

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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October 30, 2017  
Start: 10:30 a.m.  
Recess: 10:49 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm,  
14th 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)

[sound check]

[pause]

[gavel]

[background comments]

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: I am Council Member

Vanessa Gibson, chair of the Committee on Public Safety. I welcome each and every one of you to today's important vote on a number of important pieces of legislation as well as resolutions.

This morning we will be voting on Proposed Intro 1724-A, which is relating to requiring the Police Department to disclose gun violence information to applicants for firearm licenses as well as permits.

Resolution No. 1676, which opposes current federal legislation known as the Hearing Protection Act of 2017, as well as Proposed Resolution 1677-A, which opposes pending federal legislation known as the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017.

I am proud to co-sponsor each of these pieces of legislation as well as the resolutions along with our Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito. All three pieces of legislation and resolutions related

1 to gun safety. Almost every day in America in this  
2 country someone is killed by gun violence; in fact,  
3 the majority of these cases, unfortunately, do not  
4 make the news because it's all too common to make it  
5 worthy of news. Despite this being an almost every  
6 day occurrence, our federal lawmakers have refused to  
7 take sensible action on comprehensive gun control  
8 legislation. We in the City of New York have one of  
9 the strongest gun laws in this nation and we must  
10 truly do everything possible to continue to pass  
11 reasonable and practical legislation. In addition,  
12 we continue to stand firm in opposing harmful federal  
13 legislation that threatens to undermine all of the  
14 great progress we have made in this city which  
15 further keeps New Yorkers less safe and truly, truly  
16 undermines our efforts to protect every New Yorker.

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18 Resolution 1676 opposes the federal  
19 legislation that's known as the Hearing Protection  
20 Act of 2017. This deceptively titled bill would  
21 eliminate the transfer tax on silencers and eliminate  
22 the months-long federal registration process. Many  
23 of the recent victims of the Las Vegas shooting were  
24 saved because they could hear the sound of gunfire.  
25 This loosening of restrictions on gun silencers would

1  
2 make all of us less safe and I hope my colleagues  
3 will join with me in strongly opposing this  
4 legislation.

5 Proposed Reso 1677-A will call upon  
6 Congress and the President to oppose the federal  
7 Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017. This  
8 Committee heard and passed a resolution on a similar  
9 bill last May under the former federal  
10 administration. We continue to oppose this dangerous  
11 piece of legislation. This bill would allow a  
12 resident from one state who has a license to carry a  
13 concealed handgun to lawfully carry their firearm to  
14 a different state regardless of the licensing  
15 eligibility standards of the other state. New York  
16 City has one of the strictest licensing laws and our  
17 licensing division at the NYPD conducts a rigorous  
18 screening of each applicant prior to granting that  
19 license. The City does not recognize out-of-city  
20 permits, including those issued by the State of New  
21 York. This federal bill would undermine our ability  
22 to keep our fellow New Yorkers safe and it would also  
23 compromise our police officers' ability to safely  
24 police our streets.

1  
2 Finally, Proposed Intro 1724-A relates to  
3 requiring the Police Department to disclose gun  
4 violence information to applicants for firearm  
5 licenses and permits. According to surveys, 63  
6 percent of Americans believe that having a gun in  
7 their home makes them safer; however, many studies  
8 indicate quite the opposite. Homes with firearms  
9 have an increased risk of suicide; accidental  
10 shooting and death during domestic incidents. This  
11 bill would require the NYPD to provide a warning to  
12 applicants for firearm licenses and permits relating  
13 to the increased risk of owning a firearm. Just like  
14 the warnings that you see on the side of cigarette  
15 packs have changed the perception of smoking, these  
16 gun warnings are the first step to changing the  
17 public conversation. We would be one of the first  
18 major jurisdictions to enact this type of  
19 legislation.

20 I'd like to thank The Speaker for her  
21 leadership and sponsorship of today's legislation and  
22 resolutions and certainly the staff that have worked  
23 really hard on all of these bills before us. We  
24 truly continue to strive to pass legislation that  
25 keeps all New Yorkers safe. I hope all of my

1  
2 colleagues will join me in voting in favor of today's  
3 agenda.

4 I want to thank the Committee on Public  
5 Safety, our Senior Legislative Counsel, Deepa  
6 Ambekar; Legislative Policy Analyst, Casie Addison;  
7 Financial Analyst, Steve Riester; and also want to  
8 thank Brian Crow for his work and joining us today.

9 And with that; do any of my colleagues  
10 have questions on the bills and the resos on the  
11 agenda before us? Okay. And with that, I will ask  
12 William Martin to call our roll. Thank you,  
13 colleagues for being here.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,  
15 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Public  
16 Safety; all items are coupled. Chair Gibson.

17 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: I vote aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: I'm voting no on  
20 all.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.

[pause]

[background comments]

[pause]

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Thank you colleagues for being here. We are going to keep the roll open to allow other members of the Committee to join us. Thank you so much.

[pause]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call vote Committee on Public Safety. Council Member Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 6 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative and no abstentions, all items have been adopted by the Committee.

[pause]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call, the Committee on Public Safety. Council Member Espinal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye.



2 COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now stands at  
3 7 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative; no  
4 abstentions.

5 [pause]

6 [background comments]

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call,  
8 the Committee on Public Safety. Council Member  
9 Williams.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye and  
11 I'd like to make sure I add my name to Resolution  
12 1676, 1677-A, and Intro 1724-A. The two resolutions  
13 particularly are important at this time, so I thank  
14 The Speaker for putting them forward, and with that..  
15 oh..

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote Committee on  
17 Public Safety; all items have been adopted by a vote  
18 of 8 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative and no  
19 abstentions. Thank you.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: With that, the  
21 hearing is now closed.

22 [gavel]

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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 November 16, 2017