New York City Council

Memorandum in Support of Legislation

This memorandum is authored by the sponsor and explains the need for the legislation referenced below, in accordance with Rule 6.00(d) of the Rules of the Council.

Legislative Service Number:

- LS No. 22085

Prime Sponsor:

- Council Member Ty Hankerson

Bill Title:

- A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to illuminating pathways under elevated structures

Submitted by:

- Council Member Ty Hankerson

Justification

Street lighting is a vital part of not only keeping New Yorkers safe at night but helping them feel safe. However, too many sidewalks, crossings, bus stops, and curb areas under elevated bridges, trestles, overpasses, and elevated train structures are poorly lit. That makes it harder for people to walk safely at night and increases fear, crime risk, and quality-of-life problems. When these locations sit beneath state-owned or state-controlled infrastructure, a common issue is confusion about what the City can regulate.

This legislation would instruct the Department of Transportation to study lighting conditions under elevated structures. Furthermore, if it is feasible to install lighting underneath an elevated structure where there is insufficient lighting, the Department should do so.

This bill is intended to address areas of the City where the Department has previously not provided lighting due to an elevated structure, especially when that structure is controlled by the State. Just because an elevated structure belongs to the State doesn't mean that New Yorkers should not have sufficient lighting. With this legislation, the Department would be required to examine those areas and determine what solutions the City has to improve lighting conditions.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.