

**Testimony of
Gregory P. Anderson, Commissioner
New York City Department of Sanitation
Hearing before the New York City Council
Committees on Finance and Sanitation & Solid Waste Management
Thursday, June 4, 2026, 2:00 pm
Executive Budget Hearing**

Good afternoon Chairs Lee and Sanchez and members of the Committees on Finance and Sanitation & Solid Waste Management. I am Gregory Anderson, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Sanitation, and I am joined today by Joseph Antonelli, Deputy Commissioner, Management & Budget, and by Rebecca Kriegman, Assistant Commissioner, Policy & Planning.

We are here today to discuss an Executive Budget that makes historic investments in cleanliness and waste containerization. One that reflects a commitment to revolutionary change for our relationship with our waste — and with our public spaces.

In my decade of service to this Department, I have seen cleaning programs mired in bureaucratic patchworks and initiatives that were announced to great fanfare without ongoing funding. As with so many other issues, the Mamdani administration is rejecting this status quo, and as part of the New Era for New York City, the Department of Sanitation (“DSNY”) is taking an expansive view of what it means to keep our city clean.

It is often said that budgets are a statement of values. Well, this Administration’s Executive Budget is a statement that supports a cleaner, safer, and healthier New York City more than ever before. A City where cleanliness is measured not by the absence of trash but by vitality and well-maintained public spaces.

The Sanitation Department works tirelessly to deliver to all New Yorkers the promise of a truly clean city — one where every New Yorker leaves their home to a block they take pride in, a neighborhood they cherish and a city that helps them thrive. This budget is an investment in that work.

Containerization

First, I want to talk about containerization. I worked on this project for many years as a Deputy Commissioner, and I am thrilled to be back at DSNY as part of an administration that is committed to meaningful progress and getting this across the finish line. By the end of 2031, 100 percent of all New York City trash will be in sealed containers. This isn’t just a pie-in-the-sky hope. Today, we have a budget that puts us on track to achieve that plan.

We already require more than 70 percent of trash to be in containers: all commercial trash, all trash from low-density residences, all trash collected by BIDs and cleanup partners, and all food waste for composting.

We are not just collecting food scraps and yard waste; we are also giving compost back to New Yorkers. To date, we have given away roughly 6 million pounds of compost at giveback sites across all five boroughs, as well as to community gardens, schools, and other nonprofits. Residents can sign up for these givebacks at nyc.gov/getcompost.

While I am on the topic of sustainability, the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act — which would reduce single-use packaging by 30 percent and save New York City taxpayers \$100 million or more annually — is currently before our legislators in Albany. With just hours left of the legislative session, I continue to call on our lawmakers to take action before this session ends.

Cleanliness

Our commitment to cleanliness has historically focused on emptying litter baskets, clearing dump-outs and enforcing our cleanliness laws. These commitments remain, but under this administration, we are approaching this work with an understanding that every part of this City is impacted by sanitation issues and services. You will see, feel and even smell that change as we bring equitable cleaning resources to every part of the five boroughs. We need New Yorkers to be our partners in this effort — to keep their property clean and throw their trash in the litter basket. And largely, they do.

However, as I have said before, there is one area where many New Yorkers often do not do their part, and that is adherence to alternate-side parking rules. An estimated 500,000 illegally parked cars prevent our street sweepers from cleaning more than 3,000 miles of streets every week. Because it is impossible for us to write summonses to every one of these car owners, we are asking legislators in Albany to give us a street sweeper camera enforcement bill. I ask Albany to please LET US CLEAN.

Passage of this bill would increase compliance, and with better compliance and cleaner streets, we will be able to reevaluate the current street cleaning regulations—potentially reducing the frequency and duration of ASP regulations. Again, as this legislative session wraps up today, I ask every City Council member who wants cleaner streets to put their strong, vocal support behind this bill.

Snow

This past winter, we faced two significant snowstorms, as well as days of subfreezing temperatures, unlike anything we have seen in at least a decade. Our storm response was the culmination of years of planning, coupled with a new commitment to clearing more areas of the city.

FY26-27 Executive Budget

I will now turn to additional specifics of this year's Executive Budget. The Executive Budget includes \$2.36 billion in expense funds in Fiscal Year 2026 and \$2.11 billion in Fiscal Year 2027, reflecting increases of \$372 million and \$73 million, respectively, from the budget adopted last June.

The Fiscal Year 2026 budget includes \$1.42 billion for personal services to support a total budgeted headcount of 9,625 full-time positions, including 7,957 uniformed positions and 1,668 civilian positions, and \$942.5 million for other than personal services, or OTPS.

DSNY's Fiscal Year 2027 Executive Capital Budget includes \$3.36 billion in capital funding in the 10-year plan, \$1.09 billion of which is for garages and facilities, \$2.14 billion for equipment, \$59.28 million for IT, and \$70.22 million for solid waste management infrastructure.

I am happy to speak further about the details of these investments. Thank you, and we look forward to taking your questions.