

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AND WORKER PROTECTION
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

1

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AND WORKER
PROTECTION

----- X

June 30, 2025
Start: 11:33 a.m.
Recess: 11:50 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Julie Menin, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shaun Abreu
Gale A. Brewer
Amanda Farías
Shekar Krishnan
Chi A. Ossé

1 COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AND WORKER PROTECTION

2

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Mic check. Mic check on
3 the Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection.
4 Today's date is June 30, 2025, in the Chamber,
5 recorded by Walter Lewis.

6 CHAIRPERSON MENIN: **(AUDIO MISSING)**

7 Council Member Ossé, Majority Leader Fariás, and I'll
8 recognize additional Council Members as they join.

9 The three bills we're voting on today
10 address urgent needs related to consumer and worker
11 protection as well as public safety. Introduction
12 Number 30-B, sponsored by Council Member Feliz, would
13 establish safety standards for powered bicycles when
14 used by contracted delivery workers who deliver for
15 delivery services. The increased presence of e-bikes
16 used by delivery workers throughout the city has
17 unfortunately coincided with a dramatic increase in
18 deadly fires caused by lithium-ion batteries that
19 power these devices. Just last week, 13 people were
20 injured in a five-alarm fire that tore through
21 several Bronx homes and was caused by lithium-ion
22 batteries that do not meet safety standards. Intro.
23 30-B would require that any powered mobility device
24 operated by a contracted delivery worker working for
25 a delivery service meet the local standards

established for the sale of such device. Such a device may be provided by the delivery service or by the delivery worker, but the delivery service could not require that the delivery worker obtain a compliant device as a term of employment. This bill would relieve a delivery service of their obligations under the law if they choose to make a significant contribution of certified devices to a trade-in program or if they contribute to an e-bike rental program.

Introduction 47-B, sponsored by Council Member Krishnan, would remove the criminal misdemeanor penalty for street vending violations. In 2021, the Council passed Local Law 18 to increase opportunities to legally vend in New York City as well as to bridge gaps in enforcement. In addition, Local Law 18 of 2021 established a Street Vendor Advisory Board, a multi-stakeholder body tasked with evaluating the City's vending laws and making recommendations to both the Mayor and the City Council to address duplicity, inefficiency, and burdensome regulations. One of the Board's recommendations was to remove the criminal misdemeanor penalty for vending violations. According

to the Street Vendor Project and Immigration Research Initiative, 96 percent of street vendors are immigrants. The consequences of a criminal record for violations of vending regulations could be far-reaching for this population, particularly in this current climate.

Finally, Introduction 205-A, sponsored by Council Member Hanif, would require the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection's outreach and education about fraudulent schemes committed by providers of immigration legal services to include information about common fraudulent schemes and how to avoid them, and to be conducted through specific media, including internet and subway advertisements.

I now invite Council Member Feliz to make a statement on his bill.

COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Thank you so much, Chair Menin. Good morning, everyone. Today we are passing historic legislation, the first in the country which will require that delivery apps provide safe e-bike batteries to their workers to ensure that we can finally conclude the fire safety crisis posed by these e-bikes. The threats posed by unsafe e-bike batteries continue to grow. This year we've already

had 116 fires due to these defective e-bike batteries, 116 fires through the end of June. This is the most amount of fires that we've ever had in the first six months of any year. The threat continues to grow and has shown time and time again that it will not go away on its own. Last week in the Bronx, for example, we had a five-alarm fire caused by a defective e-bike battery, a fire that injured 15 people, including firefighters. These fires are dangerous, they're destructive, they destroy homes, they put our lives at risk, and it's a fire safety crisis that we can and must resolve. This legislation is historic, the first in the country, and the passage of this legislation will help ensure that we can finally conclude this fire safety crisis by ensuring that workers have access to safe and certified e-bikes that are not going to cause fires or not going to even explode when workers are only trying to make a living. Thank you so much, Chair Menin. I look forward to getting this to the finish line today.

CHAIRPERSON MENIN: Great. Thank you so much, and I'll now call on Council Member Krishnan to make a statement on his bill.

COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Thank you so much, Chair Menin. I'm Council Member Shekar Krishnan, representing the communities of Jackson Heights, Elmhurst, and Woodside Queens. At a time when Senate Republicans are voting on a budget that not only cuts from Medicaid, Food Stamp, SNAP, but will also add 10,000 ICE agents to the federal government, I am proud that we are standing with our immigrant communities against the criminalizing of immigrants, and that starts with our street vendors. Today, we are voting on my legislation, Intro. 47-B. Street vendors are our city's smallest businesses. They provide us coffee on our way to work, churros, tacos on a quick lunch break, and ice cream on a hot summer day. However, because of a broken vending system, street vendors could face jail time for simply trying to support their families, trying to pay their rent. With the federal government's horrific immigration policies, with the Senate bill that will add 10,000 more ICE officers to the government, the consequences of criminalizing vendors and the consequences of vending violations have become even more stark and grave for a heavily immigrant workforce. Over 95 percent of street

vendors are immigrants. Intro. 47 is a common-sense reform measure that was agreed upon by a diverse set of stakeholders, including enforcement agencies, street vendors, and business advocates. The bill supports a clear, fair, and regulated vending system by eliminating criminal liability for vendors, ensuring that our city's smallest business owners do not face jail time simply for trying to support their family, pay their rent, or pay child care. The passing of Intro. 47 represents just the first step in many that the City Council is actively considering that would create a clear, fair, well-regulated, and enforceable vending system.

I want to again thank Speaker Adams for moving this bill forward to a vote today, Chair Menin for her support in moving this bill through the Committee, and my Colleagues that have signed on in support, and give a special shout out to the team at the Street Vendor Project for their tireless advocacy to reform our city's broken vending system, as well as my Staff, Greg Clark in particular. I urge my Colleagues to vote yes on this important piece of legislation. Thank you again, Chair.

1 COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AND WORKER PROTECTION 8

2 CHAIRPERSON MENIN: Thank you so much, and
3 I'm now going to ask the Clerk to do the roll call.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
5 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
6 vote, Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection.
7 Items are coupled. Chair Menin.

8 CHAIRPERSON MENIN: I proudly vote aye,
9 and I really want to congratulate both Council Member
10 Feliz and Council Member Krishnan on their bills.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
12 you. Abreu.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brewer.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Farías.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye. I want
18 to congratulate both my Colleagues on their bills,
19 and specifically a huge congratulations to Council
20 Member Krishnan. We've been working as a coalition on
21 this package, and it's really great to see one of our
22 bills move through, especially with the
23 decriminalization of vending and what we're trying to
24 protect, but also safeguard and, you know, enhance
25 for our vendors day in and day out that are serving

1 COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AND WORKER PROTECTION 9

2 our communities, so thank you for your advocacy and
3 finalization of getting this through the finish line.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
5 you. Krishnan.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ossé.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Won. With
10 a vote of six in the affirmative, zero in the
11 negative, and no abstentions, all items have been
12 adopted by the Committee.

13 The roll will be held open at request of
14 the Chair.

15 CHAIRPERSON MENIN: The vote is now
16 closed. [GAVEL]

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 July 31, 2025