

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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April 29, 2021  
Start: 11:07 a.m.  
Recess: 11:11 a.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing (Virtual Room 1)

B E F O R E: Robert Cornegy, Jr.  
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret Chin  
Mark Gjonaj  
Barry Grodenchik  
Farah Louis  
Bill Perkins  
Carlina Rivera  
Helen Rosenthal

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

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: PC recording is  
3 underway.

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Cloud recording is up.

5 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Backup is rolling.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Sergeant Leonardo, you  
7 may begin your opening.

8 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and welcome  
9 to the New York City Council remote hearing on the  
10 Committee on Housing and Buildings. At this time, we  
11 ask that all Council members and staff turn on their  
12 video for verification purposes. Please place any  
13 and all electronic devices to silence or vibrate to  
14 minimize disruptions. Mr. Chair, we're ready to  
15 begin.

16 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Thank you so much.  
17 Good morning, everyone, and thank you for coming.  
18 I'm Council member Robert Cornegy, Chair of the  
19 Councils Committee on Housing and Buildings. We are  
20 here to hold the vote on a bill related to tenant  
21 data privacy. We see these systems and residential  
22 buildings all over the city. Key fobs, keypads, or  
23 even facial recognition technology taking the place  
24 of traditional mechanical keys. While it is exciting  
25 to see the city's housing stock come into the 21st-

2 century, improvements to the residential buildings  
3 should always be made with the tenant in mind. With  
4 all the convenience that key fobs and other keyless  
5 entry systems offer, there is a risk that tenants and  
6 their guests might have their private information put  
7 to use without their authorization. Currently, there  
8 are virtually no laws on the books to protect the  
9 privacy of tenants and their guests data. If a  
10 property owner or manager wants to use the keyless  
11 entry system-- excuse me-- that collects or  
12 generates data, the city should ensure that neither  
13 landlord nor the companies that install or operate  
14 these systems get to use any data collected from them  
15 to harass tenants or to take other kinds of adverse  
16 actions against tenants. Tenants shouldn't have to  
17 compromise their privacy or security in exchange for  
18 convenience. This bill is one step towards ensuring  
19 that privacy and security are paramount. Proposed  
20 Intro number 1760 A, sponsored by Council member  
21 Levine, would establish certain restrictions on the  
22 collection and use of data generated or collected in  
23 connection to the use of a keyless entry system in a  
24 multiple dwelling and would require landlords to  
25 provide tenants with a written privacy policy

2 regarding the keyless entry system. Among other  
3 things, this bill will set limits on the kinds of  
4 data that these systems are allowed to collect and  
5 would require the consent of tenants and their guests  
6 to collect this data. This bill would also establish  
7 guidelines to destroying, removing, or animal using  
8 any data collected by use in a keyless entry system.  
9 Proposed Intro 1760 A would also limit sharing data  
10 collected with third parties. I am joined today by  
11 Council members which-- unfortunately, I can't see  
12 the Council members that are with me. If somebody  
13 can help me in reading out those members who are  
14 present for this hearing. I know we have four-- can  
15 somebody assist me in--

16 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Yes. I can quickly  
17 read--

18 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Thank you so much.

19 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: the members. We  
20 are joined by Council members Cabrera, Chin, Gjonaj,  
21 Grodenchik, Louis, Perkins, and Rosenthal.

22 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Thank you. I'm  
23 assuming that the bill sponsor has a statement. Is  
24 he here?

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2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Unfortunately, he  
3 was unable to join.

4 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Okay. So, are we  
5 just going to have the committee clerk call the roll?

6 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Yes.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mr. Chair, we are good  
8 to go?

9 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Yes, sir.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Okay. Thank you.  
11 William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call vote  
12 Committee and Housing and Buildings. Proposed  
13 Introduction 1760 A. Chair Cornegy?

14 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: I vote aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Grodenchik?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Perkins?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: He is here.

25

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Your vote, Council  
3 member Perkins?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: I vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, sir. Gjonaj?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Louis?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of eight in  
10 the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no  
11 abstentions, proposed Introduction 1750 A has been  
12 adopted by the committee. Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Thank you, William  
14 Martin. That concludes this hearing on Housing and  
15 Buildings. Thank you so much.

16 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Okay. The live has  
17 ended. Thank you.

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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 June 23, 2021