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COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

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May 22, 2017  
Start: 2:15 p.m.  
Recess: 2:21 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm, 16<sup>th</sup>  
Floor

B E F O R E:  
JAMES VACCA  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
David G. Greenfield  
Barry S. Grodenchik  
Elizabeth Crowley

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Good afternoon. My  
3 name is James Vacca. I am Chair of the Committee on  
4 Technology and we are here today to vote on proposed  
5 Intro 951A, a bill sponsored by Council Member Liz  
6 Crowley that would require certain phones in public  
7 spaces to have direct access to 911 service. On  
8 December 1, 2013, Carrie Renee Hunt-Dunn was  
9 repeatedly stabbed by her estranged husband in a  
10 Texas motel room. Their young daughter, witnessing  
11 the crime, attempted to dial 911 as most school age  
12 children who are taught that would do. However, the  
13 motel required all external calls to dial an  
14 additional nine before dialing out unaware of the  
15 need to dial nine, the young daughter could not reach  
16 emergency services. Ms. Hunt died from the fatal  
17 stab wounds. This crime inspired several states  
18 around the country to adopt some form of Carrie's Law  
19 in honor of the late mother and we are proud to count  
20 New York City among these jurisdictions. 951A would  
21 require that businesses and city agencies that have  
22 multiple telephone systems accessible to the public  
23 like phones in hotels and motels that generally  
24 require an extension to make external calls be  
25 configured to directly dial 911 without first dialing

1  
2 nine or any other prefix. Their new phones must also  
3 be able to directly dial 911. In addition, emergency  
4 services personnel often receive no indication of  
5 exactly where a call to them is made if someone is  
6 placing the call from a multi-line telephone system.  
7 Local law would require phones to provide precise  
8 location information. Fortunately, these two  
9 configurations have minimal costs as many  
10 manufacturers were already making these phone updates  
11 in light of a similar law passing the House of  
12 Representatives in Congress. Even those who may be  
13 familiar with dialing prefixes for external telephone  
14 calls, may fail to do so in times of emergency when  
15 stress is high and time is limited. We believe this  
16 law can save lives and New York City's version of  
17 Carrie's Law will be one of the most robust in the  
18 country. I want to introduce my colleagues who are  
19 here, Council Member Barry Grodenchik, Council Member  
20 David Greenfield and the sponsor of this bill  
21 Councilwoman Liz Crowley is also here and I would  
22 like to call on her for several remarks.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you, Chair  
24 Vacca. Thank you for bringing this proposed Intro  
25 951A to a vote this afternoon. I thank all my

1  
2 colleagues who have co-sponsored this legislation as  
3 well. I introduced this bill after a tragic incident  
4 in which a woman was killed. In 2013, a woman named  
5 Carrie Hunt was the victim of a murder and her nine  
6 year old daughter was present at the time and  
7 attempted to call 911 but with no avail. She was  
8 unable to get through because she did not know that  
9 you had to dial to get an outside line. In response  
10 to this tragedy, legislation known as Carrie's Law  
11 has been enacted in several jurisdictions, including  
12 Texas, requiring that businesses with multi-line  
13 telephone systems provide direct access to 911  
14 service. Direct access means that you do not have to  
15 dial an initial number, digit, prefix or other access  
16 number or code before dialing 911. Proposed Intro  
17 951A requires businesses and city agencies with  
18 multi-line phones systems to configure them to  
19 provide direct access to 911. This law would also  
20 require that the telephone systems be configured to  
21 provide notification of a central location for which  
22 emergency personnel can respond to 911 calls. Doing  
23 so will serve to prevent tragic circumstances that  
24 took place in Texas and will also help to minimize  
25 any delays in contacting emergency services. I urge

1  
2 my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill. Thank  
3 you.

4 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Thank you. Without  
5 further to do, I will ask the Clerk to call the roll.  
6 I recommend a yes vote.

7 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,  
8 roll call vote Committee on Technology, Introduction  
9 951A. Chair Vacca?

10 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: The vote is aye.

11 CLERK: Greenfield?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you.  
13 May I explain my vote? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
14 want to thank you for your leadership. I want to  
15 congratulate Council Member Crowley for a wonderful  
16 commonsense bill and I vote aye.

17 CLERK: Grodenchik?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

19 CLERK: By a vote of 3 in the affirmative  
20 and 0 in the negative and no abstentions, item has  
21 been adopted by the Committee.

22 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Thank you. The time  
23 is now approximately 2:40 p.m. and this meeting of  
24 the Technology Committee of the City Council is  
25 hereby adjourned.

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COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

[gavel]

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 June 22, 2017