

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

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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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July 13, 2023
Start: 11:12 a.m.
Recess: 11:18 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Pierina Ana Sanchez, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shaun Abreu
Alexa Aviles
Charles Barron
Tiffany Caban
David M. Carr
Eric Dinowitz
Oswald Feliz
Crystal Hudson

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Carlina Rivera

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Sound check for the
3 Committee on Housing and Buildings. Today's date is
4 July 13, 2023, being recorded by Danny Huong
5 (phonetic) in the Committee Room.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
7 welcome to today's Committee on Housing and
8 Buildings.

9 Place all electronic devices to vibrate
10 or silent mode. Thank you for your cooperation.

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: [GAVEL] Good
13 morning. I am Council Member Pierina Sanchez, Chair
14 of the Committee on Housing and Buildings.

15 We are here today to vote on a bill
16 targeting lead-based paint hazards in common areas of
17 multiple dwellings. On April 25th of 2023, the
18 Committee on Housing and Buildings held a joint
19 hearing with the Committee on Health to discuss lead-
20 based paint hazards. We heard from the Administration
21 about their continued work in combatting lead-based
22 paint hazards in our homes, but the risks are still
23 there. At the hearing, HPD testified that in Fiscal
24 Year 2022, HPD issued 15,448 lead-based paint hazard
25 violations, an increase of approximately 6,000

2 violations since Fiscal Year 2021. Although I applaud
3 HPD's enforcement of our lead laws, it is alarming
4 that almost 20 years since Local Law 1 went into
5 effect the amount of lead-based paint violations
6 remain. The number of violations should continue to
7 go down as remediation efforts eliminate these
8 hazards. Lead poisoning in children is completely
9 preventable. We must continue to push forward with
10 resources, remediation, and enforcement and to ensure
11 that no child is at risk of lead poisoning in our
12 City. Over the years, the Council has passed
13 legislation targeting eliminating the risks of lead
14 poisoning, but children are still testing positive
15 across our City. According to the 2022 Department of
16 Health and Mental Hygiene report, 2,557 children
17 under the age of six had elevated blood lead levels
18 in 2021. That's 2,557 children too many. The
19 prevalence of lead exposure is particularly acute in
20 Asian, black, and Latino children, and in high-
21 poverty neighborhoods. Until we reach the point where
22 no child tests positive, there is still more work to
23 be done.

24 Today, we will be voting on Proposed
25 Intro. 193-A sponsored by Council Member Carlina

2 Rivera which would make the existence of peeling
3 lead-based paint in any common area of a multiple
4 dwelling where a child under six resides an
5 immediately hazardous violation. It would expand the
6 owner's responsibility to inspect for lead-based
7 paint hazards in common areas, and it would require
8 HPD inspectors to conduct a visual inspection of
9 common areas in the line of travel to the dwelling
10 unit.

11 I am joined today by Council Member
12 Caban, Council Member Feliz, Council Member Carr,
13 Council Member Dinowitz, Council Member Barron,
14 Council Member Rivera who will speak on her bill
15 shortly, and online we have Council Member Abreu,
16 Council Member Hudson, and Council Member Aviles.

17 Before we ask the Clerk to call the roll,
18 Council Member Rivera, would you be interested in
19 sharing remarks?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes. Thank you so
21 much. Thank you, Madam Chair, good morning. I just
22 want to thank the Chair again for allowing me to
23 deliver brief remarks on Intro. 193 before the
24 Committee today that would create an immediately
25 hazardous violation for the existence of lead-based

2 paint in any common area of a multiple dwelling where
3 a child of applicable age resides if such paint is
4 peeling or is on a deteriorated subsurface.

5 New York City has some of the strongest
6 laws and programs designed to address the ongoing
7 crisis of lead exposure, but without adequate
8 enforcement and comprehensive regulations, our
9 communities are quite literally being left in the
10 dust. Despite decades of significant advances and the
11 fact that childhood lead poisoning is completely
12 preventable, too many children are still exposed to
13 lead and progress has plateaued. It is well-
14 documented that lead can cause long-term,
15 irreversible negative health impacts and can reduce a
16 child's learning capacity and academic achievement.
17 88 percent of children with elevated blood lead
18 levels reside in moderate- to high-poverty
19 neighborhoods, and, as of March 2023, 45 percent of
20 all lead-related court cases in New York City were in
21 the Bronx. Getting lead out of our homes is a racial,
22 economic, and environmental justice issue, and city
23 leadership is obligated to do everything they can to
24 end lead poisoning.

2 I want to thank the Cooper Square
3 Committee, the Lead Dust Free NYC Coalition, and the
4 New York City Coalition to End Lead Poisoning, among
5 so many other groups who worked with my office to
6 craft this bill, all the families that testified at
7 the hearings, sharing their experiences. Those were
8 heartbreaking, of course, to my team, and I want to
9 thank the Committee Staff.

10 I do ask the Members of this Committee to
11 please vote in support of Intro. 193. Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much,
13 Council Member Rivera.

14 Now, I will ask Billy to call the roll.
15 Thank you.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
17 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
18 vote Committee on Housing and Buildings on Proposed
19 Introduction 193-A. Chair Sanchez.

20 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Dinowitz.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Feliz.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Good morning. Aye.

25 Just want to congratulate Council Member Carlina

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2 Rivera. A great bill that's going to prevent the
3 harmful effects of lead paint in our homes.

4 Congratulations.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Abreu.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
8 you. Aviles.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILES: I vote aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
11 you. Barron.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Caban.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CABAN: Aye. Thank you.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Of
16 course. Hudson.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
19 you. Carr.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Nay.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote
22 of eight in the affirmative, one in the negative, and
23 no abstentions, item has been adopted by the
24 Committee, and, Madam Chair, that is a full
25 Committee.

2 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much.

3 I'd also like to thank our Staff of the Committee,

4 our Committee Counsel, Taylor Zelony, and our Policy

5 Analysts for their work on this hearing today.

6 With that, this hearing is adjourned.

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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 July 14, 2023