

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS

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November 13, 2018

Start: 1:18 p.m.

Recess: 1:33 p.m.

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

B E F O R E: CHAIM M. DEUTSCH
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Justin L. Brannan
Mathieu Eugene
Alan N. Maisel
Paul L. Vallone

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

2 [sound check] [pause]

3 CHAIRPERSON DEUTSCH: You ready?

4 [background comments/laughter] [gavel] Good

5 afternoon. My name is Chaim Deutsch. I'm Chair of
6 the Veterans Committee. I would like to thank you
7 for being here today, and I would like to extend my
8 warmest regards to the veterans who are watching us
9 today on a day after honored their service. In honor
10 of Veterans Day and to honor our veterans and active
11 service members all of whom have sacrificed to
12 protect this great country, the Veterans Committee
13 will be voting on three pieces of legislation this
14 afternoon. These bills are designed—designed to
15 improve the lives of veterans by connecting them to
16 more fully to services that New York City offers
17 resources and benefits that they have earned and that
18 we owe them. I am proud to co-sponsor each of these
19 bills along with Council Member Ulrich. Proposed
20 Intro 391-A would require the Department of Veterans
21 Services, DVS to provide benefits counseling services
22 including offering advice, evaluation information to
23 veterans and their loved ones who seek assistance
24 with federal, state and city benefits that they may
25 be entitled to because of their service. Counseling

2 services will be provided by trained staff, and will
3 be available in at least one location at each
4 borough. Proposed Intro 394-A would require DVS to
5 establish at least one comprehensive veterans'
6 resource center in each borough by June 1, 2019.
7 Each center will be required to be located in the
8 area that is easily accessible to public
9 transportation and for those disabled vets. Each
10 location would provide free current information on a
11 wide range of benefits and options in terms of
12 housing, social services and tax exemptions. These
13 centers would be robust with stable weekly hours and
14 offer physical resource guides and benefits
15 counseling on the premises as well. DVS would also
16 be required to report on a range of metrics
17 pertaining to these centers starting
18 in January of 2020 to make sure they are serving our
19 veterans properly. Finally, Proposed Intro 396-A.
20 It would require DVS to maintain and regularly update
21 a resource guide for veterans. This guide would be
22 available on the DVS website in written format. If
23 requested-if requested, it would contain information
24 about a wide range of veteran specific opportunities
25 programs, services, organizations and benefits in

2 both the public and private sector, and Eric is not
3 here. So, although we're going to continue, right?
4 Although we can never fully repay veterans for the
5 service that they rendered, we can and must do all we
6 can to support them and continue supporting them as
7 they transition back to civilian life. It is my hope
8 that today's legislation will just do that. I
9 believe these bills will help us serve our city's
10 veterans population better and I urge the Committee
11 members to vote in favor of these bills. We'll open
12 the-call for the Clerk.

13 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,
14 roll call vote Committee on Veterans. All items are
15 coupled. Chair Deutsch.

16 CHAIRPERSON DEUTSCH: Aye.

17 CLERK: Maisel.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: [off mic] Aye on
19 all.

20 CLERK: Vallone.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all and
22 please include me on the bills.

23 CLERK: Brannan.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.
25

2 CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the
3 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
4 all items have been adopted by the committee.

5 [background comments, pause] We'll leave the vote
6 open for about 10 or 15 minutes. [pause]

7 Continuation roll call the Committee on Veterans,
8 Council Member Eugene.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

10 CLERK: The vote now stands at 5 in the
11 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

12 [background comments, pause] Council Member Eugene.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very
14 much. The Veterans hearing is now adjourned. [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 30, 2018