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COMMITTEE ON STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION 1

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the
COMMITTEE ON STATE AND
FEDERAL LEGISLATION

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June 15, 2017
Start: 10:15 a.m.
Recess: 10:52 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E:
Karen Koslowitz
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Ben Kallos
Alan Maisel
Bill Perkins
Brad Landers
Antonio Reynoso
Rafael Espinal

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2 [sound check]

3 [pause]

4 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: I call the
5 meeting on State and Federal Legislation to order.
6 Good morning and welcome to today's hearing and vote.
7 My name is Karen Koslowitz and I am the Chairwoman of
8 the State and Federal Legislation Committee. On
9 today's agenda, we will be considering seven home
10 rules, first however, I would like to introduce the
11 members of the Committee present at this time. We
12 have Council Member Ben Kallos, Council Member
13 Maisel, Council Member Perkins and Council Member
14 Landers. The first State Legislative Resolution this
15 Committee will be considering and voting on today
16 will be Senate Bill S6626 and Assembly Bill A8323
17 which would amend the real property tax law by
18 adjusting the state board of real property services,
19 class equalization rule for one year only to cap the
20 maximum class growth at zero percent for New York
21 City. This formula is used to determine the tax
22 rates for each of the four classes of property. The
23 effect of this change would be to reduce the amount
24 by which the current base proportions for any class,
25 including class one, one, two and three family homes

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2 is allowed to grow resulting in citywide savings of
3 about \$250 for a typical owner of a class one single
4 family home. If it does not pass, the Council must
5 adopt the default SBRPS formula and tax rates for
6 class one residential home would rise six percent.

7 The second state legislative resolution, the
8 committee will vote on Senate Bill S5484A and
9 Assembly Bill A7185A. This bill would make the
10 widows and widowers of sanitation workers killed in
11 the line of duty due to accidents eligible to receive
12 accidental death benefits just as a surviving spouses
13 of other members of the uniformed services, including
14 the NYPD, FDNY and New York City Correction officers.

15 A third State Legislative Resolution the Committee
16 will vote on is Senate Bill S5706 and Assembly Bill
17 A7603. This bill would create a death benefit for
18 the surviving spouses of EMTs employed by the FDNY
19 killed while engaged in the performances of their

20 duties. The fourth State Legislation resolution the
21 Committee will vote on will be Senate Bill S6703 and
22 Assembly Bill A8305A. This bill authorizes the
23 discontinuance of certain park land in Flushing
24 Meadow Park to permit the construction of a new pre-
25 kindergarten facility in the proximity of the New

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2 York Hall of Science which would provide
3 opportunities for children to attend a program that
4 focuses on science, technology, engineering and math.
5 The fifth State Legislative Resolution the Committee
6 will vote on is Assembly Bill A8419 and Senate Bill
7 S6721 which authorizes the discontinuance of the use
8 as park land of park land in the City of New York
9 commonly known as the Marx Brothers playground. The
10 park land will be transferred to the New York City
11 Educational Construction Fund to permit the
12 construction of a combined occupancy structure as
13 defined in Section 452 of the Education Law. The
14 sixth State Legislation Resolution the Committee will
15 vote on is Senate Bill S6724 and Assembly Bill A8422
16 and act to authorize the City of New York to
17 discontinue the use as park land of a portion of
18 Corporal Fisher Park in the Borough of the Bronx and
19 to sell and convey such land upon terms and
20 conditions to facilitate the construction of
21 affordable housing. The final bill is Senate S6044B
22 and Assembly Bill A7798D. This bill seeks to amend
23 the vehicle and traffic law in relation to expanding
24 the schools speed safety program by increasing the
25 cap to 290 schools from the current cap of 140. At

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2 this moment I would like to open the hearing to any
3 of our Committee members who want to make a
4 statement. Anybody? Any witnesses? Seeing none,
5 let's call for a vote.

6 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,
7 roll call vote Committee on State and Federal
8 Legislation. Council Member Koslowitz?

9 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: I abstain on
10 Senate Bill S6044B and Bill A7798D and I vote aye on
11 all the rest.

12 CLERK: Lander?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request
14 permission to explain my vote? Madam Chair?

15 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Yes.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you. I
17 will be voting aye on all and with special enthusiasm
18 for the SLR for Senate 6046B and Assembly 7798A which
19 increases the number of speed cameras outside schools
20 from 140 to 290 and the short story is this bill will
21 save kids' lives. At those locations where school
22 speed cameras have been installed, we have seen a 63
23 percent reduction in speeding, 13 percent fewer
24 traffic injuries. The point of this bill, look, I
25 wish we had a school speed zone in front of every

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2 school with a speed camera but at least after all the
3 work that has been done, I want to give enormous
4 credit to Families for Safe Streets, especially the
5 families of the victims of traffic crashes who have
6 devoted heart and soul for several years now in
7 Albany. This would not be happening without them and
8 this Council is proud to have been their ally in so
9 much work together and I am proud that we are doing
10 that again today. Thank you. I vote aye on all.

11 CLERK: Kallos?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Permission to
13 explain my vote? I am tired of people dying in my
14 district from preventable traffic accidents, not
15 accidents, collisions. I have schools all over my
16 district, 18 of them, and I have people dying in
17 front of my schools and people are speeding and so it
18 is with heavy heart that I support this legislation
19 because I am calling on the Mayor and the Department
20 of Transportation to do what is right and put speed
21 cameras in my district in front of my public schools
22 and in front of areas around my public schools
23 because just putting the camera in front of the
24 public school isn't enough, kids actually have to get
25 to the public school and they have to cross entrances

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2 to FDR Drive and other places like that so I am
3 supportive of this legislation and I am proud to vote
4 in favor but I'm calling on the administration to at
5 least investigate at least five locations for speed
6 cameras in my district from this first batch of 50,
7 specifically in front of PS157 at 78th Street and
8 York Avenue where Mano, who was the deli person at a
9 beloved deli nearby, died only at this point a month
10 ago and there are still flowers in front of his shop,
11 79th Street and York where people continue to die.
12 York Avenue in the 80s where people continue to die,
13 First Avenue near the 96th Street entrance to the FDR
14 Drive immediately adjacent to life sciences and co-op
15 tech and on so many places. In my district, we hear
16 about people dying from traffic collisions all the
17 time and that is a problem. Also, I would like to
18 voice my support for the spouses of our municipal
19 employees who die. Tragedy can strike at any time
20 and we do need to take care of their families
21 especially for folks who are the ones who run into
22 danger and help as emergency medical technicians and
23 our sanitation works who are doing amazing work and
24 last but not least, anything I can -- almost last,
25 pre-k seats, I would love to have stim pre-k center

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2 in my district and with regard to -- I don't believe
3 we have a -- do we have a bill number on all of them?
4 Pre-Considered State Legislation Reso Number with
5 regard to S6721, A8419, with regard to the alienation
6 of a playground across the street from my district to
7 erect a 700 foot tower, I make note of the fact that
8 none of the local Assembly members are sponsoring
9 this legislation and that is deeply troubling to me.
10 I have heard from numerous residents in my district
11 that they oppose this project. However, it is
12 literally across the street from my district and in
13 all deference to the Speaker and the fact that each
14 member should have the power in their own district, I
15 vote aye on all.

16 CLERK: Maisel?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

18 CLERK: Reynoso?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Permission to
20 explain my vote? I will be voting aye on all. I
21 just want to make sure that -- I am extremely happy
22 to see the amended retirement and Social Security law
23 from the state for sanitation workers. The
24 sanitation workers have the most dangerous job in the
25 City of New York when it comes to deaths and I want

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2 to make sure that we do everything we can to continue
3 to assist those families that have to struggle
4 through a tragedy like that. I also want to
5 acknowledge the fact that the speed cameras actually
6 work. We have the data. We have the information and
7 we have to allow the Department of Transportation
8 almost full autonomy on how they want to move forward
9 with this program and let the experts do their job
10 and I trust wholly the Department of Transportation
11 will be able to do that and I am happy to vote aye on
12 the speed camera legislation as well. I vote aye on
13 all. Thank you very much, Chairwoman,

14 CLERK: Perkins?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: I vote aye on
16 all.

17 CLERK: All items on today's agenda have
18 been adopted by a vote of 6 in the affirmative, 0
19 negative and no abstentions with pre-considered
20 MS6046B and A7798B has been adopted by a vote of 5 in
21 the affirmative, 0 negative and 1 abstention.

22 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: We are going to
23 keep this hearing open for a half-hour so all members
24 can vote. Thank you very much.

25 [off mic]

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2 CLERK: Continuation toll call, Committee
3 on State and Federal Legislation. Council Member
4 Espinal?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye on
6 all.

7 CLERK: Final vote on today's agenda on
8 State and Federal Legislation, all items have been
9 adopted by a vote of seven in the affirmative, 0 in
10 the negative and no abstentions with pre-considered M
11 Senate Number 6046B and Assembly 7 -- Assembly Number
12 7798B which has been adopted by a vote of 6 in the
13 affirmative, 0 negative and 1 abstention. Thank you.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you all.
15 With that said, this meeting is adjourned.

16 [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 July 8, 2017