

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

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June 12, 2012  
Start: 11:15 a.m.  
Recess: 11:20 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
GALE A. BREWER  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Inez E. Dickens  
Erik Martin Dilan  
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.  
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.

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2 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Good morning.  
3 I'm Gale Brewer, chair of Governmental Operations.  
4 I'm joined here by Council Member Domenic M.  
5 Recchia, Jr. Council Member Peter Vallone and  
6 Seth Grossman, who is counsel to the Committee and  
7 Tym Matisov, who is policy analyst to the  
8 Committee and we are voting on Resolution No.  
9 1343. As we discussed yesterday, it calls upon  
10 the state legislature to pass legislation to  
11 modernize the procedures for the election night  
12 canvass and the reporting of unofficial election  
13 results. The prime sponsor is Assembly Member  
14 Brian Cavanaugh and the bill is A. 10175 and as  
15 we indicated, it would change election night  
16 canvass how it's conducted and how the unofficial  
17 results are tabulated and I hope that everyone  
18 will vote for this resolution.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,  
20 Committee Clerk. Roll call vote in the Committee  
21 on Governmental Operations. Council Member  
22 Brewer?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Recchia?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of three in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions, item is adopted.

CHAIRPERSON BREWER: I'm going to continue—you guys can feel free to go, but I just want to finish so that the folks know that amount of work that has gone into this resolution. This is an issue that the Committee has been focused on ever since the city switched to electronic voting machines in 2010. The cut and paste process that is currently employed by the city's Board of Elections is time consuming, error prone and outdated. With the new electronic voting machines, none of this is necessary. The board of Elections must end this process and adopt the technology afforded by the new electronic voting machines, including use of portable memory devices or PMDs also known as memory sticks or flash drives and these PMDs can transmit unofficial election results in near real time. I am grateful to Assembly Member Cavanaugh who has taken up the cause and is pursuing this legislation in Albany.

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2 Yesterday on June 11, the Committee held a hearing  
3 on this resolution. At this hearing, we received  
4 testimony from a representative of Assembly Member  
5 Cavanaugh, also from the Voter Assistance Advisory  
6 Committee, which is sponsored by the Campaign  
7 Finance Board, from Citizen's Union, from New York  
8 Democratic Lawyer's Council and from the League of  
9 Women Voters. While there are some differences of  
10 opinion as to the specific means by which to  
11 reform the current process, everyone who testified  
12 strongly supports the goals behind resolution No.  
13 1343, which are to modernize and streamline the  
14 procedures for the election night canvass and  
15 reporting of unofficial election results by doing  
16 away with the cut and paste process, and we want  
17 to adopt the use of PMDs or flash drives. I am  
18 confident that through the discussions Assembly  
19 Member Cavanaugh has been having with the Board of  
20 Elections and other stakeholders, the testimony  
21 that we receive yesterday and the dedication of  
22 all those involved in the end there will be  
23 consensus as a result on the best approach for  
24 achieving these important goals. By passing  
25 resolution 1343 today, the Council can lend its

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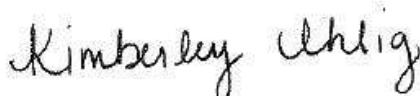
support to help further this effort and I know that this resolution will come before the City Council tomorrow. Thank you very much, and we will hold the vote open for I believe one more Council Member, or not? No. Nope. Alright, then this hearing concludes. Thank you.

[gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kimberley Uhlig certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature

Handwritten signature of Kimberley Uhlig in cursive script, written over a horizontal line.Date 6/25/12