

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

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December 7, 2017  
Start: 1:15 p.m.  
Recess: 1:23 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: VINCENT J. GENTILE  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Daniel Dromm  
Costa G. Constantinides  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Rory I. Lancman  
Helen K. Rosenthal  
Bill Perkins

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

2 [sound check, pause] [background  
3 comments]

4 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Okay, we're ready  
5 to go. I'm Council Member Vincent Gentile, and I am  
6 the Chairman of the Oversight and Investigation  
7 Committee. I'd like to thank my colleagues joining  
8 me today, Council Member Bill Perkins, Council Member  
9 Chaim Deutsch, Council Member Danny Dromm, Council  
10 Member Helen Rosenthal and Council Member Rory  
11 Lancman. Today we will be holding a vote on two  
12 pieces of legislation that look to improve the  
13 efficiency, effectiveness, transparency of municipal  
14 government operations to the betterment of New  
15 Yorkers. Intro 16-1618-A sponsored by me and Council  
16 Members Dromm, Lancman, Rosenthal and Torres will  
17 require that the Department of Investigation conduct  
18 public outreach efforts to educate the public on how  
19 to identify and submit complaints regarding different  
20 forms of government corruption, fraud and waste. The  
21 Department will also be required to submit yearly  
22 public reports detailing complaints received, the  
23 mechanism through which complaints are submitted, and  
24 a summary of the relevant outreach efforts undertaken  
25 by the agency in the previous yea. As New York

1 City's Inspectors General and the oldest law  
2 enforcement agency in the city, DOI receives  
3 approximately 12,000 complaints a year. Currently,  
4 they voluntarily conduct advertising campaigns on a  
5 periodic basis. Most recently developing and print  
6 and media ad advertisements in in 2016 with the  
7 slogan "Bribery and corruption are a trap. Don't get  
8 caught up. Report it." I-I commend the Commissioner  
9 and the department for committing valuable resources  
10 to raising awareness of the public, of the important  
11 role the public plays in assisting DOI in rooting out  
12 corruption within our city government. Jointly we  
13 took DOI's proactive initiative a step forward by  
14 requiring this--this legislation that public outreach  
15 be conducted each year. Additionally, the reporting  
16 requirement calls for the publication of the number  
17 of complaints received, disaggregated by the  
18 mechanism through which the complaint was submitted,  
19 and a summary of relevant outreach activities in an  
20 effort to assess the efficacy of the outreach. Intro  
21 1618-A will expand the existing practice and further  
22 the public's involvement in reporting wrongdoings to  
23 the DOI to promote an honest and efficient city  
24 government. Intro 1633-A also sponsored by me as  
25

well as Council Members Rosenthal and Crowley will require that the Department of Investigation must complete vendor name checks for prospective city vendors 30 days prior to commencement of the city contract. One of DOI's basic agency goals is to ensure that all background investigations and fingerprinting checks are conducted in a timely manner. Vendor check—and vendor name checks known as VENDEX examine whether a prospective vendor or an affiliated individual has been previously subject to a DOI investigation. This is a large component of the DO—of DOI fulfilling their annual goal, and is an essential component of protecting the city and taxpayers from fraudulent—from fraudulent contractors. And my phone. [phone ringing] There we go. As Commissioner Peters testified at this committee's preliminary budget hearing in March, Currently DOI completes approximately 94% of vendor name checks within the 30-day window prescribed by the Rules of the City of New York. Intro 1633-A will codify within the city Charter the 30-day timeframe for the completion of vendor name checks to ensure that future administrations continue this vital practice of guaranteeing the responsibility and

2 trustworthiness of vendors vying for city contracts.  
3 Additionally, this bill would require the department  
4 -DOI to provide an explanation to an agency if its  
5 review of a vendor is not completed within 30 days.  
6 Both of these pieces of legislation will improve the  
7 information sharing, codifying important government  
8 procedures and engage the public and in general  
9 improve New York City government's daily functions. I  
10 want to thank the Commissioner of the Department of  
11 Investigation, Commissioner Mark Peters for working  
12 closely with us on this package as well as the  
13 Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Jerry Powell.  
14 I also want to thank our Committee Counsel Josh  
15 Kingsley, my Legislative Director Jonathan  
16 Chubchahees (sp?) and the stakeholders that have  
17 testified in favor of these bills during our hearing  
18 in June. As Chair, I recommend an aye vote from the  
19 committee members. So, any members have any  
20 questions or comments? Okay, seeing none, I ask the  
21 Clerk to please call the roll.

22 CLERK: Committee Clerk Matthew DiStefano,  
23 Committee on Oversight and Investigations, roll call  
24 vote on Intros 1618-A and 1633-A. Chair Gentile.

25 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: I vote aye on all.

2 CLERK: Dromm.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I vote aye.

4 CLERK: Deutsch.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

6 CLERK: Lancman.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

8 CLERK: Rosenthal.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on both  
10 with congratulations to the Chair. Very important  
11 legislation. Thank you.

12 CLERK: Perkins.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye.

14 CLERK: By a vote of 6 in the  
15 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
16 the items have been adopted.

17 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Okay, and we'll  
18 hold the vote open to about 1:30 because we have two-  
19 --there are one or two members that are on their way  
20 over. I thank you all for joining us and have a good  
21 day. This hearing is—I'm not supposed to close it.

22 [pause]

23 CLERK: Continuation of roll call,  
24 Council Member Constantinides.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I vote  
3 aye.

4 CLERK: Thank you. Okay, the final vote 7  
5 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no  
6 abstentions.

7 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: With that, this  
8 hearing is closed. [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 December 22, 2017