

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

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April 24, 2017
Start: 11:22 a.m.
Recess: 11:31 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway
Committee Room - 14th Floor

B E F O R E: JUMAANE WILLIAMS
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Daniel Garodnick
Margaret Chin
Rosie Mendez
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Robert Cornegy, Jr.
Barry Grodenchik
Eric Ulrich
Rafael Espinal, Jr.
Ritchie Torres
Helen Rosenthal
Mark Levine
Ydanis Rodriguez

1 COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

2 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Good afternoon.

3 We are about to begin Housing and Buildings. Good
4 morning everyone. My name is Jumaane Williams, Chair
5 of the Committee on Housing and Buildings. I am
6 joined today by Council Member Garodnick, Chin,
7 Mendez, Salamanca, Cornegy, Grodenchik, Ulrich,
8 Espinal, Torres, Rosenthal, Levine and I saw
9 Rodriguez. Did I get everybody? We are here to hold
10 a vote on seven bills, six of which are related to
11 construction and safety. As the pace of construction
12 in New York City increases and construction projects
13 get bigger and more complex, we need to make sure
14 that everyone including the public is protected. We
15 cannot just simply say because we are building more
16 we should expect more injuries and deaths. The bills
17 we are going to vote on today are part of a larger
18 package, a construction safety act aimed at making
19 construction in the city safer. I would remind folks
20 that we had a hearing on these bills a few weeks
21 back, 21 bills if I am not mistaken. I believe it
22 was the largest package this Council has ever heard
23 showing how seriously we take construction safety. I
24 do think we moved a little slowly just as a city on
25 the amount of people who died but I am glad we are

2 moving at the pace we are now. The bills we are
3 going to vote on today would require the Department
4 of Buildings to report certain violations of the New
5 York City Building Code to the Federal Occupational
6 Safety and Health Administration also known as OSHA,
7 require all cranes to be equipped with a global
8 position system and event recorder, require certain
9 [inaudible] machine operators to obtain a licensing
10 rate in order to operate particularly large cranes
11 especially, expand the data that must be reported to
12 the Department of Building following a construction
13 accident and require that certain construction jobs
14 on buildings under ten stories contain a construction
15 superintendent. We hope to be hearing and voting on
16 some of the other bills soon, including the mega one,
17 1447 which many people are talking about. Finally,
18 you will be voting on a bill that will require
19 building owners to file bedbug history for buildings
20 with the Department of Housing Preservation
21 Development and to either post a bedbug history in
22 prominent place within their buildings or distribute
23 the history of tenants upon signing a new lease or
24 lease renewal. I do want to thank the sponsor,
25 Council Member Dromm, and the staff for working on

1 making this a bill that answered some of the
2 complaints that the owners had which not all of them
3 wanted to post outside, wanted to be able to mandate
4 the post in the lobby. Apparently I hear some of
5 them didn't want to be able -- didn't want to be
6 mandated to have to give to individual tenants and so
7 now they have the option to do either or and I think
8 that was a good nod to their concerns. I would like
9 to thank -- Council Member Chin, we are going to have
10 some of the sponsors who are here make some opening -
11 - give some statements. Council Member Chin?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Good morning.
14 Thank you, Chair William. I am a sponsor of Intro
15 1421A, legislation to require certain cranes to be
16 equipped with a global position system or GPS and I
17 want to thank Chair William for the vote on this bill
18 today. After the fatal and tragic crane collapse in
19 lower Manhattan, Mayor de Blasio and DOB Commissioner
20 Chandler convened a crane technical working group to
21 work with industry experts, safety advocates and
22 academics to recommend regulatory improvement and
23 best practices to ensure cranes can operate safely in
24 New York City. One of the recommendations is to
25 require GPS tracking devices on crane operating in

2 the city. Intro 1421A will require GPS devices on
3 cranes that are mobile and exclude climber cranes and
4 other operation that require dismantling plants. GPS
5 device will allow the DOB to know where the cranes
6 are at all times allowing the DOB to conduct audit of
7 mobile crane activity in real-time similar to GPS
8 device on TLC vehicles and delivery trucks. It can
9 allow the DOB and operators to determine the best
10 route when moving throughout the city. Intro 1421A
11 is one of the many recommendations that will keep our
12 neighborhoods as well as the industry safe from
13 accidents as our city sees an unprecedented increase
14 in construction. I hope to continue working with my
15 colleagues in the Council to ensure better and more
16 robust safety regulations for this important
17 industry. Once again, I want to thank the Chair and
18 Committee on Housing and Buildings for voting this
19 legislation out and I urge my colleagues on this
20 Committee to vote for Intro 1421A. Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Thank you very
22 much, Council Member Chin. I do have some bills here
23 but I was going to give a ten minute opening myself.
24 I am going to skip it. I would like to thank my
25 staff for the work they did to assemble this hearing

1 including Mike Toomey, my legislative director, Megan
2 Chin and Gamba Patina (SP), counsel for the
3 committee, Jose Conday (SP), policy analyst to the
4 committee, and Sarah [inaudible], committee's finance
5 analyst. With that I want to ask the Clerk to call
6 the roll. Can you please start with Council Member
7 Torres who has a hearing he has to get back to.

8
9 WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin,
10 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Housing
11 and Buildings. All items are coupled. Council
12 Member Torres?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote aye on all

14 CLERK: Williams?

15 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: I vote aye on all.

16 CLERK: Mendez?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Permission to
18 explain my vote?

19 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Permission
20 granted.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I will vote aye
22 on all except Intro, give me a second here, I saw it
23 a second ago, here it is, Intro 648A. So I would
24 like my name taken off the bill. I will abstain. I
25 had some questions about this bill recently and

1
2 someone from staffed tried talking to me this morning
3 and I couldn't get all the information so I will just
4 abstain for now. Remove my name off the bill and
5 maybe tomorrow I may have a different vote on this.
6 Thank you very much.

7 CLERK: Rodriguez?

8 COUNCIL MEMEBR RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

9 CLERK: Cornegy?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

11 CLERK: Espinal?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Permission to
13 explain my vote?

14 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Sure.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I am going to
16 vote aye on all and I just want to add my name to
17 Intro 648A as a cold sponsor. I really want to
18 commend Councilman Dromm on passing this bill and
19 getting this bill through this committee. You know,
20 the bedbug situation is really growing in the city
21 and no one is talking about it and I think this bill
22 would further enhance our laws and make sure that
23 tenants in their buildings are aware there are
24 infestations and they are probably also at risk of
25 being infested and they can take the measures they

2 need to take to make sure they are protected from an
3 infestation. So again, I commend Council Member
4 Dromm on this bill and I vote aye on all.

5 CLERK: Levine?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye on all.

7 CLERK: Rosenthal?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all and
9 may I ask the Clerk to add my name to Intro 1421A and
10 1435A? These are all great bills to help protect our
11 residents. Thank you very much.

12 CLERK: Grodenchik?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Mr. Chair,
14 aye on all except for Intro 648. I just think that
15 while the intention of the bill is a good one, I
16 think it is overly broad and will create a great
17 burden for the co-ops in my community so I have to
18 vote against it. Thank you.

19 CLERK: Salamanca?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all and
21 please add my name on 648A. Thank you.

22 CLERK: Ulrich?

23 COUNCIL MEMEBR ULRICH: I vote aye on all
24 with the exception of 648A. I vote no on 648.

2 CLERK: By vote of 11 in the affirmative,
3 0 in the negative and no abstentions; all items have
4 been adopted with the exception on Intro 648A, which
5 has been adopted by a vote of 8 in the affirmative, 2
6 in the negative and 1 abstention. Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Thank you very
8 much. I am going to ask the Clerk, I have a tendency
9 not to put my name on bills in my Committee until I
10 have heard them so please add my name to Intro 81A,
11 648A, 1421A, 1433A and 1435A. Thank you very much
12 and with that, the hearing is now closed.

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14 [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 May 13, 2017