



**Testimony of Erik Joerss, Director of City Legislative Affairs
New York City Department of Consumer Affairs**

**Before the
New York City Council Committee on Consumer Affairs**

**On
Pre-considered Intro T2011-3940 regarding bicycle parking in garages and parking lots**

November 23, 2011

Good morning, Chairman Garodnick and members of the Committee on Consumer Affairs. I am Erik Joerss, Director of City Legislative Affairs for the Department of Consumer Affairs. Commissioner Mintz asked me to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you at this hearing.

The Department currently licenses 1,305 garages, 615 parking lots and 46 combined facilities for a total of 1,996 entities. Since Local Law 51 of 2009 became effective, DCA has received a total of 13 consumer complaints relating to bicycle parking. In 2011, the Department issued 135 violations related to the local law, which accounted for 11 percent of all parking garage violations issued during the year.

The Department supports Intro 3940. The bill minimizes the burden on businesses and provides flexibility to garage operators, all while ensuring that ample space is provided for people to safely and securely park their bicycles. It appears to be a sensible and practical solution that satisfies all interests.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Metropolitan Parking Association, Inc.

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TESTIMONY OF VINCENT PETRARO BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL'S CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 23, 2011

Good morning, my name is Vincent Petraro. I represent the Metropolitan Parking Association, a trade association of many of the parking lot and garage operators in the City of New York.

We have been happy to have been working with the City Council and the Department of Consumer Affairs since prior to the passage of Intro 780-A in the summer of 2009. The members of the Metropolitan Parking Association, since the addition and approval of Section 20-327.1 to the Administrative Code over two years ago, have diligently

prepared their facilities for bicycle parking and have taken all customers who have requested bicycle parking.

Regrettable, very few customers have sought to park their bicycles in our members' parking facilities. At the request of the Department of Consumer Affairs, the Metropolitan Parking Association prepared and submitted a study that found that over an eight month period, from February 1 through September 30, 2010, just a little over one-half of one percent of bicycle parking spaces were utilized – the actual number .55%. Therefore, over ninety nine percent of allotted bicycle parking spaces remain vacant, day in and day out. Since the study was prepared, the percentage usage of bicycle spaces remains unchanged.

While we enthusiastically support the accommodating of bicycles in our members parking facilities, the initial legislation created unnecessary burdens on our members in carrying out this goal. We are hopeful that the new proposed legislation will alleviate some of the burdens of the original bill, Intro 780-A of 2009. Those burdens

included providing excessive area for bicycle parking spaces even when no bicycles were present and disrupting the operation of parking facilities by allowing bicycle customers to move about areas of the parking facilities where auto customers are not permitted.

The Metropolitan Parking Association appreciates the efforts of the City Council in addressing the concerns of the industry while in no way diminishing the implementation of the bicycle parking program.

We look forward to continuing to work with the City Council and the Department of Consumer Affairs to make the law even better for both bicycle riders and for operators of parking facilities.

Thank you.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 3940 Res. No. 30

in favor in opposition

Date: 11/23/11

Name: ERIC JOSS (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: [scribble]

I represent: DCA

Address: 42 Broadway

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition /

Date: _____

Name: Fran Freedman (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: DCA

I represent: _____

Address: _____

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