

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

----- X

December 06, 2013
Start: 10:00 a.m.
Recess: 10:11 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm,
14th Fl.

B E F O R E:

DIANA REYNA
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MARGARET S. CHIN
MATHIEU EUGENE
LETITIA JAMES
ANDY L. KING
PETER A. KOO
RUBEN WILLS

[pause]

CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Good morning. This is Council Member Diana Reyna, Chair of the Small Business Committee. I'd like to thank everyone for joining us here this morning. Today we will begin this hearing on veterans of this committee, is a joint Committee on Veterans and the Small Business Committee.

UNKNOWN MALE: [off mic] That's the next hearing.

CHAIRPERSON REYNA: [off mic] No, look we...

UNKNOWN MALE: [off mic] No.

[pause]

CHAIRPERSON REYNA: It's okay. I have the right paper. It's, it's alright everyone. Before we begin our hearing on the Committee of Veterans and Small Business Committee we will vote on proposed introduction number 1191-A by Council Member Sara Gonzalez. A local law to amend the New York City Charter and the administrative code of the city of New York in relation to providing business owners the ability to indicate a language preference for agency inspections. A 2011 study by

1 the fiscal policy institute found that 69,411 small
2 business owners in New York City, about 48 percent
3 of the total number are immigrants. Meanwhile the
4 New York Times reported that immigrants in New York
5 are less likely than non-immigrants to own a, a
6 business that has been running for more than three
7 and a half years and more likely to have shut down
8 a business within the past year. Among the reasons
9 the Times decided a sea of obstacles beyond the
10 normal challenges that all small business owners
11 face including confusion and lack of awareness
12 about the city's business regulations and
13 permitting rules due to language barriers. This
14 bill will seek to improve communication between
15 city agencies and the small businesses they
16 license, permit, and inspect by requiring that
17 small business owners be provided the opportunity
18 to indicate a language preference for inspections
19 and that the city's business owners bill of rights
20 inform such business owners of their right to
21 request language translation services such as
22 language line. I would like to thank my fellow
23 committee members who are here today; Council
24 Member King who was here on time and bright and
25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

5

early thank you very much, our committee's
[laughter] Council Member Chin, Council Member
Eugene, Council Member [laughter], Council Member
Will, and Council Member Koo. I'd like to than our
committee staff Peter Drivis, out policy analyst
Alea Allee our financial analyst and Jeffrey
Compana are committee council. Billy, we have ready
take the vote. And if there's any comments from any
other council member please do so now. We have
been, okay no I caught everyone right? Fantastic.
Billy call the role.

WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin,
Committee Clerk roll call vote Committee on Small
Business. Introduction 1191-A. Council Member
Reyna.

CHAIRPERSON REYNA: I vote aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Oh, aye. And I'd
like to add my name to be a, the, a cosponsor of
this bill.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

WILLIAM MARTIN: Wills?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Can I have a moment to explain my vote?

CHAIRPERSON REYNA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Originally I was going to vote no for this bill but I see that in the legislative assembly, it says this provision would also provide that failure to comply with such preferences you not create a cause of action or defense and any legal or administrative proceeding so that I see that the city is protected in that manner I will vote aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I'd like to explain my vote.

CHAIRPERSON REYNA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: In the city that's so diverse as ours and we know that small business is, is the lifeline to many communities I'd like to say thank you to Council Member Gonzalez for this piece of legislation and you Madam Chair for leading this committee on this hearing to making sure that the everyday business person gets protected here in New York City. So I'm grateful

1
2 and thankful and I will like to also have my name
3 sign on onto this piece of legislation and I do
4 vote aye today. And thank you again.

5 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you Council
6 Member King. Council member Eugene. You did? Can
7 you wait for the rest of the members to vote and
8 then I'll come to you. Thank you.

9 WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of six in the
10 affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
11 abstentions item has been adopted. Members please
12 sign the committee report.

13 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Council Member
14 Eugene.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Yes, I just want
16 to compliment the, the committee and congratulate
17 you and thank you also for this wonderful piece of
18 legislation and I just want my name to add also as
19 a cosponsor. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you. While
21 members are signing the committee report I'd like
22 to move on to the second portion of today's
23 business. And we are going to pause for two minutes
24 so that the clerk can just change the tapes.

25 [pause]

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

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 16, 2013