

New York City Council

Memorandum in Support of Legislation

This memorandum is authored by the sponsor and explains the need for the legislation referenced below, in accordance with Rule 6.00(d) of the Rules of the Council.

Legislative Service Number:

- LS22291

Prime Sponsor:

- Council Member Shahana Hanif

Bill Title:

- A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to a public education and outreach campaign regarding the removal of dog waste

Submitted by:

- Council Member Shahana Hanif

Justification

Dog waste has become a widespread problem across New York City. Our streets and sidewalks are littered with waste left behind by dog owners who fail to clean up after their pets. This was made especially visible during the winter months, when waste accumulated beneath the snow on our sidewalks. Dog waste is a genuine public health concern. It can carry harmful bacteria, viruses, and parasites that pose real dangers to New Yorkers.

This bill requires the Commissioner of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with the Commissioner of Sanitation, to develop and conduct a citywide public education and outreach campaign informing New Yorkers about proper dog waste removal and the health risks of failing to do so. The bill also requires that all campaign materials be made available in English and all designated citywide languages. That way, all residents have access to clear, accurate information about safe disposal practices.

By establishing a clear mandate for education and outreach, this bill ensures that New Yorkers are equipped with the information they need to keep our streets clean and our communities safe, while promoting shared responsibility among dog owners citywide. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

