



# sanitation

Jessica S. Tisch Commissioner

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

**Hearing before the  
New York City Council Committee on Sanitation & Solid Waste Management**

**Thursday, October 20, 2022  
10:00 A.M.**

**Intros. 32, 33, 110, 145, 238, 630 and 693**

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Good morning, Chair Nurse and members of the City Council Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management. My name is Gregory Anderson, and I am Deputy Commissioner for Policy and Strategic Initiatives for the Department of Sanitation. I am joined this morning by Jeffrey Pitts, Chief of Cleaning Operations for the Department, who was promoted into to this critical role last month. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

The mission of the Department of Sanitation is to keep New York City clean, healthy and safe by collecting, recycling and disposing of waste, cleaning streets and public spaces, and clearing snow and ice. Under the leadership of Commissioner Tisch over the last six months, the Department been laser-focused on cleanliness, working to clean up our streets in support of the City's economic recovery.

In June, the Administration and Council announced unprecedented levels of funding for cleaning programs in the Adopted budget, including \$22 million for additional litter basket service and more than \$12 million for precision cleaning and lot cleaning programs.

Today, DSNY has the highest level of litter basket service in memory – a total of 793 weekly trucks, compared to 588 last year. The results are clear: since the additional litter basket service took effect at the beginning of July, 311 complaints for overflowing litter baskets are down 55 percent compared to last year.

This new investment was on top of funds added in the Executive budget to restore full street cleaning operations, which had been cut in half during the pandemic, and to establish dedicated cleaning resources and equipment for protected bike lanes for the first time ever.

The Department has also expanded efforts to enforce basic cleanliness laws. This is the basic social compact in New York City – DSNY does its part to keep the city clean, and our residents,

businesses, property owners and others must do their part as well. We have refocused enforcement efforts on those violations that most affect quality of life and contribute to rodents and vermin.

Most importantly, the Department has taken an all-out approach to combat illegal dumping, which is both a theft of public space and a menace to communities across the city. We have installed dozens of illegal dumping surveillance cameras, with dozens more planned this year thanks to the generous support of members of the Council and state legislature.

The message we are sending is clear – if you dump on our City, you will be caught and you will face the consequences.

This month, thanks to funding provided in the Adopted budget, DSNY launched a comprehensive evaluation of waste containerization to create a scalable, uniform approach that can work for neighborhoods across the city. This project is intense in its depth and speed, and we expect to have final deliverables in the next few months.

And earlier this week, the Commissioner joined the Mayor to enthusiastically announce the proposed new rules for waste setout. These transformative new rules will shrink the amount of time that waste sits on the curb before collection and eliminate the city's five o'clock shadow of garbage bags that appear on the sidewalk every afternoon.

Under these proposed rules, the options are simple: residential properties can set out trash in bags at 8 p.m. or in containers starting at 6 p.m. Larger properties with 9+ units can opt in for early morning setout and collection, with waste being setout between 4 a.m. and 7 a.m. for collection soon thereafter. Commercial establishments can set out waste in bags beginning at 8 p.m. or in containers earlier, up to one hour before closing.

This is a transformational change for New York City's streets. There will be no more black bags on the sidewalk before 8 p.m., when New Yorkers are coming home from work, picking their kids up from school, or heading out to dinner.

DSNY is accepting comments on these rules and will hold a public hearing on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to reviewing the comments and enacting final rules in the coming months.

This is a tremendous amount of positive change in just the first ten months of this Administration. This Department, and our partners across City government, have wholeheartedly embraced the mantra to get stuff done for New Yorkers.

Now, I'll turn briefly to the bills being considered today.

Intro. 32, sponsored by Council Member Yeger, would require the Department to create a searchable dashboard of notices of violations issued. Intro. 33, also sponsored by Council Member Yeger, would require each notice of violation issued by the Department to be accompanied by a photograph.

Intro. 110, sponsored by Council Member Holden, would require DSNY to empty all public waste receptacles – litter baskets in other words – at least once a day. Intro. 145, sponsored by Council Member Brannan, would require the Department to assist the Parks Department in the removal of downed trees, branches and other vegetation following inclement weather.

Intro. 238, sponsored by Council Member Gennaro, would require DSNY to collect recyclable materials within two days following any of the Department's 13 scheduled collection holidays. Intro. 630, sponsored by Chair Nurse, would require the creation of a publicly available tracking application for street cleaning operations, similar to the PlowNYC system available for snow fighting operations.

Lastly, Intro 693, sponsored by the Public Advocate, would require residential properties of 100 or more units to provide for a dumpster not less than 20 yards in length.

DSNY shares the goal of cleanliness and effective, equitable service delivery that each of these bills intends to achieve. While we have concerns with some of the bills, we look forward to discussing with the Council how to best achieve the goals they represent. Together, we can create a cleaner, more vibrant New York City.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and we are now happy to answer your questions.