

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

----- X

July 19, 2017  
Start: 10:26 a.m.  
Recess: 10:48 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Public Safety

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] [background  
3 comments, pause] [gavel]

4 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Good morning, ladies  
5 and gentlemen, good morning colleagues. I am Council  
6 Member Vanessa Gibson of the Sixteenth District in  
7 the Bronx, and I'm proud to Chair the Committee on  
8 Public Safety. This morning we will be voting on  
9 Proposed Intro 1000-B, which is legislation that will  
10 require the NYPD to report on seized property data on  
11 an annual basis, and to remove an existing  
12 requirement concerning reporting on the disposition  
13 of certain unclaimed property. I'd like to thank the  
14 sponsor of this bill Council Member Ritchie Torres  
15 for sponsoring this important piece of legislation.  
16 I'd also like to thank the members of the Public  
17 Safety Committee who are here, our Minority Leader  
18 Council Member Steve Matteo, our Council Member James  
19 Vacca, Council Member Vincent Gentile, Council Member  
20 Chaim Deutsch, and Council Member Rory Lancman. When  
21 a person is arrested, their money, their vehicle or  
22 other personal property must be dealt with, and so  
23 the Police Department has promulgated rules to  
24 establish certain procedures to be followed with  
25 respect to the custody and the disposition of

2 property by the NYPD. This legislation will provide  
3 transparency regarding the seizure, the vouchering,  
4 the classification, and the return of the property by  
5 requiring an annual report detailing such data for  
6 the preceding calendar year disaggregated by borough  
7 and police precinct. The circumstances of an arrest  
8 may be complicated or sometimes chaotic, and dealing  
9 with one's personal property often adds to this  
10 confusion. Depending on a variety of factors,  
11 property may be held or kept by the department after  
12 an arrest, and without full transparency surrounding  
13 this process, individuals may be left feeling they  
14 have been robbed of their property, and denied due  
15 process. As more light is shed on the processes  
16 surrounding arrest property across the  
17 country, many local and state legislatures are  
18 considering changes to make the process more user  
19 friendly such as creating tracking systems for seized  
20 property and other measures that promoted  
21 transparency. Strengthening the relationship between  
22 the community and the Police Department continues to  
23 be one of our top priorities, and this legislation  
24 will work to advance that goal by providing  
25 additional oversight and transparency into the

2 process by which personal property is recovered or  
3 held by the NYPD after an arrest. I want to thank  
4 the prime sponsor Ritchie Torres for the legislation.  
5 This legislation has been in process for quite some  
6 time, and we had a hearing on this last year. And  
7 so, I want to thank all the stakeholders and  
8 advocates that really raised the level of awareness  
9 around what has been happening with many individuals  
10 and their personal property. I hope all of my  
11 colleagues will join me in voting in favor of this  
12 legislation, and I'd also like to thank the staff  
13 that really worked very, very hard on this  
14 legislation. Our Committee Counsel Deepa Ambekar;  
15 our Legislative Counsel Beth Golub; our Legislative  
16 Policy Analyst, Casey Addison; and our Legislative  
17 Financial Analyst Steve Reister, and with that, do  
18 any of my colleagues have any questions pertaining to  
19 the legislation on today's agenda? And hearing none,  
20 I will ask our Clerk—our Billy Martin to please call  
21 the roll. Thank you colleagues for joining us this  
22 morning.

23 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,  
24 roll call vote Committee on Public Safety,  
25 Introduction 1000-B. Chair Gibson.

2 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: I vote aye.

3 CLERK: Gentile.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote aye.

5 CLERK: Vacca.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

7 CLERK: Deutsch.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

9 CLERK: Lancman.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

11 CLERK: Matteo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.

13 CLERK: By a vote of 6 in the  
14 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
15 the item has been adopted by the committee.

16 [background comments]

17 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay. Thank you  
18 very much colleagues, and we're going to keep the  
19 roll open for the next half hour. Thank you gain for  
20 joining us. [pause]

21 CLERK: Continuation of roll call,  
22 Committee on Public Safety. Council Member Torres.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote aye.

24 CLERK: The vote now currently stands  
25 with 7 in the affirmative. [background comments,

2 pause]. Continuation of roll call, the Committee on  
3 Public Safety, Introduction 1000-B. Council Member  
4 Espinal.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye

6 CLERK: The vote now stands at 8 in the  
7 affirmative. [pause] The final vote in the  
8 Committee on Public Safety. Introduction 1000-B has  
9 been adopted 8 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative  
10 and no abstentions. Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Thank you to all the  
12 colleagues on Public Safety who were here. This  
13 hearing of the Committee on Public Safety is hereby  
14 adjourned. Have a good day. [gavel] [laughs]

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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 31, 2017