

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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October 29, 2018
Start: 2:12 p.m.
Recess: 2:29 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm.
16th Fl.

B E F O R E: DONOVAN J. RICHARDS
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Justin L. Brannan
Fernando Cabrera
Andrew Cohen
Chaim M. Deutsch
Vanessa L. Gibson
Rory I. Lancman
Carlos Menchaca
I. Daneek Miller
Keith Powers
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Paul A. Vallone
Jumaane D. Williams

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

2 [sound check] [GAVEL]

3 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Alrighty, good
4 afternoon. I am Council Member Donovan Richards of
5 the 31st District in Queens, and the Chair of the
6 Committee on Public Safety. I want to thank the
7 members of the Public Safety Committee who are hear,
8 and you're going to make sure I don't forget anybody,
9 Council Members Brannan, Gibson, Lancman, Cabrera,
10 Powers, Menchaca, Vallone, Rodriguez. [background
11 comments] Oh, Rosenthal [background comment]
12 Cohen, [laughter] You're going to have to write these
13 things down. [laughter] I get brain freeze fast. I
14 also want to thank the sponsor of the bills that we
15 are going to pass today staring with Majority Leader
16 Cumbo, and I want to give major kudos to Council
17 Member Rosenthal who really took a big leadership
18 role here as well in working with the Committee.
19 Council Member Rivera and also Council Member Rose.
20 We are doing something very important today. As a
21 result of the Me, Too movement, more victims of
22 sexual assault are coming forward and we want to
23 encourage them to continue to do so. These victims
24 deserve to feel respected and supported by the people
25 who are responsible for-for preventing crime in New

2 York City. These bills that we're going to pass
3 today increase transparency in the way the NYPD
4 diverts resources to the investigation of sexual
5 assaults. They guarantee the privacy of victims once
6 they come forward, and they deserved this a long time
7 ago, and they make sure that the law enforcement
8 officers that handle these cases in response to these
9 victims are appropriately trained. I don't think
10 that's too much to ask for, and it's actually sad we
11 have to legislate this. Together, this package shows
12 that we in this Council, we in this Council and the
13 NYPD take sexual assaults very seriously, and we are
14 committed to doing everything we can to support
15 survivors. So, I'm going to call for a vote on this,
16 but this is, you know, when I reflect back to the—the
17 hearing we had a few months ago, where there was a
18 lot of passion around this table amongst my
19 colleagues, especially, this is what we will put here
20 to do: To make sure we take that passion, and we
21 turn it in viable legislation that will help future
22 generations to ensure that even as the Police
23 Commissioner apologized—apologizes for past issues
24 that the NYPD had when dealing with victims, that we
25 actually put legislation to work that will ensure

2 that there are safeguards in place that will ensure
3 that victims gets justice. So, these are some big
4 bills today and—and it's honestly an honor to chair
5 this committee today. We're getting something done
6 on a major scale. So, with that being said, I will
7 turn to my colleagues for comments or statements.
8 Any comments or statements? Alright, if not, I'll
9 ask the sergeant to call the roll.

10 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,
11 roll call vote Committee on Public Safety.
12 Introductions 444-A, 781-A, 784-A and 785-A. All
13 items are coupled. Chair Richards.

14 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: I vote aye.

15 CLERK: Gibson.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to
17 explain my vote?

18 CLERK: Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you so
20 much, Chair Richards, and good afternoon colleagues
21 and I, too, want to echo your sentiments in really
22 giving a lot of credit to my phenomenal colleagues in
23 the Women's Caucus, our Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo,
24 Council Member Helen Rosenthal, Carlina Rivera, and
25 Debi Rose, and I, too, remember that hearing, and

2 certainly over the years looking at a lot of the work
3 the NYPD has done around being very sensitive to
4 those victims of sexual assault and sexual violence,
5 and really in the climate that we are working in
6 today and certainly in this country we have to do
7 everything possible to make sure that victims become
8 victors that they are not a victim of their
9 circumstance, but rather they are a victor of their
10 circumstance. And as someone who is dealing with an
11 unfortunate situation that has hit my district a
12 couple of days ago, an 11-year-old girl was assaulted
13 by a teen-ager in my district, and, you know, the
14 victim sometimes we don't know their names. We may
15 not know their faces, but they are our children.
16 They are our young people, and we really have to do
17 more not just working with the NYPD in terms of
18 sensitivity and cultural understanding and really the
19 awareness. But we also have to make sure that we are
20 increasing opportunities for healthy relationships,
21 and that's why this Council is so support of DOVE and
22 other programs that work with many of our local CVOs
23 and our providers on the ground, working within our
24 schools, working with clergy, working with faith-
25 based leaders. So, I appreciate the incredible

2 amount of work done by this committee and thank you
3 to our sponsors and the Women's Caucus and really all
4 of my colleagues in the City Council for recognizing
5 this is not just a woman's issue, but this is really
6 a human rights issue. It affects children, it
7 affects women, it affects parents, it affects
8 everyone every single day whether it's a Me, Too
9 movement or any other hashtag, it's really a reality
10 of life for far too many New Yorkers, and the more we
11 do this work, the more we pass legislation such as
12 this on the agenda today, the more we break down that
13 cycle the more we take more victims out of the
14 darkness and into the light where they can have an
15 opportunity at a successful future healing from the
16 trauma that many of them have experienced. So, with
17 that said, thank you to all of my colleagues. I'm
18 very proud to be a part of this Council for such a
19 time as this, and I proud aye on today's agenda.
20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you.

22 CLERK: Cabrera.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: A big aye.

24 CLERK: Cohen.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

2 CLERK: Lancman.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

4 CLERK: Menchaca. Rodriguez?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

6 CLERK: Vallone.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: Brannan.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

10 CLERK: Powers.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.

12 CLERK: By a vote of 9 in the
13 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions all
14 items have been adopted by the committee.

15 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: I will hold the
16 vote open for ten minutes. Before we do that, I want
17 to go to my colleague, as I said earlier, who has
18 been a driving force behind the scenes on passing
19 this package of bills, Council Member, Councilwoman
20 Helen Rosenthal who is also the Chair of the Woman's
21 Caucus.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you so
23 much, Council Member Richards. I wanted to thank
24 you, but in particular the lawyers on the legislative
25 staff Brian Crowe and our new lawyer whose name I am

2 just about to mess up. So, say it again out loud.
3 Dan.

4 DANIEL ADDIS: [off mic] Daniel Addis.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yeah, Daniel
6 is new to the Council, but he jumped right in
7 understanding what the important things we had to
8 achieve in the legislation. I'm only going to talk
9 about mine for a moment. So when we talk about
10 education—making sure that the Special Victims
11 Division officers are trained in how to talk to
12 people who come forward. We know from the hearing
13 that the first three questions are usually what were
14 you wearing, how much did you have to drink, and do
15 you have a boyfriend? And—and Daniel really helped
16 us make us make sure that in this bill what we're
17 legislating is that the detectives learned that the
18 first questions are to be focused on the victim and
19 helping that person along the journey of becoming a
20 survivor. Taking victim-centric, trauma-centric
21 approach making sure that we—that the Police
22 Department report on not only how many detectives are
23 taking the training, but how many fail. They're
24 actually going to have to be tested on this. So,
25 we're going to know many fail. In their first round

2 of taking some of the training, we've specified 10 or
3 11 specific types of training, but they're going to
4 have to take and—and we're going to get the
5 transparency by having the department report on that
6 training, and we also going to know we're—again
7 through the reporting, which outside experts the PD
8 turn to in order to learn and make sure that our
9 police department is getting cutting edge training.
10 The advocates in this area are very sophisticated and
11 nuanced. They'll be looking at those reports, and
12 they will certainly be on the front lines of calling
13 out the department should they see that the training
14 that's necessary isn't show up in those reports. So,
15 I'm very grateful to the Council's—our City Council
16 Legislative staff for all of their work, and Chair
17 Richards, I'm just eternally grateful to working on
18 this issue with you. You've been a tremendous
19 partner, and, you know, looking forward to do more.
20 So thank you very much.

21 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank on that.

22 CLERK: Continuation roll call, Council
23 Member Menchaca.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: With deep
25 appreciation for the work and words of not just

2 Council Member Rosenthal, but really the entire
3 committee and the Chair, I vote aye.

4 CLERK: The vote currently stands at 10
5 in the affirmative.

6 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Alright, and I
7 want to thank Daniel Addis and cone again Casey
8 Addison. Thank you so much for the work you've done
9 on this as well, and with that being said, we are
10 going to close this out. Thank you.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER: Jumaane is on his way.

12 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Oh, Jumaane is on
13 his way. Okay, we'll hold it up for another two
14 minutes. [background comments] He's coming? He's
15 coming? He's coming? Like really? Okay. Alright,
16 got it. [laughs]

17 CLERK: Continuation roll call, the
18 Committee on Public Safety, Council Member Williams.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye on all.
20 [pause]

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

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye on
24 all.

1 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

12

2 CLERK: The final vote on today's agenda
3 for Committee on Public Safety all items have been
4 adopted by a vote of 11 in the affirmative [pause]
5 Excuse me. 12 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative
6 and no abstentions.

7 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Congratulations.
8 Thank you. [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 November 16, 2018