

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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December 8, 2014
Start: 10:35 a.m.
Recess: 11:30 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E:

JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Rosie Mendez
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Karen Koslowitz
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Mark Levine
Antonio Reynoso
Helen K. Rosenthal
Ritchie J. Torres
Eric A. Ulrich
Donovan Richards

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

[background comments]

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Good morning everyone. I am Council Member Jumaane Williams, Chair of the Council's Committee on Housing and Buildings, joined today by Council Members Levine, Rosenthal... [background comments, laughter] thank you... Espinal, [laughter] Koslowitz, Reynoso and Rodriguez. We will be joined shortly by Council Member Richards, who will also be giving an opening statement, although it might not be given at the opening time, but he does have a statement he will be reading.

We are here today to vote on proposed Int. No. 0550-A, which is a series of amendments to the New York City energy code. The State Energy Conservation Code sets the minimum standards for the energy performance of buildings throughout New York. In order for New York City to maintain its own energy conservation code, the City must establish an energy code that is more stringent than the State standards.

In November the State amended its Energy Conservation Code and the updated code will go into effect January 1, 2015. So for New York City to continue to have its own energy code, we must update

2 our code to match the State standards; proposed Int.
3 No. 0550-A closely follows the State code but
4 contains New York City specific amendments. Some
5 city specific amendments include requiring buildings
6 in the city to use equipment such as air conditioners
7 that meet federal energy efficiency standards,
8 reducing greenhouse gases by requiring lighting
9 within dwelling units to meet the same efficiency
10 standards as lighting outside of dwelling units,
11 providing tenants with control over their energy
12 usage by requiring sub meters to be installed in
13 newly constructed commercial buildings and ensuring
14 that once energy-efficient equipment is installed it
15 continues to work properly by expanding testing
16 requirements. When enacted, the code revisions in
17 proposed Int. No. 0550-A will yield an energy savings
18 of almost 18.2 percent to building owners across the
19 city.

20 We've been joined by Council Member
21 Richards, who I believe, as I mentioned earlier, will
22 be giving an opening statement. So I'd like to call
23 on Mr. Richards, if he's -- Are you ready?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Thank you,
25 Chairman. First I would like to thank you for your

1 leadership on this issue and helping to ensure that
2 New York City as a whole takes more progressive steps
3 to ensure we are reducing energy consumption.
4

5 Just a few short weeks ago our Council
6 passed legislation solidifying our city's commitment
7 to the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80
8 percent by 2050. While goals are great and so is
9 ambition, the biggest question of concern is how and
10 this is how; the passing of Int. 0550-A will help to
11 increase standards to ensure that boilers waste less
12 fuel in the winter, new buildings that are inspected
13 to also ensure room air conditioners aren't
14 constantly leaking air outside, a streamlined energy
15 modeling process that makes industry compliance and
16 DOB enforcement simpler and more cost-effective and
17 the use of low-energy light fixtures in residential
18 units. This legislation is another step in the right
19 direction, holding buildings to the highest standards
20 for construction and energy performance by making our
21 city energy code more stringent than the State's
22 energy code.

23 I would like to commend you for all your
24 hard work and all of the other organizations who have
25 helped get us here this day. Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Thank you, Council
3 Member Richards and of course, as the Chair of
4 Environmental Protection, you played a huge
5 leadership role in these issues as well.

6 I'm proud to be the sponsor along with
7 Council Member Richards of this piece of legislation
8 and I would like to encourage all of my colleagues to
9 vote in favor of this introduction, I'd also like to
10 thank my staff for the work they did to assemble this
11 hearing, including Nick Smith, my Deputy Chief of
12 Staff, Jen Wilcox; Shijuade Kadree, Counsels to the
13 Committee, Yale Mopatino [sp?] and Jose Conde, Policy
14 Analysts to the Committee, Sarah Gastelum, the
15 Committee's Finance Analyst. With that said, I'd
16 like to ask the clerk to please call the roll.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
18 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Housing
19 and Buildings, proposed Introduction 0550-A. Chair
20 Williams.

21 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 8 in the
13 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
14 item has been adopted.

15 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Thank you
16 everyone. We'll be keeping the roll open until
17 11:30.

18 [pause]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: ...at Housing and
20 Buildings. I admire Jumaane Williams so much; I call
21 myself the Jumaane Williams of the Bronx, so.

22 [laughter] Even though he questions my bonafides as
23 a black member of the City Council, I... [background
24 comments] my love to him remains undiminished; I'm
25 here. Thank you. And I vote aye on all.

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[pause]

CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: I will never question the bonafides of Ritchie Torres; I would also encourage you to set your sights much higher than me, so. Thank you and we got the vote count?

[background comments]

MALE VOICE: Final vote in the Committee on Housing and Buildings, 9 in the affirmative..

[background comments]

CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Oh okay, we still have a couple... so it's still open till 11:30. Thanks.

[background comments]

[pause]

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 December 8, 2014