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COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

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December 21, 2022
Start: 9:54 a.m.
Recess: 10:06 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Julie Menin, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
Tiffany Caban
Shekar Krishnan
Darlene Mealy
Sandra Ung
Marjorie Velazquez

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS HUANG: This is a sound
3 check for the Committee on Small Business. Today's
4 date is December 21, 2022, being recorded by Danny
5 Huang (phonetic) in the Chambers.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please,
7 everyone. Thank you. Good morning, everyone. Welcome
8 today's New York City Council hearing of the
9 Committee on Small Business.

10 At this moment, everyone place all
11 electronic devices to vibrate or silent mode. Thank
12 you for your cooperation.

13 Chair, we are ready.

14 CHAIRPERSON MENIN: [GAVEL] Good morning.
15 I'm Council Member Julie Menin, Chair of the
16 Committee on Small Business.

17 First of all, I want to acknowledge my
18 Colleagues who have joined, Council Member Caban,
19 Council Member Ung, and Council Member Velazquez, and
20 I'll acknowledge additional Colleagues as they join.

21 At today's hearing, the Committee will be
22 voting on Intro 699. This bill was previously heard
23 in a joint hearing with the Committee on Immigration
24 and the Committee on Governmental Operations. This
25 bill, which is sponsored by Council Member Ung, would

2 strengthen existing protections for small business
3 owners with limited English proficiency. It takes a
4 lot of work to run a small business in New York.
5 Small business owners must adhere to numerous
6 regulations that protect their space, their
7 consumers, and their workers. Owners need to be
8 knowledgeable of opportunities available to them to
9 access funding and other resources, and owners must
10 interact with and respond to inspectors and notices
11 of violations when they are issued. All these tasks
12 require significant attention but, without language
13 accessibility for these rules, regulations, and
14 opportunities, small business owners who communicate
15 in languages other than English can struggle. Small
16 business owners with limited English proficiency have
17 continued to share their difficulties adhering to the
18 City's demands due to language inaccessibility when
19 interacting with inspectors and agencies despite
20 their complete willingness to comply with the law.
21 Language access issues should not be an additional
22 hurdle for small business owners, and it is in the
23 City's best interest to ensure that they communicate
24 effectively with all small business owners. The City
25 has taken steps to provide culturally competent

2 services and mitigate language access issues, but
3 more steps are required to create an equitable small
4 business environment. The goal of the bill we are
5 voting on today is to begin to provide those
6 additional steps. Intro 699 will require translation
7 of the Business Owner's Bill of Rights and Food
8 Service Establishment Code of Conduct into each of
9 the designated citywide languages, require the
10 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to include
11 additional information around language access in
12 their Food Service Establishment Code of Conduct and
13 Ombuds Office, require city agencies that regularly
14 conduct inspections to report annually on the number
15 of employed inspectors that are fluent in a language
16 other than English and require the City to provide
17 written translations of final OATH decisions to small
18 business owners upon request.

19 I am looking forward to a vote on this
20 bill today to support language access for our small
21 business owners. I want to thank C.J. Murray, Erica
22 Cohen, and Rebecca Barilla from central staff for
23 their work putting this hearing together as well as
24 my own Chief-of-Staff Jonathan Szott for his
25 assistance.

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2 I'll now turn it over to the Clerk to
3 call the roll.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
5 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
6 vote, Committee on Small Business. Proposed
7 Introduction 699-A. Chair Menin.

8 CHAIRPERSON MENIN: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Caban.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CABAN: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ung.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

14 Velazquez.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VELAZQUEZ: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote
17 of four in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and
18 no abstentions, item has been adopted by the
19 Committee.

20 We're going to hold the roll open at the
21 request of the Chair.

22 Continuation roll call, Committee on
23 Small Business. Proposed Introduction 699-A. Council
24 Member Brooks-Powers.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I vote aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
3 you. The vote is now five in the affirmative, zero in
4 the negative, and no abstentions.

5 Continuation roll call, Committee on
6 Small Business. Proposed Introduction 699-A. Council
7 Member Mealy.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye on all.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: The vote
10 is now currently at six in the affirmative.

11 Continuation roll call, Committee on
12 Small Business. Proposed Introduction 699-A. Council
13 Member Krishnan.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Final
16 vote now on this Committee is item has been adopted,
17 seven in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and
18 no abstentions.

19 CHAIRPERSON MENIN: [GAVEL] We're closed.

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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 27, 2022