

COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID  
WASTE MANAGEMENT

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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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Wednesday, October 26, 2022  
Start: 11:09 A. M.  
Recess: 11:20 A. M.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: Sandy Nurse, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Erik D. Bottcher  
Amanda Farías  
James F. Gennaro  
Julie Menin  
Chi A. Ossé  
Kristin Richardson Jordan  
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.  
Marjorie Velázquez  
Nantasha M. Williams

COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID  
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A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

N/A

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3 SERGEANT BIONDO: This is the microphone test.  
4 Today's date is October 26, 2022; Committee on  
5 Sanitation. Being recorded by John Biondo, City  
6 Hall, Committee Room.

7 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: You've made it. The whole  
8 party is here.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Alright, quiet, please, we're  
10 rolling.

11 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: [GAVELING IN] [GAVEL SOUND]

12 Okay.

13 [GAVELING IN] [GAVEL SOUND]

14 Alright, so good morning, everyone, welcome to  
15 The Sanitation Committee. Today I am very pleased to  
16 facilitate The Sanitation Committee's first vote on  
17 bills. I am incredibly thrilled that today we are  
18 voting on four pieces of legislation. These are  
19 reintroductions from the previous session, and I am  
20 proud to be co-prime on all of them.

21 I want to recognize Council Member Jim Gennaro,  
22 Council Member Marjorie Velázquez, Council Member  
23 Rafael Salamanca, Council Member Julie Menin, Council  
24 Member Eric Botcher, Council Member Amanda Farías,

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2 and Council Member Kristin Richardson Jordan, as well  
3 as, Council Member Chi Ossé.

4 So, today, the four bills that we are voting on:

5 Intro 414, requiring The Department of Health to  
6 establish rat mitigation zones. In addition to the  
7 four zones already created, the department would also  
8 report on metrics that are being used to create or  
9 eliminate rat mitigation zones.

10 Intro 442, uh, sponsored by Council Member Eric  
11 Botcher, a bill mandating that before a permit  
12 authorizing certain construction work is granted, the  
13 applicant certifies that a licensed exterminator was  
14 retained to effectively treat the premises for rodent  
15 extermination.

16 Intro 459, sponsored by Council Member Shaun  
17 Abreu, is a bill that allows for the designation of  
18 rat mitigation zones by the Department of Health and  
19 Mental Hygiene, uh, by April 2023. And it will  
20 require DSNY to set the times buildings must place  
21 their garbage and recycling out for collection.

22 Intro 460 is sponsored by Council Member Shaun  
23 Abreu, is a bill that would require trash receptacles  
24 in buildings identified as having a high  
25 concentration of repeat rodent infestation to be made

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2 of a material or designed to minimize rodent  
3 infestation.

4 Together these bills represent significant steps  
5 towards addressing the rodent crisis in our city. In  
6 addition to the existing efforts of the Department of  
7 Health, I am grateful for the opportunity to partner  
8 with the lead sponsors of the bills. I am also  
9 incredibly thankful for the creativity of my Chief of  
10 Staff, Mohammad Khan, who created the wonderful rat  
11 lobby characters, and who has helped generate  
12 significant momentum for the passage of these bills.

13 I want to thank my Legislative Director, one of  
14 the smartest people I know, Annel Hernandez.

15 And, thank you to the committee task force,  
16 Jessica Albin (sp?), Ricky Chawla (sp?), and Andrew  
17 Lane-Lawless for all of the work you do behind the  
18 scenes.

19 So, I want to give space for the lead sponsors,  
20 if they want to say anything about your bill, I'll  
21 let you go first, Council Member Ossé.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: We are taking on rats in New  
23 York City. And, uh, you know, there's a bill that's  
24 in this package that designates rat mitigation zones  
25 or more rat mitigation zones. And, I already know

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2 that there are some areas in our city that we have  
3 seen the... the largest and highest rat sightings  
4 and rodent populations. So, this bill would make  
5 sure that our city is collecting data, and, uh,  
6 ensuring that tax payer dollars are actually going  
7 towards tackling the rodent population here in New  
8 York City. So, this is a step forward. It's not  
9 going to solve our furry friends, if we want to call  
10 them friends, uh, and fix the problem that exists in  
11 our city. However, it's a step in the right  
12 direction, and I am really proud to be working under  
13 your leadership, Chair Nurse, uh, in terms of really  
14 making sure that we're making our city cleaner and  
15 safer. So, thank you to everyone that is hopefully  
16 going to vote yes on this bill out of hearing. And  
17 I'm excited to see this pass.

18 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: Thank you, Council Member  
19 Ossé.

20 Council Member Bottcher, did you want to give  
21 some remarks?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: I just want to thank and  
23 congratulate my colleagues on The Sanitation  
24 Committee, Chair Nurse, and all of you, this has been  
25 a very, very productive committee starting back in

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2 January with our advocacy right out of the gate to  
3 get corner basket pick up restored in the budget.  
4 And now we know that the 3-1-1 calls for overflowing  
5 baskets are down 55%. And that would not have  
6 happened without this committee. And today we are  
7 passing bills to address the rat issue. And I want  
8 to thank, uh, Manhattan Borough  
9 president Levine, for partnering with me on the bill.  
10 Common sense, if you're building a building, you have  
11 to hire an exterminator. And we cannot leave that up  
12 to people just to do the right thing. Now you will  
13 need a... to certify that you have done it before  
14 you get your building permit.

15 So, so proud to be here with all of you and part  
16 of this committee. Thanks, everyone.

17 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: Thank you, Council Member  
18 Bottcher.

19 I will hand it over for you to conduct the vote.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, William Martin,  
21 Committee Clerk; roll call vote Committee on  
22 Sanitation and Solid Waste Management. All items are  
23 coupled.

24 Chair Nurse?

25 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: I vote aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

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COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?

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COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I want to congratulate

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all the sponsors, and I am ask... I am going to ask

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that if you can please add me as a co-sponsor to all

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of these bills? Congratulations, I vote aye on all.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I also want to

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congratulate all of the sponsors and the chair of the

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committee, and I am proud to be the... I am proud to

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be a co-sponsor on all of these bills, but I really

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didn't do anything. But, uh, I proudly vote aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Farías?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: I am really excited to

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support colleagues on this. I vote aye on all, and

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would like to be added on to 459 and 460.... Oh!

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Just 459-A, thank you.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Menin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: I also want to congratulate

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my colleagues and the chair. And, I proudly vote

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aye.



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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Richardson  
3 Jordan?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Proudly, aye on  
5 all.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Velázquez?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: I want to thank my  
8 colleagues and Chair, and the rat packs for getting  
9 this done. Aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

11 By a vote of nine in the affirmative, zero in the  
12 negative, and no abstentions, all items have been  
13 adopted. And the roll will be held open at request  
14 of the chair.

15 Okay, continuation roll call, Committee on  
16 Sanitation and Solid Waste Management, Council Member  
17 Williams?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye on all of  
19 these very important measures.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Council Member.

21 Final vote now is all items have been adopted by  
22 the committee with 10 in the affirmative, zero in the  
23 negative, and no abstentions.

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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 October 29, 2022