

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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November 29, 2017

Start: 1:26 p.m.

Recess: 1:52 p.m.

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

B E F O R E: VANESSA L. GIBSON
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Vincent J. Gentile
James Vacca
Julissa Ferreras-Copeland
Jumaane D. Williams
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Chaim M. Deutsch
Rafael Espinal, Jr.
Rory I. Lancman
Ritchie J. Torres
Steven Matteo

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

2 [sound check, pause] [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Good afternoon,
4 ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon colleagues. I'm
5 Council Member Vanessa Gibson of the 16th District in
6 the Bronx and I'm proud to serve as Chair of the
7 Committee on Public Safety. I want to thank all of
8 you for being here today as we vote on important
9 pieces of legislation. This afternoon we're voting
10 on proposed Intro 1636-A, which is relating to
11 requiring the Office of Criminal Justice to address
12 erroneous criminal and juvenile records. Proposed
13 Intro 1712-A relating to requiring the Mayor's Office
14 of Criminal Justice to report on city agencies' usage
15 of criminal summonses and proposed Intro 1723-A
16 relating to addressing outstanding criminal warrants.
17 I'd like to thank the Sponsors of today's bills on
18 our agenda, our Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito,
19 Council Members Rory Lancman and Corey Johnson.
20 Thank you colleagues and certainly I'd like to
21 acknowledge and thank the City Council Public Safety
22 staff for working on these important pieces of
23 legislation, our Senior Legislative Counsel Deepa
24 Ambekar, our Senior Legislative Counsel Brian Crowe,

2 our Legislative Policy Analyst Casey Addison, and our
3 Senior Financial Analyst Steve Riester.

4 Proposed Intro 1636-A sponsored by
5 Council Member Johnson related to requiring MOCJ,
6 Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, to address
7 erroneous criminal records. According to the Legal
8 Action Center, there are nearly 2.1 million criminal
9 records, which include bureaucratic errors. These
10 errors could have serious collateral effects on the
11 individuals in the areas of housing, employment,
12 access to government assistance and other benefits.
13 This bill will begin to address many of these issues.
14 Proposed Intro 1712-A, sponsored by Council Member
15 Lancman requires MOCJ to report on all city agencies'
16 usage and issuance of criminal summons. This bill
17 will allow us to gain valuable insight to determine
18 which agencies issue criminal summons. Finally, the
19 last item on the agenda Proposed Intro 1723-A
20 sponsored by our Speaker would require MOCJ to make
21 best efforts to maintain the accuracy of outstanding
22 criminal warrants, facilitate the reduction of
23 outstanding criminal warrants and seek access to
24 efficient processes for members to rectify inaccurate
25 warrants. Let me also state that this bill does not

2 provide for warrant amnesty, but rather seeks to get
3 people back to court. I'd like to thank the sponsors
4 of all of today's legislation on the agenda.
5 Certainly all of these members of the public that
6 testified at our hearing on these bills, and through
7 this legislation we will continue to support our
8 communities with all of the tools that are truly
9 available to all of us. I encourage all of my
10 colleagues as they consider this legislation to join
11 me today in voting in the affirmative on today's
12 legislation on the agenda. Do any of my colleagues
13 have any questions? I'd like to acknowledge the
14 presence of the members of the Committee on Public
15 Safety, Council Member Vincent Gentile, James Vacca,
16 Jumaane Williams, Rory Lancman, Ritchie Torres, and
17 our Minority Leader Council Member Steve Matteo. Do
18 any of my colleagues have any questions? Okay, and
19 seeing no questions, we will have Billy Martin, our
20 Counsel call the roll. Thank you so much colleagues.

21 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,
22 roll call vote Committee on Public Safety. All items
23 are coupled. Chair Gibson.

24 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: I vote aye on all.

25 CLERK: Matteo.

1 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: I'm voting no on
3 1723, aye on the other two. [coughing]

4 CLERK: Gentile.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye on all.

6 CLERK: Vacca.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I'm voting no on
8 1723 and aye on the rest.

9 CLERK: Williams.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Excuse to
11 explain my vote.

12 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. I'm
14 voting aye on all, and I just want to say
15 congratulations to my colleagues who sponsored the
16 bills, the Chair and the Speaker. It is very
17 important that we go in and try to demolish the
18 structural things that have been hampering people's
19 lives with actually no benefit to public safety. We
20 have seen time and time again that the charges that
21 these will some how hurt the public have been
22 unfounded, and they have the reverse effect actually.
23 They make the public less safe when people are
24 challenged to improve their lives for no real reason
25 at all, and I'm glad threat we're continuing to

2 tackle that as a body. I vote aye on all. Thank
3 you.

4 CLERK: Deutsch.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: First, I'd like
6 to recognize two of my constituents. That's Lanna
7 and Anna who are here today, and I vote aye on all.
8 [pause]

9 CLERK: Lancman.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

11 CLERK: Torres.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote aye.

13 CLERK: By a vote of 8 in the
14 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
15 Introduction 1636-A and Introduction 1712-A have been
16 adopted and by a vote of 6 in the affirmative, 2 in
17 the negative and no abstentions, Introduction 1723-A
18 is also adopted by the Committee. [pause]

19 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Thank you very much,
20 colleagues, and we will keep the roll open for the
21 next ten minutes to allow remaining members of the
22 committee to join us. Thank you once again for being
23 here. Happy Holidays and welcome to the constituents
24 of Council Member Deutsch. Thank you again. [pause]

2 CLERK: Continuation roll call the
3 Committee on Public Safety. Council Member Cornegy.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I vote aye.

5 CLERK: The final vote on all items in
6 today's Committee on Public Safety, Introduction
7 1636-A and 1712-A have now been adopted by a vote of
8 9 the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no
9 abstentions, with Introduction 1723-A being adopted
10 by a vote of 7 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative,
11 and no abstentions. Thank you. [background
12 comments]

13 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: The Committee of the
14 hearing. I'm sorry. The hearing of the Committee on
15 Public Safety is hereby adjourned. [gavel]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER: Thanks.
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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 December 18, 2017