

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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May 1, 2025
Start: 12:02 p.m.
Recess: 12:13 p.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Shekar Krishnan, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

David M. Carr
Robert F. Holden
Linda Lee
Julie Menin
Mercedes Narcisse
Sandra Ung

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Mic check, mic check,
3 this is a mic check for the Committee on Parks and
4 Recreation. Today's date is May 1, 2025 in the
5 Committee Room, recorded by Walter Lewis.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good afternoon, good
7 afternoon. Welcome to the New York City Council vote
8 on the Committee on Parks and Recreations.

9 At this time, please silence all
10 electronics and do not approach the dais.

11 Chair, you may begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: [GAVEL] Good
13 morning, everyone. Thank you so much. It's good to
14 see you all here. My name is Shekar Krishnan, Chair
15 of the City Council's Committee on Parks and
16 Recreation. Today, the Committee will vote on a bill
17 that I am proud to have sponsored, Proposed Intro.
18 Number 1185-A, which was first considered by the
19 Committee on January 30th, 2025. I'm glad we've been
20 joined by Members of the Committee, Council Member
21 Ung, Council Member Lee, Council Members Menin, Carr,
22 Narcisse, and Holden.

23 During the fall of 2024, the city
24 experienced an unusually long period without
25 significant rain that resulted in extremely dry

2 weather that contributed to a drought and a large
3 number of brush fires that spread throughout the park
4 system. It was a wake-up call to all that wildfires
5 are unfortunately a rising challenge that the City
6 must be prepared to deal with. Since then, areas with
7 trees and vegetation are often where wildfires start
8 and are increasingly at risk. These fires spread
9 quickly. Because of that, this bill that I've
10 proposed would require the Department of Parks and
11 Recreation, in consultation with the Fire Department
12 and other appropriate City agencies, to develop a
13 plan to mitigate the occurrences of brush fires in
14 parks by March 1st, 2026. We must be prepared. It
15 would require the Parks Department and other agencies
16 to do an analysis of how they can all be better
17 equipped to prevent these fires and contain them. The
18 plan would also require an analysis of how relevant
19 agencies can increase response times, increase fire
20 prevention training for more City workers, conduct
21 better surveillance over fire-prone areas of
22 parkland, and improve enforcement against activities
23 in parks that contribute to fires. The plan would
24 have to be posted on the Department of Parks and
25 Recreation website and be updated regularly with

2 relevant data on any recent fires that have occurred.
3 I'd like to urge all of my Colleagues to vote in
4 favor of this legislation. We are facing a climate
5 emergency and we must take decisive action.

6 Thank you, and I'll now call on our
7 Clerk... Oh, we're going to hold for a minute before
8 taking the vote for technical difficulties.

9 [GAVEL] All right. Due to technical
10 difficulties, we are going to go through this again,
11 and because it's such a great bill, you all should
12 hear about it twice.

13 Good morning, everyone. My name is Shekar
14 Krishnan, Chair of the City Council's Committee on
15 Parks and Recreation. Today, the Committee will vote
16 on a bill that I am proud to have sponsored, Proposed
17 Intro. Number 1185-A, which was first considered by
18 the Committee on January 30th, 2025.

19 During the fall of 2024, the city
20 experienced an unusually long period without
21 significant rain that resulted in extremely dry
22 weather and contributed to a drought and large number
23 of brush fires that spread throughout the park system
24 from Brooklyn to the Bronx. It was a wake-up call to
25 all of us that wildfires are unfortunately a rising

2 challenge that the City must be prepared to deal
3 with. Areas with trees and vegetation are where
4 wildfires often start and quickly spread. Because of
5 that, this bill would require the Department of Parks
6 and Recreation, in consultation with the Fire
7 Department and other appropriate City agencies, to
8 develop a plan to mitigate the occurrences of brush
9 fires in parks by March 1st, 2026. It would require
10 an analysis of how agencies can be better equipped to
11 prevent these fires and contain them. The plan would
12 also require an analysis of how relevant agencies can
13 increase their response times, increase fire
14 prevention training for more City workers, conduct
15 better surveillance over fire-prone areas for
16 parkland, and improve enforcement against activities
17 in parks that contribute to wildfires. The plan would
18 have to be posted on the Department of Parks and
19 Recreation website and be updated regularly with
20 relevant data on any recent fires that occurred.

21 I'd like to urge all of my Colleagues to
22 vote in favor of this legislation. We are facing a
23 climate emergency and we must be prepared and take
24 decisive action. Thank you.

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2 I now call on the Clerk to take a roll
3 call vote.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

5 Greetings. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
6 vote, Parks and Recreation, on Proposed Introduction
7 1185-A. Chair Krishnan.

8 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Holden.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Lee.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Menin.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye, and

15 congratulations.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Thank you,

18 Chair. Congratulations. And I had my share in the

19 wildfire, so totally aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ung.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Carr.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Paladino.

25 With a vote of seven in the affirmative, zero in the

1 COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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2 negative, and no abstentions, item has been adopted
3 by the Committee.

4 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much.

5 This vote is now closed. [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 June 26, 2025