

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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SEPTEMBER 25, 2015
Start: 10:13 A.M.
Recess: 10:44 A.M.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Vanessa Gibson
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Ferreras Copeland
Robert Cornegy
Chaim Deutsch
Danny Dromm
Raphael Espinal
Dan Garodnick
Corey Johnson
Rory Lancman
Steve Matteo
Richie Torres
Jimmy Vacca
Jumaane Williams
Ruben Wills

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

2 Good morning everyone. Thank you to all
3 the members of the Committee on Public Safety.
4 Welcome to City Hall. I am Council Member Vanessa
5 Gibson of the 16th district in the Bronx and I am
6 proud to serve as Chair of the Committee on Public
7 Safety. I thank you all for being here today to vote
8 on very important legislation. We have a very long
9 agenda so I'm going to get right into it. The first
10 bill that we're going to voting on is proposed into
11 73A to expand reporting from the Department of
12 Education and NYPD and enhance our City's Student
13 Safety Act. Can I have quiet please, colleagues?
14 Thank you. The safety of our students is of
15 paramount importance to everyone and we depend on our
16 schools safety agents to strike a delicate balance
17 between education and safety. This bill requires a
18 balance and holistic data set so that we can assist
19 the safety and educational environment of all of our
20 students through transparency and accountability,
21 this legislation will enable us to direct our
22 energies towards education and providing sufficient
23 resources to better enable the prevention and de-
24 escalation of problems situation before get out of
25 hand. This legislation will help to ensure our

2 disciplinary system that treats all students equally
3 with respect and dignity.

4 Through this legislation the Department
5 of Education and the NYPD would be required to report
6 the number of times students receive multiple
7 suspensions. The number of times students transfer
8 schools in connection to the suspension. The number
9 of times EMS is called to address student behavior.
10 The number of times mechanical restraints or
11 handcuffs are used on students. The number of metal
12 detectors in our schools. What contraband is seized
13 from the use of metal detectors or magnetometers and
14 complaints made against school safety agents and
15 those injuries that may be sustained by school safety
16 agents due to student misconduct.

17 This bill is the product of a true
18 collaboration and partnership between this Council,
19 the Department of Ed, The NYPD, School Safety Agents,
20 Union Officials and Advocacy Groups.

21 I am very proud to have fostered this
22 conversation along with my colleagues, Chair of
23 Education, Council Member Danny Dromm and Council
24 Member Corey Johnson.

2 To emphasize the importance of this bill
3 to me, it is the very first bill to which I am the
4 lead sponsor that is heard in this committee on
5 Public Safety and I'm extremely proud that we will be
6 voting on this today.

7 In addition, we will be voting on intro
8 897, which is a local law to amend the administrative
9 code of the City of New York in relations to
10 declaring nuances related to the sale of synthetic
11 drugs and imitation synthetic drugs.

12 We will also be voting on intro 917, a
13 local law to amend the administrative code of the
14 City of New York in relations to imposing penalties
15 for the manufacture, distribution or sale of
16 synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic marijuana.
17 Sorry, that word is too long. So before we get to
18 one of the lead sponsors who's here, I want to make
19 sure we acknowledge all of the members who are here
20 of this committee. We have Council Member Jimmy
21 Vacca is here, Council Member Ferreras Copeland,
22 Council Member Jumaane Williams, Council Member Chaim
23 Deutsch, Council Member Raphael Espinal, Council
24 Member Richie Torres and Minority Leader Council
25 Member Steve Matteo. And we also have the lead

2 sponsor of one the pieces of legislation Council
3 Member Dan Garodnick and would you like to speak on
4 the bill?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DAN GARODNICK: Very
6 briefly Madam Chair. I just want to thank you for
7 moving these bills as they related to K2. Obviously
8 this is been an issue which is challenged enforcement
9 officials for some time and I appreciate that this
10 council is taking steps to deal with this issue and
11 the bill that I introduced is the one that would
12 allow for the city to pursue a business that
13 repeatedly is allowing for K2 to be sold and to
14 pursue them under our nuisance abatement law. I hope
15 that that will be a useful tool for them as we take
16 aim at this drug which is just simply wasting people
17 away. So we thank you very much for your leadership.

18 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Thank you very much
19 Council Member Garodnick and also just to say intro
20 897 sponsored by Council Member Garodnick and
21 proposed into 917 sponsored by Council Member Wills.
22 I really thank all of members of this committee for
23 their leadership and their commitment. We held a
24 very important productive hearing this week lead by
25 our speaker, speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and we are

2 truly grateful for this collaboration. We know that
3 the eruption of catsul (sic) synthetic cannabinoids
4 has hit many of our communities, our groceries stores
5 and our bodegas. It is a potentially dangerous drug
6 that is easily accessible to residence in our
7 community. It's an attractive wrapper; it is spun as
8 aroma therapy and all sorts of things that are very
9 dangerous for our children. And so we as council are
10 going to be very proactive and aggressive in making
11 sure that we tackle this in an aggressive fashion
12 going after the distributors and the manufactories.
13 We are very clear as a council that we are not
14 victimizing those users because we recognize that
15 many individuals are using K2 for a reason. And so
16 as we move forward, I am thankful for the leadership
17 for our speaker and all of the members of this body
18 for recognizing that we must do everything possible
19 to rid our communities of K2 synthetic cannabinoids.
20 So thank you very much to each of my colleagues for
21 being here and for your support and we've also been
22 joined by Council Member Rory Lancman and with that I
23 will have our Committee Clerk, Billy Martin call the
24 roll.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Billy Martin, Committee
3 Clerk roll call vote Committee on Public Safety.

4 Introduction 730A, 897 and 917A. Chair Gibson.

5 CHAIR GIBSON: I Vote I on all.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I, I on all.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: I vote
10 I on all.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: I vote I on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: I.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I on all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: I on all.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 8 in the
22 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

23 All items have been adopted.

24 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Thank you very
25 much and at before we adjourn we're going to keep the

2 roll open for 15 minutes and as we close I just
3 really want to recognize and thank all of the staff
4 for the work that they have done collectively in
5 moving these pieces of legislation forward. Thank
6 you to Depa Ambacar (sic) our Legislative Council,
7 Beth Golup (sic) our Legislative Analyst, Lori Wen
8 (sic) our Policy Analyst, Ellen Ange (sic) Finance
9 Analyst, Dana Wax, my Communications Director. I
10 want to thank Rachel Codero (sic), Matt Goldwald
11 (sic), Lora Popa (sic), and all of the staff at the
12 legislative division for really making sure that this
13 committee in an aggressive way is tackling K2
14 synthetic cannabinoids and also intro 730 making sure
15 that we address a lot of the inequity that we have
16 had in our school system with regards to school
17 safety agents so, thank you all and we will keep the
18 roll open for the next 15 mins. Thank you.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call,
20 Committee on Public Safety. Council Member Cornegy.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I vote I.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vote now currently
23 stands at 9.

24 (pause)

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call
3 Committee on Public Safety. Council Member Williams.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I would
5 congratulations to the Chair on the leadership on
6 this issue and everybody who sponsors a bill. I
7 gratefully vote I.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vote now currently
9 stands at 10 in the affirmative.

10 CHAIR GIBSON: We've been joined by one
11 of the sponsors of intro 917, Council Member Ruben
12 Wills for a statement.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RUBEN WILLS: Thank you
14 Chair Gibson. I want to thank you for your
15 leadership on this issue. This bill is important to
16 all New Yorkers, this is something that has been, we
17 have been dealing with since 2012. So I want to
18 thank central staff for the first intro 827 in 2012,
19 Carmine (sic) and Peggy and I want to thank David
20 Sensor (sic) from the Health Committee Council,
21 Rachel Cadora (sic), Government Operations Mack, Lori
22 Wen and Rob Luman (sic). I want to thank my staff,
23 Leslie Ann Patterson, Jahi Rose (sic), India Sneed
24 (sic), my former Legislative Director and my new
25 Legislative Director Brandon Clark for bringing us

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2 across the finish line. I will thank the speaker and
3 the Deblasio Administration. Thank you very much
4 Chair.

5 CHAIR GIBSON: Thank you very much
6 Council Member Wills.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote Committee on
8 Public Safety in now 10 in the affirmative, 0 in the
9 negative and no abstentions.

10 CHAIR GIBSON: We're here by adjourned.

11 [gavel]

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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 October 1, 2015