

**LOCAL LAWS
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
FOR THE YEAR 2025**

No. 60

Introduced by Council Members Brooks-Powers, Gennaro, Brannan, Louis, Riley, Hanif, Williams, Cabán, Schulman, Narcisse, De La Rosa, Won, Hanks, Moya, Gutiérrez, Rivera, Banks and Ariola.

A LOCAL LAW

To amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to flash flood preparedness outreach and evacuation guidance

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 1 of title 30 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 30-117 to read as follows:

§ 30-117 Flash flood preparedness outreach and evacuation guidance. a. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Basement. The term “basement” means a story partly below the grade plane and having less than one-half its clear height (measured from finished floor to finished ceiling) below the grade plane.

Cellar. The term “cellar” means a portion of a building that is partly or wholly underground, and having one-half or more of its clear height (measured from finished floor to finished ceiling) below the grade plane.

Cellar or basement dwelling. The term “cellar or basement dwelling” means a room or space used for sleeping that is located at the basement or cellar level of a residential building.

Flash flood. The term “flash flood” means flooding that begins within 6 hours, and often within

3 hours, of heavy rainfall.

b. The office shall develop guidance for facilitating safe evacuation before flash flood emergencies. Such guidance shall include but need not be limited to: (i) information on how residents may avoid the dangers of flash flooding events; (ii) guidance on how and when to safely evacuate a location prone to flash flooding prior to a flash flood event, and (iii) existing public or private facilities suitable for individuals seeking refuge in anticipation of a flash flood event. Such guidance shall be included in the office's annual report within one year of the enactment of the local law that added this section.

c. The commissioner shall establish an outreach program to increase registration for Notify NYC alerts and to coordinate efforts across agencies to increase public awareness regarding the appropriate responses by members of the public to flash flood risks, including evacuation planning established pursuant to subdivision b of this section. Such program shall include the distribution of emergency preparedness materials and information in-person, and distribution through mass mail, guidance for building and property owners, and any other means the commissioner deems appropriate for locations prone to flash floods.

d. The program established by subdivision c of this section shall target locations based on but not limited to the following factors:

- 1. A history of flash flood events; or*
- 2. The prevalence of basement or cellar dwellings, to the extent such information is available.*

e. Within 1 year of the enactment of the local law that added this section, and annually thereafter, the office shall include in their annual report the details of the outreach program established by subdivision c, including the locations selected for outreach.

§ 2. This local law takes effect 120 days after it becomes law.

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK, s.s.:

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a local law of The City of New York, passed by the Council on April 10, 2025 and returned unsigned by the Mayor on May 12, 2025.

MICHAEL M. McSWEENEY, City Clerk, Clerk of the Council.

CERTIFICATION OF CORPORATION COUNSEL

I hereby certify that the form of the enclosed local law (Local Law No. 60 of 2025, Council Int. No. 807-A of 2024) to be filed with the Secretary of State contains the correct text of the local law passed by the New York City Council, presented to the Mayor, and neither approved nor disapproved within thirty days thereafter.

SPENCER FISHER, Acting Corporation Counsel.