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NYC FY 2023 Budget Priorities

Year in and year out, the New York League of Conservation Voters has fought for a budget that prioritizes green spaces, public health, and climate resiliency. This year is no different. With a new Mayor and a mostly new Council, this budget will set the precedent for this term on what our City's priorities will be. We understand the need to save money and trim fat this year after fiscal implications surrounding the pandemic. However, it is imperative that we pass a budget that is not only bold on climate, but paves the path towards a greener future. Climate action cannot wait.

Both the Mayor and NYC Council have laid out their budget priorities in recent months. In the Council's response to the preliminary budget, they asked for full funding for the curbside composting pilot, staffing for the Department of Buildings to help implement Local Law 97 of 2019, and a generous \$3.1 Billion to fund the enhanced implementation of the NYC Streets Plan. More recently in the Executive Budget, the Mayor pledged sufficient dollars for the Streets Plan's implementation, bike lane maintenance, restoring composting, and a historic investment in parks that will put us on a path toward 1%.

Budgets express priorities and we must make our priorities clear; climate change is here and we must be doing everything in our power to fight it and protect New Yorkers. And while the Mayor and Council have proven that they will invest in efforts to do so, there is still more work to be done.

NYLCV's budget priorities are as follows:

Parks

This year we stand with New Yorkers for Parks, DC37, and the entire Play Fair for Parks Coalition to demand a budget that gives parks the fair funding they deserve. We have been adamant that 1% of the NYC budget for parks would adequately fund maintenance, safety, and accessibility for our parks. Parks are one of our most valuable environmental resources and funding them at 1% will ensure they provide the resiliency and public health benefits they always have.

Sanitation

The City has a goal of reducing the waste we send to landfills 90% by 2030 (0x30). If we are to achieve that goal in less than eight years we must ramp up organic recycling. Organics take up a third of our residential waste and produce methane when they decompose in landfills. The curbside composting pilot was the start of a much bigger vision to tackle organics citywide, however the constant back and forth on funding for the program has made it unclear to participants and the city as a whole where we are on this issue. We are asking for full funding of the curbside organics collection pilot and its expansion at a minimum back to pre-pandemic levels in hopes of moving towards and achieving our 0x30 goal.

Transportation

We can't drive our way out of the climate crisis. Getting people out of their cars and onto low emission forms of transportation like public transit and micro-mobility options is a top priority of ours. Last year, NYC DOT published the NYC Streets Plan, a comprehensive plan to build out our public transportation and micro-mobility infrastructure to help us push back on car culture and expand transportation access. This plan must be fully funded, at \$1.7 Billion over the next 10 years, so it can be fully implemented.

Building Emissions

With the first round of Local Law 97 (LL97) emissions caps set to go into effect in 2024, the City has a lot of work to do to prepare building owners for the changes they will need to make to comply. The Office of Building Energy and Emissions Performance (OBEEP) currently only has a small staff and will need more people to work on implementation of this law. We are asking for increased funding for this department so that LL97 is implemented efficiently and effectively.