

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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March 13, 2013
Start: 10:35 a.m.
Recess: 10:38 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
ERIK MARTIN DILAN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Gale Brewer
Council Member Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Council Member Elizabeth S. Crowley
Council Member James F. Gennaro
Council Member Letitia James
Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito
Council Member Rosie Mendez
Council Member Joel Rivera
Council Member Eric A. Ulrich
Council Member Jumanne D. Williams

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

Lee Martin
Committee Clerk
Committee on Housing and Buildings

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2 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Sergeant, let
3 me know when you're ready. Okay, I'd like to call
4 this Committee to order. Good morning everyone
5 and welcome. My name is Eric Martin Dilan and I'm
6 the Chairperson of the City Council's Housing and
7 Buildings Committee. Today, the Committee will
8 convene for the purposes of conducting a vote on
9 proposed intro 107a, which is a local law in
10 relation to the raising and moving of a building.
11 After Hurricane Sandy swept through New York City
12 and destroyed or damaged over 18,500 homes and
13 buildings we anticipate that some property owners,
14 particularly those in areas prone to flooding will
15 choose to elevate their structures to prevent
16 flood damage in the future. They may choose to
17 elevate for any number of reasons, for example, to
18 comply with building regulations for the Federal
19 regulated flood zones to guard against future
20 flood damage or to save on future flood insurance
21 cost. But elevating a structure is a complex
22 process and doing it incorrectly can lead to a
23 damaged foundation or a collapsed home. This is
24 something that Louisiana experienced in the rush
25 to rebuild an elevate homes after Hurricane

1 Katrina and that's something that we'd sincerely
2 like to avoid here in the City of New York.

3 Proposed intro 107, if I could ask the chambers to
4 come to order please, proposed intro 107a is

5 intended to protect owners who choose to elevate
6 their homes or buildings. And the bill is

7 sponsored by Council Member Ignizio, who I saw
8 with us briefly and Council Member Oddo and the

9 Speaker. And the bill would require four things,

10 first the title page of construction plans

11 submitted to the Department of Buildings would

12 have to indicate whether a project will indeed

13 include elevation work. Second, contractors would

14 be required to give 48 hours of notice to the

15 Department of Buildings before beginning any

16 elevation work. Third, the elevation work would

17 be subject to periodic special inspections, that

18 means inspections by a qualified person who is

19 chosen by the owner or contractor and is also

20 authorized by the Department of Buildings.

21 Fourth, the Department of Consumer Affairs would

22 have to provide information about home improvement

23 work and home improvement to home improvement

24 contractors and home owners and the general
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1
2 public. This would include information about the
3 types of work that home improvement contractors
4 can do and the licenses or permits they do need to
5 engage in this type of work. At this time if they
6 so choose I'd like to call on the bill sponsors
7 for a few words. Council Member Ignizio?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you,
9 Mr. Chairman and thanks to the whole Committee.
10 This bill is, we, you know, a lot of people in the
11 Sandy related areas are going to be really hit
12 hard. And what we don't want to occur is what
13 occurred in New Orleans, which is that
14 unscrupulous builders, unscrupulous home
15 improvement contractors came in and preyed upon
16 people that have already had it so rough. And did
17 a slipshod job or didn't do a job, just took the
18 money and ran. What this does is it allows the
19 Department of Buildings and the City to have more
20 oversight over these home elevations and thousands
21 of homeowners are going to have to partake it and
22 I think it's a good step forward in making sure
23 that it's done right. Thank you very much.

24 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Thank you,
25 Council Member Ignizio. And I also want to

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2 acknowledge your good work around this issue as
3 well as that of your colleague and Republican
4 leader, Jimmy Oddo on this issue. And with that,
5 I'd like to ask the clerk to call the roll.

6 MR. LEE MARTIN: Lee Martin,
7 Committee Clerk, roll call vote, Committee on
8 Housing and Buildings, introduction 1007-a.
9 Council Member Dilan?

10 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: I vote aye.

11 MR. MARTIN: Rivera?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

13 MR. MARTIN: Comrie?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I vote aye.

15 MR. MARTIN: James?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.

17 MR. MARTIN: Mark-Viverito?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERTIO: I
19 vote aye.

20 MR. MARTIN: Mendez?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

22 MR. MARTIN: Williams?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

24 MR. MARTIN: Ulrich?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH? I vote aye

1 and I ask that my name be added as a cosponsor.

2 MR. MARTIN: Oddo?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

4 MR. MARTIN: By a vote of nine in
5 the affirmative, zero on the negative and no
6 abstentions. Item is adopted. Members, please
7 sign the Committee Report. Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Okay, we'll
9 leave the roll open for as long as the rules allow
10 to allow for some members who are in transit to
11 get here for the purposes of conducting their vote
12 and then at such time the Committee will be
13 adjourned. [pause]

14 MR. MARTIN: Council Member
15 Gennaro?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

17 MR. MARTIN: The vote now stands at
18 ten in the affirmative. [background conversation]
19 Council Member Brewer?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye.
21 Thank you.

22 MR. MARTIN: The vote now stands at
23 11 in the affirmative. [background conversation]
24 Continuation roll call, the Committee on Housing
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and Building. Council Member Crowley?

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote
aye.

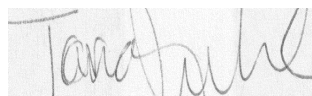
MR. MARTIN: Vote on Housing and
Buildings now stands at 12 in the affirmative,
zero in the negative and no abstentions.

CHAIRPERSON DILAN: This meeting on
the Committee of Housing and Buildings is now
adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Tara Juhl certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tara Juhl".

Date 3/28/13