



MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION

Int. 244

The Rent Stabilization Association of New York City represents 25,000 diverse owners and managers who collectively manage more than one million apartments in every neighborhood and community throughout the city. We thank the Committee for giving us the opportunity to provide comments in opposition to Int. 244, which would require the creation of a citywide organic waste curbside collection program.

The creation of a citywide curbside collection program for residential buildings would mean residential buildings would be the depository of this organic waste for extended periods between scheduled Sanitation collections. Residential buildings would be required to establish organic waste collection bins onsite. Most buildings will be forced to keep these organic collection bins inside individual apartments or in basements given the limited storage options and lack of outdoor access. Rats and other vermin are sure to follow.

As New York City continues to grapple with an unprecedented rat infestation, with rat complaints at record highs - over 7,000 rat complaints in the first four months of this year - according to city data, to require buildings to store food waste for additional periods of time will only serve to bring the rat problem from the streets to inside residential buildings. Rats will travel to where there is food, so as to require organic waste to be left uncollected for longer periods of time will only exacerbate the current rat crisis. With the rat explosion out of control, now is not a time to require buildings to keep food waste on site.

For the above reasons RSA is opposed to Intro. 244 and urges the council to table this proposal.