

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON STATE AND FEDERAL
LEGISLATION

----- X

SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

Start: 1:17 P.M.

Recess: 1:50 P.M.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - COMMITTEE RM, 14TH FL

B E F O R E: Karen Koslowitz
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Rafael Espinal
Ben Kallos
Alan Maisel
Antonio Reynoso

COMMITTEE ON STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION
A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

2

Meeting of State and Federal Legislation called to order. Good morning my name is Karen Koslowitz and I am the Chairperson of the State and Federal Legislation Committee. Today we will be voting on resolutions addressing Puerto Rico's Economic Crisis. A quorum beam present, I would now like to introduce the members of the committee that are present at this time. Council Member Ben Kallos. Council Member Allen Maisel and Council Member Antonio Reynoso.

On September 25, 2015 we held a hearing concerning Puerto Rico's Economic Crisis. This committee explored the basics for this 73 billion debt crisis that Puerto Rico is facing. The fact that their Healthcare System is on the break of collapse and other economic obstacles that have made it difficult for Puerto Rico to recover from economic stagnation. Our committee will be voting on three (3) resolutions that calls for federal action to help Puerto Rico manage its economic hardship and approve its conditions. These resolutions include; resolution #767 which calls upon the Congress to pass and the President to sign HR870 also known as the Puerto Rico Chapter 9 Uniformity Act of 2015. This

Act will permit Puerto Rican municipalities and public corporations to utilize federal bankruptcy laws to restructure it's debt, debts. Resolution #818 which calls upon Congress to pay us and the President to sign HR2635 which will provide Puerto Rico with parity to US States in terms of reimbursement rates for Medicare and Medicaid.

Finally resolution #836 which calls upon the Congress to pass and the President to sign legislation allowing an economic hardship exemption for Puerto Rico from the Merchant Marine Act of 1920 commonly known as the Jones Act, which will lower the cost of imports to the Island for Consumers. We heard from experts on Puerto Rico's economic crisis which included The Center for Puerto Rican Studies, The Hispanic Federation, 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, Fiscal Power Institute and the Puerto Rican Bar Association. All of these experts expressed their support for the resolutions. Any Council Members would like to say a word or two on it? Ok, I think we're ready to take a vote.

COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
Committee Clerk. William Martin, Committee Clerk roll

call vote Committee on State and Federal Legislation.
Chair Koslowitz.

CHAIR KOSLOWITZ: I vote I.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: I.

COMMITTEE CLERK: REYNOSO

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Proudly vote I.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the
affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.
Items have been adopted.

[clapping]

CHAIR KOSLOWITZ: Short and sweet. Yes
we're gonna leave the roll call open for a half hour,
30 minutes in here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Espinal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote I.

COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now stands at
5 in the affirmative.

CHAIR KOSLOWITZ: OK

COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call.
Committee on State and Federal Legislation. Council
Member Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I

enthusiastically vote I ask to be added as a co-sponsor on all three (3) resolutions.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote Committee on State and Federal Legislation is now 6 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and abstentions.

CHAIR KOSLOWITZ: Meeting adjourned.

[gavel]

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 October 1, 2015