

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

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October 30, 2013  
Start: 10:43 a.m.  
Recess: 10:45 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm,  
14th Fl.

B E F O R E:

ERIK MARTIN DILAN  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

GALE A. BREWER  
LEROY G. COMRIE, JR.  
ELIZABETH S. CROWLEY  
LEWIS A. FIDLER  
JAMES F. GENNARO  
ROBERT JACKSON  
LETITIA JAMES  
BRAD S. LANDER  
MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO  
ROSIE MENDEZ  
JAMES S. ODDO  
JOEL RIVERA  
ERIC A. ULRICH  
JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS



[pause]

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON DILAN: If the chambers could come to a... If the chambers could come to order we will be very brief. Sergeants when you're ready let me, let me know, we'll begin right away. Good morning I'd like to call this hearing to order and welcome everyone. My name is Erik Martin Dilan and I'm the Chairperson of the city council's Committee on Housing and Buildings. And today the committee will conduct a hearing for purposes of a vote on six bills. The first of them... Well before I do that let me acknowledge the members who are here from the committee. Councilmember James of Brooklyn, Councilmember Mendez of Manhattan, Councilmember Brewer of Manhattan, Councilmember Jackson of Manhattan, Councilmember Crowley of Queens, Councilmember Comrie of Queens, Councilmember Rivera of the Bronx.

The first item before us is propose intro 983-A, which will require that certain patient care areas and sleeping areas, sleeping areas be elevated above expected flood plain levels for new or substantially improved buildings in

2 flood prone areas. The second item... If the chambers  
3 could come to order please we'll be very brief. The  
4 second item before us is proposed intro 990-A which  
5 would adopt FEMA's preliminary flood plain maps  
6 once FEMA releases those maps. The preliminary maps  
7 will remain in effect until the new and final flood  
8 maps are issued by FEMA and adopted by the  
9 Department of Buildings which is expected to happen  
10 sometime in calendar year 2015. The third item  
11 before us is proposed intro 1085-A which will  
12 require the city to put together a list of  
13 recommendations for residential and commercial  
14 property owners about how they can prepare for  
15 emergencies and better communicate energy related  
16 information to their tenants. The bill would also  
17 require residential building owners to provide  
18 certain emergency related information to their  
19 tenants. The fourth item before us is proposed  
20 intro 1089-A which would extend the allowable  
21 length of certain kinds of cables in buildings  
22 located in flood prone areas so that these cables  
23 are long enough to connect to the parts of the  
24 buildings above expected flood plain levels. And  
25 this bill would also allow buildings in flood prone

2 areas to store more fuel on the floor immediately  
3 above expected flood plain levels. The fifth item  
4 before us today is proposed intro 1096-A which  
5 would require that new or substantially improved  
6 buildings in the flood prone areas elevate certain  
7 building systems above expected flood plain levels.  
8 These systems include elements of fire protection  
9 and alarm systems along with certain parts of fuel  
10 oil piping and plumbing systems. The bill would  
11 also require that new or substantially improved  
12 hospitals in the 500 year flood plain comply with  
13 flood construction requirements. And finally the  
14 last item before us is proposed intro 1099-A which  
15 will require certain buildings located in high wind  
16 areas to use certain materials in order to guard  
17 against wind damage.

18 Most of the bills on, before the  
19 committee today are based proposals from the  
20 Building Resiliency Taskforce which is a group of  
21 200 experts convened by the mayor in the wake of  
22 hurricane Sandy. And these bills were first heard  
23 back in June of this year and since then we've made  
24 changes to these bills based on comments and  
25 feedback we've received from stakeholders. The

1  
2 result is that a set of bills that will make the  
3 city's building and housing stock as well as its  
4 healthcare facilities safer and more resilient to  
5 future disasters as we embark upon the one year  
6 anniversary of hurricane sandy. I ask the clerk to  
7 couple all the items on today's agenda and ask the  
8 clerk to please call the roll.

9 WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin,  
10 committee clerk. Roll call vote on Committee on  
11 Housing and Buildings. Councilmember Dilan?

12 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: I vote aye on all.

13 WILLIAM MARTIN: Rivera?

14 COUNCILMEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

15 WILLIAM MARTIN: Brewer?

16 COUNCILMEMBER BREWER: I vote aye and I  
17 would just make one suggestion to thank the  
18 speaker's office and Councilmember Dilan's office  
19 but it would be helpful for those of us to have  
20 some kind of a plain English description of the  
21 many things passage, law passage wise, that the  
22 city has done in response to Sandy and Irene so  
23 that the public knows because this is very  
24 complicated to be able to decipher. And I think  
25 this is actually the second group of bills that we

1 worked on from the taskforce. Or something like a  
2 booklet, or pamphlet, or leaflet, or online, or  
3 something, that says we've done the mapping, we've  
4 done blah blah blah so the public knows there's  
5 some positive response in addition to what they see  
6 on television and the bricks and mortar discussion.  
7 Just a suggestion. Thank you very much Mr. Chair.

9 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: And I will take that  
10 request up with the speaker's office. Thank you for  
11 that.

12 WILLIAM MARTIN: Comrie?

13 COUNCILMEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

14 WILLIAM MARTIN: Jackson?

15 COUNCILMEMBER JACKSON: Aye on all.

16 WILLIAM MARTIN: James?

17 COUNCILMEMBER JAMES: Aye.

18 WILLIAM MARTIN: Mendez?

19 COUNCILMEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

20 WILLIAM MARTIN: Crowley?

21 COUNCILMEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on all.

22 WILLIAM MARTIN: Williams?

23 COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

24 WILLIAM MARTIN: Ulrich?

25 COUNCILMEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

2 WILLIAM MARTIN: Oddo?

3 COUNCILMEMBER ODDO: Yes.

4 WILLIAM MARTIN: A vote of eleven in the  
5 affirmative, zero in the negative, no abstentions.  
6 All items have been adopted. Members please sign  
7 the committee reports. Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Okay we'll keep the  
9 vote open for as long as the rules allow, to allow  
10 for some members who are in transit but we will  
11 immediately move to the Finance Committee which  
12 does have a qualm now and they will vote. I'm not  
13 sure Councilmember Oddo, did you record your vote...

14 COUNCILMEMBER ODDO: Uh-uh.

15 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: ...on this item? Okay.  
16 So we'll move immediately to Finance and if any  
17 members come in late they can vote at that time. At  
18 that time this hearing will be adjourned.

19 [pause]

20 WILLIAM MARTIN: Final vote in the  
21 Committee on Housing and Buildings is now eleven in  
22 the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no  
23 extensions.

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CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Thank you very much  
the meeting of Housing and Buildings is now  
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 \_\_\_\_\_ November 6, 2013 \_\_\_\_\_