

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR

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August 16, 2016

Start: 9:51 a.m.

Recess: 9:58 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: I. DANEEK MILLER
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Elizabeth S. Crowley
Daniel Dromm
Costa G. Constantinides
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

2 [sound check, pause]

3 [background comments]

4 [gavel]

5 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please. Quiet,
6 please.

7 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Hello, good morning
8 to everyone. Thank you for coming out. I'm Council
9 Member I. Daneek Member-Miller, Chair of Civil
10 Service and Labor Committee. Back in April we heard
11 a bill sponsored by Council Member Andy Cohen,
12 legislation Intro 1084, which would create the
13 Division of Paid Care within the Office of Labor
14 Standards. Also, committee this past November. This
15 new division will be tasked with informing paid care
16 workers of their rights themselves, that they have
17 the right to insurance as well as living wages. The
18 bill also established advocates within the division,
19 who along with the division staff will develop intake
20 and referral system for paid care workers just to
21 make complaints regarding potential labor and
22 employment law violations. It would refer workers to
23 appropriate gov-government agencies, legal services,
24 organizations, community organizations to help
25 address potential legal violations. The division

2 would also post data on websites annually regarding
3 the number of complaints received by the intake
4 system, the type of information provided, and the
5 number of referrals made to other agencies. As we've
6 heard from advocates, labor unions and individuals
7 who have been on the forefront of this issue, and
8 today I am pleased that we will be passing Intro 1084
9 out of this committee. New York's population is
10 getting older, putting increased responsibilities on
11 residents to take care of their parents and children,
12 and that I certainly can attest to. These families
13 tend to homecare workers who play important roles to
14 ensure that our seniors and youth are taken care of.
15 These workers have training in basic health related
16 services, personal care, assist-assist with very
17 personal tasks, provide companionship, and make sure
18 that our seniors are receiving their Medicare
19 benefits. As demand for homecare workers increases,
20 it will be extremely important to make sure that
21 these individuals can themselves also live the
22 quality of life that they so deserve. By the year
23 2030, more than 1.8 million in New York City will be
24 age 60 or older and increase by 50% since 2000. From
25 2000 to 2012, the number of residents age 60 to 64

2 increased by 41%, and those age 85 and older have
3 increased by 26%, creating the large demand for
4 homecare workers. The best homecare workers have
5 longstanding relationships between themselves and
6 their families because they understand the need of
7 these workers. But these low--low-wage workers
8 creates--low wages creates high turnover in the
9 industry, which is such needed and with such demand
10 by families and seniors. Today, one out of every
11 seven low-wage workers is a homecare worker. The
12 average worker in the federal poverty age--below the
13 federal poverty line of \$23,570. For home a
14 attendant it is \$21,930. The industry also
15 represents the city's largest occupational workforce
16 with approximately 170,000 workers, and is expected
17 to generate new jobs in the city with more than
18 70,000 positions between 2012 and 2022. Many of
19 homecare aids are undocumented immigrants who are at
20 times fearful of government agencies, perpetuating a
21 cycle where they can be taken advantage of. This
22 legislation will ensure by working with not for
23 profits in these communities that these workers know
24 their rights so that their families can be taken care
25 of in a just way.

2 I would like to thank Council Member
3 Cohen for introducing this legislation. I'd like to
4 thank the committee's counsel Matt Carlin, Carla Nova
5 (sic) and Kimberly Stephenson. Of course, I'd like
6 to thank the members of the committee that are here,
7 Council Member Crowley, Council Member Constantinides
8 and Council Member Dromm. I would also like to thank
9 Mr. Gregory Rose, my new legislative person, and with
10 that, I think we are prepared to call the vote.

11 CLERK: Kevin Penn, Committee Clerk, roll
12 call in the Committee on Civil Service and Labor
13 Intro 1084-A. Council Member Miller.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye.

15 CLERK: Crowley.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [off mic] I
17 vote yes.

18 CLERK: Dromm.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I vote aye.

20 CLERK: Constantinides.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I vote
22 aye.

23 CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the
24 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
25 the items have been adopted.

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: That is it because
3 Council Member Cornegy will not be available for
4 today. It is not necessary to hold the vote open.
5 So with that, I call the meeting to a close.

6 [gavel]

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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 August 18, 2016