

**Testimony of
Gregory P. Anderson, Commissioner
New York City Department of Sanitation**

**Hearing before the New York City Council
Committee on Sanitation & Solid Waste Management
Tuesday, July 1, 2026 1:30 P.M.**

Good afternoon Chair Sanchez and members of the Committee on Sanitation & Solid Waste Management. I am Gregory Anderson, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Sanitation, and I am joined today by Jennifer McDonnell, Deputy Commissioner of Solid Waste Management and by Frank Marshall, Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Commercial Waste. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in front of this committee today.

Introduction 75

First, Intro. 75, sponsored by Council Member Nurse, would expand the commercial routing hours for commercial premises during all posted business hours, or from 8:00AM to 7:00PM for businesses without posted hours. DSNY strongly supports this legislation, which will greatly improve the cleanliness of our commercial corridors.

Currently, DSNY's enforcement of dirty sidewalks and curblines is restricted to two one-hour periods per day. For commercial properties, this limitation prevents DSNY from performing effective enforcement for some of the worst actors — those individual scofflaw businesses that can mar the appearance of an entire commercial corridor. This legislation would allow for consistent enforcement during a business's posted operating hours.

Our goal is never enforcement for enforcement's sake alone. Nor for the sake of revenue, for that matter. Our goal is and always will be to achieve compliance, particularly among repeat offenders. DSNY's outreach and business engagement staff work closely with our partner agencies, business improvement districts, chambers of commerce, and other stakeholders to ensure that education remains our first tool to achieve that compliance and to give NYC businesses the information and tools they need to comply with longstanding basic sanitation laws.

All property owners have a responsibility to keep their sidewalk and property clean, and DSNY is grateful to Council Member Nurse and Chair Sanchez for their leadership in advancing this important bill.

Introduction 353

Intro. 353, sponsored by Council Member Nurse, would require the creation of a Commercial Waste Zones working group. For the last decade, as DSNY has studied the commercial waste industry, designed the proposed commercial waste zones system, worked with City Council to enact legislation authorizing such a system, and embarked on the implementation of commercial waste zones, DSNY has regularly engaged with stakeholders representing the broad array of carters, businesses, advocates, residents and others with an interest in the commercial waste

industry. They have provided and continue to provide invaluable feedback and guidance as we have brought this program from long-discussed concept to actual functioning system.

DSNY conducts extensive customer engagement before, during, and after each zone transition. Across the first four phases of implementation, our Commercial Waste team sent more than 156,000 mailers, made more than 64,000 telephone outreach attempts, visited businesses nearly 52,000 times, held 23 information sessions and met with 129 business improvement districts, community organizations, elected officials, and other local partners.

The Department regularly engages with each of the CWZ awardees before, during, and after each zone transition to discuss customer engagement, service, pricing, safety, compliance, data quality, and other implementation matters.

In addition, Local Law 199 established the Commercial Waste Zones Safety Task Force, which includes representatives of DSNY, DOT, BIC, the commercial waste industry, and individuals with workplace-safety expertise. Since late 2021, DSNY has convened twelve meetings of the Safety Task Force to review industry conditions and best practices and to discuss recommendations concerning worker safety, public safety, training, and vehicle operations.

Taken together, these established channels provide ongoing review, participation, and input for a wide variety of stakeholders consistent with the objectives of Intro. 353. We welcome the opportunity to conduct additional engagement through a more formalized working group and plan to do so whether or not this legislation advances. We will work closely with the Council to plan the appropriate composition of such group and look forward to future conversations.

Introduction 356

Intro. 356, sponsored by Council Member Nurse, would require DSNY to adopt rules to permit any community partner to charge for the collection of organic waste at a drop-off site and to sell compost to the public.

DSNY rules currently do not prohibit community composters from charging for collection of organic waste at a drop-off site or from selling compost to the public. Previous DSNY contracts with specific partners did prohibit programs funded by the City from charging for these services. However, as these programs are no longer baseline funded, these restrictions no longer apply.

Many of the organizations that operate both drop-off sites and community composting sites currently do, however, receive substantial City funding allocated by the Council. Any change to the operation of these publicly-funded compost programs should seek to balance access, equity, and the financial sustainability of those organizations for the benefit of the broader public. We look forward to working with Council to better understand the intent of this legislation.

Introduction 367

Intro. 367, sponsored by Council Member Nurse, would require DSNY to accept commercial waste at the City's transfer stations. While we oppose the bill as written, the Department has committed conceptually to the acceptance of commercial waste at the City's transfer stations in

both the 2006 final and the 2026 draft Solid Waste Management Plans, and the permits for these facilities allow them to accept commercial waste.

As we have said previously, we plan to begin this process after we complete full citywide implementation of the Commercial Waste Zones by the end of 2027. We look forward to continuing this conversation as we approach full CWZ implementation next year.

Introduction 369

Next, Intro. 369, also sponsored by Council Member Nurse, would require DSNY to establish one or more organic waste composting facilities in each borough with the capacity to process at least 180,000 wet tons of organic waste annually. While DSNY appreciates the Council's interest in expanding processing capacity citywide, we oppose the bill's requirement for compost facilities in each borough given regulatory, operational, and fiscal realities that would make implementation impossible. We would be happy to have further conversations with the Council about expanding composting processing capacity.

Introduction 911-A

Finally, Intro. 911-A sponsored by Council Member Carr, would increase the number of carters in the Staten Island commercial waste zone from no more than three to a total of six and delay the implementation of such zone. DSNY opposes this bill, as it would undermine the Commercial Waste Zone program's core benefits of decreased truck traffic, improved safety, and strengthened customer protections. We cannot support such a disruption to this system in the midst of implementation — Staten Island zone implementation starts today — nor do we support depriving Staten Island residents and businesses from the clear benefits this program provides.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today, and I would now be happy to answer any questions.