

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

----- X

September 23, 2019
Start: 1:21 p.m.
Recess: 1:30 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Room
16th Fl.

B E F O R E: DONOVAN J. RICHARDS
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Adrienne E. Adams
Justin L. Brannan
Fernando Cabrera
Andrew Cohen
Chaim M. Deutsch
Vanessa L. Gibson
Rory I. Lancman
Carlos Menchaca
I. Daneek Miller
Keith Powers
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Paul A. Vallone

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

2 [sound check] [pause]

3 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: [gavel] Alrighty,
4 alrighty. Good afternoon, good afternoon. I am
5 Donovan Richards of the 31st District in Queens, and
6 I'm the Chair of the Committee on Public Safety.
7 Today I'm proud of the Council by identifying a
8 problem before it happens and doing something
9 prospectively to fix it. Ghost guns and 3-D guns,
10 which can both be partially or entirely manufactured
11 at home without any registration or serial numbers
12 attached present a danger to all New Yorkers. Its's
13 bad enough that guns are being sent here from other
14 states with lax gun laws, but the possibility that
15 people who don't want to buy guns legally could
16 fabricate them in their room is a risk that that we
17 simply do not need to take. Today we are voting on
18 two bills and a resolution that seek to prevent these
19 home manufactured weapons from posing a danger to the
20 residents of New York City. Proposed Introduction
21 1553-A sponsored by Council Member Rosenthal would
22 make it a misdemeanor to possess or dispose of an
23 unfinished frame or receiver, which is the piece that
24 can be used to make a ghost gun. Proposed
25 Introduction 1548 sponsored by Council Member Miller

2 would require the Police Department to report on the
3 seizure of ghost guns and 3-D printed guns so that we
4 can monitor this issue going forward and see how many
5 of these guns are on our streets. Finally, Proposed
6 Resolution 866-A calls on the U.S. Congress to re-
7 introduce and pass and calls on the President to sign
8 the 3-D Firearms Prohibition Act. That being said,
9 I'm going to go to our sponsors. I'll start with
10 Council Rosenthal and then—Oh, okay, those folks
11 aren't here. So, we'll go to Council Member Miller
12 for remarks, and then we'll vote.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Chair
14 Richards. Good afternoon. Today this body will vote
15 on a package of legislation that colleagues in the
16 Council, Council Member Helen Rosenthal and I have
17 sponsored to address the emerging threat to our
18 communities, ghost guns. Intro 1553 would ban the
19 possession of unfinished lower gun frames for
20 receivers. My bill 158 will require reporting by the
21 NYPD on the seizure of these guns and Reso 866, which
22 we also sponsored calls on Congress to reintroduce
23 and pass the 3-D Firearm Prohibition Act. Together
24 these measures will ensure that these dangerous and
25 untraceable weapons stay off our city streets.

2 Unfinished lower frame guns or receivers can be
3 completed with components that are bought online or
4 from hardware stores effectively making them
5 untraceable and can circumvent traditional tracking
6 and background checks and licensing laws. My bill
7 would require reporting on the number of ghost guns
8 through the printed firearms seized by NYPD during
9 arrest. Updating this reporting, which currently
10 tracks on pistols, rifles and shotguns. This
11 critical—this critically important—this is critically
12 important to make sure that we understand the
13 availability of ghost guns and whose hands they are
14 getting into. New York City has been a basic and
15 national leader in gun violence prevention, and the
16 City Council has historically been at the forefront
17 these efforts to stem the deadly use of firearms.
18 While the State Legislature has been 3-D printed guns
19 components, they have yet to pass the comprehensive
20 ban on ghost guns. This summer as a nation and our
21 community was wracked and rapport with the emotional
22 aftermath of several deadly mass shootings. In South
23 East Queens we have also experienced a recent uptick
24 in gun violence including two this paste weekend and
25 by Saint Albans Community. It is our duty and

2 responsibility as legislators to work with our
3 partners in government and the local community to
4 respond to these tragedies by being aggressive in
5 modernizing our laws regulating the use or possession
6 of firearms and protect the communities that we
7 serve. I'd like to thank Council Member Rosenthal for
8 her partnership in addressing this urgent threat as
9 well as Chair Richards and Speaker Corey Johnson, and
10 look forward to the passage and I urge my colleagues
11 to vote aye on all.

12 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay, thank you.
13 Alrighty, any other comments or in terms of
14 statements? Okay, seeing none, Counsel call the
15 roll.

16 CLERK: William Martin Committee Clerk,
17 roll call vote committee on Public Safety. All items
18 are coupled. Chair Richards.

19 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Congratulations to
20 my colleagues Council Member Miller and Rosenthal who
21 worked so hard on this package. I vote aye.

22 CLERK: Gibson.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Congratulations
24 to our colleagues. I also vote aye.

25 CLERK: Cabrera.

1 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

7

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Congratulations
3 as well, and I vote aye.

4 CLERK: Cohen.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

6 CLERK: Miller.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

8 CLERK: Rodriguez.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

10 CLERK: Vallone.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

12 CLERK: Adams.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Aye.

14 CLERK: Powers.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.

16 CLERK: By a vote of 9 in the affirmative,
17 0 in the negative and no abstentions, all items have
18 been adopted by the committee. [pause]

19 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Alright, this
20 hearing is now closed. [gavel]

21 CLERK: Council Member Richards.

22 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Alrighty, Council
23 Member Lancman, are—are you voting yes.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Yes.

25 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay, great.

1 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

8

2 CLERK: The final vote all items have been
3 adopted by the committee 10 in the affirmative, 0 in
4 the negative and no abstentions.

5 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: [gavel] Closed.

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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 September 27, 2019