

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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August 29, 2018  
Start: 12:40 p.m.  
Recess: 1:01 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: Ydanis Rodriguez  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Fernando Cabrera  
Costa G. Constantinides  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Ruben Diaz, Sr.  
Rafael Espinal, Jr.  
Peter Koo  
Stephen T. Levin  
Mark Levine  
Carlos Menchaca  
I. Daneek Miller  
Antonio Reynoso  
Donovan Richards  
Deborah L. Rose  
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.

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

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2 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon,  
3 everyone. This is a historic day in the City of New  
4 York. We are acting, voting on legislation that will  
5 create in the City of New York, the new law that will  
6 allow to establish our own speed camera program.  
7 Today, we will be voting on essential piece of  
8 legislation, Intro. 1089, introduced by Speaker  
9 Johnson and myself, Council Member Ampry-Samuel,  
10 Lander, and Gjonaj, avert a crisis by re-establishing  
11 the speed camera program in the school zones.  
12 Because of the failure of the Senate Republicans,  
13 children's lives we're putting at risk. Today, the  
14 City has stepped up and is creating a local speed  
15 camera program allowing the City to issue violations  
16 for speeding. The program will be similar to the  
17 part of the state program, owners of vehicles going  
18 more than 10 miles per hour over the speed limit in a  
19 school zone will be liable for a 50 civil penalty,  
20 but we are improving the state's program in two acute  
21 ways. One, the number of cameras isn't (inaudible)  
22 in the bill, and two, the New York City Department of  
23 Transportation can expand the Hours of operation. A  
24 week from today, over a million students will go back  
25 to school in New York City. Thousands of them have

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2 been returned, those affiliated with charter school.  
3 and when they go back, speed cameras in this city  
4 will be turned on because of the action taken by  
5 Speaker in this committee. Street safety has been  
6 the top priority of this committee and will continue  
7 to be the top priority going forward. I would like  
8 to thank Families for Safe Street and Transportation  
9 Alternatives, without their leadership on this issue,  
10 we would not be here today. I would also like to  
11 thank the Speaker, the Administration, and Governor  
12 Cuomo for all their work on this issue. [speaking  
13 Spanish] I now call for the vote on Intro. 1089. I  
14 recommend a yes vote, and I ask the Committee Clerk  
15 to please call the roll. Sorry, and-- and before  
16 that, I would like to acknowledge my colleague who is  
17 here, Council Member Cabrera, Deutsch, Espinal, Koo,  
18 and Miller, Richards, and Salamanca, and Diaz. I  
19 would like to first vote yes and then rec-- and call  
20 the Committee Clerk to please call the roll.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: William Martin, Committee  
22 Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Transportation on  
23 Introduction. Council Member Cabrera?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Permission to  
25 explain my vote?

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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

[off mic]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Chair Rodriguez?

CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Hope that I could explain my vote. So, I'll make it very quick. I just want to commend the Speaker, the Chair, and all the other co-prime sponsor in this essential and critical bill. the fact is already in my district, already began to see how the culture is already shifted even throughout the summer of not having these cameras activated and functioning to its full potential. People are starting to speed already and school has not even started. This is about changing culture. This is about changing behavior. It's about what we prioritize. It's about what we value. In this Council we value our children. They are our first priority, and so with that, I vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Deutsch?

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Permiso para explaina me voto [sic]?

CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Gracias. So, while I will be voting to support-- in English, and then I'll say a few words in Spanish afterwards. So,

1 while I'll be voting on this bill, I just want to  
2 explain that we as a city, we cannot only rely on the  
3 state, and we cannot only rely on technology, and we  
4 need to have our own plan and set an example to  
5 others how to protect our school children. So, my  
6 three proposals, and I have bills for two of the  
7 three in the City Council that's currently being  
8 drafted. Number one is that not all our school  
9 children currently have bussing, and my first bill is  
10 to expand bussing service for all children that are  
11 currently in elementary school. and when you don't  
12 have bussing it forces paretns to either drive their  
13 children to school, or have the children walk to  
14 school, and that alone causes congestion in and  
15 around the schools. So, the less children need to  
16 walk to school, the more safe it would be. So by  
17 expanding bus service, that would alleviate a lot of  
18 the pedestrian and vehicle traffic around the  
19 schools. Secondly, we have what's called Traffic  
20 Control Offices which is level to traffic agents,  
21 what you currently see in Manhattan and places in  
22 downtown Brooklyn. So, if we could have traffic  
23 control officers direct traffic within 100 feet of a  
24 school that has a high ac-- accident prone locations  
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1 as a pilot program to direct traffic and making sure  
2 that traffic runs smoothly around the school areas.  
3 That will enhance not only the congestion, but also  
4 will maintain any type of erratical [sic] or speeders  
5 in that area. And thirdly, we don't have currently  
6 school crossing guards in every single school in the  
7 City, and we need to make sure to have that  
8 protection that when a child crosses the street,  
9 nearest school, that the school crossing guard is  
10 there to help those children cross the streets. So,  
11 having these three, I believe that using any type of  
12 revenue from the speed cameras should be reinvested  
13 for the safety of our school children and used for  
14 these three proposals that I have in order to make  
15 sure that we are better protected, better have--  
16 better protected-- better protecting our children.  
17 Again, and with these three proposals, I think that  
18 will be our layer of protection. So, if the state  
19 shuts down, we have a plan now, and this would be in  
20 addition to have other types of traffic , controlled  
21 devices or even speed bumps like in one of my schools  
22 on Avenue P and Bedford Avenue Madison High School  
23 and that I as high school. We have about six speed  
24 bump right there, and that shows drivers down. So,  
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2 that being said, I-- today I will be voting eye on  
3 this bill, and I would like to thank the members of  
4 the Council all, you know, being there and supporting  
5 our school children and the safety. And yesterday's  
6 testimony was really a tear-jerker, and it's on my  
7 social media now, and I think people need to see the  
8 testimony of how one loses a loved one, and we all  
9 have to be on the same page on this. Thank you.  
10 and now a few words in Spanish: Muchas Gracias.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Espinal?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Koo?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Levine?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I vote aye.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Menchaca?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: In dedication  
19 to all those who testified yesterday, I vote aye, and  
20 really hope that the state legislative body can rise  
21 to the occasion and meet our community-led effort.  
22 Thank you. I vote aye.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Miller?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Richards?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I hope the  
3 Senate Republicans return from vacation to do the  
4 people's business in the state, especially when it  
5 comes to the public safety of our children. Truly  
6 mind-boggling, as I said yesterday, that people will  
7 play political football with our children's lives.  
8 Some things should transcend politics, and this is  
9 certainly a flaw in character on their side. Lastly,  
10 I'll just add I'm hoping that in-- DOT will also take  
11 a look at every school in this city to ensure that  
12 there are traffic devices and that there's a public  
13 mapping system where the public and the Council and  
14 others and Community Boards can certainly view and  
15 see what the status of studies are. Speed cameras are  
16 not the total answer to addressing public safety.  
17 It's a multitude of things, and I'm hoping that we'll  
18 continue to look at all of those things as well.  
19 With that being said, to the families who've lost  
20 loved ones, our prayers are with you and certainly  
21 your loved ones have not died in vain. Today's vote  
22 is a major step in the right direction in ensuring  
23 that their memories and their legacy stay alive.  
24 With that, I happily vote aye.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I would just  
3 like to say this is one of my proudest moments as  
4 being a Council Member here in the City of New York  
5 to know that this entire body and the Speaker have  
6 stepped up. Something we stepped up and we're  
7 delivering, something to our district that the Senate  
8 in Albany has failed us. This bill means a lot to  
9 me. My four-year-old son will begin universal pre-k  
10 sometime next week, and I know that by us, by this  
11 body passing this bill, we're keeping our streets  
12 safer. So, I gladly vote on all. Thank you.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Diaz?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Mr. Speaker, I vote  
15 aye, but I would like to take this opportunity to  
16 congratulate Council Member Deutsch in his Spanish  
17 improvement, language. You are doing very good my  
18 dear friend. Continue.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: I thank you.  
20 Gracias. De nada.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: I said well, yes.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: By a vote of 11 in the  
23 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstention,  
24 item has been adopted by the Committee. Excuse me.  
25 Council Member Reynoso?

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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I proudly vote  
aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Vote now stands at 12 in  
the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no  
abstention. Item is adopted by the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: I want to  
acknowledge that we were joined by Council Member  
Powers and we will leave the voting open for five  
minutes.

COUNCIL CLERK: Final vote, Committee on  
Transportation, items adopted 12 in the affirmative,  
0 in the negative, and no abstentions. Council  
Member Diaz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: This hearing is  
adjourned. [gavel]

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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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 September 5, 2018