

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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March 25, 2021  
Start: 10:07 AM  
Recess: 10:25 AM

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 1)

B E F O R E: CHAIR ADRIENNE E. ADAMS

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Keith Powers  
Ydanis Rodriguez  
Kevin Riley  
Fernanco Cabrera  
Vanessa L. Gibson  
Daneek Miller  
Robert F. Holden  
Carlos Menchaca  
Justin Brannan  
Chaim M. Deutsch

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

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Back up is rolling.

TECHNICIAN: The Cloud is up. Sergeant, will you begin with the opening.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: thank you. Good morning and welcome to the remote hearing on Public Safety. Will Council Members and staff please turn on their video at this time. Thank you. To minimize disruption please place all cell phones and electronics to vibrate. Chair, we are ready to begin.

CHAIR ADAMS: Good morning, and welcome to today's hearing of the Council's Committee on Public Safety. I am Council Member Adrienne ADAMS Chair of this committee. Let me recognize my colleagues who are here with us today, Council Member Gibson, Council Member Cabrera, Council Member Powers, Council Member Holden, Council Member Riley, Council Member Rodriguez, Council Member Brannan, Council Member Rose, Council Member Rosenthal, Council Member Menchaca, and Council Member Deutsch. We expect other Council Members to join us shortly. Today, the Committee will vote on five items: Intro 1671-A, my legislation that would completely change how the NYPD records and reports on vehicle stops. Intro Number 22-A: This bill

would effectively end qualified immunity in the City of New York. Resolution 1538-A would call on the State to remove the Police Commissioner's exclusive authority to over police discipline. Resolution Number 1547 would call on the State to require NYPD officers to actually live in New York City, and finally, a Preconsidered Resolution by the Mayor's Office that would adopt the police reform and the invention collaborative plan required by the State's Executive Order Number 203. But before I speak about my bill I would like to talk about the Mayor's Policing Plan. Even though the Council is passing seven ground breaking pieces of legislation today and reforming the police, I imagine the plan, the Mayor's Plan will be the one getting a lot of attention. After months of holding hearings and pressuring the Administration to move more quickly and to truly embrace the process outlined in the Governor's Executive Order, the City Council had only 12 days to review and revise the plan, a plan the Administration knew they had to finish for ten whole months. So, what happens if we don't adopt this plan? Well, I'm going to tell you. We would face an existential

crisis. The Governor's Office could withhold all State and Federal funding from us. We are not talking about a few hundred thousand dollars here. We are talking about billions of dollars, billions of dollars that are desperately needed to help the city rebound from the greatest health crisis of our lifetime, and I am not willing to jeopardize those funds, nor am I willing given the current climates and the condition of the state to leave our fate in the State's hands. So, let me tell you about the good things in this plan. The Council made substantial changes. We secured over \$70 million for initiatives to support and expand public safety alternatives to policing and incarceration. We gained 5,000 new SYEP seats. We rejected changes that would expand the NYDP's footprint and their bloated budget. We mandated deadlines and public engagement. So, yes, I do believe this is a better plan largely due to the demands of the City Council and the many concessions made due to our demands, but I'm not going to celebrate this plan. This is the change that should have happened a long time ago and then some, and rest assured this is only the floor and not the ceiling. The City Council

will build on these changes. This is the beginning of reform, certainly not the end. I do want to extend my deepest thanks to all of our advocates, families, community members that spent countless hours pressuring the Administration to do better by the people of New York, and for testifying before this committee. I want to thank our helpers those that stood with the admins or the admins: Jennifer Jones Austin, Westmore and Barbara Rice for their work. I have to say that many are not satisfied with this plan. I just ask you to continue to work with me, continue to work with the Council to give us the chance to do what we can to set this right. I didn't sign up to be Chair of this committee to do 3 and a half months of work. My agenda is not dictated by state deadlines or the Mayor's priorities. We have nine months left in this session and I have no intention of wasting it at all. Now to return to the rest of our agenda this morning I want to speak about my bill Intro 1671-A. Stopping is the only tool the police have used to harass Black and Brown communities, and driving while Black isn't just an issue in middle America. Ask any New Yorker of color who drives in this

city, but we have no idea of how bad this problem is right here in New York City, and that's because the NYPD doesn't track race when it writes tickets, and it doesn't report how many stops it makes. There is no traffic ticket or arrest. There is no record at all. Intro 1671-A would fix that by requiring the NYPD to record details on all vehicle encounters and to provide information on the race, gender and age of the driver for each stop. I once again want to thank all of the advocates who have worked on this issue for years, and I'm proud that we're moving forward with it today. I invite any sponsors who have legislation to be voted on through this committee to speak about their legislation. (pause) And I don't see Council Members Cumbo, Levin or Moya for statements. So, I will ask the Committee clerk at this time to conduct a roll call vote on these important items. What?

CLERK: Good morning. William Martin Committee Clerk roll call vote Committee on Public Safety. All items are coupled. Chair Adams.

CHAIR ADAMS: Aye.

CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I vote aye on 1671-A  
and no on the rest.

CLERK: Thank you. Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to explain?

CHAIR ADAMS: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay. Thank you Chair Adams and good morning colleagues and everyone. I thank you so much Chair Adams for your leadership and really making sure that as a committee we understand the agenda before us. I, too, join you in being completely frustrated by an executive order by the Governor that provided no support, no guidance and no level of help for the City Council to come up with, you know, this police reform and reinvention collaboration. We got this document 187 pages about two weeks ago and to digest all of this information is really, really unacceptable, and I hate that we have to vote on this with the understanding that if we don't vote and support this measure, we stand to lose millions of dollars from the State. I don't think it's acceptable and I agree with you that we have to continue to push.



I am grateful that for your leadership and the BLAC. We've been able to come up with additional items that relate to summer youth and anti-gun violence organizations across this management system on Mental Health, Crisis Management, teams because I think that speaks volumes to the work on the ground. We have got to look at other stakeholders that are involved in keeping our city and our people safe and not just law enforcement. So, I appreciate that even in the last hour we have been able to give some of those concessions, and I hope that we hold this Administration accountable and make sure we get that money. We need more slots for summer youth. We need WORK, LEARN, GROW, COPSONIC, DEGES (SIC) and all the programs that Chair Debi Rose has been fighting for as Chair. We need to make sure we get that. I, too, want to recognize the hard work, and I know the amount of hours and labor invested by Wes Moore, Argo Rice, and Jennifer Jones-Austin, and I've seen a lot of the work that they've done and there are respective titles, but I do know that they put a lot of work and effort into this. Today's agenda I am going to support Some of the State legislation that these

resolutions are supporting I believe are flawed and so for that reason I will not be able to support. So, I will be voting aye on Intro 1671-A. I am going to abstain on Intro 2220-A. I am going to abstain on Resolution 1538-A. I am going to abstain on Resolution 1547 and I will be voting yes on Preconsidered Reso 1584 with the understanding that this is the beginning and not the end and a lot more work must happen from the City Council working with this Administration. Thank you so much. Thank you Chair for all of your great work. I appreciate everything you've done, and I know it hasn't been easy for you. Thank you so much.

CLERK: Thank you. Council Member Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: No on all.

CLERK: Thank you. One moment. (pause) Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I vote aye on all except Preconsidered Resolution 1584, and I will bring longer remarks on the Stated floor. Thank you Chair.

CHAIR ADRIENNE E. ADAMS: Thank you.

CLERK: Thank you. Miller. (pause) Council Member I believe we're having the same issue as earlier. My apologies. (bell)

CHAIR ADRIENNE E. ADAMS: Council Member Miller we can't hear you. (pause) We have an audio issue with Council Member Miller. (pause)

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Can you hear me now, Madam Chair?

CHAIR ADRIENNE E. ADAMS: Yes, we can hear you now.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Okay. I have switched devices. I'm going to be voting aye on all with the exception of 2220-A of which I will be abstaining.

CHAIR ADRIENNE E. ADAMS: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you Madam Chair. Thank you for your patience. Thank you for your work on this important legislation as well.

CHAIR ADRIENNE E. ADAMS: Thank you Council Member.

CLERK: Thank you. Council Member Brannan.

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: I vote aye on all.

CLERK: Holden.

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: No on all.

CLERK: Powers.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Request permission to explain my vote please.

CHAIR ADRIENNE E. ADAMS: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you Chair. We are voting on a number of important bills here today. I want to congratulate all of the sponsors on their bills getting here to the finish line. I will also be voting, of course, on the Mayor's plan around policing, and I want to say, you know, while I think the plan itself is not a bad plan I think that it's... and it certainly includes a lot of things that I think we would all like to see happen here in the city. I think folks have a right to know that it's still lacks a lot of real detail here, and will certainly include a lot of political will far beyond when the Mayor is here including the next Mayor and the City Council actually deliver on those results, and I like others am concerned about that, and I wish that.. As the Chair said, I wish this had come before the Council much sooner. With that being said, I do think it sets up a framework here for us to work from, and I know that the Chair, Chair Adams and all of us are going to have to continue to do our jobs here to make sure that we hold the framework up and we continue to do the work. So, I look forward to doing that work along side of you and

Chair Adams I know you will hold this Administration accountable as you always do. So, ultimately I am voting yes and I know that we all have to continue to work here, but I thank everyone and congratulate them on their best. Thanks.

CHAIR ADRIENNE E. ADAMS: Thank you.

CLERK: Council Member Riley.

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Good morning. Permission to explain my vote?

CHAIR ADRIENNE E. ADAMS: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you, Chair. I want to commend my colleagues in government for their hard work that went into this Police Reform package, but respectfully, I must admit I believe we have so much further to go. My experience as a Black man and the ongoing experiences of black and brown communities cannot and will not be addressing this one package or a single bill. The Resolution to police reform is complex, and will require a collaborative approach when discussing and implementing solutions. We must further our efforts to ensure police accountability and transparency. I want to emphasize that this plan is on the first step in many more steps to follow.

I look forward to continuing this important work with my colleagues in government to implement sound, meaningful and impactful legislation that will change the social norms of Black and Brown communities, and with that being said, I would like to vote aye on all. Thank you Chair.

CHAIR ADRIENNE E. ADAMS: Thank you Council Member.

CLERK: Thank you. One moment. (pause) Okay, thank you for your patience. Okay. (Bell) Alright. On today's Public Safety agenda all items have been adopted by this vote of 17...

CHAIR ADRIENNE E. ADAMS: I believe you have... Is Council Member Barron a part of the committee?

CLERK: No, we have full committee.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Well, just sitting in. Thank you.

CHAIR ADRIENNE E. ADAMS: Thank you.

CLERK: Well Introduction 1671-A is adopted by the Committee 9 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative, no abstentions. Introduction 2220-A adopted by the committee with 6 in the affirmative, 3 in the negative, two abstentions. Resolution 1538-A adopted by the committee 7 in the

affirmative, 3 in the negative 1 abstention.  
Resolution 1547 adopted by the committee 7 in the  
affirmative, 3 in the negative and 1 abstention,  
and Preconsidered Resolution adopted by the  
committee with 7 in the affirmative, 4 in the  
negative and no abstentions. Thank you.

CHAIR ADRIENNE E. ADAMS: Thank you,  
Clerk. This meeting is hereby adjourned.

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 MARCH 28, 2021