

COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 1
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID
WASTE MANAGEMENT

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December 20, 2023
Start: 9:40 a.m.
Recess: 10:07 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Sandy Nurse, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Erik D. Bottcher
Amanda Farías
Julie Menin
Chi. A. Ossé
Kristin Richardson Jordan
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Marjorie Velázquez
Kalman Yeger

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Lincoln Restler

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste
4 Management on December 20, 2023, by Layla Lynch.

5 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
6 welcome to the Committee on Sanitation and Solid
7 Waste Management.

8 At this time, we ask that you please
9 place phones on vibrate or silent mode.

10 Chair, we are ready to begin.

11 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: [GAVEL] Good morning,
12 everyone. Welcome to the final vote for the Committee
13 on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management of the
14 session. Thank you to the Committee Members for being
15 here.

16 The purpose of today's hearing, we're
17 going to have a vote on three key pieces of
18 legislation. These bills will help ensure that post
19 storm cleanup branches and trees is done in a prompt
20 manner, that our city's streets and waterways remain
21 free from hazardous cleaning fluids, and that we move
22 closer to a meaningful reduction in plastic pollution
23 and bottles discarded as waste.

24 The bills we will be voting on today
25 include Intro. 145 sponsored by Council Member Justin

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2 Brannan in relation to requiring the Department of
3 Sanitation to remove fallen tree limbs, branches, and
4 vegetation that obstruct streets and sidewalks as a
5 result of severe weather; Intro. 1131 sponsored by
6 Council Member Rafael Salamanca in relation to
7 outreach to unlicensed mobile carwash operators and
8 authorizing seizure for certain mobile carwashes; and
9 finally, Intro. 1161 sponsored by Council Member
10 Shaun Abreu in relation to allowing reusable beverage
11 containers in sports venues.

12 I want to thank everyone on the team and
13 the Sanitation task force for their work on these
14 bills and their efforts in moving this Committee and
15 community forward over the past year. I'd like to
16 acknowledge Council Member Chi Ossé, Council Member
17 Kristin Richardson Jordan, Council Members Julie
18 Menin, Bottcher, Salamanca, and Fariás as well as
19 Restler maybe is joining us. Are you on this
20 Committee? Oh, okay. I was like I'm acknowledging
21 you. Thanks for being here.

22 Council Member Salamanca, you're good?
23 Okay, let's do the vote. We're ready.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
25 morning, William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call

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2 vote Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste

3 Management, all items are coupled. Chair Nurse.

4 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: I vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

6 Salamanca.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all and

8 congrats to all the sponsors of bills.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Gennaro.

10 Botcher.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye on all.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Farías.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye on all.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Menin.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ossé.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Aye on all and

18 congratulations to Chair Nurse on a wonderful two

19 years of being Chair of this wonderful Committee.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

21 Richardson Jordan.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: I vote

23 aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

25 Velázquez.

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2 With a vote of seven in the affirmative,
3 zero in the negative, and no abstentions, all items
4 have been adopted by the Committee.

5 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: I'm going to recognize
6 Council Member Kalman Yeger.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Council
8 Member Yeger.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Okay. May I be
10 excused to explain my vote, please?

11 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: Of course.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you very
13 much. I vote aye on all with the exception of
14 Introduction 1161, and I'd like to explain why. When
15 the original draft of the bill was introduced, it was
16 a bill that I could support. It was cognizant of the
17 environmental needs and it made sense to allow people
18 to use reusable containers, try to do a little better
19 for the environment. The changes in the amended
20 version of the bill, the one that is being adopted by
21 this Committee today, has inserted language that
22 requires that the drinking vessel that we are
23 allowing in be composed primarily of aluminum or
24 stainless steel. The first version of this bill did
25 not have that. It allowed it to be of any material.

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2 The second change is that it requires that the
3 container be capable of holding up to 24 fluid
4 ounces. A stainless steel container capable of
5 holding up to 24 fluid ounces is basically a brick.
6 That's what we're talking about. We're talking about
7 allowing people to bring bricks into sports venues.
8 That's a public safety hazard in my opinion. I think
9 it's dangerous. I think it doesn't make sense. I
10 think we have to allow the hosts to make their own
11 determinations about the safety of their patrons. For
12 that reason, and that reason alone, it's not about
13 the environment because I would support the bill
14 otherwise, but for that reason alone, the safety of
15 the patrons at these sports facilities and what will
16 ultimately happen when somebody gets killed by
17 somebody hurling one of these things at their head, I
18 want to be able to say that I vote no, and I vote no.
19 Thank you very much.

20 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: Thank you, Council
21 Member.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
23 vote of eight in the affirmative, zero in the
24 negative, and no abstentions, Introductions 145-A,
25 809-A, and 1139-A are adopted by the Committee, aAnd

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2 also with a vote of seven in the affirmative, one in
3 the negative, and no abstentions, we have
4 Introduction 1161-A also adopted by the Committee.

5 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: Excuse me, Clerk. We
6 did not vote on 809. We didn't vote on 809.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: My
8 apologies. Scratch 809.

9 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: In case that's an
10 issue.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
12 you.

13 Continuation roll call, Committee on
14 Sanitation. Council Member Velázquez.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Aye on all.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
17 you.

18 Final vote, Committee on Sanitation. We
19 have Proposed Introductions 145-A and 1139-A with a
20 vote of nine in the affirmative, zero in the
21 negative, and no abstentions, and Proposed
22 Introduction 1161-A with eight in the affirmative,
23 one in the negative, and no abstentions.

24 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: Just to clarify, that
25 was Intros 1131, 1161, and 145.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank you
3 for the clarification.

4 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: With that, I'm now
5 adjourning the Committee on Sanitation. [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 December 23, 2023