

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & BUILDINGS

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September 14, 2016

Start: 10:13 a.m.

Recess: 10:22 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Rosie Mendez
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Mark Levine
Helen K. Rosenthal
Ritchie J. Torres
Barry S. Grodenchik
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Eric A. Ulrich

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

2 [sound check, pause]

3 [gavel]

4 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Good morning

5 everyone. Thank you for coming. My name is Council

6 Member Jumaane Williams, Chair of the Housing -of the

7 Council's Committee on Housing and Buildings. I'm

8 joined here by Council Members Rosenthal, Rodriguez,

9 and Levine and Mendez, Torres, and I think I saw

10 Grodenchik, [off mic] and who wants to get started.

11 (sic) [on mic] We're here today to conduct our vote

12 on three bills that would expand bicycle access to

13 buildings, proposed Intro No. 405-A as well as Intro

14 No. 695-A and proposed Intro 795-A. These bills

15 would encourage individuals to commute to and from

16 work via bike in order to help the city reach its

17 goal of 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050.

18 The first bill Intro No. 405 sponsored by Council

19 Member Rosenthal by the request of the Manhattan

20 Borough President Gale Brewer would require office

21 buildings to allow foldable bikes to be brought into

22 passenger elevators. The second bill Intro No. 695

23 sponsored by Council Member Rodriguez would require

24 owners of residential buildings to allow tenants or

25 subtenants to use passenger elevators to transport

2 their bicycles to—bicycles to and front their
3 apartments. The third bill, Intro No. 795 jointly
4 sponsored by myself and Council Member Lander would
5 expand bike access by allowing office building
6 tenants to use a designed—a designated passenger
7 elevator in cases when the freight elevator is not
8 operating. This bill would also streamline the
9 process of adding tenants to current bicycle plans.
10 Before we vote, I'd like to ask some of the sponsors
11 of the bills to give statements starting Council
12 Member Rosenthal followed by Council Member
13 Rodriguez.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Sorry, I
15 checked one of these. (sic) Thank you so much for
16 giving me this opportunity to speak, and thank you,
17 Chair Williams, for shepherding through some bills
18 that will improve the lives of New Yorkers who want
19 to bike in New York City. It makes it easier for
20 them. My bill in particular has—would require office
21 buildings to provide a foldable—a foldable bike
22 access in their passenger elevators. Presumably, if
23 a person can fit in an elevator, so their foldable
24 bike. I want to thank the speaker for—for her
25 shepherding this along as well, and actually I see

2 Ben Smith here, who worked so hard on this, and who
3 is now at the Department of Transportation. Also,
4 thanks to Megan Chin who drafted the legislation and
5 Sarah Mallory, my Legislative Director. Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Council Member
7 Rodriguez.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Mr.
9 Chair. I want to thank the Speaker Melissa Mark-
10 Viverito and the whole staff that worked on this bill
11 especially former Chief of Staff and now New York
12 Assemblywoman Carmen de la Rosa, my new-my new Chief
13 of Staff Rosa Murphy for all the work that they do.
14 The Chair and the staff worked very hard on this
15 bill, but it's-some of this is discrimination, and
16 discrimination against bike owners. I'm so glad to
17 see the city becoming more bike friendly each day.
18 Yesterday we heard about the city hires every-total
19 numbers of protected bike lane complete in here. The
20 Department of Transportation also announced they're
21 doing the L-Train closure. In a couple of years
22 cycling will likely be a prime option for commuting
23 within investments in new infrastructure. We ae
24 doing our part to make active transportation more
25 attractive to more New Yorkers and tourists. With

2 this bill, it will ease the lives of many of our
3 residents who have been unable to take their bikes up
4 the easy way in their apartment building using the
5 elevator. This is a commonsense mode for the city
6 that needs to see more people on bikes and fewer—and
7 fewer in cars and subways. As any New Yorker will
8 tell you, our streets are clogged, our subways are
9 packed ,and our buses need help. We can't afford to
10 rely so heavily on this option to get around any
11 more. In this growing city, bikes present a nimble
12 option that are efficient, and do not crowd a street.
13 It is imperative we begin to look closely to our
14 transportation policies and incentivize more transit
15 that makes sense. This bill is part of that effort,
16 but we have a way to go. It is lost on no one that
17 we have more cyclists that in this point in 2016 than
18 we had in all of 2015. This uptick is alarming and
19 means we must do more. It means that if we are going
20 to incentivize cycling, we must continue to do what
21 the DOT is doing with bike lane installations, but at
22 an even more aggressive pace. It means that NYPD
23 must step up and be a stronger enforcement of traffic
24 laws while collaborating closely with the DA to
25 pursue these cases in earnest. We're doing what we

2 came—what we came here at the Council and we will
3 continue to do our part to ensure cyclists can be at
4 ease—at ease on our streets. Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Thank you for
6 providing that additional background on the bill.
7 I'd also like to thank my staff for the work they did
8 to assemble this hearing including Nick Smith, my
9 Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director. I
10 also want to give a special shout-out to Ben Smith as
11 Council Member Rosenthal did, Legislative Director
12 Jim Wilcox, and Megan Chin, Counsel to the Committee,
13 Guillermo Patino and Jose Conde Policy Analysts to
14 the committee and Sarah Gastelum the committee's
15 Finance Analyst. With that, I'd like to please ask
16 the Clerk to call the roll.

17 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,
18 roll call vote Committee on Housing and Buildings.
19 The items are coupled.

20 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

21 CLERK: Mendez.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: [pause] Aye.

23 CLERK: Rodriguez.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic] Aye.

25 CLERK: Levine.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

3 CLERK: Rosenthal.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

5 CLERK: Torres.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.

7 CLERK: Grodenchik.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

9 CLERK: By a vote of 7 in the
10 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
11 all items have been adopted. [pause]

12 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Thank you. With
13 that, I will leave the roll open for ten minutes.

14 [pause]

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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 September 20, 2016