



# 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 Consumer and Worker Protection**

**Monday, December 12, 2022  
10:00 A.M.**

**Intro. 559 - A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to restricting eating utensils and extra eating containers, and clarifying the definition of third-party courier service**

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Good morning, Chair Velázquez and members of the City Council Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection. I am Gregory Anderson, Deputy Commissioner for Policy and Strategic Initiatives at the New York City Department of Sanitation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Intro 559.

New York City has long been a leader in the fight to reduce the use of single-use products, especially plastics. The City has repeatedly taken bold action to take on these products, many of which are difficult to recycle and are manufactured from fossil fuels. These efforts are an important part of our efforts to fight climate change, reduce carbon emissions, and divert waste from landfills.

Single-use products create unnecessary waste – and more importantly, they contribute to the scourge of litter that DSNY fights every day.

In 2019, New York City banned foam food service products and packing peanuts, the result of a detailed analysis of the recyclability of these products that determined that they cannot be recycled in an economical and sustainable manner. NYC also played a critical role in supporting State efforts to ban single-use plastic carryout bags and establish a fee on paper carryout bags

DSNY is currently conducting a detailed waste characterization study, which will assess changes to the composition of our waste as a result of these efforts. We have completed the first of three seasons of sorting and look forward to sharing the results of that study with the Council in early 2024.

I will turn now to Intro. 559. This bill would require food service establishments to only provide single-use items upon request for either takeout or delivery. These items include forks, spoons,

knives, chopsticks, plates bowls, cups and lids. The bill would also require food service establishments to only provide condiment packets and napkins upon request.

While these products make up a small share of the City's waste stream, this is an important symbolic and principled step toward giving consumers more agency in reducing their own personal waste impact.

I'm sure we have all ordered takeout or delivery and received unnecessary and unwanted plastic utensils – often wrapped in film plastic – and packets of condiments. This bill will give customers the choice of whether to receive these products with their takeout or delivery food order, eliminating waste and potentially reducing costs for businesses. DSNY supports this important legislation, and we look forward to working with the City Council to enact it.

Reducing the use of single-use products is an important part of achieving our waste diversion goals. This approach reduces our overall waste stream and encourages New Yorkers to use – and reuse – more sustainable and reusable alternatives.

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