

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

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December 8, 2021
Start: 3:37 p.m.
Recess: 3:43 p.m.

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 1)

B E F O R E: James Gennaro
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Darma Diaz
Stephen Levin
Carlos Menchaca
Eric Ulrich

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

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: PC recording is up.

3 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Thank you.

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Recording to the cloud
5 all set.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Thank you. Good
7 afternoon and welcome to today's remote New York City
8 Council hearing of the Committee on Environmental
9 Protection. At this time, would Council members and
10 Council staff please turn on their video. To
11 minimize disruption, please place electronic devices
12 on vibrate or silent mode. Thank you, Chair. We are
13 ready to begin.

14 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Okay. Thank you.
15 Good afternoon. I am Jim Gennaro, Chair of the
16 Committee on Environmental Protection. Today we will
17 hold a vote on three important bills: Intro 51-A,
18 sponsored by Council member Perkins would require the
19 director of the Mayors Office of Sustainability in
20 consultation with an agency to be designated by the
21 Mayor to conduct a study for the installation of
22 geothermal energy systems on government owned sites.
23 The bill would require that a study be conducted
24 first to see what potential sites could be
25 retrofitted with such systems and then to select 10

2 government owned buildings that could have geothermal
3 systems installed in order to demonstrate the
4 suitability of such systems. The bill would also
5 require reporting on the project and recommendations
6 respecting whether the bill should be expanded to
7 private properties.

8 Next bill. Proposed Intro number 2425-A,
9 sponsored by Council member Salamanca, would
10 authorize the Commissioner of the Department of
11 Environmental Protection to assign the borough
12 Commissioner to each borough within DEP who would be
13 tasked with appointing a Commissioner regarding
14 personnel, programs, and facilities within the
15 borough and to liaise with borough presidents,
16 Council members, another DEP borough commissioners
17 and also community boards. This law would take
18 effect 90 days after it becomes law.

19 Finally, Intro 2460, sponsored by me, and
20 an enforcement provision for the city's 12-year-old
21 Brownfields Law. In May 2009, Mayor Bloomberg signed
22 into law the New York City Brownfields and Community
23 Revitalization Act, also authored by me. The law
24 provides the city's Office of Environmental
25 Remediation, known as OER, with broad authority to

2 stimulate Brownfield cleanup and to administer
3 financial incentive programs and outreach to the
4 community and training. OER also provides financial
5 assistance to qualifying Brownfield properties
6 through the Brownfield Incentive Grants Program.
7 However, it has become apparent that this law needs
8 several enforcement provisions for the city's
9 Brownfields program to be optimized. Intro 2460 and
10 these needed enforcement provisions.

11 I would like to thank the really terrific
12 staff of the Council that have done such great work
13 over the years. The great committee counsel, Samara
14 Swanson, policy analyst Nadia Johnson, Ricky Chola,
15 and financial analyst Johnathan Seltzer and, finally,
16 last but not least, my great legislative director
17 Nabi Cawlf [sp?] For all their hard work. The
18 statement was written for me, but I would be remiss
19 if I didn't mention my good buddy, Jeff Baker, for
20 all he does. And in terms of Council members that I
21 see, I see Council member Darma Diaz and this is like
22 wonderama. I'm looking to find Council member Levin
23 and who else from the committee is on here? I see
24 Council member Menchaca. Again, just going by my
25 feed here. Is that-- So, the quorum would be, I

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2 guess, me and Darma and Steve, right? And who else
3 is here from the committee? Oh. Menchaca.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Menchaca.

5 Yeah. Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Of course. Yes.

7 Senior moment. Who is the moderator here? So I'm
8 just calling the roll. So, everything is going to be
9 coupled and so--

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Here, Mr. Chair.

11 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: And so I'm just
12 wondering if anyone here-- do we have any of the--
13 we don't have Perkins. We don't have Salamanca. So,
14 they are not here to speak on their bills, but we
15 already know what they are about. With that, I will
16 ask the clerk to call the roll.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Absolutely. Thank you.
18 Good afternoon. William Martin, committee clerk.
19 Roll call vote Committee on Environmental Protection.
20 All three items are coupled. Chair Gennaro?

21 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: I vote aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Levin?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Menchaca?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I vote aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Darma Diaz?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. By a vote of
5 four in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
6 abstentions, all items have been adopted by the
7 committee. Mr. Chair, we have one member
8 outstanding.

9 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: If we were to leave
10 the record open for him, can everybody else go or how
11 do we do that? Do we have any indication that
12 Council member Ulrich will be joining us soon?

13 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: We can check one more
14 time. We'll get back to you.

15 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Okay. But
16 meanwhile, do I have to hold the other members or can
17 they go on to other things? How does that work?

18 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: We just request your
19 presence, sir.

20 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Okay. Fine. Okay.
21 Thank you very much to Council member Menchaca and to
22 Darma Diaz and to Steve Levin and we'll--

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you,
24 Chair.

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2 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: You bet. And just
3 I'll sit tight while you reach out for Eric. Okay?

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Mr. Chair, we already
5 have confirmation. You can close at your
6 convenience.

7 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Okay. All right.
8 And, with that, this vote is officially adjourned.

9 [gavel]

10 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: 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 January 26, 2022