know if it'd be specific,
15 just tied to street vending and them placing their
16 waste in the litter baskets.

17 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: What is the
18 current standard of sanitation violations issued to
19 street vendors per 1,000 vendors? What percentage of
20 vendors comply with waste disposal requirements like
21 we were just talking about? And what additional
resources would the Department need to improve
compliance rates if the number of legal vending
locations increases significantly?

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, as far as
3 violations issued, we really don't have that number
4 per vendors, because sometimes when we go out, some
5 of the vendors are not licensed and, unfortunately,
6 when we have confiscations, it's because it's
7 abandoned. So, in Calendar Year '25, we issued 7,296
8 violations. Out of those resulted 6,573
9 confiscations. But out of those, 4,544 were
10 abandoned. So, you know, unfortunately, sometimes
11 when we approach some of these locations, if they're
12 illegal, they'll just leave the merchandise there or
13 whatever and then then it becomes abandoned and we
14 confiscate it. So, I think once we have the licenses
15 and we have a better picture, we'll probably have a
16 better sense of the per 1,000 question you had,
17 Chair.

18 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you.

19 So, the PMMR shows 2.9 million litter
20 baskets were serviced in the first four months of
21 FY26, down 141,000 from FY25. How many additional
litter baskets would need to be deployed in expanding
vending zones? What is the projected annual cost for
servicing these baskets expressed as a dollar amount,
if you have that, and percentage increase to the

3 litter basket budget. And what is the anticipated
4 frequency of service daily, twice daily or more
5 required to prevent overflow in high traffic vending
6 areas?

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So, as
8 far as the additional baskets placed out for vending.
9 Again, I know our goal is to educate the vendors now.
10 And as the licenses is one of the things I think I'd
11 like to work with our agency partners is that initial
12 onset of education. Once these licenses are expanding
13 later this year is to educate them on proper ways of
14 waste disposal. So, I think increasing the number of
15 litter baskets for street vendors to dispose of
16 shouldn't be the case, but I think there may be cases
17 where if street vendors are attracting more
18 pedestrians, we may have to make adjustments on
19 commercial corridors, and that's something where we
20 do all the time, where we see, you know, from litter
21 basket complaints or just field observations. As far
as number of times that we service, every litter
basket service at least once a day. And then on the
commercial corridors, they get service two times a
day.

CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you.

2 And what is the percentage of 3-1-1
3 complaints related to dirty conditions or overflowing
4 trash or rodent activity that occurs in current high
5 density vending areas compared to areas without
6 vending? Has the Department conducted an analysis of
7 Sanitation impact per vendor in different
8 neighborhoods? And finally, what baseline cleanliness
9 metrics would the Department establish to measure the
10 success or failure of expanded vending under the new
11 legislation?

12 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So, as
13 far as stats, we don't have the stats broken down by
14 specific corridors that have vendors, but I can't say
15 in Calendar Year 2025, as far as overflowing litter
16 basket complaints compared to Calendar Year '24, we
17 had a 2.8 percent decrease in complaints. Street
18 sweeping complaints in Calendar Year '25, we had a
19 13.2 decrease in 3-1-1 complaints. And then as far as
20 illegal dumping or removal requests, we were pretty
21 flat with a 0.5 percent increase. And then abandoned
vehicles, we were down 12 percent. So, they're
trending in the right direction. I think one of the
things that I'm going to try to leverage is going
back to our field data collection app is maybe

2 including identifiers where if we have a big stretch
3 of illegal vendors and that's something that we need
4 to maybe analyze better. That would be one of the
5 things that we would look to incorporate into that
6 process.

7 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you.

8 I'd like now to turn it over to Council
9 Member Morano.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Thank you, Mr.

11 Chairman, and thank you for your leadership.

12 Commissioner, thank you for your testimony. Thank you
13 as well for being so personally responsive to me
14 during the recent snowstorm and for the work that
15 Sanitation workers did in extremely difficult
16 conditions. I know this winter has presented a lot of
17 real challenges.

18 That said, I do want to focus
19 specifically on the experience in Staten Island and
20 sort of pick up with some of the questions that
21 Council Member Carr left us where residents felt that
some of the response lagged behind what they
expected. The Mayor had said publicly that Staten
Island's topography was one of the challenges during
this storm. But as you know, being a veteran of the

2 Department, Staten Island's hills and streets layout,
3 they're not new. Those conditions have existed for
4 decades. So, my question is, why would the borough's
5 topography still pose a surprise challenge to the
6 snow response system?

6 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So,
7 Council Member, I don't think it was a surprise. So,
8 I'll back up a little bit. The topography is when we
9 have narrow streets, hill streets like that, we have
10 equipment that we refer to as holsters. Those are
11 like the pickup trucks that have the inserts that
12 dispense salt. And we invested this year in
13 increasing that capacity from the two cubic yard
14 holsters to the four cubic yard holsters. So that
15 would require operators to go back and forth to
16 reload every time. I think the reality is, you know,
17 the amount of snowfall in some of those streets and
18 the drifts just made it challenging for those pieces
19 of equipment. I think when we deployed, I mean, we
20 deployed 263 hired additional pieces of snow
21 equipment. And I think when we realized that some of
these drifts became very, very high, that's when we
had to shift operations. We essentially hauled out of
some of these blocks. I mean, we had blocks in like

2 Silver Lakes where we hauled 18 truckloads of snow
3 out of some of these blocks. And obviously, it's not
4 that we weren't prepared. I think it's just the
5 nature of some of these blocks. Some of our trucks,
6 we deployed V-plows, we deployed different kinds of
7 equipment. And I think it was more of those things
8 that depending on where we were, it just required
9 different types of resources. And we immediately had
10 those resources in Staten Island as soon as we
11 realized that we had a whole lot of there. And we
12 dedicated, as I mentioned before, the breakdown was
13 339 of our own personnel and equipment, 263 hired,
14 and then we had snow shovelers, which was 108. So, I
15 think all those things put together, it was just one
16 of these unique circumstances. But as I mentioned
17 before to Council Member Carr, I think it's one of
18 those things that we're not just going to say, oh, it
19 was a unique circumstance. We want to make sure that
20 we make any adjustments possible for any future event
21 in Staten Island.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: We did hear from
19 multiple principals and parents that snow piles
20 around school campuses and narrow streets prevented
21 buses from accessing schools even after the storm had

2 passed. Is there currently any formal protocol to
3 prioritize plowing around schools and major school
4 campuses after a major storm?

5 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. Yeah. We
6 have the critical facility routes that we have
7 dedicated to those areas around schools, and that's
8 one of the things that we actually do prioritize when
9 it comes to if we get a snow event on a weekend and
10 we make sure we're ready by Monday to have those
11 areas clear. We have close coordination with DOE. I
12 mean, I was in personal touch with the Deputy
13 Chancellor for Facilities, who was constantly
14 updating me on any challenges or issues they had
15 citywide on schools. And as far as the school, the
16 operation itself, NYCEM has the EOC, which has
17 representatives on site. We have daily calls with
18 them. And then any issues we're having with schools,
19 those are immediately given to our operations team.
20 We've had hundreds and hundreds of issues that we
21 immediately addressed immediately between the January
storm and the February storm.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: So, a lot of
20 residents rely heavily on Plow NYC, which we direct
21 constituents to, and I know the Department does. We

2 received a lot of complaints that the map showed
3 streets as plowed when they were still clearly
4 impassable. There were even photos and videos of
5 people on the streets saying this shows our street
6 was just plowed and it wasn't. Can you explain what
7 triggers a street being marked as plowed in the Plow
8 NYC system? Is it simply GPS passed by a plow or is
9 there any verification that the street was actually
10 cleared? And given the complaints about inaccuracies,
11 what improvements could be made to the system to make
12 sure that it's more reliable for the public?

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So, it's
12 basically you have thousands and thousands of
13 segments. So, you may have a street like Highland
14 Boulevard that might have hundreds of segments that
15 are broken up so we use the Department of City
16 Planning. They have segments that they identify. We
17 leverage that data set. It's the citywide street
18 center line. That's the street network that we use.
19 GPS data, as you mentioned, each truck has a CalAmp
20 device that sends a GPS ping every 30 seconds.
21 There's a few things and factors that may cause those
kinds of issues. One of them being GPS drifts. The
reality is it's not perfect technology in every

3 place. Some areas, you know, not Staten Island per
4 se, but like in Manhattan, lower Manhattan, we have
5 challenges with like a canyon effect where the
6 buildings prevent the GPS ping from being very
7 precise. But we work through that regularly with the
8 vendor that has this application. And every year we
9 look to refine this. But it's not a perfect
10 technology. And it's one of the things that I always
11 try to stress is that as great as these tools are,
12 and they really are, I mean, going back to my time,
13 we didn't have anything. We just barely had radios
14 when I was a supervisor. It's always relying on
15 supervisors verifying conditions. I think knowing
16 that a truck traversed the street is just more
17 awareness than anything. But there could be
18 challenges with GPS drifts where a truck is pinging
19 on one segment. It might drift onto another. And
20 those are things that we look for every year. And I'd
21 be happy to get those locations from you, Council
Member, because it is important for us to see why
that happened because that really shouldn't be the
case. And if it is one of those things, then we have
logic that we work with internally to see if we can
maybe refine those and see if there's anything else

2 we can do to make sure that doesn't happen again. Or
3 at the very least know that we're looking at that
4 segment for the next time, and we're looking closer
5 to make sure that doesn't go false positive. So, I'm
6 happy to get that information from you, and we can
7 evaluate that and assess that further.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you,
10 Council Member Morano.

11 So, during the snowstorm, trash
12 collection was at top of mind for many New Yorkers,
13 especially the litter basket servicing. So, I just
14 want to ask a few quick questions about that before I
15 turn it over to Council Member Hanif. What percentage
16 of the Department's over 2-billion-dollar budget is
17 allocated to litter basket servicing in Fiscal Year
18 '27 and how does that compare to Fiscal Year '26?

19 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Okay. Let's
20 see. So, our litter basket service is now baselined,
21 as I mentioned, at 29.7 million for FY26 and the
outyears. So, this represents about 1.4 percent of
DSNY's total budget.

CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: What is the
estimated per basket annual servicing cost? And how

2 does this compare to the cost of managing overflow
3 and illegal dumping complaints?

4 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, I think
5 that's one of those things that it would be
6 misleading if we gave you that analysis for a few
7 things. So, there's approximately 23,000 baskets
8 citywide. As I mentioned, you have the 29.7 million
9 dollars that's baselined, which is about 793 truck
10 shifts each week. That's Monday through Sunday. Those
11 are dedicated to litter basket areas. We have our
12 collection trucks that pick up household waste. Those
13 trucks are required to service the litter baskets
14 along their routes. So, in order for us to be more
15 efficient, what we generally always do is that we
16 have, let's say you live in an area that gets
17 serviced on a Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Those
18 collection areas, those baskets along those
19 collection areas should all get serviced by our
20 refuse collection trucks. We always then start our
21 litter basket service on the opposite collection, so
to speak. So, on an off frequency, we would call it,
so a Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday area. Those are
where we would start our litter basket services and
then move into the Monday, Wednesday, Friday area in

2 the example that I'm giving just to make sure if
3 there's any overflowing issues. So that's two things.
4 And then the third one is the way our productivity
5 program works, without getting too much into detail,
6 is we have partial trucks, which we internally call
7 half trucks. Basically, that means that part of the
8 day the crew is allocated to work on household
9 collections, and then the rest of the day we allocate
10 them to work on manual litter patrol, cleaning up
11 litter baskets, things like that so a lot of that is
12 meshed in together. So, to give you a per litter
basket number would kind of not be accurate just
because of those factors that I mentioned.

13 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you.

14 And what percentage increase in funding would be
15 required to provide twice a day six day a week litter
basket service citywide.

16 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, we
17 believe, basically be close to having what we have
18 now so likely require a little over 30 million
19 dollars, which is close to the baselined funding we
have now.

20 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: And what is
21 the current ratio of litter baskets per 1000

2 residents across neighborhoods, and what percentage
3 variance exists between the highest and lowest served
4 areas.

5 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, we really
6 don't record it by residents. It's more just
7 concentrated along commercial corridors. That's where
8 our (INAUDIBLE) criteria is designed so make sure
9 it's not in areas that don't have a lot of high
10 pedestrian traffic. It's more on commercial
11 corridors.

12 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: And what
13 percentage of the estimated population is served by
14 expanded litter basket service.

15 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, we're
16 estimating, again, it's a rough number, but it's
17 about 75 percent of New Yorkers are serviced but,
18 again, it's primarily focused on commercial
19 corridors, transit hubs, and other high foot traffic
20 areas.

21 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Finally, what
is the average servicing frequency per basket
citywide, and what percentage of baskets receive
daily service versus less frequent service?

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, every
3 basket is serviced at least once a day and then the
4 baskets on commercial corridors are serviced two
5 times a day, daily.

6 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you.

7 And now I'm turning it over to Council
8 Member Hanif.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you, Chair
10 Sanchez and hi, everyone, great to see you. Thank
11 you, Commissioner Lojan, for your very detailed
12 specific answers, both here and our previous hearing
13 and I also just want to give a shout out to Frank
14 Lettera, who I've been in touch with in the off
15 business hours of our work, trying to get parts of my
16 District cleaned up just today, and also really happy
17 that my District is a part of the doggy waste
18 dispenser pilot so far.

19 I was the proud prime sponsor of the
20 mandatory composting program and, since its passage,
21 we really have come a long way from the days that it
was deemed absolutely impossible. So, a few
questions. San Francisco's diversion rate is almost
80 percent for recycling and composting combined,
while ours is at 19.2. What budget investments would

2 DSNY need in order to reach similar diversion over
3 the term.

4 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, I can't
5 speak to San Francisco's diversion rate. I think
6 theirs is calculated a little bit different but,
7 either way, obviously we want to get to as close to
8 that number as possible. I think we're heading in the
9 right direction. You know, last year, we had one of
10 the highest amount of tonnage collected in a single
11 week in the history of DSNY with over 6 million
12 pounds, which is pretty impressive. And I think last
13 year, one of the things we did was with existing
14 resources is when we shifted to make sure that
15 residents were aware of that this was a mandatory
16 law, we have sections that are staffed every day by
17 supervisors. So, there's about 203 sections, we call
18 them sectors, that are staffed by supervisors that
19 are required to go out and do all kinds of things
20 like code compliance, making sure the routes are
21 completed, make sure there's any conditions that --

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: This is strictly
19 for (INAUDIBLE)

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: This is for
21 everything. So, we leverage those supervisors, and we

2 conducted over almost 56,000 outreach attempts to
3 different residents across, and I think, out of
4 those, we issued almost 41,000 warnings. So, the
5 warnings looked like a summons, they really weren't a
6 summons, but I think now we're going to see some of
7 the benefits as far as that goes. We resumed issuing
8 violations to all properties. We didn't stop issuing
9 violations. We're still able to issue to, you know,
10 some of the larger properties. So right now, we
11 started issuing again to everything. We have about
12 500 violations so far for this current calendar year.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: 500 in total.

14 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Total, yeah.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: And how much
16 funding is going towards all things composting?

17 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: What's the
18 headcount on that? So, for composting, it's 33.4
19 million is the baselined funding for curbside
20 composting.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: So, it's staying
the same?

ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Staying the
same.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: And then what
3 about, what's the budget specifically for outreach
4 and community engagement?

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GOODMAN: Good
6 afternoon, Council Member. This is substantially done
7 with in-house resources. We have a full-time outreach
8 staff who have knocked on 800,000 doors, specifically
9 related to curbside composting and continue to do
10 that work. However, we do have 2 million dollars in
11 grant funding for an outreach campaign, specifically
12 focused on the fact that composting is mandatory.
13 That began today and will run over the next month,
14 six weeks trying to hit people during planting leaf
15 season.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Got it. Great.
17 We're really grateful to organizations like Big Reuse
18 in my District for being a lifeline to everyone,
19 single households, full family households to
20 understanding how to compost. I was also curious if
21 there are any partnerships with the DOE for
22 composting in schools, but not just composting
23 physically but also learning about composting.

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GOODMAN: We strongly
25 believe that students are the next generation of

2 composters, and we run programs in schools, directly
3 in-house, but also through Big Reuse, GrowNYC and
4 other community compost partners. A lot of the
5 curricula for these are modeled on '80s and '90s
6 seatbelt campaigns. That was our proof of concept
7 that, you know, kids learned at school to put their
8 seatbelts on and they went home and told their
9 parents to do it. That was the thought process, teach
10 kids to compost, they go home and remind their
11 parents that composting is the law.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: I think that's
13 great. I think that's how it should be done as well.

14 What's the cost per smart composting bins
15 for deployment, maintenance, and servicing and what's
16 the future plans?

17 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sorry about
18 that. Just trying to get that here.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Yeah. No worries.

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Okay. So, I'm
21 sorry, Council Member, you wanted to know the costs
on --

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Basically deploying
them, servicing, maintenance.

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Got it. So,
3 each bin is about 5,500 dollars. That includes the
4 actual installation, there's a wrap that's factory
5 installed, and then there's about a cleaning service
6 that comes with that, which is about 12 cleanings per
7 year per bin.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Got it. And is the
9 idea that the City's going to continue to expand
10 these bins?

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, I think
12 right now we have about 400 composting bins across
13 the city. One of the things that we are starting to
14 evaluate is the usefulness of these bins. So, we have
15 the ability to see how many unlocks people are using
16 these bins for and, when we see underutilized bins, I
17 think we're going to try to shift them. But I think
18 I'm happy to work with you or any Members of the
19 Council that feel like there may be a need to
20 relocate them. We have been working with NYCHA on
21 putting some of those near their campuses. But, you
know, obviously we want to make sure that we're
placing them in areas that are going to be most
efficient. You know, people are taking advantage of
the weekly collections. But if we think that there's

2 a place that would be more useful, I'm happy to work
3 with you or any Members of the Council to see where
4 it would be appropriate to move them.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Got it. So, you're
6 keeping at 400 for now to just better evaluate,
7 understand how the program is going.

8 And would you say from any available data
9 that they're useful, that we should continue to
10 expand them? And how much does this program cost us?

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yeah. So, we
12 saw that there were nearly 870,000 times where the
13 bins were opened, and that's because we're able to
14 tell on the app because you need an app to unlock it.
15 And then as far as continuing it, I think it's just
16 one of those things we're going to continue to see
17 what the what the usage is. We saw that also
18 approximately 2.65 million pounds per year was also
19 generated from some of these bins. So, I think right
20 now it is playing a benefit. And again, I think just
21 strategically placing them in areas where people need
to put out their composting more than once a week, I
think is where we'll look to see we'll find more
efficiencies in these compost bins.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: And just one final
3 question, I mean, yeah, question about dog poop. How
4 much funds are being allocated to the dog waste
5 dispenser pilot?

6 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, it's
7 relatively really inexpensive. So right now, I think
8 we're just doing it with existing resources. I'm
9 surprised that it's been very successful and popular,
10 and I think we put out in three Council Districts so
11 far. I think one of the things that we would just
12 want to make sure is that they're being managed. We
13 don't have the ability right now to be able to
14 replace the bags and buy them so I think putting them
15 out on our better bins has been pretty effective and
16 popular, and we'd love to work with you on expanding
17 that in other areas.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Excellent. Thank
19 you.

20 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: I would like
21 to expand that to my District, just put it out there.

Before we get started with Council Member
Ung, given that we were talking about equipment and
capital budget priorities, I just want to ask a few
quick questions about that.

2 We have 1.13 billion allocated for
3 equipment replacement over five years. What
4 percentage of this is dedicated to replacing the
5 aging collection truck fleet versus transitioning to
6 mechanical trucks for containerization?

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Okay. So, as
8 far as equipment funds allocated for equipment
9 replacements, we have 1.13 billion allocated for
10 equipment replacement over every vehicle type.
11 Depending on the type of equipment, it's replaced
12 depending on the life cycle. So, the highest amount
13 that we have is the reloading collection trucks,
14 which is an eight-year life cycle along with dual-bin
15 collections, it's an eight-year life cycle. And then
16 we have our frontline mechanical sweepers, which is a
17 five-year life cycle. And then our snow equipment.
18 You have our salt spreaders, which have a 12-year
19 life cycle, flowing dumps, which is basically a salt
20 spreader is a 10-year life cycle. And then our
21 (INAUDIBLE) which is a smaller equipment, is an
eight-year life cycle. So, those are the trucks that
we make sure that we're replenishing them
appropriately. And as far as the containerization
initiatives right now, all of our new rear-loading

2 collection trucks and dual bin trucks are being
3 outfitted with tippers. And then we're internally
4 working on coming up with cost estimates as far as
5 the expansion of the entry containerization
6 initiative.

7 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: So, the Bronx
8 garage replacement project. Curious if there are any
9 cost overruns or delays affecting this project. And
10 how does this impact the Department's ability to
11 maintain adequate garage capacity citywide?

12 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So right now,
13 we do not anticipate any cost overruns, but that'll
14 likely be evaluated at the conclusion of
15 construction. We're estimated to start construction
16 at the start of 2027 with the completion date of
17 2034.

18 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: What is the
19 current 10-year capital plan for DSNY, and how is the
20 3.54 billion allocated between equipment and garages?

21 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, our
10-year capital commitment plan, which spans from FY
2026 to FY 2035 is about 3.26 billion. And out of
that, approximately 63 percent is allocated to

2 equipment and then 33 percent is allocated to
3 facilities, which is about 1.1 billion dollars.

4 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: How many
5 collection trucks are scheduled for replacement
6 annually, and what is the average cost per truck?

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, the main
8 two front line collection vehicle vehicles, heavy
9 duty vehicles are our rear-loading collection trucks
10 and our dual bin collection trucks. So, for FY27, we
11 anticipate replacing 104 of the rear-loading
12 collection trucks, which have a price tag of about
13 545,000 dollars. And then our dual bin collection
14 trucks for FY27, we anticipate replacing 80 of those,
15 and the price tag on those about 573,000 dollars.

16 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Beyond the
17 Bronx garage, are there any capital projects
18 experiencing any significant delays or cost overruns?
19 And if so, what steps are being taken to bring them
20 back on track?

21 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: As of
22 currently, we are not anticipating any significant
23 delays and no cost overruns in any of the projects
24 you mentioned.

3 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Great. And
4 then what percentage of the capital budget is
5 allocated to sustainability initiatives such as
6 electric or hybrid vehicle purchases or charging
7 infrastructure?

8 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: I have to get
9 back to you on that, Chair.

10 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you.
11 How does the Department prioritize capital
12 investments across competing needs like fleet
13 replacement, garage upgrades, containerization,
14 infrastructure, transportation?

15 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So
16 obviously, you know, vehicle replacement is one of
17 the things that we always want to make sure that
18 we're not falling behind on because then there is a
19 cascading effect. Unfortunately, we saw some of that
20 during COVID where we didn't purchase any heavy duty
21 vehicles, and then that created a ripple effect with,
you know, we had to shift some of the operations to
subsequent shifts, and, you know, then there's extra
overtime added to repair some of these aging
vehicles. So, that's the priority. And then as far as
capital investments for our facilities, that's one of

3 the things that, you know, we always want to make
4 sure that we're investing in our facilities, but I
5 think there's a delicate balance. As I mentioned, 66
6 percent of that goes to the fleet, and the remaining
7 goes to our facilities.

8 Oh, and then just going back, I have the
9 number. So, as far as electric vehicles, as far as
10 sustainability initiatives, we have 25 small alley
11 collection trucks and then we are replacing. It's
12 about 360 million for bike lane equipment, which is a
13 battery electric vehicle, which is a small sweepers
14 that we have.

15 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you.
16 What is the expected useful life of new collection
17 trucks being procured, and how does this compare to
18 the current fleet age?

19 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, the
20 rear-loading and dual bin collection trucks useful
21 life is about eight years, and right now the average
is about five years for rear-loading collection
trucks and about five and a half years for dual bin
trucks.

CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Are there
opportunities to extend the useful life of existing

3 equipment through enhanced maintenance programs,
4 thereby reducing capital replacement costs?

5 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. And
6 that's one of the things that we always look for. We
7 work with DCAS on that, and we're always exploring
8 strategies on new best practices, you know,
9 maintenance approaches, things like that. But, yeah,
10 that's one of the things that we always look for to
11 expand that.

12 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Curious, how
13 much has been allocated for marine transfer station
14 upgrades and maintenance in the current capital plan?

15 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, there's
16 about 38 million dollars allocated to 10-year capital
17 commitment plan for marine transfer station upgrades
18 and maintenance.

19 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: And could you
20 elaborate a little bit on the role the capital budget
21 plays in supporting the transition to mechanical
collection for containerization?

ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So,
that's one of the things that we are evaluating. We
put out an RFP for the side loading collection truck
and that was thankfully approved. Now we are working

2 to see what the expansion of a potential citywide
3 rollout would be. And I think that's one of those
4 things that once we nail down a number, we'll be able
5 to then have a better sense of what that commitment
6 would be on the capital plan.

6 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you.

7 And I am so sorry, but I completely
8 overlooked Council Member Brewer and I want to make
9 sure.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very
11 much and thank you for your testimony, which is very
12 detailed and like everybody else, Frank Lettera is a
13 rock star. But so is Glenn Baldwin, who is the
District Manager in 7.

14 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Good to hear.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: So, alternate side
16 of the street parking. I don't know if it's a
17 citywide issue, but in Manhattan, it's a big problem
18 because we don't have the cameras yet in Albany. That
19 would be helpful. But in the interim, I'm trying to
literally go leaflet, work with the precinct. Then
the sweeper comes down the street in some blocks.

20 It's a very labor-intensive project. So, my question
21 is, I would think you're kind of losing money on the

2 fact that the sweeper sometimes just goes down the
3 middle of the block because nobody moves. So, I'm
4 just wondering, who knows what happens in Albany? I
5 have no idea if that passes. But do we have any other
6 is there a budget cost to this, and is there any
7 other solution to getting these darn cars to move?
8 They don't even move when they're sitting in the car.

9 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: I loved your
10 sticker idea.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yes, I'm ready for
12 the stickers. Try to get the City Council to do it.
13 Yes.

14 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, I think
15 it's one of those things that we're just going to
16 have to do with existing resources. So, this week,
17 well, actually, last week, we focused some of our
18 enforcement efforts on some of those street cleaning
19 regulation areas, and we were averaging about 5,000
20 parking violations per day, which is very effective.
21 You know, it's one of those things that I'm pulling
the supervisors into different directions where
there's organics enforcement and things like that,
but I think it's one of those things we're just going

2 to have to shift back and forth. But I honestly think
3 the sticker is okay.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you. Because
5 I want my Colleagues to support me on that.

6 Second, graffiti. You do a great job. How
7 much does it cost and how often is it done and how do
8 you decide when and where to do graffiti removal? We
9 really appreciate it. I know you do buildings. Others
do other aspects. You do buildings.

10 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, the budget
11 is 2.7 million dollars for FY26. And that's managed,
12 you know, we use the DOE fund so we're just managing
13 that operation, and we use 3-1-1 complaints. That's
14 how, you know, we track and remove the graffiti
complaints that we get.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: So, it's basically
on 3-1-1 complaints.

16 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Correct.
17 Sometimes we get, you know, inquiries from elected
18 officials, your offices, community boards, and then
19 we'll, you know, obviously deploy those resources
where necessary.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay. The
21 batteries issue. I mean, I was around when the first

2 fire started. That was obviously FDNY. But you also,
3 I don't know if it's increased or decreased and what
4 the cost is of, it's very frightening when you have a
5 fire in a truck. So, I'm wondering just to give us a
6 sense of the cost that has been incurred as a result
7 of these batteries and how you're addressing it.

8 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So,
9 unfortunately, we have seen a spike in vehicle fires.
10 And as far as our trucks are concerned, the only
11 issue is FDNY can't always determine that the root
12 cause was from a battery fire. I mean, that's likely
13 the case. But we are seeing an increase in that.
14 Sometimes we're fortunate enough where, you know, we
15 have I mean, it's not a sightly thing to do. We have
16 to offload the material into the street because we
17 don't want to lose the truck. In those cases, we have
18 very little expense there. But sometimes if we lose
19 the whole truck, that's basically just replacing the
20 whole truck, which is, you know, over 500,000 dollars
21 per vehicle. But it depends on, you know, how quick
we're able to.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: How many of you
20 had, you know, in the last year approximately when
21 you say there was a spike?

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: We had in
3 Calendar Year 2024, we had 152 fires, and in 2025, we
4 had 168 truck fires.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Whew. That's a
6 lot.

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: And currently
8 to date, 38 truck fires so, yeah.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: The budget for... I
10 know you said in your testimony that we all need to
11 be good dog owners. I do not have a dog, but I do
12 have to clean up from dogs. So, my question is, what
13 is the budget either yours or elsewhere in the City
14 for telling these outrageous owners to clean up? It's
15 the law. I remember when it passed.

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GOODMAN: Yeah. Thank
17 you, Council Member. We have done a number of
18 outreach campaigns around it with existing resources.
19 We don't have a dedicated budget line for this. We've
20 also partnered with Members of the Council on it. We
21 did it with then Council Members Menin and Bottcher,
always looking for new partners to work with on this.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: So, it's mostly
whatever can be done. There's no budget.

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GOODMAN: Yeah. You
3 know, unfortunately, it's an issue where people know
4 the law. I mean, outreach is great. You know, I'm Mr.
5 Outreach, right? But it's not that people don't know
6 they're supposed to clean up after their dog.
7 Obviously, everyone knows it's their responsibility.
8 You know, the issue is that we've got to continue to
9 come up with new strategies for this. This new
dispenser pilot is one option, but..

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: The litter basket
11 and the dispenser on the litter basket. That will
12 cost something, too, though.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GOODMAN: They're like
14 20 bucks each.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: 20 bucks to each
16 basket. Okay. Is that something that you're doing or
17 you're thinking of doing?

18 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So we're doing
19 it now. I mean, it's a pilot. So, we're doing it with
20 existing OTP funds. Just the one thing, if we want to
21 expand it, we just don't have the resources to change
out the actual bags.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Somebody has to do
that.

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Somebody's got
3 to do that. So, yeah, I think some of the Council
4 Members have partnered with, I think, ACE or some of
5 the other groups out there.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay. I know we
7 talked about abandoned vehicles. I just want to
8 understand more, not that so much the cost, but it is
9 confusing to the public what you do versus PD. And I
10 must admit, I thought it was mostly you. But I know
11 when you have the license plates, that's PD.
12 Sometimes I just take them off, I'll be honest with
13 you, so that I can get rid of the car. I know how to
14 unscrew them. I do. I see it online. I don't care
15 because I want to get rid of the car. But the
16 question is like how many last year did you remove or
17 does the public understand the difference, does 3-1-1
18 understand the difference? How does it work just in
19 terms of logistics?

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So,
21 3-1-1...

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: There are a lot of
complaints about abandoned cars. A lot.

ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yep. I don't
think the public doesn't understand. I think they

2 just see a car sitting there and they're just saying
3 it's abandoned, derelict. But that's what our
4 responsibility falls into. Our supervisor will go
5 out. The license plate is the number one thing that's
6 like we can't touch so then we refer to NYPD. But I
7 think we've done a really good job. Last year in
8 FY26, to date and currently year to date, we're about
9 4,571 vehicles removed. So, that's on course with the
10 previous fiscal year. We've had a lot of good
11 coordination with NYPD. So, you have the vehicle
12 recovery team and then we have just regular tag and
13 tow operations that we go out. Because it shouldn't
14 be the public's responsibility to figure out if it's
15 road tow or derelict. So, we just go out with PD. We
16 set up our tag and tow date and we go out. And then
17 anything that's derelict or road tow, either they
18 take if it's road tow or we'll take it if it's
19 derelict. So, I think it's been pretty effective and
20 we're going to continue to do that.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Just one final
question. So, there aren't a lot of tow locations,
nothing in Manhattan. But the tow companies, you said
you had four contracts. They take it to their own

2 place. They don't take it to a PD or one of your tow
3 places.

4 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Correct. They
5 have their own yards, and they're supposed to store
6 it. And then, you know, now we have to send out a
7 letter. If there's a VIN number and that there's a
8 we're able to locate the property owner or lien
holder and we'll send out a letter.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Do you have any
10 sense of some of them? You don't have plates on them.
11 But if they do have plates, you have some sense it's
12 ghost plates or you just don't know. You don't keep
track of that.

13 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: NYPD does keep
14 track of that if they're ghost cars. And that's one
of the things that the vehicle recovery team does.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: All right. Thank
16 you. Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you,
18 Council Member Brewer.

19 Really quick before we continue. I want
20 to make sure that we're touching quickly on waste
21 export costs. What is the Department's current annual
expenditure on waste export, and how does the

2 budgeted nearly 600 million compare to actual
3 spending? And how has this figure evolved in the past
4 five fiscal years?

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANTONELLI: So the
6 594.8 million dollars, generally we think that does
7 reflect what we expect to spend this year. You know,
8 adjustments are made each year in our budget to
9 reflect actual tonnage on the street. I think the
10 hard thing here is you have two main components that
11 contribute to the cost. You have what the actual
12 tonnage is that we collected, which is an
13 uncontrollable. And then we do have long-term waste
14 export contracts. And the pricing is very
15 predictable. Each year we get an increase based on
16 the consumer price index so we have that all
17 contracted out and under control.

18 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Are there any
19 additional factors that contribute to the increase in
20 waste export costs beyond inflation and the
21 adjustments?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANTONELLI: It's the
adjustments and then it's what tonnage we collected.

CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: How do the
terms of the Department's long-term waste export

2 contracts impact current and future budget
3 projections?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANTONELLI: Yeah. I
5 mean, you know, we don't always know what the CPI is
6 going to be going into future years, but it's
7 generally predictable and it's within a range so
8 that's really how we project into the future, at
least in terms of contractual rates.

9 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Are there
10 opportunities to renegotiate existing waste export
contracts to achieve more favorable terms?

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANTONELLI: So, we put
12 together these long-term contracts with the idea of
13 not having fluctuations and volatility in the market.
14 So, our main contractors we have set for the for the
15 long term so we really don't have any opportunities
16 to renegotiate any sort of major terms in those
contracts in the near future.

17 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: What, if any,
18 operational efficiencies have you implemented or
19 planned to implement to help reduce the per ton cost
of waste export?

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANTONELLI: So, one of
21 the things that we have worked with the vendors is to

2 make sure we have the staffing of the transfer
3 stations right-sized and appropriate. You know, when
4 these transfer stations were first put into place,
5 there was an idea of what would be appropriate, and
6 then obviously, over time, since we've had the
7 transfer stations open for some time now, we've been
8 able to make staffing adjustments within that, and
9 that's been able to control our cost per ton.

10 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: While there
11 has been a small reduction, it's been an increase,
12 nonetheless, from 17 percent to 19.4 percent in terms
13 of our recycling diversion rate. How have any waste
14 reduction initiatives such as citywide curb
15 composting affected the volume of waste requiring
16 export and associated costs?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANTONELLI: I mean, I
18 think as a general matter, the cost per ton on
19 organic waste and on exporting refuse are roughly the
20 same so it's really just a transferring it from one
21 place to another.

22 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: And finally,
23 what alternative waste management strategies is the
24 Department exploring to mitigate rising export costs,
25 and what are some potential projected savings?

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: I can take
3 that, Chair. So, I think one of the things that we
4 think would be very effective is EPR. I think EPR,
5 and I know there's that State legislation that it's
6 in discussion now. I think that's where we would see
7 the biggest shift as far as kind of any kind of
8 savings for export costs and obviously diversion
9 rates and things like that. So, EPR is one of the
10 things that we support and I think would be
11 beneficial to that.

12 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you so
13 much.

14 And now I'd like to finally turn it over
15 to Council Member Ung. Thank you so much for your
16 patience.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Thank you, Chair.

18 Commissioner, you said to my Colleague,
19 Council Member Sanchez, that you believe the agency
20 can meet current vending enforcements with 40
21 officers. I do find that concerning because I could
guarantee you this is not being met in my District.
So, can you clarify what you mean to that? I mean,
are you referring to only inspecting licensed vendors

2 or to the enforcement of vendor regulations or more
3 broadly includes illegal vending and vending zones?

4 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yeah. I think
5 there's areas that we inspect regularly. I mean, I
6 believe there's areas along your corridor that we
7 inspect regularly along Main Street so I'd have to
8 kind of give you specific stats on that. But I
9 believe there's one of the areas that we inspect
10 regularly. So, there's a bunch of corridors that
11 we're aware of and that's one of the things that we
12 inspect.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: No. I appreciate the
14 collaboration with the inspection of my corridor and
15 you do. However, I'm here saying it is not enough.
16 I'm just telling you I still get complaints all the
17 time about not having enough enforcement in my no
18 vending zone. So, I just want to be clear that, you
19 know, it is not enough in my District.

20 Also, to follow up on Council Member
21 Sanchez's question about the rollout of new vendors
and there'll be an assessment about what are the
needs. Can you be a little specific about how do you
plan to do the assessment? Is it by you going to
visit all the districts? Is it by elected officials,

2 Council Members? Is it by the 3-1-1 calls? Because
3 this is very concerning to me and already I'm saying
4 my District is already overwhelmed by vendors.

5 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So, let
6 me back up a little bit about the previous issue. So,
7 December, January, and February was a very busy snow
8 season and I'm sure, you know, the challenges you're
9 seeing in your District were beyond those months. But
10 unfortunately, when we have snow operations, those
11 police officers that we have to shift to snow
12 operations because it's all hands-on deck so I'm not
13 sure if those were the time frames where you were
14 seeing some challenges.

15 But as far as, you know, once we increase
16 the licenses, I think it's a combination of all
17 those. I think our evaluation and assessment on the
18 ground is going to be one of the main components, and
19 we anticipate having internal tracking systems to see
20 where the vendors are and where we should be going
21 to. But I think it's really unclear on how many
licenses we're going to see at a given time. So, I
think once that period starts, we'll have a better
idea.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: No. Thank you. As
3 always, I look forward to working on this issue.

4 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you so
5 much.

6 And now turning it over to one of our
7 favorite topics in the Department, containerization,
8 before we continue. So DSNY expanded containerization
9 requirements to all New York City businesses in
10 Fiscal Year '24 and all buildings with one to nine
11 residential units in Fiscal Year '25, with 70 percent
12 of the city's trash now required in bins. The PMMR
13 shows containerization enforcement surged 146 percent
14 in the first four months of Fiscal Year '26. The
15 Manhattan 9 containerization pilot represents a
16 significant operational shift. Still haven't had that
17 coffee. Assessing its success is critical before
18 citywide expansion. What is the current compliance
19 rate for residential properties in M9 using the
20 required containers expressed as a percentage of
21 total properties?

ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So right
now, we've observed very broad compliance in M9. It's
been very successful. But since the start of the
summons period, so when we started the pilot, which

2 was June 1st, we gave a 30-day warning period. So, on
3 June 30th, we started the summons period. We're
4 seeing, as far as the one- to nine-unit buildings,
5 about 72 percent of one- to nine-unit buildings we're
6 seeing are broadly in compliance, meaning they
7 haven't received a summons. And then almost 70
8 percent of all buildings in M9 haven't received a
9 warning or a summons. So that's obviously very
successful and very broad as far as compliance goes.

10 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: What is the
11 total cost of the pilot as a percentage of the annual
12 operating budget? And what is the per household cost
of implementing containerization in the pilot?

13 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, the total
14 cost for PS and OTPS budget for the M9
15 containerization pilot, it's for schools and
16 residential, it's about 2.1 million. And this is
17 approximately 0.1 percent of our total operating
18 budget. We don't have that percentage as far as the
per household percentage, but we can work on trying
to get you that cost estimate.

19 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you.
20 I'd appreciate that.

2 And given these numbers, what is the
3 projected cost to expand containerization citywide?
4 And what percentage increase would this represent to
5 the Department's capital budget?

6 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, we're
7 fully committed to reaching citywide
8 containerization, whether it's the Wheely bin or the
9 Empire bin. We're still working on determining what
10 those costs are. I think one of the things in Local
11 Law 180 of 2025 that's in there is that we've made it
12 pretty flexible in the sense of you have the 10- to
13 30-unit buildings that will have the ability to opt
14 in. And I think that that'll be a determining factor
15 that we're working on estimates right now until we
16 get a full sense of what that may look like as far as
17 the cost for capital commitment.

18 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: And speaking
19 about costs, what is the estimated cost to upgrade
20 the Department's entire fleet to the mechanical
21 trucks that would be needed? And what percentage of
the fleet replacement budget over the next five years
is currently allocated to this?

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So as far as
21 the side loader collection trucks for the Empire bin

2 pilot, which, as I mentioned, we're still working to
3 those projections. But as far as the tipper trucks,
4 currently, we have about 10 percent of our rear
5 loading and dual bin fleet outfitted. So, it's about
6 274 trucks that have the tippers on the back of those
7 trucks. And now, as we go into every new purchase for
8 rear loaders and dual bins, those tippers are already
9 installed on the factory so we don't have to retrofit
10 them.

11 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: And by what
12 percentage has collection time per route changed with
13 mechanical collection?

14 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, that's
15 really something that we're not able to gauge right
16 now because it's just at the pilot, but it's one of
17 those things that obviously we'll look at once we
18 scale up to citywide and other districts.

19 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: What
20 percentage of sanitation workers in Manhattan 9,
21 their injuries are related to manual lifting versus
mechanical collection?

ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So in M9, you
still have about you have about 55 percent of the
refuse tonnage is serviced by side loaders and then

2 the rest are the traditional rear loaders. And not
3 only those, but those Sanitation workers are still
4 required to, you know, service litter baskets. They
5 do have manual litter patrol, those kinds of
6 functions so they're still susceptible to the
7 traditional injuries. I don't have numbers specific
8 for M9, but citywide, about over 40 percent of
9 sanitation workers line of duty injuries are sprains
and strains, which is obviously the manual collection
of bags.

10 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: What
11 percentage reduction in overtime has M9 experienced
12 due to increased collection efficiency with these
13 mechanical trucks?

14 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So right now,
15 there is no increase or decrease as far as funding
16 goes for M9. So, the budget right now is just for the
pilot of 2.1 million for the pilot.

17 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: And what is
18 the enforcement rate in M9 expressed as violations
19 issued per a thousand households, if you have that,
20 and how does this compare to the containerization
enforcement rates citywide?

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So
3 citywide, the first four months of FY26, there were
4 about 43 containerization violations were issued per
5 1,000 residential buildings. And then in M9, 170
6 containerization violations were issued per 1,000
7 residential buildings over the same time period. But
8 the number of citywide households is much larger than
9 the number of households in M9 just for comparison.

10 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: And what
11 funding sources are currently used for the pilot
12 implementation? What percentage comes from City
13 capital budget versus federal or state grants?

14 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So right now,
15 it's all City tax levy funds. We're not getting any
16 funded provided by any outside parties. There is no
17 state or federal funding in the containerization
18 pilot.

19 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you so
20 much. I realize that Dem conference will be starting
21 soon, so I do want to turn it over to Council Member
Hankerson.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: I'll be as
brief as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2 Really quickly, and if you can just best
3 to your ability to keep the answers concise, I'm
4 going to try and speed through these questions. What
5 is the agency's budget for enforcement officers?

6 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. If you
7 want to go to the next question while he looks that
8 up.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: The follow up
10 to that would be how many enforcement officers are
11 assigned to that unit?

12 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: To the unit
13 of?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Enforcement
15 unit.

16 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Okay. So right
17 now, our enforcement headcount is 94 Sanitation
18 enforcement. They're non-uniformed personnel, so you
19 have enforcement agents, and then you have ASCAs,
20 which is Associate Sanitation Enforcement Agents, so
21 that's 94. And then we have 118 Sanitation police
officers, 37 Sanitation lieutenants, four inspectors,
so for a total of 159 total positions related to
enforcement all across different areas, and that's
illegal vending, that's traditional impounds for

2 illegal dumping cameras, things like that, so it's
3 spread across different areas.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Okay. So, for
5 those that are assigned to address illegal vending,
6 how many of those are assigned to Queens, and are
7 they broken up into garages or community board
8 district?

9 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, we don't
10 have specific assignments because it's 35, so we have
11 to spread them out across the different boroughs, so
12 we run about five to six different teams every day.
13 We try to keep one in Queens every day, so I would
14 say you have one team every day, but if we have areas
15 where we need to focus on, we'll shift resources
16 around.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Is there data
18 that shows the areas that they've been assigned to?

19 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Not publicly,
20 no.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Not publicly.
Would we be able to follow up?

ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yeah. We'd
love to work with you and work on the data that
you're looking for.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Okay. Because
3 more specifically, in my District, business owners
4 have consistently been told that enforcement action
5 couldn't be taken on a vendor that is known to sell
6 non-FDA and USDA-approved seafood from a van because
7 DSNY has to catch the individual in the act, and
8 oftentimes an officer is either unavailable or when
9 an officer is available, for some reason that
10 particular street that the vendor operates off of
11 every Saturday from 11 to 3 p.m., they just somehow
12 skip that street. So, my hope would be that we can
13 work together on that.

14 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Absolutely.
15 I'd love to get those particulars and try to set up a
16 focused operation there.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Thank you. And
18 there's two quick questions regarding the storm. How
19 much did the Department spend on per diem workers
20 during the recent storm?

21 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: I think it was
about 34 million. I want to say it was about 34
million, but I'll get those for you soon. You're
referring to the emergency snow shovelers, correct?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Yes.

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yeah. I think
3 it was 34 million.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: And I guess out
5 of that number, how many individuals were actually
6 hired?

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, we were
8 averaging about 1,800 per day, and then I think at
9 our peak we were about 3,400 depending on the day,
10 but that was pretty much the average, the 1,800 daily
11 average, and then we peaked at 3,400 snow shovelers.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Did they work
13 alongside other City employees from other Departments
14 like Parks?

15 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: No. So, DOT
16 received their own cohort of snow shovelers, so they
17 worked together with DOT personnel. Our emergency
18 snow shovelers only worked with our personnel, so we
19 had Sanitation workers, enforcement agents, and other
20 enforcement personnel.

21 Yeah. I'm sorry, it was not 34 million.
It was 3.4 million. Sorry about that.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Okay. That's a
lot of money.

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2 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: I forgot the
3 decimal.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: 3.4 million for
5 the recent snowstorm.

6 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Correct.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Okay. And
8 that's 1,800 folks hired per day?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: On average per
10 day, and then at the peak it was about over 3,000.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: And you said
12 there was no collaboration with other agencies?

13 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: No. I mean, we
14 had collaboration from other agencies that helped us
15 on pedestrian infrastructure, and I mean, that was
16 greatly helpful. I mean, going back to the first
17 storm, there were about 200 personnel employees from
18 DOT, DEP, Parks that helped us on that regard, and
19 then they continued that for the second storm, but I
20 don't know if there was any direct coordination with
21 the other agencies. They just worked alongside us,
but not necessarily with those snow shovelers.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Okay. Thank
you.

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: You're
3 welcome.

4 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you so
5 much.

6 And now Council Member Vernikov.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Thank you,
8 Chair. Thank you, Commissioner, for being here today
9 to testify, and also, of course, as always, thank you
10 for all the work the Sanitation Department does,
11 specifically for being so responsive with our needs
12 in our District.

13 Okay. My first question is, in your
14 opening testimony, you cited snow removal as one of
15 the three core functions of the agency, we just had,
16 obviously, two very large snowstorms. The first was
17 followed by a temperature freeze that complicated
18 snow removal. Does the five-year funding formula
19 that's in the City Charter make it more difficult for
20 the City to be prepared for these generational
21 snowstorms?

22 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: No. I think
23 OMB has been very, very responsive and receptive when
24 we need additional funds for whether it's salt need
25 or anything else as far as the snow budget goes. So,

2 I think the way it's currently structured, we have
3 not experienced any challenges, and I don't
4 anticipate that there should be a need to that
5 structure.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Got it. Thank
7 you.

8 For the last five fiscal years, there's
9 been a gap of a couple of hundred from budgeted
10 uniform headcount versus actual uniform headcount. Is
11 there an explanation for that?

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANTONELLI: Sure.
13 We've been over budgeted headcount for uniformed for
14 this past several years. The way our hiring works is
15 at the beginning of the year, we hire to a peak and
16 then atrit down to the budgeted level over the course
17 of the fiscal year. So, if you look at the average on
18 any fiscal year, our headcount will be above the
19 budgeted headcount.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Understood.
21 Thank you.

22 And one last question. For over a decade,
23 there have been plans to join Brooklyn 15 and 13
24 Sanitation districts and garages in securing a
25 location to house both in a facility closer to Coney

2 Island. The agency in the past has supported this,
3 but seemingly cannot accommodate it within the
4 budget. Do you have any updates on these plans of
5 what it would take to realize them?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANTONELLI: I think
7 one of the biggest challenges we have with either the
8 replacement of garages or even doing major
9 renovations in current garages is finding additional
10 space. As you see, the City is pretty densely
11 populated and doing space searches, especially for
12 something like a Sanitation garage, to find that
13 amount of space to house a building, plus parking has
14 been extremely difficult for us, and we've really
15 struggled with that.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you,
18 Council Member.

19 Turning to our last two topics of the
20 day. One, sidewalk cafes. How many sidewalk cafes and
21 outdoor dining establishments are currently operating
under the permanent outdoor dining program, and what
is the Department's role in enforcing cleanliness
standards around these establishments? What
percentage of the Department's enforcement capacity

2 is currently dedicated to sidewalk cafe sanitation
3 compliance?

4 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: We defer to
5 DOT on the amount of sheds out there. The only thing
6 we're really enforcing is cleanliness along any
7 commercial corridor or any particular segment for
8 failure to clean 18 inches into the curb, which we
9 know we issue regularly depending on the
10 observations, not necessarily specific to the
11 sidewalk cafes. We really don't have any dedicated
12 resources for that.

13 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: What is the
14 estimated annual cost for increased litter basket
15 servicing, grease and food waste management, and road
16 mitigation in areas with high concentration of
17 sidewalk cafes? What percentage have Sanitation
18 complaints increased in outdoor dining zones compared
19 to pre-pandemic levels, and has Sanitation requested
20 additional funding to address the impacts of
21 permanent outdoor dining infrastructure?

ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: We don't have
specific resources for that. Again, we just respond
to any general 3-1-1 complaints related to
cleanliness issues. DOT may get those specific ones

2 to sidewalk cafes, but again, we love to look at
3 those enforcement numbers once now I know there is
4 the legislation to make that year-round, and I think
5 once we understand what the restrictions or any kind
6 of guidelines along that, we'd be able to better
7 gauge that and work with DOT and our other agency
8 partners on establishing what that looks like, and
9 then obviously sharing information so we can better
enforce those areas.

10 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Great. Do you
have a current violation rate for sidewalk cafes?

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: No. The only
12 violation rate we have, as I mentioned, is just
13 specific, just generally. So, failure to clean 18
14 inches into the street, for last Calendar Year, we
15 issued over 5,000 S-26 violations, which would be in
16 line with keeping the area clean, but not necessarily
specific to sidewalk cafes.

17 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: And what
18 percentage of these outdoor dining structures are
19 located in areas where the Department already
20 provides enhanced cleaning services versus
neighborhoods that receive standard service levels?

21 And how does the Department determine whether

2 additional street cleaning passes or litter basket
3 placements are warranted in areas with dense
4 concentration of sidewalk cafes?

5 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, I think
6 now that the program is likely to be year-round,
7 we'll be able to better assess. I think now that they
8 were taken down for the winter, it's hard to really
9 tell what that is, but I think once they're
10 permanently, we'll be able to have that sense of what
11 resources or, you know, diverted resources we would
12 need to make sure that the areas are kept clean.

13 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: What is the
14 estimated cost per sidewalk cafe for the Department
15 to provide adequate Sanitation services in the
16 immediate vicinity, a.k.a. like within 50 feet of the
17 structure? Should these costs be borne by the general
18 Sanitation budget or recovered through fees assessed
19 to outdoor dining permit holders, and what percentage
20 of sidewalk cafe operators currently pay any fees
21 that contribute to the Department's Sanitation
efforts?

ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, I'm not
aware of any fees that come to our budget. We defer
that to DOT, but again, until we really get a sense

2 of where these structures will permanently be, we
3 really can't give a sense of what that would be of
4 the resource need for cleanliness.

5 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you.

6 And last but not least, what we are all waiting for,
7 the World Cup and USA 250. So, what is the projected
8 cost for the Department's Sanitation operations
9 during USA 250 celebrations and FIFA World Cup 2026
10 events in New York City? So, we're talking about
11 additional personnel, collection trucks, litter
12 baskets, and portable sanitation facilities that will
13 be required. What percentage increase in the
14 operating budget do these major events represent
15 compared to typical summer operations?

16 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, I think
17 right now we're just in active conversations with
18 CECM and the event organizers. I don't think we
19 really have a sense of what the resource need would
20 be, but I could assure you that we're in active
21 conversations with OMB to make sure that we are
appropriately funding this. A comparison would be
back in 2014, we had Super Bowl Boulevard, and we had
more than adequate resources for that event so I'm
sure that that's something once we know the dates,

2 times, locations, we'll have enough resources to make
3 sure the area is maintained. And we don't manage the
4 outdoor portable restrooms as far as I would defer
5 those to CECM to see which agency manages that. That
6 wouldn't be DSNY.

7 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Given that
8 we're going to have so many people, just on that
9 question of portable restrooms, does the Department
10 see any need to invest in bringing additional
11 portable restrooms or expanding any kind of program
12 like that?

13 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So, we
14 don't have a portable restroom program as far as DSNY
15 is concerned, so I would just defer those to CECM,
16 the Mayor's Office, and see which agency is tasked
17 with that because right now we really don't have that
18 in our portfolio.

19 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Great. Has
20 the Department secured dedicated funding for
21 Sanitation operations for 250 or World Cup, or will
the costs be absorbed by the current existing budget?
And what is the anticipated tonnage of waste
generated during these events compared to normal
daily collection volumes expressed as a percentage?

2 And are there any contingency plans in place if
3 event-related costs exceed the budget allocations?

4 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, we don't
5 have any dedicated funding as we speak right now, but
6 I think we've had initial conversations with OMB on
7 that, and I think we'll make sure that we'll have
8 enough resources. As far as contingency plans, we'll
9 always have plans for cleanups, and again, it really
10 depends on the amount of throughput we're getting in
11 some of these areas. But I think, you know, based on
12 any other events that we have, you know, that we
13 normally do cleanups for, I think we'll have adequate
14 resources for anything that comes our way.

15 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: What
16 percentage of the summer event Sanitation costs will
17 be reimbursed by event organizers, federal agencies,
18 or other funding sources versus absorbed by city
19 taxpayers? Also, how does the Department plan to
20 balance the Sanitation needs with maintaining regular
21 service levels and neighborhoods not hosting events?

ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So,
we're not aware of reimbursements planned at this
time, but, you know, we'll work with OMB to see if
there is anything identified. And as far as making

3 sure that we don't have any other operations or
4 resources impacted, we anticipate running some of
5 these cleanups costs operations on overtime, so I
6 think we'll have more than adequate resources
7 available, which is working with OMB on the resources
8 and the overtime incurred on these events.

9 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: It's like you
10 read my next question. What is the estimated overtime
11 expenditure for these events expressed as a dollar
12 amount and a percentage of the total event Sanitation
13 budget? How many uniformed and civilian personnel
14 will be dedicated to such event operations, and what
15 impact, if any, will this have on regular collection
16 schedules, streets cleaning schedules, and non-event
17 areas during the same time?

18 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, since we
19 don't have a definite location of some of these
20 events, we don't have a projection, but I will say
21 that we don't anticipate any challenges with any
cleaning operations, collection operations, and
thankfully this is the summer, so we don't have to
worry about snow, but I would say that the only
impacts we may see is sometimes some of these events
close down streets during the day, so we may have to

2 shift some of our collection operations to an early
3 shift like a midnight to eight, but we don't
4 anticipate any other issues, impacts of regular
5 services.

6 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: And last but
7 not least, based on Sanitation operations during
8 previous major events, so we're talking New Year's
9 Eve, marathons, parades, what is the average cost per
10 attendee for waste management and street cleaning?
11 How does the Department project this will scale for
12 USA 250 and World Cup events with significantly
13 larger crowds, and are there any lessons that we've
14 learned from past events that are being incorporated
15 into planning to improve efficiency and reduce costs
16 expressed as a percentage savings?

17 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So, the
18 only thing that we, as far as lessons learned is, you
19 know, once you get into these large event, you know,
20 type scale operations, having all of our equipment
21 into some of these areas is not really efficient, so
we would probably use more of a manual sweeping
operation and hand broom, things like that, but as
far as anything else, we would just, you know, clean
up as we normally would any other special event.

2 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: I want to
3 thank you for taking all the time to answer all of
4 our questions. I have a ton more, and we will
5 definitely be sending those over because I know
6 everyone has many things to do. I thank you for over
7 three hours of testimony today, and I really
8 appreciate all the work that the men and women of the
9 Department do, so thank you. And thank you again,
10 Frank, and congratulations on the 2026 Sloan Award.
11 It is much, much well deserved. I think we are good.

12 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Thank you,
13 Chair. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you,
15 Commissioner.

16 I am now opening the hearing for public
17 testimony. I want to remind members of the public
18 that this is a government proceeding and that decorum
19 highlight, underline, bold, italicize, decorum shall
20 be observed at all times. As such, members of the
21 public shall remain silent at all times.

The witness table is reserved for people
who wish to testify. No video recording or
photography is allowed from the witness table.

Further, members of the public may not present audio

3 or video recordings as testimony, but may submit
4 transcripts of such recordings to the
5 Sergeant-at-Arms for inclusion in the hearing record.

6 If you wish to speak at today's hearing,
7 please, if you have not already and you are in
8 person, fill out an appearance card with the
9 Sergeant-at-Arms wait to be recognized. When
10 recognized, you will have two minutes to speak on the
11 Department of Sanitation's budget. If you have a
12 written statement or additional written testimony you
13 wish to submit for the record, please provide a copy
14 of that testimony to the Sergeant-at-Arms. You may
15 also email written testimony to
16 testimony@council.nyc.gov. Again, that email is
17 testimony@council.nyc.gov within 72 hours of this
18 hearing. Audio and video recordings will not be
19 accepted.

20 First, we are starting with the first
21 panel will be Rhonda Keyser, Rebecca Sabnam, Leon
Feingold, and Ellen Cooper. We will wait until
everyone is seated and then get started.

We will start from stage left to right. I
hope. And you can begin.

3 REBECCA SABNAM: Thank you. Good
4 afternoon, Chair Sanchez and the Sanitation
5 Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to speak.
6 My name is Rebecca Sabnam. And the first time I ever
7 testified at City Hall was in sixth grade. Cafeteria
8 Culture has taught us about the detrimental effects
9 of styrofoam trays we used in school then. I was
10 intensely shy as a kid, but they taught me to believe
11 that it was my right to be heard. I joined my first
12 rally to translate my education into action. The
13 rally gave me enough courage to walk my 11-year-old
14 self all the way down to City Hall from the Lower
15 East Side and testify using what I learned in school.
16 Now I'm here testifying again over a decade later
17 after attending Columbia University with a major in
18 sustainable development and a minor in public health.
19 When I entered my freshman year at Columbia, the
20 foundational environmental education I already had
21 through Cafeteria Culture provided an understanding
of how interconnected the climate crisis is to every
aspect of our lives. This allowed me to keep up with
students who are much more privileged in resources
than me. As I've continued my environmental studies
path, this Pablo Freire quote has kept me grounded,

3 "when education is not liberating, the dream of the
4 oppressed is to become the oppressor." Comprehensive
5 environmental education teaches students in
6 underserved communities that through advocacy work,
7 we can improve both our own lives and the lives of
8 others. Our successes are not mutually exclusive, and
9 we don't have to adhere to systems that oppress us.
10 The advocacy skills I learned in between the lines of
11 CAFCU lesson plans build confidence in me and my
12 fellow peers who are often overlooked, showing us
13 that another world is possible for us to co-create. I
14 am here in front of you now as a Cafeteria Culture
15 teacher in an afterschool class at the Lower East
16 Side Girls Club. I have the honor of mentoring
17 students just like me. By reinvesting in my
18 community, I can help these young students come up
19 with innovative solutions to (TIMER CHIME) issues
20 that burden our shared community and dream bigger
21 than our circumstances. I wouldn't have the
opportunities I did and gotten into the college I did
or become the person I am proud of today if it wasn't
for the transformative environmental education I
received in public schools through Cafeteria Culture,

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3 all powered through New York City Council
4 discretionary funding. Thank you for your time.

5 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you for
6 your testimony, and I see you, Pablo Freire.

7 RHONDA KEYSER: Hi. Good afternoon, Chair
8 Sanchez, and thank you for this opportunity to speak
9 also. I'm Rhonda Keyser. I'm the Policy and Program
10 Director for Cafeteria Culture. We are an
11 environmental education organization, and our
12 students become climate leaders and bring about
13 systemic change by taking hyperlocal action in their
14 own school cafeterias. We catalyzed the elimination
15 of styrofoam from school cafeterias in New York City
16 and across the country. Our students started monthly
17 plastic-free lunch days in New York City public
18 schools and twice a year nationwide, and now these
19 monthly events have led to measurably significant
20 reduction in single-use plastics in school lunches on
21 our regular lunch service days from 2022 until now.
Cafeteria Culture is deeply grateful to you, New York
City Council, for your investment in FY25 and FY26
that has funded us to teach our compost education
curriculum and to develop our pilot and latest
systemic waste reduction initiative, Mindful Choice

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3 Meals, a program that has reduced cafeteria food
4 waste by 50 percent in the schools that we piloted in
5 and increased student consumption by 15 to 46 percent
6 in our pilot schools just by allowing students to
7 choose what they want to eat within the USDA
8 guidelines. Our trusted partners, New York City
9 Public Schools Office of Food and Nutrition Services,
10 are collaborating with us this spring to scale
11 Mindful Choice Meals this year to 32 schools, one per
12 district. New York City Public Schools spends between
13 200 and 250 million dollars annually on school meals,
14 making it the second largest institutional food
15 provider in the United States after the U.S.
16 military. Reducing cafeteria food waste represents a
17 major opportunity for significant fiscal savings and
18 climate impact. This is a moment for New York City
19 Council to invest in scaling solutions that work.
20 With greater investment from New York City Council,
21 we can move from district pilots to citywide
implementation, dramatically reducing cafeteria food
waste and our climate footprint while saving millions
in food costs and giving students a meaningful voice
in how their cafeterias operate.

3 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you so
4 much for your testimony.

5 LEON FEINGOLD: Hello. My name is Leon
6 Feingold. In 2017, my late wife, Yuan, and I
7 co-founded the House of Good Deeds to pay forward the
8 help that we received when she was diagnosed with
9 terminal cancer. We have grown drastically since
10 then. We recently opened our first permanent
11 headquarters. We manage four rescue transport
12 vehicles, and we serve all five boroughs. Our
13 volunteers partner with businesses and community
14 members alike to rescue and redistribute essential
15 goods at no cost to donors or recipients, and we do
16 it bigger and better than anyone else. In 2025, we
17 rescued five tons every month, more than half of it
18 food. We run Manhattan's largest free store, offer
19 free classes, and a volunteer hub which has trained
20 thousands of community volunteers, including those
21 running our weekly food pantry, which I'm missing in
order to be here. We also organize blood drives,
neighborhood cleanups, electronics recycling, and are
limited only by our funding. Based on the numbers we
heard earlier today, 60 tons away from the waste
stream every year actually makes a dent. Keeping

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2 useful items in service is a win-win, and building
3 community and changing attitudes among New Yorkers is
4 the cherry on top. In 2023, this New York City
5 Council spent 3 million dollars on GrowNYC and its
6 Stop and Swap program, which offered many of the same
7 services now offered by the House of Good Deeds, like
8 free collection and free redistribution of clothing,
9 shoes, housewares, and accessories, 85,100 that year.
10 In 2024, the funding was pulled by the Adams
11 Administration, and Stop and Swap no longer exists.
12 House of Good Deeds has filled that gap, yet we've
13 received under 50,000 dollars from the City Council,
14 while having a significantly greater rescue impact. I
15 ask this Council and Committee, what's left of it, to
16 recognize the massive win-win that House of Good
17 Deeds has in reducing waste, promoting
18 sustainability, and building community through
19 volunteerism in each of your Districts. Give us the
20 money to replace our ancient vehicles, hire drivers,
21 and pay our key people. Maybe figure out a way to
exempt us from congestion pricing, and we will grow.
We've applied for discretionary funds and need
support. We're more efficient than anyone else who
does what we do. We are New York City's best direct

3 link between those who have and those who need. And
4 the bigger and better we can be, the less cost and
5 stress for the amazing people of the DSNY who keep
6 our city running. Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you for
8 your testimony.

9 ELLEN COOPER: Thank you, Chair Sanchez
10 and Committee, for the opportunity to speak today,
11 and thank you for restoring Community Composting for
12 funding for Fiscal Year '25 and '26, and we're hoping
13 for '27. My name is Ellen Cooper. I am a Master
14 Composter 2023 through the fantastic Master Compost
15 Program, a Trash Academy graduate from 2024, member
16 of the Manhattan SWAB Organics Committee, and former
17 member of the SWAB. As a Master Composter, I had the
18 amazing opportunity to visit many of the community
19 composting sites around the city. I have seen
20 firsthand the dedication, energy, extraordinary
21 expertise, and power of the composting community
around the city, both paid and volunteer. It is
interracial, intergenerational, knowledgeable, and
passionate. I urge you to continue funding Community
Composting. It is an essential part of New York
City's citywide composting programs. It would have a

3 destructive effect on the environment if it cut. The
4 programs took decades to build and are now part of
5 the fabric of our city. It's a tiny part of the
6 budget, but the impact is huge. There are thousands
7 of dedicated citizens, both paid and volunteer, who
8 make the compost program run, and millions of pounds
9 of high-quality compost that make our parks, gardens,
10 street trees, air, and neighborhoods healthier and
11 flood-resistant. We should be increasing Community
12 Composting, not eliminating it. While the whole
13 curbside program is still in its infancy, Community
14 Compost is the beating heart of the program. They
15 work hand-in-hand. The citizen outreach and education
16 provided by hundreds of community composters is
17 irreplaceable. This is a volunteer army who support
18 the small staffs and help build the Community Compost
19 program. The additional help and expertise (TIMER
20 CHIME) to educate and inspire citizens, provide the
21 food drop-off places. The more people who learn about
composting through community composting, the more
likely they are to support the curbside program.
Please keep it going. It's non-negotiable. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you so
much for your testimony.

2 And thank you to our first panel.

3 Next, we'd like to bring up Mary Ellen
4 Sullivan, Eric Goldstein, Justin Wood, and Christina
5 Datz-Romero.

6 Again, we'll start with stage left. You
7 may begin.

8 ERIC GOLDSTEIN: Good afternoon, Mr.
9 Chairman. Congratulations on taking this important
10 post. I'm Eric Goldstein, New York City Environment
11 Director at the Natural Resources Defense Council,
12 and we're delighted to be here today. There's a lot
13 to talk about. I'll summarize my written testimony.
14 As you know, the City spends about a half a billion
15 dollars a year to export its waste to landfills and
16 incinerators. From what we heard this morning, those
17 costs are continuing to go up quite significantly.
18 That's bad from both an environmental and public
19 health perspective as well as for the City's budget.
20 I'm going to focus for a moment on organics, the
21 single largest portion of the waste stream. Of
course, the top priority there should be food rescue
and food diversion, which would also address the
problem of so many people being food insecure in New
York City. Right now, most of these organics are sent

3 to landfills or incinerators, making matters worse.

4 Those landfills and incinerators are usually in poor
5 or Black and Brown communities. We've got a couple of
6 recommendations.

7 First, it's essential that the Department
8 be fully funded to provide a more comprehensive and
9 broad-based educational effort to boost participation
10 in this program, which, as was noted earlier, is much
11 lower than in cities with mature composting programs
12 like Seattle, San Francisco, and Portland. We need
13 these additional educational efforts, along with
14 enforcement, to reach out to residents on a regular
15 basis in multiple languages, in a variety of forums,
16 with specific initiatives, to communicate with
17 building managers and landlords and schoolchildren.
18 It's got to be a broad-based program. The Department
19 needs to do more in that area.

20 Second, we strongly urge the Council to
21 provide funding for non-profit organizations that run
community composting operations in all five boroughs.
NRDC gets no financial remuneration from that effort,
but to its credit, the Council stepped in last year
to provide funding for 14 spectacular nonprofits
across the city. These groups are the frontline

2 champions of composting. They help (TIMER CHIME) to
3 reduce the amount of organics that must be landfilled
4 or sent to incinerators. They produce useful finished
5 compost that can replace chemical fertilizers,
6 benefit our parks, landscapes, help street trees and
7 gardens and houseplants grow, and they work across
8 the boroughs with our community gardeners and
9 schoolchildren. These organizations play an
10 unheralded role in neighborhood revitalization.
11 There's more we have to say about commercial waste
12 zones, containerization, litter basket service, and
13 lot cleaning, which are essential and always
14 downplayed in the Department's preliminary budget.

15 And finally, we urge you to reaffirm
16 support for the Glick-Harckham Packaging Reduction
17 and Recycling Infrastructure Act. That's the EPR
18 legislation the Commissioner spoke about that could
19 provide as much as 150 million dollars a year,
20 according to the Sanitation Department, back to the
21 City for manufacturers, and we hope the Council will
once again let everyone in Albany know of the City
Council's strong support for that State legislation.
Thank you for your attention.

2 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you for
3 your testimony.

4 CHRISTINA DATZ-ROMERO: Good afternoon,
5 Chair Sanchez, and thank you for holding this
6 meeting. My name is Christina Datz-Romero. I'm the
7 Executive Director of the Lower East Side Ecology
8 Center. I am here to testify about the need to
9 continue funding community-based programs. The
10 Ecology Center started its compost program in the
11 1990s to educate New York City residents about
12 composting. Since the '90s, composting has gained in
13 popularity with the implementation, obviously, of the
14 citywide curbside program in 2024. While community
15 composting programs have paved the way to
16 implementing a universal collection program, our work
17 is not done. Currently, the curbside organics capture
18 rate is at 10 percent of its potential. Here is where
19 community composting comes in. We are the trusted
20 experts and play a crucial role in educating people
21 about composting. When people see the composting
process up close in their community, when they hold
the finished product in their hands, utilizing
compost to fertilize their gardens or street trees,
or taking care of their houseplants, the reasons to

2 compost become tangible, and they feel good. Compost,
3 by nurturing the soil, nourishes a greener,
4 healthier, more resilient city, creates community,
5 and creates green jobs right here in the city. There
6 is a network of 15 organizations dedicated to turn
7 food waste into finished compost, and as a member of
8 the New York City Community Compost Network, we'd
9 like to thank, first of all, the council for their
10 support in the past, and request that this support
11 continue to go on in FY27. Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you so
13 much for your testimony.

14 JUSTIN WOOD: Hi. Good afternoon, Chair
15 Sanchez. Thank you so much for the opportunity to
16 testify, and Committee Staff. My name is Justin Wood,
17 New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, and a
18 founding member of the Transform, Don't Trash New
19 York Coalition. We'll submit written testimony, but
20 just wanted to get to three items about the FY27
21 budget.

First of all, commercial waste zones. We
urge the Mamdani Administration and Council to
continue realizing the full vision for the landmark
commercial waste zone system by simultaneously

2 uplifting historically exploited workers, eliminating
3 millions of unnecessary truck miles from our streets,
4 and diverting millions of tons of unnecessary
5 commercial waste that's disposed in landfills and
6 incinerators. We've got nine zones scheduled for
7 implementation by August. We strongly support the
8 continued and expedited rollout of this landmark
9 reform, and we note that the anticipated 7 million
10 dollars in administrative fees would cover many of
11 these costs. However, in DSNY's first annual report
12 on commercial waste zones, we were troubled that
13 almost three quarters of commercial waste in the
14 initial zone was found to be disposed in landfills
15 and incinerators. So, we view this as a really unique
16 opportunity for DSNY to more robustly invest in waste
17 diversion, food rescue, food donation, and other
18 recycling programs in the commercial sector, and urge
19 that the budget include ample funding to ramp those
20 programs up simultaneously with commercial waste
21 zones outreach.

18 Secondly, we urge the Council and the
19 budget to include funding for realizing the waste
20 equity goals of the current solid waste management
21 plan by utilizing at least one marine or rail

2 transfer station to accept commercial waste and
3 eliminate unnecessary truck miles from the commercial
4 sector back and forth to outer borough environmental
5 justice communities where the private truck-based
6 transfer stations are located. This could be done in
7 the form of a pilot program, for example, as the
8 Manhattan commercial waste zones are rolled out and
9 we have an underutilized marine transfer station in
Manhattan. (TIMER CHIME) I'll wrap up.

10 Thirdly, we strongly support robust
11 infrastructure, public education, and enforcement of
12 both residential and commercial organics laws. We
13 also hope to see the Department roll out plans and
14 have funding to roll out plans for additional larger
15 medium-sized compost facilities that replicate the
16 success of the Fresh Kills facility in Staten Island.
17 Thank you so much.

18 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you so
19 much for your testimony.

20 MARY ELLEN SULLIVAN: Chair Sanchez,
21 Committee Staff, thank you for the opportunity to
testify today. My name is Mary Ellen Sullivan, and
I'm Chair of the Brooklyn SWAB, and I'm here to share
our all-SWAB testimony. After nearly 40 years of

2 relying on the same strategies to increase diversion
3 without meaningful progress, it's time to try
4 something different. New York City now regularly
5 spends 500 million per year to export the majority of
6 its residential waste, about 3.2 million tons
7 annually, to landfills and incinerators outside the
8 city. For Fiscal Year 2027, 480 million is budgeted
9 and will almost certainly increase to over 500
10 million as exports costs are reconciled with actuals
11 and increased fuel costs. Increasing diversion to
12 recycling and composting will not significantly
13 reduce these costs. Diversion programs require
14 investments in collection and processing. However, 75
15 percent of the material currently exported is
16 recyclable or compostable. Diverting that much
17 material away from export to recycling and composting
18 can generate important benefits in two critical
19 areas.

20 First, every dollar spent diverting
21 material away from landfill or incineration reduces
the negative environmental and health impacts
associated with exporting waste to communities such
as the Ironbound District in Newark, New Jersey,
Seneca Metals Landfill in upstate New York, and

2 Chester, Pennsylvania, also an incinerator. These
3 impacts, including truck traffic, air pollution, and
4 disposal burdens, are currently borne by communities
5 both within New York City and in regions where waste
6 is burned or incinerated. Increasing diversion could
7 boost New York City jobs, tax revenue, and public
8 investment. Imagine what spending 500 million on
9 recycling and composting could mean for our five
10 boroughs.

11 Secondly, diversion directly improves
12 condition on the street. When recyclable materials
13 and organics are removed from the trash stream, the
14 volume of bag (TIMER CHIME) refuse declines
15 significantly and no longer attracts rats.

16 For this reason, it's extremely important
17 to achieve the targets outlined in the draft Solid
18 Waste Management Plan. It is 30 percent for
19 residential and 54 percent for commercial and
20 construction. This is not just a sustainability
21 issue, but it's also an environmental justice issue.
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you for
your testimony, and we will have the rest of it in
the written record.

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2 MARY ELLEN SULLIVAN: Okay. Great.

3 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you so
4 much to this panel.

5 We're going to take one of our online
6 testimony before we move on to our third panel
7 because they have been patiently waiting. So, I'd
8 like to bring up our PS15 fourth graders.

9 PS15 FOURTH GRADERS: Good morning. Thank
10 you, Chair Sanchez and the Sanitation Committee, for
11 allowing us to speak today. We are fourth graders
12 from PS15 in Red Hook, Brooklyn. We live in an
13 environmental justice zone in Red Hook, Brooklyn with
14 a lot of traffic. (INAUDIBLE) us that there is no
15 (INAUDIBLE) our trash. We learned that when our trash
16 leaves our homes or our school, first it goes to the
17 Hamilton Avenue Waste Transfer Station nearby. Then
18 it goes by truck to a barge at the Marine Terminal in
19 Elizabeth, New Jersey. Then it gets trucked to a
20 landfill all the way in Virginia. All that
21 transportation creates pollution, and the landfills
make it worse. Kids just like us who live around
landfills get asthma for life because of garbage
that's not even theirs. How can the City's Zero Waste
Plan be real if we keep hurting our community? We all

3 need to work together to stop this waste before it
4 starts, and that's what we're doing in our cafeteria,
5 stopping waste before it starts. We started the
6 Mindful Choice Meals program in our school two years
7 ago. This year, we reduced our cafeteria food waste
8 at the source by almost 45 percent. Cafeteria Culture
9 is doing Mindful Choice Meals in a lot of schools.
10 Now, we want all schools to have this program. It's a
11 no-brainer! We're talking about our food waste out of
12 the system through compost and (INAUDIBLE) at Red
13 Hook Farms. And it's walking distance from our
14 schools. So no (INAUDIBLE) Red Hook Farms makes
15 compost out of our food scraps, and we visit them on
16 field trips every year. We hope other schools can
17 reduce their cafeteria food waste too and compost
18 their food scraps locally to make less food waste in
19 all schools in the New York City so we can stop
20 hurting kids like us who live near landfills and
21 faraway places. We hope the City keeps supporting
environmental education and local composting. Thank
you!

19 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you to
20 our PS15 4th graders for your testimony. The kids are
21 all right.

3 Now we will bring up our third panel. Can
4 we please have Justin Green, a lot of Justins in
5 trash, Megan Ortiz, Samir Rush, I hope I pronounced
6 that right, if I didn't, oh, my bad. Jaimere Rush,
7 and Sidney Scott.

8 It does not matter which order you sit.
9 Just know that if you sit on the left, you will be
10 speaking first.

11 JAIMERE RUSH: Mindful, this is the first
12 time here. Good afternoon, Chair Sanchez and the
13 Sanitation Committee. I'm Jaimere Rush. Thank you for
14 this opportunity to speak today. I'm here as a direct
15 result of quality environmental education funding. I
16 was trained by Green City Forest, an environmental
17 education organization where I learned about
18 agriculture, infrastructure, and composting. Now I
19 work with Cafeteria Culture as their Compost
20 Coordinator. This is a position created to pilot the
21 possibility of replicating the practices of
processing food scraps in nearby community composting
sites in New York City Public Schools. Our work is
also powered through New York City Council's
discretionary funding. I work in Cafeteria Culture's
partner schools to collect food scraps in the

3 cafeteria and compost it locally. To date, I've
4 collected more than 1,200 pounds of school food
5 scraps. That amount is heavier than a fully grown
6 Kodiak bear. At one partner school, we processed all
7 of the food scraps we collect through a local
8 composting site that is operated by our partner
9 organization, Compost Power. In the cafeteria, I'm
10 able to interact with all students in the school. I
11 teach them what I learned in environmental education,
12 that local composting keeps the resources in the
13 community and reduces truck traffic. Middle schoolers
14 typically walk up to me and introduce themselves and
15 have regular conversations with me. I'm sure my age
16 and who I am makes me seem more approachable to them.
17 In engaging with me, these students who are often
18 hard to reach suddenly are exposed to composting,
19 agriculture, and environmental equity. Through my
20 pilot position as Compost Coordinator, I'm able to
21 bridge school cafeteria food scraps collection with
local solutions that directly benefit the community.
With further funding, we will be able to begin to
scale these local composting pilots in the next year.

CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you for
your testimony.

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3 JAIMERE RUSH: Of course.

4 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: And congrats
5 on your first time.

6 JAIMERE RUSH: Appreciate that.

7 MEGAN ORTIZ: Good afternoon, Chair
8 Sanchez and the Sanitation Committee. Thank you for
9 this opportunity to speak. I am Megan Ortiz and I
10 work with Cafeteria Culture as a member of the
11 teaching staff as well as mentor and support our
12 Compost Coordinator with his work in cafeteria food
13 scrap collection. I started as a Cafeteria Culture
14 student in 2020 when I was a junior in high school,
15 and I became fully employed by them after working a
16 waste audit in 2024. In complete honesty, I have
17 always found it incredibly difficult to speak in
18 front of groups of people, to the point where I even
19 deemed it an impossibility for myself. Me standing
20 before you today is a testament to the work and
21 teaching of Cafeteria Culture. They push you to
always challenge yourself and show you that anything
is possible. Cafeteria Culture makes it a point that
every student we work with has the opportunity to
engage with the content in a way that is
comprehensible to them, that no student is left

2 behind or feels as though their voice isn't heard. I
3 remember meeting one of our current 8th grade
4 students just a year ago when she was a 7th grader
5 who was shy and refused to make eye contact, now
6 confidently running up to people in order to
7 interview them for a community survey. It is with the
8 experience I have gained from Cafeteria Culture now
9 as a teacher that shows me how it is incredibly
10 important to meet students where they are, and that
11 is a skill I hope to continue honoring in our work,
12 being consistent figures who are able to inspire
13 students to see themselves as active members of a
14 community rather than a nuisance or passive recipient
15 of the current conditions. It is because of the work
16 Cafeteria Culture does that our children believe they
17 are able to make a change. Our work is powered
18 through New York City Council discretionary funding
19 and, through your greater investments in Cafeteria
20 Culture, we hope to empower more students. I dream of
21 a day where our work can reach children in all five
boroughs, inspiring the hope and the confidence that
I have achieved through Cafeteria Culture. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you for
your testimony.

2 JUSTIN GREEN: Hi. I'm Justin Green.

3 Thanks. I'm the Executive Director of Big Reuse, one
4 of the groups that received funding from City
5 Council. When Mayor Adams cut funding in FY24,
6 programs that had been in existence for decades got
7 cut at Department of Sanitation. So, there's really
8 no more community-based programming at Department of
9 Sanitation that is not funded through City Council.
10 That funding that kicked in funded our work and work
11 of 13 other groups across the city. Cafeteria
12 Culture, which you've heard, is doing amazing work.
13 Earth Matter, Governor's Island, Red Hook Farms, East
14 New York Farms, Compost Power, BK Rot, New York
15 Botanical Gardens, Green Botanical Gardens, Snug
16 Harbor, Earth Matter, Lower East Side, Grow NYC, and
17 Brotherhood, Sister Sol. So, it's funding groups
18 across the city, all doing really interesting,
19 innovative composting work. It's really needed to
20 educate people on composting. Right now, they don't
21 have a budget besides this EPA budget. OMB is
restricting DSNY in terms of outreach funding. So,
all the funding that's going for outreach is through
City Council and City Council community-based
funding. They have some EPA funding that they're

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2 going to use on mailers or other stuff. But out in
3 the community, it's really groups like ours. With our
4 funding at Big Reuse, we do a lot of different
5 things. We have a mid-scale composting site in the
6 Gowanus. We'd love to have you come check out. We
7 opened a site in Central Park, working with Central
8 Park Conservancy to compost their yard waste. We have
9 20 food scrap drop-offs throughout the city. We
10 install rat-proof composting cubes in community
11 gardens. We're at New Roots in your District, working
12 with a lot of programming there. We distribute
13 compost to schools, 60 schools, 400 bags of compost.
14 We do outreach events, over 200 outreach events
15 across New York City, reaching 10,000 community
16 members. Our work in composting spawned our street
17 tree care program, which now cares for over 1,000
18 street trees across the (TIMER CHIME) city. And so
19 we're here to encourage you guys to keep funding the
20 Speaker Initiative for Community Composting because
21 it has had amazing impacts across the city. Thanks
for your time.

CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you so
much for your testimony.

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2 SYDNEY SCOTT: Hi. Good afternoon, Chair
3 Sanchez and Members of the Committee. My name is
4 Sydney Scott. I'm a graduate student pursuing a
5 master's in food systems. Thank you for the
6 opportunity to testify, and thank you to the City
7 Council for restoring community composting funding in
8 Fiscal Year '25 and continuing the funding for Fiscal
9 Year '26. I'm speaking today to strongly support
10 ongoing, stable funding for community composting
11 through Schedule C Council Initiative funding for
12 community composting. When Mayor Adams cut funding to
13 community programs at DSNY, the City Council stepped
14 in to save decades-old programs that supported
15 community composting, composting education, and
16 outreach through New York City non-profits. The
17 ongoing support shows how composting impacts and
18 engages the community. In my master's program, we
19 discuss food waste often. Tackling the food waste
20 issue can help our society in many ways, from easing
21 hunger and food insecurity to mitigating climate
change. But it wasn't the graduate education that
taught me the value of composting. That came earlier
from years of dropping off food scraps at green
markets, volunteering at composting events throughout

2 the city with organizations such as Grow NYC, and
3 last year completing the Master Composter
4 Certification. All of this was possible because of
5 City Council funding. Despite what the federal
6 government claims, climate change is real, and it
7 impacts us all. Food sent to landfills produces
8 methane, a much more potent greenhouse gas than CO2.
9 Composting can help address this issue by saving tons
10 of greenhouse gas emissions. Let's work together to
11 keep fighting climate change. I urge the Council to
12 continue funding community composting. Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you so
14 much for your testimony, and thank you to everyone on
15 the panel today.

16 Before we head completely to our Zoom
17 testimony, I wanted to make sure there were no last
18 folks in the room that wanted to testify that have
19 not already put in a request with the
20 Sergeant-at-Arms.

21 Going once, going twice. Sold.

Now I'd like to bring up Mary Arnold on
Zoom, please.

MARY ARNOLD: Hi. I'm testifying for
Civics United for Railroad Environmental Solutions,

2 which formed in Queens in 2009 to address
3 quality-of-life problems from antiquated freight
4 locomotives and waste export by rail. The Department
5 of Sanitation of New York kind of brags that 85
6 percent of waste exported from New York City is
7 hauled at some point by freight rail, and this budget
8 supports that business-as-usual export to disposal.
9 But exporting waste by rail instead of using a
10 different transportation mode doesn't reduce the
11 tonnage or toxicity of waste, and it doesn't
12 eliminate quality-of-life, health, and environmental
13 problems in neighborhoods within and outside New York
14 City where all that waste is tipped, processed,
15 hauled, landfilled, and incinerated. Using rail to
16 export New York City's waste is nothing much to brag
17 about. Capturing and diverting waste from export at
18 the increased levels that are in DSNY's Solid Waste
19 Management Plan draft would reduce neighborhood
20 problems and really be something to brag about.
21 Please shift existing funding to actions that support
DSNY's 30 percent and 54 percent diversion goals
instead of just business-as-usual funding of filthy,
unhealthy waste export by rail. Why do I say filthy
and unhealthy? With few exceptions, the locomotives

2 that haul waste are high-polluting 1970s diesel
3 technology. Especially during the warm weather
4 months, municipal solid waste rail containers too
5 often emit the stench rats love because a third of
6 the material in the black bag trash is organics.
7 Construction and demolition debris, C and D, can
8 contain heavy metals, PCBs, asbestos, and other
9 toxics. Yet C and D is crushed, dumped, and hauled in
10 open-top rail cars with floor drains resulting in
11 emissions of toxic blow-off leachate and gas.

12 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Your time has expired.

13 MARY ARNOLD: Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you so
15 much for your testimony. And any of the testimony
16 that you didn't get to, you can please submit it and
17 it will be saved in the written record.

18 MARY ARNOLD: I have done so. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you so
20 much, Mary.

21 Can we please have Clare Miflin.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: You may begin.

19 CLARE MIFLIN: Hi. I'm sorry, I've lost my
20 voice, but I'm going to try and send it in as written
21 as well. I'm in support of waste containerization and

2 community composting, actually. But in waste
3 containerization, I have ideas of how it could be
4 improved. I mean, our sidewalks are covered in bins,
5 and managing them is expensive. Our recent report,
6 the Hidden Cost of Trash, shows that small buildings
7 pay over 100 dollars per apartment per month to
8 manage their waste, often just taking it from bins on
9 the sidewalk across to the street. Our solution of
10 shared-on-street containers for trash recycling and
11 organics used directly by residents could clean up
12 sidewalks, increase diversion rates, and reduce
13 operating costs. Large new buildings shouldn't need
14 Empire bins also. They shouldn't be given hundreds of
15 linear foot of curb space for permanent storage of
16 their trash. Our solution, temporary rolling out of
17 four-wheel bins that can be attached to the trash
18 chutes, means porters no longer need to lift tons of
19 plastic bags per week and has been rolled out
20 successfully in Hoboken as a pilot and now is being
21 permanent. Our report, Curb Alert, also looked at
on-street commercial waste containerization and
interviewed small businesses who said how it was a
problem for them to use these bins and have them
permanently outside their storefronts because people

2 just put their waste in it, passersby or residents
3 living above. And haulers said it was hard for them
4 to make money on routes with low volumes of organics
5 as they have to charge less. Again, shared-on-street
6 containerization would help solve both of these
7 problems and should be offered before DSNY start
8 fining small mom-and-pops for not separating organics
9 when it's so tough for them and when the chains are
10 not doing it themselves. I'd also like to ensure
11 community composting continues to be financed. It'll
12 have to be through City Council in the next year or
13 so, but I would love to see it baselined in DSNY once
14 the contract is set.

15 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Your time has expired.

16 CLARE MIFLIN: Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you so
18 much for your testimony.

19 Next, can we have Alex Stein?

20 ALEX STEIN: Thank you, guys. Can you hear
21 me? All right, guys. I just want to start by saying
that I love Mayor Mamdani, and I voted for him. I
support him 100 percent. I like his wife. And one
thing, he handled all of the snow incredibly well,
but he made a campaign promise that he was going to

2 lower the prices of falafel. And I'm going to be
3 honest. I eat falafel every day. I'm a plant-based
4 pimp, and I feel like right now the prices are still
5 pretty high because you guys are giving these people
6 a lot of restrictions. So, you guys need to reduce
7 your restrictions. So, I wrote a little poem. Oh,
8 forget that Iran mess. It's just sand and a bunch of
9 stress. I'm hyped for the falafel fight. Chickpeas
10 clash in a pit of spice delight. Peters pounding hard
11 through the day and night. Mamdani, you are a Brown
12 king. Walking around with your anti-Semite swing.
13 Loosen the rules, let the cheap eats ring. Food cuts
14 free, prices drop like a bomb. Jihadi vibes strong,
15 keep the passion calm. Mamdani, you are my mom. Love
16 those terrorists riding on the camel. I don't give a
17 dang because your food truck has a handle to my
18 heart. It makes me fart. If I'm being real, I'll
19 accidentally shart in the Apple store because I'm at
20 the genius bar. Because I cracked my screen because a
21 guy robbed me on the subway train. All I was doing
was buying cocaine. Mamdani, you're the mocha man.
I'm your number one anti-Semite fan.

20 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Thank you. Time is
21 expired.

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3 ALEX STEIN: Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you for
5 your testimony.

6 And with that, the preliminary budget
7 hearing for the Committee on Sanitation and Solid
8 Waste Management is officially closed. [GAVEL]
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4 C E R T I F I C A T E

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



18 Date June 18, 2026