

Committee on Sanitation & Solid Waste Management, New York City Council
Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 1:00pm
Committee Room, City Hall, New York, NY

New York City Hospitality Alliance Comments on Int. No. 1514. A local law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to facilitating food donations.

My name is Andrew Rigie and I am the executive director of the New York City Hospitality Alliance, a not-for-profit trade association that represents thousands of eating and drinking establishments throughout the five boroughs.

Today I am testifying in support of Int. No. 1514 that will facilitate food donations.

Our city's restaurants don't only serve food to paying customers; they are also deeply involved in serving the needs of their communities. This is exemplified in the tons of food they donate and the millions of dollars the restaurant industry raises and contributes annually to feed hungry New Yorkers', a cause that is in the ethos of the hospitality industry.

We all know there are well-established organizations doing incredible work rescuing food and serving hungry New Yorkers. We urge the city of New York to continue supporting these vital organizations, while always seeking innovative ways to rescue food and serve it to those who are in need. Even if one New Yorker goes hungry for one day, that is one too many. Unfortunately, many more do. That is why the creation of the food donation portal, as proposed by Int. No 1514, will be another tool in connecting restaurants and other entities that have food to donate with local organizations and people who need it in a customized way and in real time.

We urge the City Council and Mayor to pass this legislation into law.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Rigie
Executive Director
New York City Hospitality Alliance
arigie@theNYCalliance.org