

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON SANITATION & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

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June 16, 2009  
Start: 10:08am  
Recess: 11:03am

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
SIMCHA FELDER  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
David Yassky  
Maria del Carmen Arroyo  
Robert Jackson  
Kenneth C. Mitchell  
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## A P P E A R A N C E S

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1  
2 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Good morning,  
3 ladies and gentlemen. My name is Simcha Felder.  
4 I'm the Chair of this Committee on Sanitation and  
5 Solid Waste. It's 10:08. I'm eight minutes late.  
6 And, I apologize to everyone for being late.  
7 Having said that, before I begin, I'd like to  
8 acknowledge the staff from the Committee that  
9 prepared for today's hearing, Jared Hover  
10 [phonetic], who's sitting to my right, Counsel to  
11 the Committee; Siobhan Watson, worked very  
12 diligently on this, not here, we'd like to give  
13 her credit on the record, who's the Policy Analyst  
14 to the Committee.

15 And, we're here to discuss Intro  
16 Number 600, a bill that concerns post-holiday  
17 garbage and recycling collections, commonly  
18 referred to as Chasing. On 12 designated holidays  
19 throughout the year, the Department of Sanitation  
20 does not conduct garbage or recycling collections.  
21 While the Department attempts and tries to catch  
22 up and collect most of the uncollected garbage due  
23 to the holiday within a few days, the recycling  
24 that is not collected due to the holiday generally  
25 sits in the residents' property until the next

1  
2 scheduled collection day, at least one week later.

3 I might add that there are  
4 occasions, not often, that it may stay around even  
5 longer, even though the Department has a policy if  
6 there's two holidays, one after the other, to try  
7 to get a hold of it. But, sometimes if there are  
8 two holidays in, let's say, December or one other  
9 time during the year, it may stay around even  
10 longer. Now, as we all know, apartments in the  
11 City are small. Most residents cannot accommodate  
12 storing large trash bags. And, since this  
13 situation is sometimes made worse when there are  
14 two holidays on the same day of the week, on back-  
15 to-back weeks, such as Christmas and New Years,  
16 when residents can go without recycling collection  
17 for as long as three weeks.

18 Under the current program, many  
19 people face the choice of either having to store  
20 their discarded recyclables for extended periods  
21 of time provided they have the space or risking a  
22 summons for disposing of the recyclables in their  
23 regular trash. And, if some people are really  
24 desperate, they go and they put this stuff in the  
25 street cans, which is illegal, but that's what

1  
2 they do. Since at least five of the 12 designated  
3 holidays fall on Mondays, those districts  
4 receiving Monday recycling collections are  
5 inordinately impacted by the missed holiday  
6 collections.

7 I believe, along with some of my  
8 fellow Council Members, that forcing one group of  
9 residents to bear the brunt of this burden is  
10 simply not fair. For the record, I have  
11 Monday/Thursday pickup. So, I won't say that I  
12 would not be concerned with it at all if I didn't.  
13 But, I do have a personal interest in trying to  
14 fix this problem, not only for the City, but for  
15 myself as well. I'm allowed to do that, right?

16 JARED HOVER: Um, hm.

17 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Huh?

18 MALE VOICE: [Off mic]

19 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Right. I  
20 don't need an article in the paper. Suddenly,  
21 there's an article in the paper, Felder Wants His  
22 Garbage Picked Up. It's running, right?  
23 Excellent. Felder Wants His Garbage Picked Up.

24 I hope to use today's hearing to  
25 learn more about the background of the Department

1  
2 of Sanitation's Chasing policy to better  
3 understand what the costs are for modifying the  
4 system and to ultimately determine if, and how, we  
5 could bring an end to the inequity of this current  
6 situation.

7           Before we begin today's formal  
8 hearing, I'd like to emphasize that it is my  
9 policy in this Committee to ensure that hearings  
10 begin on time and, as I said earlier, I was late,  
11 eight minutes late, despite that policy. But, we  
12 try to do as best as we can. And, therefore, the  
13 rule in this Committee is that those individuals  
14 who sign up to testify within the first 15 minutes  
15 of the start of the hearing will be permitted to  
16 testify. So, I hope to be finish my statement in  
17 about a minute or two, so it should be about  
18 10:15. You have 'til 10:30 to sign up.

19           Additionally, I'd ask witnesses to  
20 refrain from repeating points made by previous  
21 witnesses. If you agree, you could say you agree  
22 and if not, not. If someone had adequately made  
23 the point that you wish to make, you can say that  
24 that person made the point you wished to make.  
25 It's also the policy here that during oversight

1  
2 hearings to allow the public to testify before the  
3 Administration. During legislative hearings, such  
4 as the one this morning, we do the Administration  
5 first to be able to present the legislation, their  
6 opinion on it to be able to have anyone else talk  
7 about it.

8 I just want to recognize J. D.  
9 Dargan [phonetic], who's sitting to my left, who  
10 is the Director of Legislation, who worked on  
11 this, as well. I have been making it a ritual,  
12 and I will continue to try to remember to make it  
13 a ritual, to continue to recognize the efforts of  
14 the Department of Sanitation, the employees of the  
15 Sanitation Department, Sanitation agents, whoever  
16 they are that don't get enough recognition for the  
17 hard work they do. And, I've been trying to do  
18 that, not only when the Commissioner is sitting  
19 here, I've been going to Community Board meetings  
20 and saying it over and over because it's something  
21 that I think is worth repeating. The police  
22 department, police men and women and fire men and  
23 women deserved the credit that they get. But,  
24 Sanitation employees, the Sanitation men and women  
25 do not get the credit they deserve. The only time

1  
2 they get the credit they deserve, perhaps, is  
3 during a snowstorm or if, for some reason,  
4 somebody didn't get their pickup, for whatever it  
5 is, and they get their pickup. It's like I don't  
6 want to say like manna from heaven, but that's  
7 what it is.

8                   So, I want to make sure, on the  
9 record, that we make it clear how much the people  
10 of the City appreciate the work that the people at  
11 Sanitation do to ensure that this City is clean  
12 and everything sort of, you know, people say  
13 security, everything starts with the City and  
14 neighborhoods being clean. And, that's what, when  
15 they're not, that's what leads to the rest, to the  
16 issues of crime and other stuff. The statistics  
17 show that its starts with dirty neighborhoods,  
18 graffiti and things like that. And, once the  
19 neighborhoods are not the way they should be,  
20 crime and fire, other things, set in. So, I can't  
21 give the Commissioner credit for everything. But,  
22 certainly deserves-- you and your Department  
23 deserve a lot of credit and appreciation and we  
24 will continue to say so.

25                   With that said, if you'd like to



1  
2 make a commitment for the pickup on Monday  
3 holidays, we could just end the hearing.

4 JOHN DOHERTY: Good morning  
5 Chairman Felder, Solid Waste and Sanitation.  
6 First, I want to thank you for your kind words on  
7 Sanitation. I know you've always been very  
8 supportive of the Department, even during  
9 difficult times, including the issue on  
10 enforcement quite often. But, I know at a recent  
11 meeting, you supported the Department's procedures  
12 and we thank you for that. I am John Doherty,  
13 Commissioner of the New York City Department of  
14 Sanitation. With me this morning, to my right is  
15 Larry Cipollina, Deputy Commissioner for  
16 Administration, Michael Bimonte, First Deputy  
17 Commissioner for Operations, and Chief Bernard  
18 Sullivan, Chief of Bureau of Cleaning and  
19 Collection for the Department. I am here today to  
20 testify on Intro 600 under consideration by the  
21 Committee this morning and to answer your  
22 questions.

23 As proposed, Intro 600 amends New  
24 York City Administrative Code by requiring the  
25 Department to collect refuse and recyclables

1 within 48 hours after a holiday when collection is  
2 not made by the Department. The bill further  
3 requires that post-holiday collection service  
4 shall not result in alterations to any regular  
5 scheduled refuse and recycling collections  
6 exceeding 24 hours after normal-scheduled  
7 collection schedules.  
8

9 The Department opposes this bill  
10 for two primary reasons. First and foremost, the  
11 bill is cost prohibitive. The Department has  
12 determined it would cost an average of \$867,000 to  
13 provide holiday refuse service and recycling  
14 collection after one holiday through the necessary  
15 deployment of an additional 1,595 posts assigned  
16 on an overtime basis. This is based on current  
17 sanitation worker overtime differential rates  
18 under the current collective bargaining agreement.  
19 The cost to provide this holiday refuse and  
20 recycling collection for all 12 legal holidays  
21 would run approximately 10.4 million this year.  
22 Included in this figure is approximately two  
23 million that would be expended by the Department  
24 in order to fulfill the bill's refuse-only  
25 collection mandate within 48 hours after a

1  
2 holiday. That's because currently there are 30%  
3 of the bi-weekly frequency districts that do not  
4 currently receive refuse collection service within  
5 the 48-hour period.

6           Accordingly, the total cost to  
7 accomplish both recycling and refuse collections  
8 Citywide after holidays would run the Department  
9 nearly 10 million annually at today's overtime and  
10 differential rates. This amounts to a staggering  
11 and is not funded in our current budget.

12           In addition to the severe budgetary  
13 constraint the Department also opposes Intro 600  
14 due to the negative service impacts that would  
15 result for residential Citywide from the mandatory  
16 holiday collection. While the Department  
17 understands that some residents are inconvenienced  
18 whenever a missed recycling collection occurs,  
19 this bill will actually cause all the residents to  
20 be inconvenienced by delaying their regularly  
21 scheduled collection in the days following a  
22 holiday.

23           Using a Monday holiday as an  
24 example, in order to comply with Intro 600, the  
25 Department would have to collect Monday holiday

1  
2 recyclables on Tuesday while it must also provide  
3 regular refuse and recyclable collection service  
4 to residents on Tuesday. No matter how much  
5 outreach and advance media notice is provided to  
6 the City's eight million residents, there will  
7 always be confusion as to when people must place  
8 out their household trash and recyclables,  
9 resulting in bags and recyclables of garbage and  
10 recyclables that would be placed out and left at  
11 the curbside for longer periods that is both  
12 unsightly and would pose a health nuisance. On-  
13 time collection service, which the Department  
14 strives to meet, would be detrimentally impacted  
15 during the holiday weeks.

16           There are 12 legal holidays among  
17 which five holidays, Martin Luther King's  
18 Birthday, President Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day  
19 and Columbus Day, will always fall on a Monday.  
20 Despite the misconception that residents receiving  
21 Monday recycling pickups bear the disproportionate  
22 share of lesser service due to these five fixed  
23 Monday holidays, in fact, there are only portions  
24 of 83 sections among the total 233 sections that  
25 have recycling collections scheduled for Monday.

1  
2 Therefore, the number of residents receiving  
3 regular-scheduled Monday recycling collection is a  
4 smaller percent of the entire population of  
5 residents Citywide.

6 Last, Intro Number 600 will impact  
7 the quality-of-life for all residents throughout  
8 the City. Refuse and recyclable materials will be  
9 left out at the curb for longer periods of time  
10 causing nuisance implications, forcing residents  
11 to walk the streets surrounded by garbage, and  
12 more importantly, give the rodents more time to  
13 feast on material left out for collection.

14 To reiterate, the Department  
15 strongly opposes Intro 600 which would cost  
16 approximately 10 million in this time of severe  
17 budgetary constraints, will inconvenience all  
18 residents, detrimentally impact on-time service,  
19 and negatively affect the quality-of-life in  
20 neighborhoods across the City.

21 I'd like to add that based on your  
22 comments, opening comments, we never go past two  
23 weeks. Even with two holidays, like Christmas and  
24 New Years, sometimes happen like that, we never go  
25 beyond two weeks. We always collect it at the end

1  
2 of the two-week period. We never have material  
3 rolled over for three weeks, unless, of course, we  
4 have a snowstorm. The other piece is, too, that  
5 when we looked at it on an annual basis on the  
6 recycling, we only lose about 3% of the recycling  
7 tonnage when we skip a holiday, that Monday, when  
8 we skip it 12 times a year. So, it's only about a  
9 small percentage, but a small percentage is  
10 important.

11 We're now open for any questions  
12 you may want to ask us.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Look, I  
14 heard your testimony, Commissioner and I don't  
15 want to belabor it. I would just say most, if not  
16 all, of my district I know has collection on  
17 Mondays. We do frequently get, it's something  
18 that's one of the more frequent complaints, if you  
19 will, that I get in my district is, you know, when  
20 Monday's a holiday, it sits there. People don't  
21 know. Should they put it out or not. A lot of  
22 people do put out. The bags get opened up. It  
23 spills out. If it's recycling and then, there's  
24 no recycling that Monday, and then, you have to  
25 wait until the next one. And, they have a lot

1 pile up and, you know, no justice, no peace.

2 People are getting ready to take to the streets on  
3 this.

4  
5 But, so, I do think that we'd  
6 provide better service if we followed this bill.  
7 And, I support the Chairman in his efforts to do  
8 that.

9 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Thank you,  
10 Council Member Yassky. We've been joined by  
11 Council Member Arroyo. I'd like to go back to  
12 some of your testimony. In terms of the skipping  
13 of the tonnage, you know, that you mentioned the  
14 small amount and even that's not... I'm not  
15 addressing that issue. I'm not an expert. But, I  
16 would tend to agree that most people just wait and  
17 put it out and it's picked up, you know, in the  
18 larger sums later on.

19 Let's deal with the money first.  
20 In terms of money, how much-- can you place a cost  
21 on picking up recycling throughout the City every  
22 time you pick it up? Not only Monday/Thursday  
23 people, how much does it cost the City to pick up  
24 recycling, you know?

25 JOHN DOHERTY: I know what you

1  
2 mean. I'm trying to think. I don't have that  
3 number at my fingertips. The only numbers I can  
4 refer to, and they're not exact, is that the cost  
5 and processing of recyclables for the collection  
6 on a cost-per-ton basis, recycling costs more than  
7 collection.

8 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Um, hm.

9 JOHN DOHERTY: And, that basically  
10 has to do with the amount of material on a street  
11 and how many tons a truck will pick up. You send  
12 two people out on a truck, you have basically the  
13 same cost and you're only picking up roughly half  
14 the tonnage.

15 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: No, so, let me  
16 help you help me make a little trouble here.

17 JOHN DOHERTY: Okay.

18 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: I'll tell you  
19 where I'm going with this. You mentioned that  
20 it's \$10.4 million if we were-- that was the first  
21 objection of the Department that it's a lot of  
22 money to do what I... So, let me say that despite  
23 the cost, and I'm not in any way holding you  
24 responsible to raise the money, but despite the  
25 cost, I would argue that the City should have a



1  
2 consistent recycling policy. I shouldn't say, let  
3 me take that back. The pickup should be  
4 consistent throughout the City. So, five holidays  
5 are Monday/Thursday. I don't know what the  
6 breakdown would be on the other holidays. But, I  
7 would almost bet that there's no other day of the  
8 week that comes close to consistently having five  
9 holidays. Mondays are deemed holiday days. Very  
10 often, they will take a holiday that's not on  
11 Monday and make it a Monday holiday. So, despite  
12 the fact that there may be residents, you know,  
13 throughout the City that skip a recycling or  
14 something like that, I don't know it as a fact,  
15 but I would believe that there's no one that comes  
16 close to consistently having at least five  
17 holidays skipped.

18 JOHN DOHERTY: You're correct.

19 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: I think that's  
20 fair to say.

21 JOHN DOHERTY: Fair.

22 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: So now, that  
23 we've established that I'm special, the \$10.4  
24 million, I'm not denying there's a cost to it.  
25 All I'm saying is that there's an inequity that

1  
2 exists. Fact is that there is a portion of the  
3 City that has a disproportionate number of days  
4 that it does not have recycling pickup. And,  
5 that's not fair. And, that, even if it costs  
6 \$10.4 million, there are hundreds of different  
7 services that the City provides to people  
8 throughout the City, none in the Sanitation  
9 Department, that cost a lot of money. And, if  
10 you, you know, if we decided to provide that  
11 service to some and not to others, because of the  
12 money, it wouldn't be fair.

13           Having said that, so, the first  
14 premise is that I don't care that it cost \$10.4  
15 million because I want it and I think that it's  
16 the right thing and it should be done and we have  
17 to come up with the money, together with the City  
18 Council, whatever else. But, that's my first  
19 premise.

20           The second premise is the 10.4  
21 million, where I was going at was if, in fact,  
22 somebody said to me that it costs the City \$10  
23 million to pick up recycling each time, and I'm  
24 not saying it does, but, if that were the case,  
25 then I would say skip recycling once in the entire

1  
2 City for one holiday to make up the cost. Maybe  
3 not Christmas and New Year, where they we would  
4 say there are a lot of, hopefully, a lot of  
5 bottles in the recycling from the celebrations.  
6 But, there may be some other holiday where, or  
7 holidays, where maybe one would argue that instead  
8 of portions of the City not getting their  
9 recycling picked up at least five times during the  
10 year, that it would be a fact that recycling would  
11 not be picked up, I'm just picking one thing,  
12 after Columbus Day holiday or whatever it is or  
13 any holiday where, you know, the whole City would  
14 be impacted instead of just one, you know, area or  
15 areas where people get Monday and Thursday pickup  
16 to compensate for the money.

17 So, after that long story, I don't  
18 expect you to address my first point because  
19 you've made it clear. But, the second issue, I'd  
20 like if you can address why, to take care of the  
21 cost, why wouldn't we take one holiday, or two for  
22 that matter, and just not do recycling pickup in  
23 the City and then, do recycling all the others  
24 everywhere in the City.

25 JOHN DOHERTY: Well, as I said in

1  
2 my testimony, the cost for picking up the  
3 recyclables on a holiday is 867,000. So, that  
4 would be the cost to the City if we didn't pick  
5 them up for one holiday. There is a slight  
6 additional cost because you fall behind on your  
7 waste collection. As I said, out of the 10  
8 million, there's about eight million for recycling  
9 and two million for the collection delay because  
10 we're delayed in picking it up. So, if one was to  
11 cut out one day, you're probably talking, I'll say  
12 rounds numbers 900,000.

13 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: So, if one day  
14 of pickup costs the City, one holiday pickup in  
15 the City costs 900, but that, I thought, was to  
16 make up for those few areas. In other words, you  
17 said that only, in your testimony, you said there  
18 are only portions of 83--

19 JOHN DOHERTY: Right.

20 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: -- sections  
21 among--

22 JOHN DOHERTY: Right.

23 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: -- the total  
24 203--30, so that that would cost 800,000.

25 JOHN DOHERTY: Yes, sir.

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Under the  
3 Felder proposal, if you skip one pickup all over  
4 the City, right, consistently, one holiday pickup  
5 or whatever it may be, to save that money, then it  
6 would be much more that you'd be able to make up  
7 the money.

8 JOHN DOHERTY: Well, right now, we  
9 skip the recycling collection 12 times a year.  
10 I'm missing something. I'm sorry. We skip it 12  
11 times a year right now. If we were to skip it 11  
12 times a year, it's like 900,000 difference.

13 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: No.

14 JOHN DOHERTY: Cheaper.

15 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: I have a very  
16 revolutionary idea to compensate to skip it a 13<sup>th</sup>  
17 time, period, to skip it one time.

18 JOHN DOHERTY: Skip it one time.

19 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: That's right.  
20 To make up for the money. Now, maybe under your  
21 agreements, the agreements with the unions and--  
22 huh?

23 JOHN DOHERTY: When would I pick it  
24 up, though? If I skip it one time, I have to pick  
25 it up at some--

1

2

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: [Interposing]

3

You pick it up the next time, the way you do the

4

Monday/Thursday people.

5

JOHN DOHERTY: This is on

6

recycling?

7

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Yes.

8

JOHN DOHERTY: Well, we're skipping

9

it now. We don't pick--

10

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: [Interposing]

11

I'm not talking about holidays.

12

JOHN DOHERTY: Create another day.

13

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: You see, he

14

understands how crazy I am.

15

JOHN DOHERTY: Yeah, I know, you're

16

creating another day.

17

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: You have to

18

try to dig into my brain, Commissioner. That's a

19

dangerous thing. But, yeah.

20

JOHN DOHERTY: You're not saving

21

money. You're not saving money on that by not

22

collecting it on another day, I don't know how we

23

save money compared to not collecting it 12 days.

24

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Okay. So

25

then, let me move on.

1

JOHN DOHERTY: Okay.

2

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Really.

3

Irrespective of the money debate--

4

JOHN DOHERTY: Yes.

5

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: -- now, let's

6

go. The second thing that you discussed was the

7

issue of confusion. I didn't understand that.

8

What's the confusion?

9

JOHN DOHERTY: Well, one of the

10

things we try to tell the people, and we've done a

11

lot of outreach over the years, is that when a

12

holiday falls, there'll be no recycling

13

collection. So, in theory, they're not putting

14

that recyclables out. Now, they're going to put

15

it out and, as we go through the course of the

16

week, we're always have recyclables out - -

17

because we're delayed. That one day now we're

18

going to collect, we're going to be delayed all

19

week trying to pick everything up through the

20

week.

21

And, on the collection side, the

22

bill calls for us to pick up the garbage, not to

23

be skipping that. So, that gets stretched out

24

during the course of the week. I don't catch up

25

1  
2 on my recycling collection and the garbage  
3 collection in the bi-weekly areas in particular,  
4 until the latter part of the week. So, I've got  
5 garbage sitting in all neighborhoods, basically,  
6 for three to four days. Whereas, I've isolated it  
7 to only a small area. One, if they don't put out  
8 the recyclables like they're supposed to and keep  
9 it in, then we don't see any recyclables that  
10 week. We catch it on Tuesday and we're good for  
11 the rest of the week. If the garbage, I get my  
12 Tuesday's garbage right away. So, that's clean on  
13 that. And then, on, like say, on a tri-weekly  
14 area, we collect Monday, Wednesday and Friday, on  
15 Wednesday, I come in and I collect the Wednesday  
16 and the Monday material right away. So, I catch  
17 up quick on that. It's the tri-weekly then gets  
18 dragged out longer and you have garbage on the  
19 street for a longer period of time.

20 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: I got it.

21 JOHN DOHERTY: Okay.

22 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: I got it.

23 JOHN DOHERTY: I wasn't sure if I  
24 got it.

25 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: No, I got it.



1  
2 I don't know if you got it. I'm not sure you got  
3 it. But, I got it. But, I'm going to go back to  
4 the money for one more time.

5 JOHN DOHERTY: Okay.

6 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Not with the  
7 theory that I was espousing earlier. But, would  
8 it be fair to say, would you agree, that if  
9 somehow somebody wrote out a check for \$10.4  
10 million that you would say yes, this is wonderful.  
11 We have the money. Why shouldn't we pick up?

12 JOHN DOHERTY: Well, if somebody  
13 wrote that check out, I would say starting in  
14 July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year and the new budget that was  
15 passed last night, we're going to lose 187 street  
16 cleaners, which is about 8.2 million. And, in the  
17 preliminary budget that was passed in November, we  
18 had to cut 22 trucks on Sunday, basket trucks, 1.5  
19 million. So, 10 million would really cover those  
20 cleaning cuts.

21 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: So, you're  
22 dictating to me how I should spend my money?

23 JOHN DOHERTY: No. I'm just saying  
24 that's how I would spend it. I thought you were  
25 asking me.

1  
2                   CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Do you have  
3 any questions? You're not getting the money.  
4 Just telling you. Now that you played around with  
5 the check, you're not getting the money. Excuse  
6 me. A few other questions. What does it cost,  
7 or, should I say, is there an additional cost when  
8 you, you know, we call it Chasing, is there an  
9 additional cost to pick up the same recycling? In  
10 other words, the system the way it works now--

11                   JOHN DOHERTY: Yeah.

12                   CHAIRPERSON FELDER: -- when Monday,  
13 when it's not picked up--

14                   JOHN DOHERTY: Right.

15                   CHAIRPERSON FELDER: -- right,  
16 because I would assume that we said that it's only  
17 a small percentage that's missed, so when the  
18 Sanitation men and women come to pick up, they're  
19 picking up a double load. They obviously, it  
20 takes them longer and it probably, you know, I see  
21 sometimes they have to leave a block; bring  
22 another truck. They can't, you know, they can't  
23 do it. Is there any additional cost?

24                   JOHN DOHERTY: There is a cost over  
25 normal Monday's collection. But, when you

1  
2 collected two days on one day, the Monday of one  
3 week and a Monday of the second week, when we  
4 collect it, there's a savings, 'cause you could be  
5 more productive. There's more material out at the  
6 curb. So, you actually save trucks the second  
7 week.

8 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: That's very  
9 interesting. So, would you consider doing that  
10 regularly a few times a year?

11 JOHN DOHERTY: No, I don't think  
12 so.

13 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Why?

14 JOHN DOHERTY: Well, I think one,  
15 you now will-- I think for recycling purposes, you  
16 know, it's bad enough we have to skip it on a  
17 holiday so that we can be cost effective. But, to  
18 do it every week, I don't think would be a good  
19 practice.

20 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Well, would  
21 you then say that in order to encourage recycling  
22 that there's a fee sort of, or a fee or a lack of  
23 savings they incur to make sure that people know  
24 that you have to recycle, which makes sense, even  
25 if you're not as productive?

1  
2 JOHN DOHERTY: Well, there was a  
3 point in time, very short period, where we did  
4 collect the recyclables every two weeks. And,  
5 that was kind of taken and turned around to get us  
6 back to once a week. So, there was a huge  
7 objection when we skipped in on a regular basis.  
8 So, I don't--

9 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: I understand.

10 JOHN DOHERTY: I don't think we  
11 would want to go back to that again. I mean,  
12 it's--

13 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Okay.

14 JOHN DOHERTY: -- like I said, it  
15 would be better if we could do a better job on  
16 holiday weeks. But, we do have to manage the  
17 budget. And, we do have to keep on-time  
18 collection. And, I said we don't see a major loss  
19 in the recycling tonnage. So, I think people are  
20 doing what they're supposed to do. I think on a  
21 whole, when one talks about recycling, we really  
22 got to get people to do more recycling. We don't  
23 have enough recycling going on. They just don't  
24 do it as much as they should.

25 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: No, I would

1  
2 agree. I would agree with you. I think I said  
3 from the outset that to me it's what  
4 Councilman Yassky said, it's the issue of  
5 homeowners being upset about having to hold on to  
6 stuff, especially, I would say, during the warmer  
7 months, even though people are supposed to clean  
8 out the bottles, whatever else, some people don't.  
9 And, the smell, even though it's supposed to be  
10 covered. So, even though I asked you the issue  
11 about skipping, I think part of it also has to do  
12 with what you said at another hearing is that  
13 encouraging people to recycle if you wanted them  
14 to get used to doing it and then, you start  
15 skipping, you're sort of discouraging them in some  
16 way.

17 Do you receive complaints about  
18 noise in the evenings when, you know, whether it's  
19 for garbage or recycling, sometimes the Chasing is  
20 done at night? And, I know there are some  
21 countries that have pickup, in general, that have  
22 pickup, especially in very congested  
23 neighborhoods, they have pickup at night all the  
24 time. Some people have suggested that, I know  
25 that would be very expensive and we're not going

1

2 there.

2

3

JOHN DOHERTY: We do get

4

complaints. We have night collection. We notice

5

it most noticeably when we start the winter season

6

and we put the trucks on nights to have sufficient

7

personnel available for snow operations. But, we

8

do also get complaints during the year when the

9

off-season, basically, the summer months when

10

trucks are out. Particularly in the summer

11

months, because the windows are open--

12

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Yeah.

13

JOHN DOHERTY: -- people hear the

14

noise easily. In the wintertime, they kind of

15

close the windows for the most part and it's kind

16

of deadened a little bit. But, it does stand out.

17

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: And now, a

18

question just to like to get you off track. The

19

bottling bill, originally, there was a bottling

20

bill to encourage people to recycling in the

21

states, you pay a nickel, whatever else. Now,

22

there's another bottling bill to make it even more

23

so and other things. Since the Department does

24

such a wonderful job, would you be willing to give

25

me an opinion as whether you think that we need a

1  
2 deposit at all. We now have a great recycling  
3 bill in the City. Your Department does a  
4 wonderful job. And, many people go and pay a  
5 nickel at the store, whatever else, bring it home.  
6 Some bring it back.

7 I think the overwhelming majority  
8 of people put it in their can and then, maybe  
9 somebody who's homeless, who can't afford it,  
10 comes by and picks it up. But, the overwhelming  
11 majority of the bottles are not brought back by  
12 homeowners. I haven't done a study. But, I  
13 believe that to be true. So, who needs the nickel  
14 deposit? Why do we have to charge people money at  
15 the door?

16 JOHN DOHERTY: Well, I think it  
17 does encourage recycling, whether you bring it  
18 back or get a nickel for it or not. It does help.  
19 I mean, we've seen some states, particularly  
20 Maine, I think a couple of other ones, who have  
21 increased their recycling rates by adding-- upping  
22 it to a dime instead of a nickel, you know.  
23 There's very few. But, it does encourage  
24 recycling because, at times, particularly in  
25 apartment buildings, you can't scavenge through

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the garbage to pick it out. And, some people will just throw it in there rather than take... And, they should be taking it to the store. So, I think it does help recycling. I wouldn't, you know, I wouldn't say we shouldn't charge a nickel. I think it's something needs to be done.

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: That was not the right answer.

JOHN DOHERTY: Well, I didn't think so.

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: All right. We still have a little while. You can think it over and decide if you want to change your mind. What if we just, back to the recycling, what if we had a policy that there was no recycling pickup whatsoever on Mondays, ever?

JOHN DOHERTY: Well--

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: And, we only did recycling pickups the rest of the week. What do you think about that?

JOHN DOHERTY: Let's say again, we don't pick it up on...

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: This is not a crazy theory that I came up the first time that



1  
2 didn't make any sense. This one makes sense. You  
3 may not like it, but this one makes... We don't  
4 pick up recycling at all on Mondays.

5 JOHN DOHERTY: Right.

6 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: We pick up  
7 recycling everywhere all other days of the week.

8 JOHN DOHERTY: I--

9 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: [Interposing]  
10 Now, are you with me on the bottle bill or not?

11 JOHN DOHERTY: You mean get rid of-  
12 - no, no. Put all Mondays on, instead of six days  
13 of recycling collection, put it on to five days.  
14 We've looked at that. And, we would need  
15 additional trucks, particularly the dual bin  
16 trucks which does the majority of the recycling  
17 collection. And, those trucks even cost more than  
18 the regular collection trucks. So, there is a  
19 cost there. I think we'd have to buy, if I can  
20 remember correctly, about 40 more dual bin trucks  
21 or trucks, in general, and that there's a cost to  
22 that.

23 And then, you'd have to look at  
24 your personnel during the course of the week  
25 because the way our days off are scheduled, we

1  
2 have the least amount of people off on Mondays.  
3 We have the most available to do collection. If  
4 they're going to be off on a later part of the  
5 week, when you're trying to collect, then, you're  
6 going to have some overtime costs. I haven't sat  
7 down and worked it out. But, it is--

8 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: [Interposing]

9 If you--

10 JOHN DOHERTY: There is a cost to  
11 it.

12 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: If, at some  
13 point in the near future, somebody could look into  
14 whether that would be a more viable option. Maybe  
15 that costs \$5 million instead of \$10 million.  
16 Maybe that's something that would be... I'd  
17 appreciate it. How much would it cost for the  
18 Department to assign Sanitation workers to work on  
19 holidays, just to collect recyclables? I know  
20 this one-- in other words, I don't know if it's  
21 possible. But, to have them--

22 JOHN DOHERTY: [Interposing] I can--

23 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: And, I know  
24 that would be confusing. But, if it were so, I  
25 don't need the answer now. You know, if you can

1

2

get that back to me, that would be fine as well.

3

JOHN DOHERTY: Oh, 1.5 million.

4

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: But, we don't

5

save that much.

6

JOHN DOHERTY: No.

7

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: No. That

8

doesn't save that much. By the way, those trucks,

9

it used to be that the-- can you just refresh my

10

memory. When I was a little younger, you used to

11

have three people, if I'm not mistaken, driving

12

the trucks and they would go, this has nothing to

13

do with recycling, just regular garbage pickup. I

14

think there were three people who used to-- one

15

drove the truck and then, two--

16

JOHN DOHERTY: Would load.

17

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: -- people

18

would... That was part of a union agreement.

19

Does that work quicker? I mean, it just seems

20

like you have one guy now who gets on. The way

21

garbage is picked up on Parkville Avenue where

22

someone that I know lives, is that the truck comes

23

by. One truck does one side of the street and it

24

has two people picking up garbage. One guy

25

drives. The other guys picks up and they

1  
2 alternate. And then, at some point, at some other  
3 time, earlier or later, a truck comes and does the  
4 other side of the street. That is the system in  
5 contrast to the way it was where there were three  
6 people just going down the street. And, one guy  
7 driving and people just throwing it in.

8 JOHN DOHERTY: We save money. I  
9 goes back to 1981 when we - - that originally.  
10 And, it's expanded over the years. And, we save  
11 quite a few trucks doing that. It was a big  
12 savings to the City at that time.

13 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: It's a savings  
14 of time or...? No, in other words, you save, the  
15 City saves money by doing pickups that way, the  
16 way it's done now?

17 JOHN DOHERTY: By two people.

18 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Yeah.

19 JOHN DOHERTY: Yeah, when we went  
20 from three people--

21 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: [Interposing]  
22 Even though they go down--

23 JOHN DOHERTY: Yes.

24 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: -- in terms of  
25 the time and everything like that.

1

2

JOHN DOHERTY: Yes.

3

4

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: It's very interesting.

5

6

JOHN DOHERTY: We reduce the number of trucks we have to assign.

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CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Very interesting. The only consequence of that is the traffic, which you can't avoid if you have a truck coming down twice instead of once. Since the draft of Intro 600 requires 48-hour Chasing, would it be more feasible, for example, and cost efficient, if they chase recyclables within 72 hours or 96 hours? In other words, now you do a pretty good job to get most of the garbage, even on a Monday holiday, within, you know, 24 hours afterwards. If, let's say, the rule was that you would be picking up the recycling on the next garbage pickup day?

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21

22

23

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JOHN DOHERTY: You would probably save a little bit if you do it that way. But, the problem ends up you stretch out the time it'll take to pick it up and you have more garbage on the street Citywide. You want to try and pick it up as quickly as you can. If you stretch it out,

1

2 then, you're going to have more waste [crosstalk]

3

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: [Interposing]

4

No, I don't mean the garbage. I mean the

5

recycling only. In other words--

6

JOHN DOHERTY: Recycling--

7

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: -- as an

8

alternative to waiting another week to pick it up

9

on the next pickup day.

10

JOHN DOHERTY: Right.

11

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Would that

12

save us any money? Would that save or it still

13

wouldn't make any difference?

14

JOHN DOHERTY: No, if you only do

15

the-- well, if you only do the recyclables, you

16

chase the recyclables, it's \$8 million.

17

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: No, my

18

question is Monday's a holiday.

19

JOHN DOHERTY: Right.

20

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Okay. So,

21

Monday, late afternoon--

22

JOHN DOHERTY: Right.

23

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: -- at six

24

o'clock, I go ahead. I put out my garbage.

25

JOHN DOHERTY: Um, hm.

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: And, sometime  
3 during the night or the next day, they'll get rid  
4 of it. If I said to you that the rule would be  
5 that since Monday, they're not going to pick up,  
6 they're not going to chase it Tuesday, to put out  
7 the recycling with my regular garbage on Thursday  
8 and have it picked up on Thursday, everything,  
9 pick up my garbage--

10 JOHN DOHERTY: [crosstalk] you  
11 having your--

12 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: -- and the  
13 recycling.

14 JOHN DOHERTY: You having your  
15 Monday recyclable day moved to Thursday.

16 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Right.

17 JOHN DOHERTY: Well, I'd need more  
18 men. Thursday is one of the days where we tend to  
19 have less people available and when we run into  
20 holiday weeks, we cancel most days off, which  
21 costs us double time on the union contract. So,  
22 Thursday is not a good day. But, even if you do  
23 that, if you try and switch it to another day,  
24 you're doing it for the 12 holidays.

25 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Yeah.

1  
2 JOHN DOHERTY: Now, people got to  
3 think okay, this is the--

4 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Yeah.

5 JOHN DOHERTY: -- 12<sup>th</sup> holiday--

6 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: No, you're  
7 right.

8 JOHN DOHERTY: -- and they're still  
9 putting it out on Monday.

10 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: You're right.  
11 It's a stupid idea.

12 JOHN DOHERTY: Right.

13 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Is that what  
14 you're going to say?

15 JOHN DOHERTY: No, no. I thought  
16 it was something, you know, thinking outside the  
17 envelope. I commend you for that.

18 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Yeah.

19 JOHN DOHERTY: Or, outside the  
20 garbage can in this case.

21 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Councilman  
22 Robert Jackson was here, had to leave. I wanted  
23 to make sure that we recognized him. Council  
24 Member Mitchell, Kenneth C. Mitchell, in fact.  
25 Can you hold that up again for me? Kenneth C.



1

Mitchell was here, as well.

2

3

I don't have any other questions.

4

And, I really appreciate your coming in. I just

5

want to make it clear that I still want it done,

6

despite the fact that I understand the

7

difficulties associated. At the end of the day,

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it boils down to money. And, I know it's

9

difficult times. I still think that it's not fair

10

for parts of the City not to get the pickup. So,

11

you've raised, the money issue, believe it or not,

12

the confusion issue is one that's resonating with

13

me more than the money issue, which is something

14

that I'm going to think about. And, if you can

15

have your staff just get back to me on the other

16

numbers, when you have a chance, I'd appreciate

17

it.

18

JOHN DOHERTY: We will, sir.

19

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Thank you very

20

much for coming.

21

JOHN DOHERTY: Thank you.

22

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Council Member

23

Mitchell, excuse me, hold on a minute, do you

24

want-- we recognized you.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Thank

1

2 you.

3

4

5

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: But, since the  
Commissioner, I think, is he one of your  
constituents?

6

7

COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: I believe  
the Commissioner lives [off mic] [pause]

8

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Do you--

9

JOHN DOHERTY: [Off mic]

10

11

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Do you want me  
to embarrass him for not being nice to you?

12

13

14

COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: No, the  
Commissioner's always been nice to me, even when I  
was with Councilman McMahon, the Commissioner--

15

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Okay.

16

17

COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: -- was  
always very good to me.

18

JOHN DOHERTY: [Off mic]

19

COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Exactly.

20

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Oh, really?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Exactly.

22

JOHN DOHERTY: [Off mic]

23

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Okay. Okay.

24

Any questions? Thank you very much.

25

JOHN DOHERTY: Thank you.

1

2

CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Eric

3

Goldstein. You're it. Due to the overwhelming

4

number of people who are testifying, we will allow

5

you to speak as long as you wish.

6

ERIC GOLDSTEIN: Thank you,

7

Mr. Chairman. I'd like to think I speak for the

8

large majority of New Yorkers who, in poll after

9

poll, indicate that they support an expansion and

10

continuation of a strong recycling program here in

11

New York City. As you know, I'm the Urban Program

12

Director with the Natural Resources Defense

13

Council, a national environmental group. With me

14

today, is Sara Appleton [phonetic]. And, we're

15

pleased to testify in support of Intro 600, which

16

NRDC wholeheartedly supports.

17

The current collection schedule has

18

three main drawbacks. First, it's inconvenient.

19

It forces residents to store recyclables for

20

another week, when recycling collections are

21

cancelled, or to risk a summons when they place

22

their uncollected recyclable trash out for pick up

23

with regular waste.

24

Second, it's inequitable. It

25

treats recyclables differently from other

1 household trash and gives recyclables a lower  
2 collection priority, which is in contrast both to  
3 the Solid Waste Management Plan directives and to  
4 the 1988 State Solid Waste Management Act, both of  
5 which put recycling ahead of landfilling and  
6 incineration on the waste disposal hierarchy.  
7

8           And third, it sends the wrong  
9 signal to New Yorkers. By cutting recycling, but  
10 not regular trash collections following holidays,  
11 it undercuts support for, and participation in,  
12 recycling, despite recycling's benefits in terms  
13 of reducing pollution and global warming emissions  
14 and despite recent studies showing that within  
15 five years the costs to City taxpayers of  
16 recycling will actually be lower on a per-ton  
17 basis than the costs of out-of-state trash export,  
18 which are continuing to climb.

19           Finally, passage of Intro 600 would  
20 bring New York City collection practices into  
21 conformity with recycling programs in other major  
22 cities. In Los Angeles, for example, if trash  
23 collection is postponed due to a holiday or other  
24 event, all refuse, including recyclables, are  
25 collected the next day, according to the LA Bureau

1  
2 of Sanitation. Similarly in Seattle, when trash  
3 collections are suspended for holidays, refuse and  
4 recycling collections are both delayed by one day,  
5 according to the Seattle Public Utilities  
6 Authority. And in Boston, if trash collection is  
7 delayed by a day and then reinstated following  
8 holidays or snow removal, the same policy applies  
9 to recyclables.

10 I'd like to address Commissioner  
11 Doherty's three main claims. First, he asserts  
12 that this legislation would inconvenience some New  
13 Yorkers because it would delay their regularly  
14 scheduled trash collections and have other  
15 negative service impacts. But, why is it that the  
16 City's waste policy, in general, and the  
17 collection schedules, in particular, are always  
18 ending up with recycling getting the short end of  
19 the stick? The City's collection system should  
20 not be skewed to favor regular trash collections  
21 over recycling collections. And, if recycling is  
22 ever to fully succeed in New York City and allow  
23 New York City to take full advantage of the  
24 economic benefits of recycling, then the  
25 Sanitation Department needs to think of recycling

1  
2 and regular trash collection as all one system,  
3 rather than thinking of recycling, or treating it,  
4 as they do in this instance, like the afterschool  
5 clarinet program. Not that there's anything wrong  
6 with afterschool musical training.

7           Second, the Commissioner identifies  
8 fiscal restraints in objecting to your  
9 legislation. And, we understand the fiscal  
10 challenges that the City is facing and we're fully  
11 sympathetic to these concerns. Although, based  
12 upon today's testimony, we're not yet convinced  
13 that the claim of \$10 million in extra costs has  
14 been proven. Accordingly, we would understand if  
15 you and your co-sponsors choose to adjust either  
16 the timing of the bill, in terms of the 24, 48-  
17 hour Chasing or make other adjustments.

18           But, what the Council should not do  
19 is to continue a collection schedule that favors  
20 regular trash collections over recycling  
21 collections. Such an approach is inconsistent  
22 with the City's swamp, with the City's statutes  
23 and the philosophy of PlaNYC. And, it's  
24 disheartening to hear the Sanitation Department so  
25 often place recycling at the lowest end of its

1  
2 priority list in terms of the various services it  
3 needs to provide to the public.

4           And finally, the Commissioner, who  
5 I have great respect for and have been a friend  
6 of, I would say, for over 20 years, the  
7 Commissioner says he doesn't think that there  
8 would be a major loss of recycling tonnage from  
9 continuing the current policy. But, there's no  
10 compelling data that we've seen on the amount of  
11 recyclables that are lost. And, more importantly,  
12 we need to take action to further encourage  
13 recycling, not merely accept small reductions in  
14 recycling. The current policy, which places  
15 recycling collections as a secondary element to  
16 regular trash collection, sends New Yorkers the  
17 message that, to the Sanitation Department,  
18 recycling remains a low priority.

19           And finally, we think your  
20 suggestion for completely eliminating Monday  
21 recycling collections and switching all recycling  
22 collections to other days of the week is a  
23 brilliant partial solution to the problem that  
24 this legislation seeks to address. Thank you very  
25 much for your attention.

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: I was  
3 listening to your testimony, but when you said  
4 brilliant, I popped up. I've been called a lot of  
5 things. Brilliant is not one of them. So, and,  
6 you didn't call me brilliant, you called the  
7 suggestion brilliant. So, I shouldn't let it go  
8 to my head.

9 But, with the issue with the money,  
10 back to the money, I know you addressed it. So,  
11 what would be an analogy? The clarinet program is  
12 a good analogy because I really feel that music  
13 and arts in the school is not secondary.

14 ERIC GOLDSTEIN: I agree.

15 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: There are a  
16 lot of students that do well in a lot of topics.  
17 But, there are a lot of students that the only way  
18 they do well in other topics is by getting the  
19 self-esteem that they need through some other  
20 things that they enjoy, whether it's art or music.  
21 And then, they're able to carry that forward to  
22 other things.

23 ERIC GOLDSTEIN: And, my point,  
24 though, is not to demean those programs--

25 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Yes.



1  
2 ERIC GOLDSTEIN: -- because I  
3 support them, but, just to recognize that they  
4 have historically been the first to be cut.

5 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Yeah. Are  
6 there any other City programs that you could think  
7 of, an analogy of something else? I agree with  
8 you. I mean, no one would say I think it would be  
9 a bizarre analogy to say let's not have cops  
10 working, you know, one hour a day. That's too  
11 extreme. But, the \$10 million price tag, the  
12 argument that the Commissioner made, for example,  
13 that there are other days where people do not,  
14 even though he agreed, that the Monday pickup day  
15 get a disproportionate number of days when they  
16 don't get the pickup. Others miss some, but not  
17 many.

18 ERIC GOLDSTEIN: Well, the point is  
19 the Sanitation Department budget is over a billion  
20 dollars a year now. Within that, they can best  
21 select, it's not NRDC's role to micromanage the  
22 minutia spending of the Department. But, assuming  
23 it is \$10 million, which is a leap based upon  
24 prior projections on the costs of recycling, but,  
25 assume it is \$10 million, there are several ways

1  
2 of addressing it. They could redeploy funds from  
3 elsewhere within their billion dollar budget.  
4 They could make modifications to-- you could make  
5 modifications to the legislation that would reduce  
6 those costs by either extending the Chasing period  
7 or taking other-- adjusting other operational  
8 changes based on their recommendations.

9 But, what they should not continue,  
10 if they are committed to recycling, as they should  
11 be, as both the beneficial environmental and  
12 health measure and a long term economic savings,  
13 is the continue a distinction that treats  
14 recycling as a stepchild. It's inappropriate and  
15 it undercuts, you know, the City's long term  
16 objectives and the Department-stated priorities.  
17 So, I haven't answered your question about what  
18 other part of the City budget I would recommend  
19 cutting. I'm clear on that.

20 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: I don't  
21 expect you. Now, that you testified and really,  
22 we're delighted that you came, the other issue  
23 that I asked about, the bottle bill, which is  
24 unrelated. Do you have an opinion about that?

25 ERIC GOLDSTEIN: Well, NRDC

1  
2 supports the bottle bill if only because it, and  
3 when we say the bottle bill, now what we're really  
4 talking about is the proposed expansion--

5 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: [Interposing]  
6 Right, that's correct.

7 ERIC GOLDSTEIN: -- that would add  
8 additional--

9 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: [Interposing]  
10 That's correct.

11 ERIC GOLDSTEIN: -- containers--

12 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Yeah.

13 ERIC GOLDSTEIN: -- because many  
14 other parts of the state do not have recycling  
15 programs.

16 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: I see.

17 ERIC GOLDSTEIN: And so, therefore,  
18 we will be gaining collections and enhancing  
19 litter cleanup and recycling throughout much of  
20 the state.

21 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: And, if we  
22 excluded those localities that have recycling  
23 programs [crosstalk]

24 ERIC GOLDSTEIN: [Interposing] That  
25 might be something worth examining, you know. I

1  
2 certainly recognize that for New York City there  
3 are both pluses and minuses to that program.

4 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: I see.

5 ERIC GOLDSTEIN: That legislation.

6 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: I see. And  
7 then, back to the issue of the recycling,  
8 irrespective of the argument that you made well  
9 and repeatedly about that the recyclables and the  
10 garbage should be equal and we shouldn't sort  
11 of... But, would you say that the issues of the--  
12 you started off saying about the issues of the  
13 inequity despite the costs don't make sense.

14 So, that's like a double whammy for  
15 you because, first of all, you're not keeping them  
16 equal and second of all, you're sort of saying is  
17 don't worry about it, you know. You have to  
18 recycle, but you don't really have to recycle. I  
19 know the Department claims that they're not losing  
20 the tonnage and you said that we should be trying  
21 to increase the tonnage. On that separate note,  
22 do you have any ideas whether the City itself is--  
23 how the recycling-- I didn't ask the Commissioner.  
24 I forgot. I think I asked him last time about  
25 City agencies, how they're doing with recycling.

1  
2 ERIC GOLDSTEIN: Yes. And, this is  
3 a topic that has been involved in some current  
4 discussions. I think we'll let the Department and  
5 the City speak for itself on this, you know. Our  
6 own impressions--

7 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Yeah.

8 ERIC GOLDSTEIN: -- from the  
9 outside is that it varies widely by agency to  
10 agency. And that, there are some places that do a  
11 better job and some places that pay almost no  
12 attention to it. And, from everything we've been  
13 able to identify, it's extremely hard to get data,  
14 tonnage data, so that you could determine. And,  
15 again, this Mayor and others who care about  
16 reinventing government often say what gets  
17 measured gets done. And so, when we can collect  
18 the data on tonnage from agencies, it's  
19 discouraging because you have no way to determine  
20 whether the City is practicing what it preaches,  
21 which is what we ought to be striving for.

22 CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Thank you very  
23 much for coming--

24 ERIC GOLDSTEIN: [Interposing]  
25 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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CHAIRPERSON FELDER: -- to testify.

We look forward to taking advantage of your  
experience and knowledge in this area.

ERIC GOLDSTEIN: We're delighted to  
work with you.

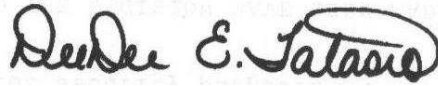
CHAIRPERSON FELDER: Thank you.

The hearing is hereby closed.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, DeeDee E. Tataseo certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "DeeDee E. Tataseo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Date

July 27, 2009