

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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September 14, 2016
Start: 11:30 a.m.
Recess: 11:43 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: VANESSA L. GIBSON
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Vincent J. Gentile
James Vacca
Julissa Ferreras-Copeland
Jumaane D. Williams
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Chaim M. Deutsch
Rafael Espinal, Jr.
Rory I. Lancman
Ritchie J. Torres
Steven Matteo

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

2 [sound check, pause]

3 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Good morning ladies
4 and gentlemen. Welcome to the Chambers at City Hall.
5 I am Council Member Vanessa Gibson of the Sixteenth
6 District in the Bronx, and I am proud to chair the
7 Committee on Public Safety. I want to thank all of
8 my colleagues for being here this morning as we are
9 voting on very important pieces of legislation. This
10 morning, we will be voting on Proposed Intro 869-A
11 relating to the reporting sex offenses; Proposed
12 Intro 948-A relating to requiring the NYPD to report
13 on domestic violence and hat crimes statistics, and
14 to repeal Section 3-112 of the Administrative Code of
15 the City Of New York. Proposed Intro 961-A relating
16 to requiring the Police Department to report on
17 intimate partner domestic violence statistics, and
18 Proposed Intro 968-A related to requiring the Police
19 Department to report on domestic violence crime
20 statistics in public housing in the city of New York.

21 I also want to recognize and thank the
22 prime sponsors of today's bills on the agenda, our
23 Melissa Mark-Viverito and Council Member Antonio
24 Reynoso, Ritchie Torres, and Laurie Cumbo. I'd also
25 like to recognize the staff of the Committee on

2 Public Safety, our Committee Counsel Deepa Ambekar;
3 our Legislative Counsel Beth Golub; our Policy
4 Analyst Laurie Wenn; and our Financial Analyst Ellen
5 Eng. Also, my staff, Dana Wax and Kaitlyn O'Hagan
6 for working on these very important pieces of
7 legislation.

8 I'm very excited that we are voting on
9 these bills today. We first heard these four bills
10 in October of 2015 and also May of 2016. All four of
11 these bills on today's agenda related to reporting
12 bills that will really inform all New Yorkers on
13 where sex, domestic violence, and hate crimes occur
14 in our city. Currently, the NYPD is required to
15 report on domestic violence and hate crime
16 statistics. While the current law does not specify
17 the frequency of the reporting, the Administration
18 reports on domestic violence incidents twice per year
19 and on hate crimes once per year. Proposed Intro
20 948-A will repeal the existing law and consolidate
21 the reporting requirement within the appropriate
22 chapter in our Administrative Code. It will also
23 increase the frequency of domestic violence and hate
24 crime reporting.

2 Proposed Intro 961-A also requires the
3 NYPD disaggregate domestic violence reporting by
4 intimate partner, and proposed Intro 968-A requires
5 that domestic violence incidents are disaggregated by
6 public housing developments and reported on a semi-
7 annual basis. With regard to sex crimes, currently
8 the NYPD provides a quarterly report on the seven
9 indexed crimes including rape, but does not include
10 other felony or misdemeanor sex offenses. Proposed
11 Intro 869-A will required the NYPD to include in the
12 Quarterly Crime Status Reports provided to this
13 Council the number of complaints related to specific
14 misdemeanor and felony sex offenses.

15 Finally, I'd like to recognize and thank
16 all of the members of the Public Safety Committee who
17 are here. We truly know that the safety of our city
18 and all New Yorkers is of paramount importance, and
19 it is truly essential we continue to work together to
20 support our communities with the tools and resources
21 that are available to us. Each of these bills is
22 certainly a step of progress in the right direction.
23 I encourage all of my colleagues to join me today in
24 voting in favor of this legislation as well as
25 continuing the conversation on reporting and ensuring

2 that we are getting data so that we can make better
3 informed decisions based on crime in our city.

4 I want to recognize the members of the
5 committee who are here. Our Minority Leader Steve
6 Matteo, Council Member Vincent Gentile, Council
7 Member James Vacca, Council Member Jumaane Williams,
8 Council Member Robert Cornegy, Council Member Chaim
9 Deutsch, Council Member Rory Lancman, and Council
10 Member Ritchie Torres. We are also joined by Council
11 Member Laurie Cumbo, and with that, I would like to
12 call upon one of my colleagues and the prime sponsor
13 of Proposed Intro 869-A relating to the reporting on
14 sex offenses, Council Member Laurie Cumbo.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Chair
16 Gibson. Thank you for the opportunity to be here
17 today. Good morning. I am Council Member Laurie
18 Cumbo. I'd like to thank you all for coming today
19 and allowing me to speak on Intro 869. Today, we
20 will hear testimony with the hope to vote on an
21 extraordinary package of domestic violence, intimate
22 partner violence and sexual assault safety bill
23 intended to enhance services and awareness to better
24 the lives of citizens of this city. The package will
25 provide a greater understanding of the current

2 landscape that exists, and will highlight how we can
3 better advocate for services and funding for our
4 medical and clinical institutions in our community.
5 Intro 869 is a local law to amend the Administrative
6 Code of the City of New York in relation to reporting
7 on sex offenses. Sexual assault is one of the most
8 underreported crimes. Two out of three sexual
9 assaults or rape victimization goes unreported to
10 police. In recent years and unlike in the case of
11 many crimes, the rate of sexual assault in New York
12 City has unfortunately increased. While forcible
13 rate has decreased by more than 10% in other
14 counties, in New York State, New York City has a
15 five-year upward trend with a total of 1,439 rapes
16 reported to the New York City Police Department in
17 2015. Since introduction, we were able to amend the
18 bill to include reporting in our parks, public
19 schools, basketball courts, recreation centers and
20 playgrounds. As of this summer, it has been noted
21 that crime in our parks is up by 23%. Many of those
22 crimes were sexual assault. Before Comp Stat, NYPD
23 provider quarterly reports on seven index crimes
24 including rape, but did not include other felony or
25 misdemeanor offenses, which overlook nearly 20 other

2 sex assault offenses. It is our responsibility to
3 provide prevention strategies and post-incident
4 resources so survivors have opportunities to heal so
5 that they can move past temporary or long-lasting
6 emotional or physical discomfort. I would
7 specifically like to acknowledge Mary Haviland,
8 Executive Director at the NYC Alliance on Sexual
9 Assault for championing this bill. I'm elated today
10 that we can finally vote out a stronger bill than we
11 began and move Intro 869 into law. I would like to
12 thank Deepa Ambekar, and Public Safety Legislative
13 Counsel for sticking with this bill and working to
14 clarify the bill so that its urgent and growing needs
15 of public safety concerns in our city. In addition,
16 I'd like to thank my good friend and colleague,
17 Council Member Vanessa Gibson for hearing this bill,
18 and keeping it on track to pass, and a huge
19 congratulations to Laura Popa, and Matt Gowolb for
20 their leadership and tireless support throughout this
21 process. I want to thank this entire body for your
22 presence here today, and I really appreciate your
23 support. Thank you, Chair Gibson.

24 [pause]

2 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Thank you very much,
3 Council Member Cumbo, and before we get to the vote,
4 do any of my colleagues have any questions or want to
5 make any comments on any of the bills on today's
6 agenda? Okay, and with that we will just wait
7 momentarily until Billy Martin joins us to do the
8 roll. Give us one second. Thank you.

9 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,
10 roll call vote Committee on Public Safety. All items
11 are coupled. Chair Gibson

12 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: I vote aye and want
13 to congratulate Council Member Cumbo, Council Member
14 Torres, Council Member Reynoso, as well as our
15 Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito for their steadfast
16 commitment to ensuring that we focus on sex crimes
17 and domestic violence and hate crimes in this city so
18 that we get the data that is necessary to not only
19 prevent these occurrences from happening, but
20 ensuring that we have a continuous partnership with
21 the department, and I thank you all for your
22 leadership and working with you, and I proudly vote
23 aye on all.

24 CLERK: Matteo.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Yes.

2 CLERK: Gentile.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: [off mic]

4 CLERK: Vacca.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: If I can just,
6 too, explain my vote for a second. Of course, I'm
7 voting yes. I think domestic violence is an
8 important issue in our city. I did want to bring to
9 the attention of the committee members, the Committee
10 Report, which accompanied the Analysis of the
11 Legislation, namely the Committee Report states that
12 domestic violence is prevalent in the five boroughs.
13 In 2014, NYPD officers responded to 282,648 domestic
14 incidents, an average of 774 incidents a day. We
15 have a major problem in this city that has to be
16 address, and I'm hoping that these reporting bills do
17 that, and as the chair indicated, give us a better
18 handle on how we in the Council can further legislate
19 or do-do even more effective oversight when it comes
20 to these issues. So I vote aye on all.

21 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: I vote
23 aye.

24 CLERK: Williams.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [off mic] Aye.

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2 CLERK: Cornegy.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: As Co-Chairs of
4 the BLA Caucus (sic), I proudly vote aye.

5 CLERK: Deutsch.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

7 CLERK: Lancman.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: [off mic]

9 CLERK: Torres.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.

11 CLERK: By a vote of 10 in the
12 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
13 all items have been adopted.

14 [pause]

15 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Thank you very much,
16 colleagues. This hearing is now adjourned.

17 [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 September 20, 2016