

**Testimony of
Gregory P. Anderson, Commissioner
New York City Department of Sanitation
Hearing before the New York City Council
Committees on Finance and Sanitation & Solid Waste Management
Thursday, June 4, 2026, 2:00 pm
Executive Budget Hearing**

Good afternoon Chairs Lee and Sanchez and members of the Committees on Finance and Sanitation & Solid Waste Management. I am Gregory Anderson, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Sanitation, and I am joined today by Joseph Antonelli, Deputy Commissioner, Management & Budget, and by Rebecca Kriegman, Assistant Commissioner, Policy & Planning.

We are here today to discuss an Executive Budget that makes historic investments in cleanliness and waste containerization. One that reflects a commitment to revolutionary change for our relationship with our waste — and with our public spaces.

In my decade of service to this Department, I have seen cleaning programs mired in bureaucratic patchworks and initiatives that were announced to great fanfare without ongoing funding. As with so many other issues, the Mamdani administration is rejecting this status quo, and as part of the New Era for New York City, the Department of Sanitation (“DSNY”) is taking an expansive view of what it means to keep our city clean.

It is often said that budgets are a statement of values. Well, this Administration’s Executive Budget is a statement that supports a cleaner, safer, and healthier New York City more than ever before. A City where cleanliness is measured not by the absence of trash but by vitality and well-maintained public spaces.

The Sanitation Department works tirelessly to deliver to all New Yorkers the promise of a truly clean city — one where every New Yorker leaves their home to a block they take pride in, a neighborhood they cherish and a city that helps them thrive. This budget is an investment in that work.

Containerization

First, I want to talk about containerization. I worked on this project for many years as a Deputy Commissioner, and I am thrilled to be back at DSNY as part of an administration that is committed to meaningful progress and getting this across the finish line. By the end of 2031, 100 percent of all New York City trash will be in sealed containers. This isn’t just a pie-in-the-sky hope. Today, we have a budget that puts us on track to achieve that plan.

We already require more than 70 percent of trash to be in containers: all commercial trash, all trash from low-density residences, all trash collected by BIDs and cleanup partners, and all food waste for composting.

Residents in low-density buildings are now required to use the official NYC Bin. We are issuing warnings throughout the summer, and we will begin full enforcement of this rule after Labor Day.

The heavier lift – especially in terms of capital investment – is trash from high-density residential buildings. Larger Empire Bins have now been serving West Harlem for nearly a year, performing well even in our cold, snowy winter. And we are now preparing to install them this fall in Brooklyn Community District 2, including Fort Greene and Downtown Brooklyn.

Until this Executive Budget, there were no plans or funding to grow this program beyond a two-district pilot. But now, thanks to Mayor Mamdani’s incredible commitment to citywide trash containerization, we have dedicated funding to make a historic investment in cleanliness and quality of life that will change the way our streets look and feel.

Imagine a New York City with no trash bags on our sidewalks. That's what we're doing, neighborhood by neighborhood, and we won't stop until we are done. Next year, Empire Bins will arrive in Brooklyn District 8, Bronx Districts 2 and 5, Manhattan District 2, Staten Island District 1, and my home district of Queens District 2.

This budget adds 32 Civilian positions and 83 Uniform positions in FY2027, growing to 80 Civilian positions and 607 Uniform positions in FY2030 and the out years. It also adds \$14.8 million in expense funding in FY2027, growing to \$162.2 million in FY2030 as the program expands citywide.

Street vending and public safety

The Department of Sanitation has been the lead agency enforcing street vending rules since 2023. We focus on dirty conditions, safety issues, items being left out overnight, and setups that block public access to sidewalks, curbs, mass transit, and store entrances. While we often issue warnings and give advance notice to vendors about planned enforcement activities, we also take seriously our obligation to ensure cleanliness and protect quality of life.

Following a package of bills passed by the Council this year, this budget provides additional funding to increase our ranks of Sanitation Police Officers in our Vending Enforcement unit. These officers conduct inspections and ensure that vendors are licensed and abiding by the basic rules that ensure public safety and cleanliness. This budget funds 32 Uniform positions in FY2027 and the out years at a cost of \$2.15 million in FY2027.

Composting and Sustainability

Shifting to our curbside composting program and sustainability efforts, as many of you know, we resumed full enforcement of our mandatory curbside composting program this year, with a particular focus on those residents and property owners who make no effort whatsoever to participate in the program. We do not want to issue summonses, but we know that this — coupled with our outreach and education programs — is often the best way to boost participation and achieve compliance.

We are not just collecting food scraps and yard waste; we are also giving compost back to New Yorkers. To date, we have given away roughly 6 million pounds of compost at giveback sites across all five boroughs, as well as to community gardens, schools, and other nonprofits. Residents can sign up for these givebacks at nyc.gov/getcompost.

While I am on the topic of sustainability, the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act — which would reduce single-use packaging by 30 percent and save New York City taxpayers \$100 million or more annually — is currently before our legislators in Albany. With just hours left of the legislative session, I continue to call on our lawmakers to take action before this session ends.

Cleanliness

Our commitment to cleanliness has historically focused on emptying litter baskets, clearing dump-outs and enforcing our cleanliness laws. These commitments remain, but under this administration, we are approaching this work with an understanding that every part of this City is impacted by sanitation issues and services. You will see, feel and even smell that change as we bring equitable cleaning resources to every part of the five boroughs. We need New Yorkers to be our partners in this effort — to keep their property clean and throw their trash in the litter basket. And largely, they do.

However, as I have said before, there is one area where many New Yorkers often do not do their part, and that is adherence to alternate-side parking rules. An estimated 500,000 illegally parked cars prevent our street sweepers from cleaning more than 3,000 miles of streets every week. Because it is impossible for us to write summonses to every one of these car owners, we are asking legislators in Albany to give us a street sweeper camera enforcement bill. I ask Albany to please LET US CLEAN.

Passage of this bill would increase compliance, and with better compliance and cleaner streets, we will be able to reevaluate the current street cleaning regulations—potentially reducing the frequency and duration of ASP regulations. Again, as this legislative session wraps up today, I ask every City Council member who wants cleaner streets to put their strong, vocal support behind this bill.

Snow

This past winter, we faced two significant snowstorms, as well as days of subfreezing temperatures, unlike anything we have seen in at least a decade. Our storm response was the culmination of years of planning, coupled with a new commitment to clearing more areas of the city.

Thanks to a recent commitment to something we call Snow Equity, all streets are on a route – no more waiting days for so-called tertiary streets to be plowed. We now service vehicle travel lanes and bike lanes at the same time. This past winter, we deployed snow melters and activated emergency contracts to haul snow from hard-to-reach areas. We also activated thousands of Emergency Shovelers to clear pedestrian infrastructure such as crosswalks and bus stops.

As we prepare for the coming winter, know that we plan all year for all possibilities, revising routes, evaluating performance, and overhauling equipment so that we have a playbook for every possibility, and we are actively developing an internal dashboard for bus stops and other pedestrian infrastructure.

Much of this work is outlined in the Department’s borough-based snow plans, submitted annually to the City Council at the end of September pursuant to Local Law 28 of 2011. In keeping with the requirements of the City Charter, the snow budget has been adjusted to reflect actual spend during the last year’s historic storms.

Facilities

Before this year, it had been a decade since the Department of Sanitation opened a brand-new, built-from-the-ground-up district garage. In April, we opened a new garage in Brooklyn to serve District 3. And soon, we will open new facilities on Staten Island to serve Districts 1 and 3. With new initiatives, our district garages need to evolve, adapt and grow. Some are well suited to that, and others, like the garages we recently replaced, were not.

The Capital Budget includes funding for several major facilities projects, including:

- \$488 million in funding for the construction of a new garage for Bronx Districts 9, 10, and 11, with demolition;
- \$284 million in funding for the construction of a new garage for Queens District 1, which is slated to begin design later this year;
- Upgrades to the facility that serves as the home for the Bronx District 12 Garage, which has an overall budget of \$52.5 million and began construction this year;
- And the \$9 million finishing touches on the \$223 million build out for the brand-new home for Staten Island District 1 and 3, which is slated to be completed this year.
 - That project, along with the new BK3, means we will be opening three new districts at two buildings this calendar year, a rare milestone for this Department and a sign of this administration’s serious investment in the safety and well-being of Sanitation Workers and the neighborhoods they serve.

The Expense budget also includes nearly \$4 million in annual funding for a new leased facility in Hunts Point to replace an outdated and structurally deficient garage serving Bronx District 2. This facility will also serve as the new home of the Department’s supply warehouse, which will move from Greenpoint to facilitate the construction of a DEP combined sewer overflow control project.

FY26-27 Executive Budget

I will now turn to additional specifics of this year's Executive Budget. The Executive Budget includes \$2.36 billion in expense funds in Fiscal Year 2026 and \$2.11 billion in Fiscal Year 2027, reflecting increases of \$372 million and \$73 million, respectively, from the budget adopted last June.

The Fiscal Year 2026 budget includes \$1.42 billion for personal services to support a total budgeted headcount of 9,625 full-time positions, including 7,957 uniformed positions and 1,668 civilian positions, and \$942.5 million for other than personal services, or OTPS.

DSNY's Fiscal Year 2027 Executive Capital Budget includes \$3.36 billion in capital funding in the 10-year plan, \$1.09 billion of which is for garages and facilities, \$2.14 billion for equipment, \$59.28 million for IT, and \$70.22 million for solid waste management infrastructure.

I am happy to speak further about the details of these investments. Thank you, and we look forward to taking your questions.