

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY

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October 16, 2017  
Start: 1:46 p.m.  
Recess: 2:12 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm,  
14th Fl.

B E F O R E:

MARK TREYGER  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Margaret S. Chin  
Donovan J. Richards  
Carlos Menchaca  
Eric A. Ulrich  
Steven Matteo  
Bill Perkins

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

[sound check]

[pause]

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Good afternoon, I am Mark Treyger, chair of the Committee on Recovery and Resiliency. At today's hearing the Committee will vote on Proposed Intro No. 1720-A, a bill which will create a Hurricane Sandy recovery task force. The Committee originally held a hearing on this bill last Wednesday, October 11, to which all who testified spoke in favor of this bill.

At this point I'd like to invite any council members who are present to speak about the bill, if they have any questions or comments, and I would like to recommend that members of the Committee vote in favor of this very timely and needed bill. Do any of my colleagues have any comments or...

[interpose]

COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: I have a quick question.

CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Council Member Perkins.

COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: There's fifteen members, seven appointed by Speaker and two appointed

1  
2 by Mayor, all of whom serve without compensation;  
3 what about the other two, to make fifteen?

4 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: So let me just turn  
5 to that section. There are certain members that are  
6 serving in ex officio capacity; for example, HRO,  
7 from Housing Recovery Office; also the director of  
8 the Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency will  
9 also serve as an ex officio or his or her designee;  
10 seven members appointed by the Speaker of the  
11 Council; six members appointed by the Mayor, provided  
12 that such thirteen members shall be at least one  
13 resident of each borough. So I believe that there  
14 are a couple, two folks that are very, very much  
15 involved, both from the Housing Recovery Office and  
16 from the Mayor's Office of Recovery that are very  
17 much involved in day to day recovery efforts who will  
18 serve as ex officio members and that's how you get to  
19 the fifteen, and then thirteen members that we  
20 appointed between the Mayor and the Speaker, with an  
21 understanding that every borough will be reflected on  
22 this task force and again, we want folks who are  
23 heavily involved in the housing sector, both from the  
24 nonprofit and the agencies and the faith-based

1 communities; those that were really involved in the  
2 day to day work of the recovery.

3  
4 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: So the other two  
5 are coming from the Mayor's Office, so... [interpose]

6 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Yeah, they'll serve  
7 as ex officio members, yes. These are folks that  
8 have direct contact and direct, you know, ties to the  
9 day to day recovery efforts, so their expertise would  
10 be helpful to the task force.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: And this HRO, is  
12 that an additional one?

13 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: No, that's  
14 Director... [crosstalk]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: That's par...

16 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Amy Peter... that's  
17 Build It Back; that's Amy Peterson.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Oh okay.

19 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Right.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Alright, thank  
21 you.

22 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Sure. Having said  
23 that; are there any other questions or comments from  
24 my colleagues? If not, I'd like for the clerk to  
25 call the roll.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,  
3 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Recovery  
4 and Resiliency, Introduction 1720-A. Chair Treyger.

5 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: I vote aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Permission to  
8 explain my vote.

9 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Yes.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Alright. Just  
11 wanna congratulate my colleague on keeping the  
12 pressure on and continuously fighting to ensure that  
13 we make a full recovery and I totally understand and  
14 know that this legislation is gonna certainly help us  
15 to continue in the direction of fully rebuilding  
16 after Hurricane Sandy and I want to congratulate you  
17 on your continuous work to make sure we get there.  
18 With that, I vote aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Perkins.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Yeah, I want to  
22 agree with my colleague's remarks and I think it's a  
23 great step forward and look forward to seeing this  
24 passed and implemented in as timely way as possible.

2 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you very  
3 much.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Permission to  
6 explain my vote.

7 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Chair.  
9 I'm glad we're finally voting on this and it's -- we  
10 needed this a while back, right? I mean we're coming  
11 up to the five-year anniversary and recently I was on  
12 this boat tour and Catherine McVay Hughes, well now  
13 [sic] former chair of Community Board 1 is here; she  
14 invited me, and it was a tour to really look at what  
15 has been done and sadly to say, not a lot has been  
16 done in terms of really protection and every time the  
17 hurricane season comes I get very anxious,  
18 [background comment] you know and so hopefully it  
19 will pass us by because we're not... we're not  
20 prepared. And we're seeing some effort in my  
21 district in terms of repair, you know at NYCHA,  
22 finally they got the FEMA money and they're doing  
23 some resiliency work, but it was just to protect the  
24 building, and like my thing with them was okay, like  
25 a couple of buildings are being protected, but what

1 about the building next to them that maybe is a  
2 little bit inland but if you block the water from  
3 this one building, the water will go to the next  
4 building, so it's not a comprehensive plan. At the  
5 same time, my district is surrounded by water  
6 [background comment] and we just don't have, you  
7 know, we're not done and we're not... we haven't even  
8 started in terms of protection. So I hope that with  
9 the task force that we really kinda look into these  
10 issues; how do we prepare ourselves as quickly as  
11 possibly so that you know that we make sure that our  
12 residents are protected? So with that I vote aye.  
13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Yes.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 6 in the  
20 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
21 the item has been adopted by the Committee.

22 [background comment]

23 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Great. And I think  
24 that we might be missing a member or so, so we... maybe  
25

1 we'll keep the roll open for about say fifteen  
2 minutes. Fifteen minutes should be fine and Council  
3 Member Perkins, do you have additional comments?  
4

5 [background comments]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Just wanna ask  
7 you a question. So how do we stay in the loop in the  
8 discussion about how this is moving forward? Even  
9 though some of us may not be in as dire a situation  
10 as others, it always affects us anyway, so I just  
11 wanted to make sure that there is some way in which  
12 we can stay abreast of the developments around how  
13 we're gonna handle this. Is there some effort  
14 towards that end that's gonna make sure we're all  
15 included in some of the information and sharing and  
16 finding out...

17 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Right and I think  
18 that members are certainly encouraged; if there are  
19 organizations and leaders in... [interpose]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Right.

21 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: in your borough,  
22 your community that have been involved in this line  
23 of work, to definitely make those recommendations to  
24 both, certainly to the Speaker's Office, our  
25 Speaker's Office, as well as to the Mayor's side as

1 well. Again, we want folks that were involved and  
2 not just really from the outside, but really folks  
3 from the inside and to give us very candid, very real  
4 information about where things went wrong and how to  
5 make sure it doesn't go wrong again, and I think that  
6 this is very timely five years later. And I do wanna  
7 just give a shout-out again -- Minority Leader  
8 Matteo, I wanna give a shout-out again to the Staten  
9 Island Borough President, James Oddo, who's been very  
10 vocal on this issue for quite some time as well. But  
11 yes, as soon as... the way the language is worded is  
12 that once this bill is enacted, signed by the... you  
13 know passed by the Council; signed by the Mayor,  
14 there's 120 days that we have to make these  
15 appointments and I think that the Speaker's Office  
16 has indicated that they're very open and receptive to  
17 members reaching out and giving recommendations.  
18 Again, five boroughs will be reflected on this, which  
19 is very important as well and we'll have to make sure  
20 that we stay in touch with this task force's work.  
21 Thank you [background comment] for the good question.  
22 Any other... Okay, so we'll just wait to see if  
23 additional members walk in and thank you.

24  
25 [pause]

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote Committee on  
3 Recovery and Resiliency, Introduction 1720-A, final  
4 vote is 6 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and  
5 no abstentions.

6 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Great. And this  
7 hearing is adjourned.

8 [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 October 25, 2017