

**OPENING STATEMENT OF
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NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON DSNY'S PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO RULE RELATING TO
MANDATORY ORGANICS**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024
10:00 AM
(REMOTE HEARING)**

Good morning and welcome. My name is Madelynn Liguori. I am Senior Counsel in the Bureau of Legal Affairs for the Department of Sanitation ("DSNY"). Thank you for attending this public hearing this morning.

DSNY is conducting this remote hearing in accordance with the requirements of the City Administrative Procedure Act. The purpose of this hearing is to receive comments from the public on DSNY's proposed amendment to our rule relating to mandatory organics.

This rule was published by DSNY in the City Record on February 29, 2024, with a scheduled hearing date of today, April 3, 2024. Additionally, DSNY emailed copies of the rule to all New York City local elected officials, the City's fifty-nine community boards, media and interested parties, and published the proposed rule on its website.

Local Law No. 85 for the year 2023 (Local Law 85) requires the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) to establish a mandatory citywide organics collection program. This program will make the source separation of residential organic waste in the City of New York mandatory. The law requires DSNY to implement the mandatory organics collection program in 30 residential sanitation districts by October 2, 2023, and in all remaining sanitation districts by October 7, 2024. DSNY's current rules provide that source separation of yard waste from organic waste is required in all districts in Staten Island and the Bronx beginning March 25, 2024, and in all districts in Manhattan beginning October 7, 2024. As a result of budget constraints, DSNY has determined to amend the date on which mandatory source separation of residential organic waste commences in all such districts in Staten Island, the Bronx and Manhattan to October 6, 2024.

A court reporter is present today and will record the hearing. You may present an oral statement or submit written comments concerning the proposed rule. We have been accepting written comments on the proposed rule since it was published. Today is the deadline for submission of written comments. Such comments may be emailed directly to nycrules@dsny.nyc.gov by 5PM today.

DSNY will make available a copy of all written comments received through today, together with the hearing transcript, for viewing on its website within the next few weeks.

DSNY will carefully consider all the comments it receives today at the hearing and all written comments it receives.

I will begin calling those of you who wish to speak this morning in the order in which you have signed up to testify. While the notice requested that persons wishing to testify sign up in advance of this hearing, anyone wishing to testify at this time may do so by indicating in the chat area that you wish to testify by indicating your name and affiliation, if any. When you speak, please state your name and affiliation, and speak slowly and clearly so that the court reporter can understand and accurately record your statement. [We also ask that you limit your statement to five minutes.]