

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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May 26, 2021  
Start: 2:36 p.m.  
Recess: 2:52 p.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing, Virtual Room 1

B E F O R E: Ydanis Rodriguez  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Ydanis Rodriguez  
Selvena N. Brooks-Powers  
Fernando Cabrera  
Ruben Diaz, Sr.  
Robert F. Holden  
Peter A. Koo  
Stephen T. Levin  
Mark Levine  
Carlos Menchaca  
I. Daneek Miller  
Antonio Reynoso  
Deborah L. Rose

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

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SERGEANT AT ARMS: Computer started.

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SERGEANT AT ARMS: Cloud recording

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started.

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SERGEANT AT ARMS: Backup is rolling, and

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Sergeant Bradley with your opening statement, please.

7

SERGEANT AT ARMS BRADLEY: Yes, good

8

afternoon, and welcome to today's New York City

9

Council vote on Transportation. At this time will

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all members please turn on your videos for

11

verification purpose. Thank you, Chair. We may

12

begin.

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CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Thank you,

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sergeants, and the whole team of the tech, eh,

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department of the, of the City Council, eh, for

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always being there supporting us on this hearing and

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many other hearings, that is part of our

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responsibility. Eh, good afternoon and welcome to

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the Committee on Transportation's hearing to vote on

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proposed Intro number 176-A, sponsored by Council

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Member Maisel. I am Ydanis Rodriguez, the chair of

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this committee. Proposed Intro 176-A will create an

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interagency task force for removing certain vehicles

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from public streets. As we all know, curb space in

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New York City is in high demand, especially in

1 certain residential and commercial areas. Every year  
2 residents company of vehicles being parked without  
3 license plate for long periods of time. Some auto  
4 body repair shops remove license plates from motor  
5 vehicles and then park them, they park these vehicles  
6 in the street or abandon them. Under New York State  
7 law a motor vehicle must have a valid license plate  
8 and valid registration to operate or be parked on the  
9 streets. And in vehicles license plates must match  
10 its registration number. Without proportion  
11 registration or license plate it is difficult for the  
12 NYPD to identify and ticket owners for these  
13 vehicles. Proposed Intro 176-A will create an  
14 interagency task force to study the city's existing  
15 system by removing from public streets vehicles that  
16 have been abandoned or parked without license plate  
17 or proper registration. The task force will include  
18 the Commissioner of Transportation, Commissioner of  
19 Sanitation, and the police commissioner or their  
20 respective designate. And two additional members  
21 appointed by the mayor, the task force will examine  
22 the city's current procedures and develop  
23 recommendations to improve and assist in removal  
24 practices, all of which would submit, would be  
25

1 submitted in a final report to the mayor and the  
2 speaker and the council. I will now call on Council  
3 Member Maisel that sponsored this legislation to give  
4 his opening statement.  
5

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Ah, thank you,  
7 ah, Chair Rodriguez, for the opportunity for this  
8 bill to be heard in committee. Um, actually, ah, you  
9 got to most of the salient points. There's really  
10 not much left that I could say about the legislation,  
11 except to say that for as long as I've been around,  
12 ah, in government, ah, these cars and trucks that are  
13 on the city streets have been a plague in my district  
14 and in the districts of many of my colleagues. Um,  
15 private individuals and companies are using the city  
16 streets as storage facilities. As real estate, ah,  
17 in the city has gotten to be very expensive, ah, many  
18 of the lots that we use for storage have been, um,  
19 um, used for housing, and now people are just parking  
20 on the streets, and it is creating enormous problems.  
21 Um, one of the small problems is since these trucks  
22 don't move it's hard to clean the streets, so it  
23 creates a, a sanitation problem, and, of course, as  
24 the Chairman said, parking is at a premium. Some of  
25 these cars and trucks are there for, for years. The

1  
2 city right now has not given the police department  
3 the resources that they need to deal with this  
4 problem. There should be an interagency, ah, task  
5 force, which is what the legislation calls for, and  
6 I'm very pleased that it's being heard today. Thank  
7 you.

8 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

9 Council Member, eh, and, and of course if I'm not,  
10 eh, signed as a sponsor of the bill I would, I would  
11 like to be included. I will now ask the committee  
12 clerk to conduct the roll call vote on the proposed  
13 bill, and I strongly recommend my colleagues to vote  
14 yes on this important piece of legislation.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good afternoon, Matthew  
16 DiStefano, committee clerk, Committee on  
17 Transportation. Roll call vote on proposed Intro  
18 176-A. Chair Rodriguez.

19 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK DISTEFANO: Cabrera.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Permission to  
22 explain my vote?

23 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Permission  
24 granted.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you, ah,  
3 Mr. Chair, and thank you for allowing this bill and  
4 the speaker to come, ah, um, on this committee. I  
5 just want to take a moment to thank you, Council  
6 Member Maisel, for your leadership on this bill.  
7 This is a problem that's plaguing all of New York  
8 City and my district. Ah, it, it just, it's, it's  
9 baffling to me that, ah, little is being done about  
10 this. So I commend you and I also hope that there's  
11 true follow-up in task force. There are task force  
12 and there are task force. There are some that are  
13 active and some that are there only by name. So I,  
14 ah, it's my hope that the council will be hold the  
15 administration and all the members of that  
16 accountable to actually to come up, ah, with a plan.  
17 And with that I vote aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK DISTEFANO: Koo. Council  
19 Member Koo?

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member Koo,  
21 you're on mute.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Oh. I vote aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK DISTEFANO: Levin.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Congratulations,  
25 Council Member Maisel. I vote aye.

1 COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK DISTEFANO: Rose.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I vote aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK DISTEFANO: Levine.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you. I  
6 also vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK DISTEFANO: Menchaca.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK DISTEFANO: Miller.

10 Council Member Miller?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Good afternoon,  
12 Mr. Chair. Council Member Miller votes aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK DISTEFANO: Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK DISTEFANO: Reynoso.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: With  
17 congratulations, ah, Council Member Maisel

18 [inaudible] legislation. Ah, I vote aye on all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK DISTEFANO: Ruben Diaz,  
20 Sr.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER R. DIAZ: [speaking in  
22 Spanish] Si.

23 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Gracias [speaking  
24 in Spanish].

25 COMMITTEE CLERK DISTEFANO: Holden.



2 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Ah,  
3 congratulations, and thank you, Council Member  
4 Maisel. I vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK DISTEFANO: By a vote of  
6 11 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no  
7 abstentions, the bill has been adopted.

8 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. Thank  
9 you to everyone again all this time and [inaudible]  
10 this committee I can also...

11 COMMITTEE CLERK DISTEFANO: Council  
12 Member, sorry, I think we're holding the vote open.

13 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Should I leave it  
14 open?

15 COMMITTEE CLERK DESTEFANO: I, I believe  
16 so.

17 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: OK, so I, I will  
18 leave it open. You will take care of closing it,  
19 right?

20 COMMITTEE CLERK DISTEFANO: Ah, yes, any  
21 other council member on the committee can do that.

22 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: OK. So I will  
23 leave it open and, and again, thank you to all this  
24 time, and if you don't mind [inaudible] check it, if  
25 you can check to see which council member aren't in,

2 eh, forgot to leave it open so, eh, eh, please let me  
3 know.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK DISTEFANO: We are  
5 waiting for Council Member Brooks-Powers.

6 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: OK. So I should  
7 leave it open. When he voted be sure [inaudible]  
8 closed.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK DISTEFANO: Right. Thank  
10 you.

11 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. So  
12 thank you to the staff and Elliot and the rest of the  
13 team, also from my team, eh, my chief of staff, Lisa  
14 Conforme and legislative director, eh, Evelyn Collado  
15 and my communication person, Margarita. And with  
16 that I leave the vote open.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Ydanis.

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. Clerk, ah, it  
19 looks like, ah, Brooks-Powers is own.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK DISTEFANO: Continuation  
21 of roll call vote, Committee on Transportation,  
22 proposed Intro 176-A, Council Member Brooks-Powers.  
23 Council Member Brooks-Powers?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I'm sorry.  
25 Can you just give me one moment please?

2 COMMITTEE CLERK DISTEFANO: Sure, sure.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS:

4 [inaudible].

5 COMMITTEE CLERK DESTEFANO: The council  
6 member just said aye?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Yes, aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK DESTEFANO: All right,  
9 thank you. The final vote - 12 in the affirmative, 0  
10 negative, and no abstentions. Council Member, if I  
11 could ask you to formally close this committee  
12 hearing.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: We now  
14 adjourn this committee meeting, this committee  
15 hearing. Thank you.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK DISTEFANO: Thank you.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Bye-bye.

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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 July 12, 2021