

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

(*VOTE)

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Tuesday, November 12, 2024
Start: 12:40 P.M.
Recess: 12:46 P.M.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Room, 14th Floor

B E F O R E: Shekar Krishnan, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

David M. Carr
Robert F. Holden
Linda Lee
Julie Menin
Mercedes Narcisse
Vickie Paladino
Sandra Ung

Other Council Members Attending: Brewer

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION
A P P E A R A N C E S
(NONE)

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION
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2 SERGEANT BIONDO: This is a microphone check,
3 today's date is November 12, 2024; vote for the
4 Committee on Parks and Recreation; 14th Floor Hearing
5 Room, being recorded by John Biondo.

6 (PAUSE)

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Microphone check. Chair, we are
8 ready to begin.

9 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: (GAVEL SOUND) (GAVELING IN)

10 Thank you so much, Sergeant.

11 Good afternoon, everyone, my name is Shekhar
12 Shekar Krishnan, Chair of the New York City Council's
13 Committee on Parks And Recreation.

14 Today, the Committee will vote on Proposed
15 Introduction Number 130-A, sponsored by my wonderful
16 colleague, Council Member Gale Brewer.

17 This bill would build on the crucial work the
18 City is engaged in to reach its zero waste goals, and
19 increase the diversion of organic waste by requiring
20 the Department of Parks and Recreation to establish
21 composting facilities for plant waste collection
22 within at least two parks in each borough by July 1,
23 2026; at least three parks in each borough by July 1,
24 2027, and at least five parks in each borough by July
25 1, 2028.

1 The Parks Department would also be required to
2
3 issue an annual report that details the composting
4 process occurring at the required parks.

5 We first considered this bill back on March 1st
6 of this year, and I am proud to be a cosponsor of
7 this important piece of legislation. And I urge all
8 my colleagues on this committee and the whole Council
9 to vote in favor of it.

10 These are the kinds of measures we need to make
11 sure that we are thinking about our planet, first and
12 foremost, making sure it's sustainable, and
13 protecting our green spaces throughout our city with
14 environmentally resilient practices.

15 Before we start the vote, I'd like to invite
16 Council Member Brewer to offer a statement on this
17 bill. Thank you.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Well, first of all, very
19 much thanks to Chair Shekar Krishnan, all the
20 cosponsors, members of the Committee.

21 This came about because Riverside Park, which is,
22 uh, may not fit as to one of the larger parks, but
23 they have a complete recycling project. Meaning, all
24 composting goes to about three to four bins. It is
25 beautiful. It has solar panels. It looks like

1 something that you would want to visit. And in fact,
2 school children and visitors are coming to see it.

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4 It's something that is, able to take all of the
5 waste from Central Park... I mean, from Riverside
6 Park, from 59th to 168th Street, put it in these
7 bins, compost it, and go back to the park. So that
8 was the model that we're looking for.

9 So Introduction 130-A, as the Chair indicated,
10 talks about composting facilities in the parks to
11 manage plant waste in particular, in an
12 environmentally sustainable manner so that we reduce
13 organic waste going to landfills. And it would
14 promote sustainable practices, contribute to greener,
15 more ecofriendly parks. It can improve, when you do
16 this composting, soil health, reduces greenhouse gas
17 emissions, and in terms of the economic impact, these
18 facilities create green jobs in each borough, with
19 staff required for the operation of the sites.

20 And as I said, they're really gorgeous, if done
21 correctly.

22 It is a long term, sustainable solution to waste
23 management that can reduce costs related to
24 traditional waste disposable methods.

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2 And, as the Chair indicated, the phase timetable
3 is by July 26, one compost facility in two parks in
4 each borough. By July 27, one compost facility in two
5 parks in each borough. And by 28, one compost
6 facility in five parks in each borough.

7 And that gives, I think, Parks Department enough
8 time to plan, to budget, and to scale the composting
9 facilities. And I want to thank them because I know
10 originally they were not supportive. They came around
11 thanks to all the hard work of both sides of the
12 aisle, in terms of support from the Administration
13 and the City Council.

14 Implementation will be tailored to meet the needs
15 of each borough, while making sure that it is uniform
16 across all five boroughs, and that's really
17 important.

18 So I really want to thank the Chair, as I
19 indicated, Eric Goldstein of NRDC, Justin Green, of
20 Big Reuse, and the entire Composting Coalition, for
21 their support. And certainly, here in the City
22 Council, Legislative Council, Kristoffer Sartori,
23 thank you, Patrick Mulvihill, and for my staff,
24 Shulamit Puder and Cynthia Hornig, who worked really
25 hard on this legislation.

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2 So, may it all look like Riverside Park, a place
3 to visit. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

4 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Well, thank you so much,
5 Council Member Brewer. And as the council member
6 indicated to, thank you to Riverside Park Conservancy
7 for setting the example, and for all of the
8 organizations Big Reuse, everyone part of the
9 Composting Coalition, that I have been fortunate
10 enough to work with, too, who are doing this work
11 citywide and setting an example for all us, uh, about
12 the way forward when it comes to our parks,
13 composting, and how we care for our environment.

14 Before we turn it over to take the vote, I just
15 want to mention everyone who is here. We have been
16 joined by Council Member Holden, Council Member Lee,
17 Council Member Menin virtually, Council Member
18 Narcisse, Council Member Ung, and Council Member
19 Carr.

20 And now I ask that the Clerk take a roll call for
21 the vote.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good afternoon, William Martin,
23 Committee Clerk; roll call vote for the Committee on
24 Parks and Recreation; Proposed Introduction Number
25 130-A.

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COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

Chair Krishnan?

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Holden?

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Lee?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Menin?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Narcisse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ung?

COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Carr?

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: (ABSENT)

COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of 7 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions the item has been adopted by the Committee.

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Congratulations.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Congratulations, Council Member, thank you all so much.

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COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

The vote is now closed.

(GAVEL SOUND) (GAVELING OUT)

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 November 15, 2024