



# sanitation

Jessica S. Tisch Commissioner

## Testimony of

**Gregory Anderson, Deputy Commissioner  
New York City Department of Sanitation**

## Hearing before the

**New York City Council Committee on Sanitation & Solid Waste Management**

**Thursday, October 20, 2022**

**10:00 A.M.**

**Intros. 32, 33, 110, 145, 238, 630 and 693**

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Good morning, Chair Nurse and members of the City Council Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management. My name is Gregory Anderson, and I am Deputy Commissioner for Policy and Strategic Initiatives for the Department of Sanitation. I am joined this morning by Jeffrey Pitts, Chief of Cleaning Operations for the Department, who was promoted into to this critical role last month. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

The mission of the Department of Sanitation is to keep New York City clean, healthy and safe by collecting, recycling and disposing of waste, cleaning streets and public spaces, and clearing snow and ice. Under the leadership of Commissioner Tisch over the last six months, the Department been laser-focused on cleanliness, working to clean up our streets in support of the City's economic recovery.

In June, the Administration and Council announced unprecedented levels of funding for cleaning programs in the Adopted budget, including \$22 million for additional litter basket service and more than \$12 million for precision cleaning and lot cleaning programs.

Today, DSNY has the highest level of litter basket service in memory – a total of 793 weekly trucks, compared to 588 last year. The results are clear: since the additional litter basket service took effect at the beginning of July, 311 complaints for overflowing litter baskets are down 55 percent compared to last year.

This new investment was on top of funds added in the Executive budget to restore full street cleaning operations, which had been cut in half during the pandemic, and to establish dedicated cleaning resources and equipment for protected bike lanes for the first time ever.

The Department has also expanded efforts to enforce basic cleanliness laws. This is the basic social compact in New York City – DSNY does its part to keep the city clean, and our residents,

businesses, property owners and others must do their part as well. We have refocused enforcement efforts on those violations that most affect quality of life and contribute to rodents and vermin.

Most importantly, the Department has taken an all-out approach to combat illegal dumping, which is both a theft of public space and a menace to communities across the city. We have installed dozens of illegal dumping surveillance cameras, with dozens more planned this year thanks to the generous support of members of the Council and state legislature.

The message we are sending is clear – if you dump on our City, you will be caught and you will face the consequences.

This month, thanks to funding provided in the Adopted budget, DSNY launched a comprehensive evaluation of waste containerization to create a scalable, uniform approach that can work for neighborhoods across the city. This project is intense in its depth and speed, and we expect to have final deliverables in the next few months.

And earlier this week, the Commissioner joined the Mayor to enthusiastically announce the proposed new rules for waste setout. These transformative new rules will shrink the amount of time that waste sits on the curb before collection and eliminate the city's five o'clock shadow of garbage bags that appear on the sidewalk every afternoon.

Under these proposed rules, the options are simple: residential properties can set out trash in bags at 8 p.m. or in containers starting at 6 p.m. Larger properties with 9+ units can opt in for early morning setout and collection, with waste being setout between 4 a.m. and 7 a.m. for collection soon thereafter. Commercial establishments can set out waste in bags beginning at 8 p.m. or in containers earlier, up to one hour before closing.

This is a transformational change for New York City's streets. There will be no more black bags on the sidewalk before 8 p.m., when New Yorkers are coming home from work, picking their kids up from school, or heading out to dinner.

DSNY is accepting comments on these rules and will hold a public hearing on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to reviewing the comments and enacting final rules in the coming months.

This is a tremendous amount of positive change in just the first ten months of this Administration. This Department, and our partners across City government, have wholeheartedly embraced the mantra to get stuff done for New Yorkers.

Now, I'll turn briefly to the bills being considered today.

Intro. 32, sponsored by Council Member Yeger, would require the Department to create a searchable dashboard of notices of violations issued. Intro. 33, also sponsored by Council Member Yeger, would require each notice of violation issued by the Department to be accompanied by a photograph.

Intro. 110, sponsored by Council Member Holden, would require DSNY to empty all public waste receptacles – litter baskets in other words – at least once a day. Intro. 145, sponsored by Council Member Brannan, would require the Department to assist the Parks Department in the removal of downed trees, branches and other vegetation following inclement weather.

Intro. 238, sponsored by Council Member Gennaro, would require DSNY to collect recyclable materials within two days following any of the Department's 13 scheduled collection holidays. Intro. 630, sponsored by Chair Nurse, would require the creation of a publicly available tracking application for street cleaning operations, similar to the PlowNYC system available for snow fighting operations.

Lastly, Intro 693, sponsored by the Public Advocate, would require residential properties of 100 or more units to provide for a dumpster not less than 20 yards in length.

DSNY shares the goal of cleanliness and effective, equitable service delivery that each of these bills intends to achieve. While we have concerns with some of the bills, we look forward to discussing with the Council how to best achieve the goals they represent. Together, we can create a cleaner, more vibrant New York City.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and we are now happy to answer your questions.



PUBLIC ADVOCATE FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK

# Jumaane D. Williams

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**TESTIMONY OF PUBLIC ADVOCATE JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS  
TO THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON  
SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT  
OCTOBER 20, 2022**

Good Morning.

My name is Jumaane D. Williams and I am the Public Advocate for the City of New York. Thank you very much Chair Nurse and members of the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management for holding this hearing and allowing me the opportunity to provide a statement.

During today's hearing, I will be talking about Int 0693-2022, which I am co-introducing with Chair Nurse. Int 0693-2022 requires owners of buildings of 100 units or more to have a dumpster of no less than 20 yards in length for the deposit of refuse. The receptacles should only be used for their respective building or dwelling and should be adequate size and number to hold enough waste that accrue in a 72 hour period. Each receptacle should be made of a specific type of metal that is acceptable to the DSNY, DOHMH, and HPD measures. This is important because we want to ensure that there is no leakage of any sort, as well as eliminate access and entry created by rodents into the receptacles.

People generate garbage, and more people will generate more garbage. Since the pandemic, personal household garbage has increased since individuals are working from home permanently or in a hybrid work model. To me, it is common sense to implement the requirement of receptacles in bigger residential buildings, particularly when garbage pick ups occur two or three times a week. It is important to note that those who are mostly negatively impacted by waste in New York City are marginalized communities. They are usually neglected and not given the proper resources to store waste. There is a reason why many of these neighborhoods have high rates of rodents and insects due to lack of appropriate storage facilities. At the end of the day, this impacts everyone's quality of life.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill today and recognize how important safe and proper waste management is for all New Yorkers.

Thank you.



Northeast Region

**Memo in Support**  
**Int. No. 23 (Yeger)**

I am writing on behalf of the New York City Chapter of the National Waste & Recycling Association (“NWRA”) in support of Intro Number 33 of 2022.

NWRA represents the private sector waste and recycling services industry, as well as the hardworking men and women of the industry who collect and manage the waste, recyclables and organics produced by the more than 100,000 commercial entities in this great city.

The proposed legislation would amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York by establishing a searchable digital dashboard consisting of data on notices of violation issued by DSNY after January 1, 2019. The bill clearly states that it will require that notices of violation issued by DSNY be accompanied by at least one date- and time-stamped photograph of the alleged violation, and an affidavit from the issuing agent containing the date, time and precise location where the photograph was taken, and the name of the individual who took the photograph.

Our members fully support this proposed legislation as it will allow the company and drivers to better understand why they are being cited for violations as well as what can be done in the future to rectify them.

We would request though that the entire process of issuing violation and delivery of photograph be done in a timely manner so that companies and drivers can address the concerns while they are still fresh in everyone’s memories. This will be more difficult to accomplish if it must be addressed months down the road.

In closing, NWRA strongly urges you to support Intro Number 33 of 2022.

REBNY Testimony | October 20, 2022

## The Real Estate Board of New York to The Committee on Sanitation of the New York City Council Regarding Intro 0693-2022

The Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY) is the City's leading real estate trade association representing commercial, residential, and institutional property owners, builders, managers, investors, brokers, salespeople, and other organizations and individuals active in New York City real estate. Thank you to Chair Nurse and Members of the Sanitation Committee for the opportunity to testify on legislation today aimed to identify solutions to enhance streetscape cleanliness across New York City.

In recent years REBNY has been at the forefront on working with policy makers to establish proposals to promote better operations relative to trash pick-up, commercial waste hauling and numerous other proposals. With this said, there is more work to be done and we commend the Council's continued focus on the issues around sanitation.

Apart from Intro 693, in which we have more specific comments below, REBNY broadly supports the legislation being discussed today and looks forward to working with the Council on this package moving forward.

**BILL:** Intro 693-2022

**SUBJECT:** This bill would require that someone who manages or controls a building with 100 units or more provide a dumpster for refuse.

**SPONSORS:** Public Advocate Jumaane Williams and Councilmembers Nurse, Louis, Restler, Hanif, Hudson, Brewer, Won and Gutierrez.

REBNY believes that identifying opportunities to ensure that all large residential buildings have access to a dumpster is a laudable goal. As it pertains to efforts to mitigate against rats and other pests and in the fight to keep streets clean and absent trash bags, additional access to containers for trash and other refuse will be an important part of any long-term plan to improve sanitation in New York City. However, implementing such a requirement is much more difficult and complex than it would first appear. Specifically, the legislation as drafted creates questions about how new requirements for a dumpster would be practical in buildings or on lots with limited space, whether the space be inside or out.

As the Council certainly understands, a good number of buildings in the City's existing building stock do not have the adequate space to accommodate these requirements. While many residential buildings of 100 units or more include rooms for trash, this is not a universal truth and certain buildings simply will not have the floorplate to accommodate a dumpster indoors.

This lack of adequate space is often even more sparse outside. With today's streetscapes needing to be utilized by a variety of uses, adding a dumpster may simply be out of the question, and if there is space, it may not be the best use or what residents would most like to utilize said space for. This also fails to consider that many larger residential buildings also utilize ground floor space, including outdoor space, for retail and other commercial uses – often whose rent is utilized to offset building expenses elsewhere. It is unclear on if all these scenarios have been taken into consideration by this legislation. Unfortunately, a blanket policy will not solve for these individualized situations.

Moving forward, and at a minimum, the Council should include a provision that would exempt existing buildings that have extenuating site constraints. In addition, another solution would be to require such a requirement in only new buildings moving forward.

Thank you for the consideration of these points.

**CONTACT:****Ryan Monell**

*Vice President of Government Affairs*  
Real Estate Board of New York  
212-616-5247  
rmonell@rebny.com

**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: Jeffrey Pitts, Chief  
(PLEASE PRINT)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: DSNY

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Appearance Card*

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 in favor     in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Gregory Anderson  
(PLEASE PRINT)

Address: Deputy Commissioner

I represent: DSNY

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Recorded by: Danny Howard Mike  
Location: 10th Fl. CR