

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY

----- X

July 20, 2015  
Start: 12:12 p.m.  
Recess: 12:51 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Room  
14th Floor

B E F O R E:  
MARK TREYGER  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Rosie Mendez  
Margaret S. Chin  
Donovan J. Richards  
Carlos Menchaca  
Eric A. Ulrich  
Steven Matteo

2 [sound check, pause]

3 [gavel]

4 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Good morning. I am  
5 Councilman Mark Treyger, Chair of the Committee on  
6 Recovery and Resiliency. We are convened today for a  
7 second hearing and vote on Proposed Introduction 425-  
8 A. This bill, of which I am the prime sponsor has  
9 received the support of a super majority of council  
10 members. But it is also a product of the stories and  
11 advocacy of many members of this committee as well as  
12 many members of the public that we've heard from over  
13 the last couple years.

14 During Hurricane Sandy, when there was an  
15 emergency situation, we were told to call 9-1-1.  
16 Others of us, were worried about loved ones so we  
17 tried to use our cell phones or our land lines.  
18 Still, others just wanted basic information on storm  
19 recovery. Yet, when the power went out and when  
20 fallen trees and corrosive saltwater damaged wires,  
21 our telecommunications went out, too. We saw then  
22 how vital a resilient telecommunications  
23 infrastructure is, and that lesson has not been  
24 forgotten. With this bill, we will ensure that as  
25 the climate changes, we will also have the

2 information needed on how best to adapt or  
3 telecommunications infrastructure. And might I add  
4 that this Council has acted with regards to the  
5 distribution of food post-Sandy, and has also acted  
6 on the distribution of fuel. So we're now addressing  
7 a third critical areas, the issue of communications.

8           Introduction 425-A will require the New  
9 York City Climate Change Adaptation Task Force to  
10 evaluate the potential impact of climate change on  
11 the city's telecommunications infrastructure. To  
12 assist the task force in doing so, the Department of  
13 Information Technology and Telecommunications and  
14 representatives from the telecommunications industry  
15 will be included as members of the task force.  
16 Further, outreach will be conducted to  
17 telecommunication service providers, including all  
18 those with a franchise agreement with the city to  
19 request their cooperation in obtaining needed  
20 information. Might I add if there are  
21 telecommunication companies that are using public  
22 infrastructure and have franchise agreements with the  
23 City of New York, they have an obligation to make  
24 sure that they brief this Council and brief our city  
25 on what steps they're taking to protect their

2 communication infrastructure so we can reach our  
3 loved ones, or families and friends during critical  
4 emergencies. This is of the utmost importance.  
5 Finally, the task force's report will now be required  
6 to include a short and long-term recommendation for  
7 improving the resiliency of existing public and  
8 private telecommunications infrastructure, which  
9 amounts to a resiliency communications plan.

10 I want to thank my fellow committee  
11 members for their support for this committee on this  
12 legislation. I'd like to also thank our great staff  
13 beginning with Committee Counsel Brad Reed, Laura  
14 Popa, Matt Gewolb, Jeff Baker, Ed Atkin, and Bill  
15 Murray our Policy Analyst, our Financial Analyst  
16 Jonathan Seltzer and Ethan, my Legislation Director  
17 for all of their efforts to advance this bill. I'd  
18 like to just recognize members that are in  
19 attendance, as well. We have Council Member Margaret  
20 Chin, Council Member Donovan Richards, Council Member  
21 Steve Matteo and Council Member Rosie Mendez, and I  
22 will now ask the clerk to call the roll.

23 CLERK: Kevin Penn, Committee Clerk. Roll  
24 call on the Committee on Recovery and Resiliency,  
25 Intro 425-A. Council Member Treyger.

2 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: I vote aye.

3 CLERK: Mendez.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

5 CLERK: Chin.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

7 CLERK: Richards.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I vote aye, and  
9 for all those Rockaway residents who were without  
10 phone lines for a year after Sandy, really, this is a  
11 huge bill, and we're going in the right direction.  
12 So thank you, Chairman. I vote aye. Thank you.

13 CLERK: Matteo.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Yes.

15 CLERK: By a vote of 5 in the  
16 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
17 the item has been adopted.

18 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you and I  
19 guess we'll keep the--the vote open for another 15 or  
20 20 minutes or so as some members are still coming in,  
21 but I want to thank my colleagues. This is again--  
22 this committee is represented by--by members who  
23 represent districts that were heavily impacted by the  
24 storm. So we speak on a personal level, and I thank  
25 all of my colleagues for their great work. Now,

2 years after the storm still recovering, still  
3 planning, but this is I think a very important step  
4 moving forward because certainly as we have to make  
5 sure that we distribute food, emergency supplies,  
6 fuel, communications is also critical. And I think  
7 that now we're setting the groundwork to have a plan,  
8 and to have more transparency and cooperation from  
9 the telecommunications industry. I might add that  
10 after our hearing on the bill, some months back--  
11 after our hearing, Time Warner began to speak more  
12 with the City about some of its efforts. Because we  
13 need to get a sense of where they're at and how we  
14 can be working with them to make sure that we don't  
15 lose critical access to communications during the  
16 most critical times during these emergencies. So  
17 again, I thank--I thank this committee. I thank all  
18 the staff. This was a product of some team--some  
19 great teamwork, and I also want to thank the Speaker  
20 for her support as well. Thank you.

21 [pause]

22 CLERK: Ulrich.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye and I  
24 want to congratulate the chairman. I know how hard  
25 he worked on this issue and all the co-sponsors of

2 the bill, and I look forward to seeing it signed into  
3 law. Thank you.

4 CLERK: The vote stands at 6 in the  
5 affirmative.

6 [pause]

7 CLERK: The final vote in the Committee  
8 on Recovery and Resiliency is 6 in the affirmative, 0  
9 in the negative and no abstentions.

10 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: The meeting is  
11 hereby adjourned.

12 [gavel]

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date July 21, 2015