

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, RESILIENCY

AND WATERFRONTS

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION, RESILIENCY AND  
WATERFRONTS

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September 25, 2025

Start: 11:55 a.m.

Recess: 12:06 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING  
ROOM 1

B E F O R E: James F. Gennaro, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alexa Avilés  
Justin L. Brannan  
Robert F. Holden  
Kristy Marmorato  
Sandy Nurse  
Lincoln Restler  
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.  
Susan Zhuang

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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone  
check on the Committee on Environmental Protection  
and Waterfronts, recorded by James Marino, in Hearing  
Room One on September 25, 2025.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and  
welcome to the New York City Council vote of the  
Committee on Environmental Protection, Resiliency and  
Waterfronts.

At this time, can everybody please  
silence your cell phones and no one is to approach  
the dais.

Chair, we are ready to begin.

CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Okay. We're good,  
Sergeant? Okay.

[GAVEL] Good morning. I'm Council Member  
Jim Gennaro, Chair of the Committee on Environmental  
Protection, Resiliency and Waterfronts. Today we'll  
be voting on Proposed Intro Number 1271-A, sponsored  
by myself in relation to requiring review of New York  
City's long-term sustainability plan by the  
Environmental Justice Advisory Board. Also Proposed  
Intro. 1302-A, also by me in relation to reporting  
requirements of the Office of Long-Term Planning and  
Sustainability, and Proposed Intro. 1327-A in

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relation to maintenance easements for post-  
construction stormwater management facilities. Sounds  
mysterious, but it's actually a good bill.

As we conduct this vote during Climate  
Week, happy Climate Week, I want to call attention to  
some projections from the New York City Panel on  
Climate Changes, we call that the NPCC, this panel's  
most recent report. The same NPCC, by the way, that  
was codified into local law, oh, who wrote this, that  
was codified into law by yours truly via Local Law 42  
of 2012. I didn't write this, I'm just reading it,  
okay? According to the latest report, local sea  
levels are projected to rise between six inches and  
12 inches in the 2030s, one to two feet by the end of  
the 2050s, and two to potentially 5.5 feet by 2100.  
High-end estimates suggest that annual precipitation  
may increase up to 10 percent by the end of the  
2030s, 14 percent by the 2050s, with a potential 30  
percent increase in average annual rainfall by 2100.  
Temperatures are predicted to increase between 2 and  
4.7 degrees by the 2030s, between 3 and 7.1 degrees  
by the 2050s, and between 5.1 and 13.5 degrees by  
2100. With these grim numbers in mind, it is  
important to remember that communities living in

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environmental justice areas are often more likely to bear the weight of the negative impacts of climate change, and less able to access the social and governmental resources required to bounce back after climate disasters, which brings me back to legislation on the docket for today's vote. Proposed Intro. 1271-A would require the Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability, what we call OLTPS, give that office the responsibilities which are currently fulfilled by MOCEJ, the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice, to provide drafts and proposed revisions of the long-term sustainability plans required under Local Law 17 of 2008, another one of my bills, better known as PlaNYC, to the Environmental Justice Advisory Board, and would give, which is called EJAB, and would give EJAB an opportunity to make recommendations to OLTPS prior to the finalization of the long-term sustainability plans. Here's what those couple paragraphs means. It means that you got the PlaNYC process, and then you have the other things that MOCEJ does, and so EJAB plays an important advisory role for MOCEJ's EJ activities. But what we want to do by this is bring them more directly into the City's main

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sustainability plan, which is PlaNYC. Right now, there is an EJ member of the Sustainability Advisory Board, and that's nice, but we would like to get more EJ input into PlaNYC during its formation so that PlaNYC is more infused with EJ perspectives and voices and advocates. So that's what that means.

Moving on. Proposed Intro. 1302-A would require OLTPS to incorporate the long-term energy plan and the climate adaptation plan into updates to the long-term sustainability plan. So those are not currently in the sustainability plan, and we want to put them in. The bill would streamline other reporting requirements, including increasing the publication frequency of the climate adaptation plan from once every 10 years to once every four years. If we're going to do it, let's do it. 10 years for me is like a long time. You know, for some people in the audience, 10 years is like nothing, but for me it's a lot, and so we want to do it every four years. I didn't get one chuckle, nothing. Anyway, okay. The bill would also require the NPCC to publish a new assessment at least once every seven years with an additional report requirement at least every three years, and remove the prohibition on members of the

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NPCC, that's the climate change office, the panel on climate change. We will allow them to receive a financial compensation. Right now, the people that participate in the NPCC don't get any financial payment, but we want to open the door to that so we get the best minds.

And finally, Proposed Intro. 1327-A would streamline the stormwater permitting process by allowing developers to obtain a stormwater construction permit before executing and recording a maintenance easement. The bill would also increase the civil penalty cap for violations of the Stormwater Pollution Control Code from 10,000 to 15,000. Here's what this paragraph means. According to the stormwater management plan a long time ago, 2008 or whatever it was when I passed that, that led to the City doing everything it could to manage stormwater on site, on construction sites, everywhere they possibly could. And so now there's this program in place called SWIP, which is the, whatever SWIP means, stormwater, go ahead. Stormwater, yeah, okay. It is, yeah, the stormwater, and so it's a good thing to do, but it's taking endless amounts of times to get projects to move so people can't build affordable

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2 housing, people can't build market rate housing,  
3 people can't build commercial construction. DEP can't  
4 move their own projects. And so the SWIP process has  
5 to be reformed such that we can get things moving  
6 faster. This is critically important to do. And just  
7 to make sure nobody gets cute, we're increasing  
8 violations of the SWIP code from 10,000 to 15,000,  
9 because now they're going to be able to submit  
10 things. It's almost like a self-certification thing,  
11 but we're going to get them on the back end. And so  
12 it had to be done, but it is a critical tool that we  
13 use in managing stormwater. This keeps stormwater out  
14 of the stormwater system. Every opportunity we have  
15 to do that, we need to do that. SWIP does that, but  
16 SWIP has to work better. There you go.

17 And now I'm going to thank my Staff. Do I  
18 really need to do that, or we just move on? No, I'm  
19 kidding. I'd like to thank the Committee Staff,  
20 Legislative Counsels, Natasha Bynum, Sierra Townsend;  
21 Policy Analyst Ricky Chawla; Financial Analyst  
22 Tanveer Singh; and my own Legislative Director Josh  
23 Gachette for all of their hard work.

24 I recognize the following Council  
25 Members. I have a paper that's going to appear in

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front of me. Council Members Marmorato, Zhuang,  
Nurse, Avilés, Restler, Brannan, Salamanca, and  
Holden, who was on Zoom. And so that's it, right? So  
now I recognize Council Members, and so now I'm going  
to ask the Clerk to call the roll.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good  
afternoon. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call  
vote on Environmental Protection, Resiliency and  
Waterfronts. All items are coupled.

Chair Gennaro.

CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:  
Salamanca.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brannan.

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Holden.

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: (INAUDIBLE)

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: I'm  
sorry, Council Member Holden, I didn't hear that.

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
you. Avilés.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.



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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Nurse.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Zhuang.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

9 Marmorato.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: I vote aye on  
11 all with the exception of 1271-A, I vote no.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Following  
13 results, all items have been adopted by the Committee  
14 with nine in the affirmative, zero in the negative,  
15 and no abstentions, with Proposed Introduction 1271-A  
16 being adopted by the Committee eight in the  
17 affirmative, one in the negative, and no abstentions.

18 Mr. Chair, that is a full Committee.

19 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Thank you, Billy.

20 This vote is adjourned. [GAVEL]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date September 30, 2025