



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

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Testimony
of
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before the
New York City Council Committee on Public Safety

regarding

Intro 123a Trauma Scene Guidelines
December 11, 2007
Committee Room
City Hall
New York City

Good afternoon Chairman Vallone and members of the New York City Council Public Safety Committee. My name is Nancy Clark and I am the Assistant Commissioner for Environmental Disease Prevention for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (the Health Department). Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on Intro 123-A, Trauma Scene Cleanup.

Intro 123-A would require the health department to develop guidelines on trauma scene management for city agencies to follow on city property, and for the public to use on private property; and to provide important information on resources related to trauma scene cleanup.

Presently, there is no available written guidance that integrates both worker protection requirements which falls under Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor, which regulates and enforces worker safety and medical waste handling disposal that is regulated and the enforced by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for cleaning up trauma scenes. The guidelines required under this bill will provide agencies, private employers, employees, and the public with clear and important information on protecting workers and the public.

Under this bill, the guidelines for trauma scene management would include: 1) the immediate restriction of access to the trauma scene; 2) the cleaning and decontamination of the trauma scene; and 3) the removal of any waste in accordance with applicable laws and guidelines. The guidelines would be available to the public through 311, nyc.gov, and other public access sites. These guidelines would also include contact information for the New York State Crime Victims Board and other pertinent information for the public to make informed decisions about cleaning-up a trauma scene.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to discuss this important issue. We look forward to continuing our work with the Council towards the goal of making New York City a better, safer and healthier city.

I will be happy to answer your questions.