

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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March 23, 2022
Start: 9:45 a.m.
Recess: 10:03 a.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing - Virtual Room 3

B E F O R E: Chairperson Nurse

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Sandy Nurse, Chairperson
Erik D. Bottcher
Amanda Farías
James F. Gennaro
Julie Menin
Chi A. Ossé
Kristin Richardson Jordan
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Marjorie Velázquez
Nantasha M. Williams
William Martin, Committee Clerk

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Okay. Stream has been confirmed. Uh, good morning. Welcome to New York City Council's Remote Committee hearing on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management. Everyone please turn on your videos at this time, silence all electronic devices. Any written testimony may be submitted to: testimony@council.nyc.gov. Thank you. Chair Nurse, we're ready to begin.

CHAIRPERSON NURSE: Great. Good morning, everyone. Thank you all for, for coming on for this vote. Uhm, good morning, colleagues. Today we are voting on Resolution 55-A, in support of the establishment of an Extended Producer Responsibility Bill at the state level. First, I would like to speak Speaker Adrienne Adams, for bringing this Resolution forward.

Over the past few years, New York City has seen a major increase in paper and plastic waste, that is creating additional barriers in our pathway to zero waste, as well as added stress to our aging and inequitable waste infrastructure. Extended Producer Responsibility or EPR, provides New Yorkers an opportunity to hold the producers of these products and packages accountable. Governor Hochul, and the

state have begun to advance EPR discussion, and it is critically important for New York City stakeholders to shape this new policy to ensure it is routed in sustainable waste management, zero waste, and environmental justice. For example, we must ensure that there is increased environmental, and environmental justice representation on the Producer Responsibility Advisory Board, and the new EPR system effectively incentivizes waste reduction, does not authorize false solutions like chemical recycling, and requires removal of toxic chemicals from packaging materials.

As one of the largest municipal waste management operations in the country, the New York City Department of Sanitation stands to benefit greatly in financial resources to support our operations.

Four borough-based Solid Waste Advisory Boards or the SWABs, DSNY, and other environmental advocates are engaging to ensure we establish a strong and equitable framework for the program, one that provides accountability.

I urge the Governor to adopt their recommendations.

This is a huge step towards ending the ongoing public subsidy of a free utility to corporations who take no responsibility for the end cycle of their products. I hope you all join us in supporting. Excited for this vote. I want to thank my counsel colleagues who have already supported the Resolution, including Council Member, uhm, Gennaro, Cabán, Restler, Won, and Brewer. Uh, thank you, and I am also joined today by Council Members, uh, Erik Bottcher. Uh, Chi Ossé, Council Member Menin, Council Member Richardson Jordan, Council Member Velázquez, Council Member Salamanca, Jr. Council Woman, Nantasha Williams. And I don't think I am missing anyone else.

Uhm... and I'll ask the Clerk now to call the Roll.

CLERK MARTIN: Good morning, everyone. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll Call Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management, proposed Resolution 55-A.

Chair Nurse?

CHAIR NURSE: Present. Aye.

CLERK MARTIN: Thank you. Salamanca?

COUNCIL SALAMANCA: Aye.

CLERK MARTIN: Thank you. Gennaro?

COUNCIL GENNARO: Madam Chair, I wish to briefly, uh, uh, uhm... excused to explain my vote.

CHAIR NURSE: Yes.

COUNCIL GENNARO: I, I, Madam Chair, I wish to thank you for your leadership. I, I wish to be associated with your remarks. There's no way I or anyone could have said it better. I really appreciate that what you're doing here, uh, and the great leadership you're showing. And of course, I thank the Speaker as well and all of the other co-sponsors and all the members of the Committee, uhm, whom, uh, hope will vote for this, uh... very good measure. And with that, I proudly vote, Aye. Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CLERK MARTIN: Thank you. Bottcher?

COUNCIL BOTTCHER: I vote Aye.

CLERK MARTIN: Thank you. Menin?

COUNCIL MENIN: Aye.

CLERK MARTIN: Thank you. Ossé?

COUNCIL OSSÉ: I Vote Aye.

CLERK MARTIN: Thank you. Richardson Jordan?

COUNCIL RICHARDSON JORDAN: Aye. Uh, present.

Permission to explain my vote.

CHAIR NURSE: Yes, Council Member.

COUNCIL RICHARDSON JORDAN: Uh, I am very excited about this, uh, Resolution. I think it's a great measure to make the companies who, who are profiting off of their products, responsible, uhm, for the waste disposal of, of those products. Uhm, and I ask the Clerk to please add me, uhm, as a supported and co-sponsor to this, uh, Resolution. Uhm, and I excitedly vote Aye.

CLERK MARTIN: You got it. Thank you. Velázquez?

COUNCIL VELÁZQUEZ: Okay then. (inaudible)

CLERK MARTIN: I'm sorry, Council Member? Could you repeat that, please (cross-talk)

COUNCIL VELÁZQUEZ: Aye.

CLERK MARTIN: Williams?

COUNCIL WILLIAMS: Hello. I vote Aye.

CLERK MARTIN: Thank you. One moment. Okay, by a vote of 9 in the Affirmative, 0 in the Negative, and no Abstentions, the proposed introduction has been adopted by the Committee. And I show we have 1 member outstanding.

CHAIR NURSE: Thank you. Andrew, I'm understanding we'll keep it open until 10:00? Okay. Yes.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning. For those members that are joining us now for the Committee on Civil Service and Labor, please be advised we're still in the middle of the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management. Uh, we're currently recording and... streaming Live. Thank you for your cooperation.

CHAIR NURSE: Good morning, Council Member, Farías.

COUNCIL FARÍAS: Hi. Good morning. Sorry about the confusion. Did not have this on the calendar. Uhm... We're waiting on my vote? Yes?

CHAIR NURSE: Yes. Please.

COUNCIL FARÍAS: I am voting Aye. (inaudible)

CHAIR NURSE: Thank you.

CLERK MARTIN: Yah. This is William Martin, Committee Clerk. Thank you, Council Member, Farías. Final Vote now Committee on Sanitation on Proposed Resolution 55-A, is now 10 in the Affirmative, 0 in the Negative, and no Abstentions. Madam Chair, you can close at your convenience.

CHAIR NURSE: Thank you. Thank you all for joining. We are closing down.

UNKNOWN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

UNKNOWN:

Thank you, Chair Nurse.

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 April 22, 2022