



**Testimony of Carlos Castell Croke  
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**City Council Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management  
Hearing on Clean Streets and Expanding Vital Sanitation Services  
March 4th, 2022**

Good afternoon, my name is Carlos Castell Croke and I am the Associate for New York City Programs at the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV). NYLCV represents over 30,000 members in New York City and we are committed to advancing a sustainability agenda that will make our people, our neighborhoods, and our economy healthier and more resilient. I would like to thank Chair Nurse for the opportunity to testify today.

At NYLCV we firmly believe that a comprehensive and eco-friendly waste management system is essential to the cleanliness and health of our City. We have recognized this through plans and initiatives like zero by 30 (OX30), commercial waste zones, and the curbside composting pilot. Drastically reducing our waste, creating efficient collection systems, and expanding recycling programs will help to decrease climate change inducing emissions and keep trash from piling up on our sidewalks.

Therefore, we were disheartened to see the composting program expansion cut in the Mayor's preliminary budget. This program was implemented with the intention of expanding it to the entire city, but over the past years it has been heavily neglected. We know from previous recycling suspensions that the City struggles to regain lost ground, people often lose good habits they build when programs are stopped. Yet another shift in the composting program as it slowly makes its way back will only cause further confusion and regression on our climate goals. We must see the continued expansion of the composting program along with other common sense waste management programs that continue to reduce waste, emissions, and unhealthly norms.

In addition to composting, we must adopt design guidelines for buildings and implement containerization on our streets to streamline waste collection and prevent buildup on our sidewalks and in trashrooms. We also need to adopt more single use reduction measures, such as Skip the Stuff, and invest in public education programs to teach residents how to waste less and how to take advantage of the City's various laws and programs. We should also establish a multitude of approaches to organic waste management, not just with our curbside pilot, but also with public private partnerships and community composting drop off sites.

We hope that when the Council releases their budget response it will be true to the commitments many made around expanding composting in the City and fund the expansion of the current program. We look forward to working with the Council and this committee to push forward the policies and programs I mentioned in order to advance the City's waste reduction and climate goals and, as the chair has eloquently put it, get sanitation done.

Thank you.