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## 

##### **THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE DIVISION**

Andrea Vazquez, *Legislative Director*

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**COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION**

Hon. Shekar Krishnan*, Chairperson*

March 1, 2023

**Int. No. 7:** By Council MembersAyala, Mealy, Louis, Yeger, Hanif, Won, Hudson, Joseph, Riley, Restler and Krishnan

**Title:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to admission to recreational facilities

**Admin Code:** Amends section 18-149

**Int. No. 128:** By Council MembersSalamanca, Hanif, Riley, Stevens, Won and Sanchez

**Title:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to diaper changing accommodations in parks

**Admin Code:** Adds section 18-158

**Int. No. 213:** By Council MembersAyala, Sanchez, Abreu, Krishnan, Nurse, Won and Farías

**Title:** A Local Law in relation to a report on community garden food processing and agriculture

**Code:** Unconsolidated

**Int. No. 576:** By Council MembersJoseph, Hanif, Avilés, Nurse, Gutiérrez, Krishnan, Powers, Sanchez and Won (by request of the Manhattan Borough President)

**Title:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring reporting on the features and condition of public bathrooms

**Admin Code:** Adds section 18-159

**INTRODUCTION**

On March 1, 2023 the Committee on Parks and Recreation, chaired by Council Member Shekar Krishnan, will hold a hearing to consider the following pieces of legislation: Int. No. 7, A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to admission to recreational facilities; Int No. 128, A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to diaper changing accommodations in parks; Int. No 213, A Local Law in relation to a report on community garden food processing and agriculture; and Int. No. 576, A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring reporting on the features and condition of public bathrooms. Representatives from the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), parks conservancies and alliances, parks advocates, community organizations, as well as other concerned community groups have been invited to testify.

**LEGISLATION**

Below is a brief summary of the legislation being considered today by this Committee. This summary is intended for informational purposes only and does not substitute for legal counsel. For more detailed information, you should review the full text of the bill, which is attached below.

**Int. No. 7, A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to admission to recreational facilities,**

Int. No. 7 would require the City to make memberships for recreation centers under the jurisdiction of DPR free for young adults between 18 and 24 years old. Currently, membership fees to recreation centers are as follows[[1]](#footnote-1):

**Adults (ages 25 through 61)**

**Access to All Centers:** Annual Membership Fee: $150  
Six-month membership available for $75

**Access to Any Center Without An Indoor Pool:** Annual Membership Fee: $100  
Six-month membership available for $50

**People with Disabilities**

**Access to All Centers:** Annual Membership Fee: $25

**Seniors 62 and up**

**Access to All Centers:** Annual Membership Fee: $25

**Veterans**

**Access to All Centers:** Annual Membership Fee: $25

**Young Adults 18 through 24**

**Access to All Centers:** Annual Membership Fee: $25.

**Youth under 18**

**Access to All Centers:** Free membership

This local law would take effect 60 days after it becomes law.

**Int. No. 128, A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to diaper changing accommodations in parks**

Int. No. 128 would require that every park bathroom have a safe, sanitary and convenient diaper changing table. Currently, diaper changing tables are required by Local Law 34 of 2018 (LL34), which mandated that new or renovated buildings containing places of public accommodation include diaper changing tables that are accessible to everyone regardless of gender. LL 34 however, only applies to assembly group A and mercantile group M occupancies, neither of which include public park facilities or bathrooms within parks.

This local law would take effect 180 days after it becomes law.

**Int. No. 213, A Local Law in relation to a report on community garden food processing and agriculture**

Int. No. 213 would require DPR to conduct a study on the prevalence of community gardens engaged in urban farming and agriculture and to provide recommendations to the Mayor and the Speaker of the City Council on how to support and increase such farming and agriculture.

Urban agriculture is typically defined as the process of growing food and raising animals in cities, with the addition of other activities such as food processing and distribution, and food waste collection.[[2]](#footnote-2) The City’s zoning rules permit urban agricultural uses (which for zoning purposes include personal gardening, community gardening, commercial farming, indoor farming such as hydroponics and aquaponics, and rooftop greenhouses) in all residential districts, the majority of commercial districts and all manufacturing districts.[[3]](#footnote-3)

The Council, in its *Growing Food Equity* Plan, recognized the need for urban agriculture support and called for various policy proposals to support their growth, including a recognition of a need for further study on specific questions regarding urban agriculture and farms.[[4]](#footnote-4)

This local law would take effect 90 days after it becomes law.

**Int. No. 576, A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring reporting on the features and condition of public bathrooms**

This bill would require DPR, in collaboration with any other City agency that maintains a public bathroom, to inspect and issue a report on each public bathroom every six months. The report would include information about the features of each public bathroom and the condition and functionality of such features, including whether the public bathroom is accessible and whether it has changing tables. This information would also be made available on the open data portal and a website maintained by the City.

This local law would take effect immediately.

Int. No. 7

By Council Members Ayala, Mealy, Louis, Yeger, Hanif, Won, Hudson, Joseph, Riley, Restler and Krishnan

..Title

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to admission to recreational facilities

..Body

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Section 18-149 of the administrative code of the city of New York, as added by local law number 18 for the year 2016 and renumbered by local law number 133 of the year 2017, is amended to read as follows:

§ 18-149 Discounted recreation center fees. a. Annual membership fees for each recreation center under the jurisdiction of the department shall be reduced for persons 62 years of age or older, [persons between 18 and 24 years of age,] veterans and persons with disabilities. Such reduced fees shall be no greater than 25 percent of the highest annual membership fee charged at such recreation center.

b. Annual membership fees for each recreation center under the jurisdiction of the department for persons between 18 and 24 years of age shall be free.

§ 2. This local law takes effect 60 days after it becomes law.

Session 12

NAB

LS #5875

1/18/22

Session 11

NKA

LS #17297

Int. #2244-2021

Int. No. 128

By Council Members Salamanca, Hanif, Riley, Stevens, Won and Sanchez

..Title

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to diaper changing accommodations in parks

..Body

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 1 of title 18 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 18-158 to read as follows:

§ 18-158 Diaper changing accommodations. Every toilet room in every park shall have at least one safe, sanitary and convenient diaper changing station, deck, table or similar amenity, which shall comply with section 603.5 (Diaper Changing Tables) of ICC A117.1.

§ 2. Section 18-148 of the administrative code of the city of New York, as added by local law number 71 for the year 2018, is redesignated section 18-148.1.

§ 3. This local law takes effect 180 days after it becomes law.

Session 12

NLB

LS #3365

2/27/2022

Session 11

JSA

LS #12471

Int. #1935-2020

Int. No. 213

By Council Members Ayala, Sanchez, Abreu, Krishnan, Nurse, Won and Farías

..Title

A Local Law in relation to a report on community garden food processing and agriculture

..Body

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. The department of parks and recreation shall conduct a study on the prevalence of urban farming and agriculture and submit a report with the findings of such study to the mayor and the speaker of the council within six months of the effective date of this local law. Such report shall include, but not be limited to:

1. The number of community gardens under the jurisdiction of the department of parks and recreation presently engaged in farming or food processing;

2. The amount and types of foods produced by such gardens;

3. Information on the types of equipment used by such gardens for agricultural purposes, including, but not limited to, greenhouses, hydroponic systems, food processing systems and composting systems;

4. A list of the resources provided by the department of parks and recreation and other government agencies to aid in farming and food processing;

5. Information on the availability of potential sites throughout the city that could be developed for urban agricultural purposes;

6. Information on the feasibility and costs associated with expanding the number of farmers markets operating on department of parks and recreation property and the number of community gardens that engage in urban agriculture; and

7. Recommendations on how the city can provide more technical assistance and financial resources to expand the number of community gardens that engage urban agriculture.

§ 2. This local law takes effect 90 days after it becomes law.

Session 12

KS

LS # 883

4/12/22 3:00PM

Session 11

KS

LS 5356

Int. # 1059-2018

Int. No. 576

By Council Members Joseph, Hanif, Avilés, Nurse, Gutiérrez, Krishnan, Powers, Sanchez and Won (by request of the Manhattan Borough President)

..Title

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring reporting on the features and condition of public bathrooms

..Body

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 1 of title 18 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 18-159 to read as follows:

§ 18-159 Reporting on public bathrooms. a. Definitions. For the purpose of this section, the term “public bathroom” means a bathroom open to the public that is located on land owned by the city or which is operated or maintained by an agency.

b. No later than six months after the effective date of the local law that added this section, and every six months thereafter, the department, in collaboration with the department of transportation and any other agency that operates or maintains a public bathroom, shall inspect all public bathrooms in the city and issue a report on the findings of such inspections. Such report shall be delivered to the mayor and the speaker of the council, and the information reported shall be made available on the city open data web portal. Such report shall include, for each public bathroom in the city:

1. The location of such public bathroom;

2. The number of sinks, toilets, and changing tables;

3. The condition and functionality of each such feature and of the walls, ceiling, doors and lighting;

4. The general level of cleanliness of such public bathroom;

5. Whether such public bathroom complies with applicable accessibility requirements; and

6. Any other feature of such public bathroom the department deems relevant.

c. The department, or another agency designated by the mayor, shall maintain a website listing all public bathrooms in the city. The website shall provide the information for each public bathroom that is provided in the report pursuant to subdivision b and such information shall be updated every time a new report is issued.

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately.

NAB

LS #9070

6/8/22 5:00PM

1. *See*,Department of Parks and Recreation Website, <http://www.nycgovparks.org/programs/recreation-centers/membership>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, “*Community Gardens and Urban Agriculture,”* <https://agriculture.ny.gov/community-gardens-and-urban-agriculture>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. NYC Urban Agriculture Website, <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/agriculture/faqs/frequently-asked-questions.page>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. New York City Council, "Growing Food Equity in New York City: A City Council Agenda" (August 2019), <http://council.nyc.gov/data/wp-content/uploads/sites/73/2019/08/growing-food-equity-1.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)