

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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April 8, 2019
Start: 2:19 p.m.
Recess: 2:23 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: MATHIEU EUGENE
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Daniel Dromm
Ben Kallos
Brad S. Lander
Bill Perkins
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Helen K. Rosenthal

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

2 [sound check] [pause]

3 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [coughs]

4 [background comments] [gavel] Good afternoon. My
5 name is Mathieu Eugene, and I'm the Chair of the
6 Civil and Human Rights Committee. Today, our
7 committee will be voting on Proposed Introductory
8 Bill Number 1445-A in relation to forbidding drug
9 testing for pre-employment hiring procedures. Since
10 last year's State Election, it has become clear that
11 legalizing—legalizing Marijuana is a key as in the
12 item for both Governor Cuomo and the State
13 Legislature. However, with that list of whether this
14 happens in the near future or years down the road,
15 the legalization of Marijuana in many states around
16 the country is already having an impact on New York
17 City. Medical Marijuana is legal in New York State,
18 and no question that Cannabis used is legal in many
19 parts of the country. So, it's rather likely that
20 some New Yorkers are engaging in legal Marijuana use
21 like alcohol or other use of drugs. However, the
22 active ingredients in Marijuana can linger in their
23 system for weeks with no impact on one's impairment.
24 This potentially leaves New Yorkers vulnerable to
25 failing a work related Marijuana drug test even if

2 they were legally consuming Marijuana a week before
3 taking the test. The criminalization of Marijuana
4 has had a much and highly negative impact on our
5 communities of color. They have continued to fear
6 the collective (sic) consequences of this investment,
7 (sic) and so in the statutes tasked to legalize
8 Marijuana across New York should also focus on
9 remedying this type of issue whether the state does
10 legal the possession of Marijuana, it is vital that
11 the New York City Works workers are not unfairly
12 punished for their legal off duty use of Marijuana.
13 Therefore, Proposed Introductory Bill No. 1445-A will
14 prohibit an employer or other agent from requiring a
15 prospective employee to undergo a drug test from
16 Marijuana as a condition of their employment. Before
17 we begin, I'd like to acknowledge that we have been
18 joined by Council Member Rosenthal, Council Member
19 Dromm--Dromm, Council Member Kallos and Council
20 Member Rodriguez. Thank you very much for being
21 here, and I would like also to thank--to thank the
22 committee staff, Bethany Range (sic), Senior Counsel
23 of the Committee Leah Scopec (sp?), Policy Analyst,
24 and Nevin Siu (sp?) Financial Analyst as well as my

2 staff David Swise (sp?). Now, I would like to ask
3 the clerk to call to take the rollcall.

4 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk.

5 Roll call vote Committee on Civil-Civil and Human
6 Rights, Introduction 1445-A, Chair Eugene.

7 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I vote aye.

8 CLERK: Rosenthal.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

10 CLERK: Dromm.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

12 CLERK: Kallos.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

14 CLERK: Rodriguez.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

16 CLERK: By a vote of 5 in the
17 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
18 the item has been adopted by the Committee.

19 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much,
20 Council Members [pause] thank you very much, and the
21 meeting is adjourned. [gavel] [background
22 comments/pause]

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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 May 12, 2019