

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS,
STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL
OPERATIONS, STATE AND FEDERAL
LEGISLATION

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May 23, 2024
Start: 10:42 a.m.
Recess: 11:24 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Lincoln Restler, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gale A. Brewer
David M. Carr
James F. Gennaro
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Shahana Hanif
Inna Vernikov

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and
3 welcome to today's New York City Council hearing for
4 the Committee on Governmental Operations, State, and
5 Federal Legislation.

6 At this time, we ask that you silence all
7 cell phones and electronic devices to minimize
8 disruptions at the hearing.

9 Thank you for your cooperation.

10 Chair, we're ready to begin.

11 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Thanks so much. Good
12 morning. My name's Lincoln Restler, and I am the
13 Chair of the Committee of Governmental Operations,
14 State and Federal Legislation, which never is not a
15 mouthful. I'd like to start off by thanking those of
16 you who are joining us today, especially my
17 Colleagues. We have Council Member Jim Gennaro on
18 Zoom, good to see you, Jim, Council Member Gale
19 Brewer, Council Member Shahana Hanif, Council Member
20 David Carr, and Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez.

21 Today, we'll be voting on eight State
22 Legislative Resolutions, also known as Home Rules or
23 SLRs, in support of various pieces of state
24 legislation.

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2 One of these State Legislative
3 Resolutions deals with an issue that many of my
4 Colleagues hear about from our constituents on a
5 regular basis, abandoned vehicles. They impact the
6 quality of life of our communities by taking up
7 parking spaces and counteracting the work neighbors
8 do to keep our streets clean and safe. I hope the New
9 York State Legislature will pass this legislation
10 introduced by Senator Robert Jackson and Assembly
11 Member Jaime Williams to expand the number of
12 abandoned vehicles that the City is able to remove.

13 Another bill that I'd like to
14 specifically address has been introduced by Senator
15 Leroy Comrie and Assembly Member Clyde Vanel. This
16 legislation increases fines for tractor trailers that
17 park on residential streets overnight. The current
18 fines do not adequately disincentivize semi-truck
19 drivers from using our residential streets as parking
20 lots. Increasing the fines will lead to cleaner air,
21 fewer disruptions, and a better quality of life for
22 New Yorkers whose neighborhoods are near a highway. I
23 know that Council Member Kevin Riley will be very
24 happy that we are passing this Home Rule Message.

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2 The other SLRs we will vote on today
3 cover a variety of issue areas including retirement,
4 disability, and pension benefits for various City
5 employees, and the use of land in the South Bronx to
6 facilitate Metro North access to Penn Station, a
7 really exciting public transit project.

8 I believe the Council and Albany working
9 together to pass these SLRs would greatly benefit our
10 City and lead to the betterment of the lives of many
11 New Yorkers.

12 I'd like to especially thank the Council
13 Staff who worked on this, our Intergovernmental
14 Affairs Division led by Carlos Beato and his team,
15 Santa Soriano-Vasquez and Rick Arbello, did a
16 terrific job, and our Committee Staff as always,
17 Jayasri Ganapathy and Erica Cohen, for all of their
18 hard work, as well as my Team for their help and
19 assistance as well.

20 I'd now like to ask the Clerk to call the
21 roll.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
23 you. Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk.
24 Roll call vote, Committee on Governmental Operations,
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State and Federal Legislation. All items are coupled.
Chair Restler.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
you. Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye, and
I'm particularly excited also about the possibility
of more abandoned vehicles being taken off the
streets. Thank you very much.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:
Gutiérrez.

COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanif.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Schulman.
Carr.

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
you. Vernikov. Paladino.

With a vote of six in the affirmative,
zero in the negative, and no abstentions, all items
have been adopted by the Committee.

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2 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: We're going to leave
3 it open in case some additional Colleagues are able
4 to make it, but thank you everyone for joining us
5 today.

6 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: We're reopening
7 today's hearing on the Governmental Operations, State
8 and Federal Legislation. I'd now like to offer
9 Council Member Vernikov the opportunity to vote.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye on all.
11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Thank you so much.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Final
14 vote now Committee on Governmental Operations, State
15 and Federal Legislation, all items have been adopted
16 with a vote of seven in the affirmative, zero in the
17 negative, and no abstentions.

18 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Thank you so much,
19 Clerk. [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 June 29, 2024