

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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NOVEMBER 22, 2021  
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HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 2)

B E F O R E: ADRIENNE E. ADAMS, CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS: JUSTIN L. BRANNAN  
FERNANDO CABRERA  
VANESSA L. GIBSON  
ROBERT F. HOLDEN  
CARLOS MENCHACA  
I. DANEEK MILLER  
KEITH POWERS  
KEVIN C. RILEY  
YDANIS A. RODRIGUEZ  
KALMAN YEGER

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

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2 SGT. LEONARDO: PC recording is underway.

3 SGT. LUGO: The cloud is up.

4 SGT. LEONARDO: Thank you. Good morning  
5 and welcome to today's remote New York City Council  
6 vote for the Committee on Public Safety. At this  
7 time will all panelists please turn on their video  
8 for verification purposes? Due to minimize  
9 disruptions, please place all electronic devices to  
10 vibrate or silent mode. Thank you so much. Chair,  
11 we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON ADRIENNE ADAMS: Good  
13 morning. I'm Council Member Adrienne Adams of the  
14 28th District in Queens and I'm the Chair of the  
15 Committee on Public Safety. I want to thank the  
16 members of the Public Safety Committee who are here  
17 today, Council Members Holden, Powers, Riley, Brannan  
18 and Cabrera for the moment. This morning we'll be  
19 voting on proposed Introduction number 1392A in  
20 relation to requiring District Attorneys to report on  
21 criminal prosecutions. The bill is sponsored by  
22 Speaker Corey Johnson and Council Members Levine,  
23 Kallos and Rosenthal. Currently, there are no  
24 requirements that the City's District Attorney's  
25 conduct any public reporting on office function,

2 although some local DAs issue periodic reports, there  
3 is no uniformity in such reporting and very little  
4 data is publically related regarding prosecutorial  
5 conduct. As a result, there is a significant lack of  
6 transparency regarding prosecutorial decision making  
7 in a matter that limits effective oversight of DAs  
8 and hinders public trust in the criminal justice  
9 process. Intending to provide increased transparency  
10 of procedural decision making this bill requires the  
11 City's District Attorney Offices to report on the  
12 basic functioning of their offices. These annual  
13 reports of which would be posted publically would  
14 require each office to release various data points  
15 related to decision making at various stages of a  
16 criminal case, such as, data on decisions to  
17 prosecute or dismiss a case following arrest, bail  
18 recommendations and average length of a case before a  
19 disposition. The report also requires the numbers to  
20 be disaggregated by offense and the race, gender and  
21 age of the defendant. This bill would take effect  
22 immediately but to permit each of the offices to  
23 develop the technological capacities to produce these  
24 reports. The first report would not be required  
25 until 2024. Thank you to the speaker for supporting

2 this important legislation which will bring much  
3 needed transparency to our criminal justice system.  
4 We will not proceed with the vote. We have also been  
5 joined by Council Member Yeger.

6 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank  
7 you. Good Morning, William Martin, Committee Clerk,  
8 roll call vote Committee on Public Safety on  
9 Introduction 1392. Chair Adams?

10 CHAIRPERSON ADRIENNE ADAMS: I vote aye.

11 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:  
12 Cabrera?

13 FERNANDO CABRERA: Aye.

14 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:  
15 BRANNAN?

16 JUSTIN BRANNAN: Aye.

17 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Holden?

18 ROBERT HOLDEN: Permission to explain my  
19 vote?

20 CHAIRPERSON ADRIENNE ADAMS: Permission  
21 granted.

22 ROBERT HOLDEN: I heard that all five  
23 District Attorneys are against this bill and it's  
24 asking a lot of these offices and even with an  
25 effective of the two years from becoming law. This

2 does not come with additional funding for DAs which  
3 are totally underfunded. I also understand that some  
4 of the information mandated in this bill is not  
5 collected by the DAs themselves and that they receive  
6 this data from other sources that they cannot vouch  
7 for. So I think accountability and transparency is  
8 essential. I think the DAs agree with this.  
9 However, with the issues of unreliable data, the lack  
10 of funding for the DAs to update their case  
11 management system and some DAs are also saying that  
12 this bill is potentially unconstitutional. So, I  
13 will be voting no on Intro 1392A. Thank you Chair.

14 CHAIRPERSON ADRIENNE ADAMS: Thank you  
15 Council Member Holden.

16 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank  
17 you. Council member Powers?

18 KEITH POWERS: I vote aye.

19 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank  
20 you. Riley?

21 KEVIN RILEY: I vote aye.

22 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank  
23 you. One moment please. Chair, my apologies we need  
24 to hold for a moment. Thank you for your patience.  
25 Council Member Gibson?

2 VANESSA GIBSON: Are we ready to vote?

3 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Yes

4 Council Member.

5 VANESSA GIBSON: Okay. Thank you. So  
6 I'm going to be voting aye but I want to put on  
7 record I understand there is a two year period for  
8 compliance for this DA reporting bill. I just hope  
9 that the next Council and the Administration provides  
10 the funding that is necessary to the DA's office.  
11 When I chaired this Committee on Public Safety we  
12 made sure that the underfunded Offices of Bronx  
13 County and Richmond County were able to get more  
14 money and now with us moving forward we have to make  
15 sure that we talk about compliance for Legislation  
16 that these offices have the 21st Century technology  
17 that they rightfully deserve. We cannot ask them to  
18 comply with Legislation if they have an inability to  
19 do so. So, I want to make sure that I go on  
20 recording ensuring that moving forward there is  
21 sufficient funding given to all five DAs offices and  
22 the special narcotics prosecutor to make sure that  
23 they have up to date technology and equipment so they  
24 can really provide the services that are necessary  
25 for all of our District Attorneys so I will be voting

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2 aye. And I want to make sure that goes on the  
3 record. Thank you, Madam Chair.

4 CHAIRPERSON ADRIENNE ADAMS: Thank you  
5 Council Member Gibson and duly noted. Thank you very  
6 much.

7 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank  
8 you. Council Member Menchaca?

9 CARLOS MENCHACA: I vote aye on all.  
10 Thank you.

11 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank  
12 you. Okay by a vote of seven in the affirmative, one  
13 in the negative and no abstentions the item has been  
14 adopted by the Committee. Madam Chair, we are still  
15 awaiting a few more members.

16 CHAIRPERSON ADRIENNE ADAMS: Did we get  
17 Council Member Yeger's vote?

18 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Council  
19 Member Yeger is not on the committee.

20 CHAIRPERSON ADRIENNE ADAMS: Okay. All  
21 right. Thank you very much. The vote is open.

22 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Yes.  
23 Good morning Council Member Rodriguez.

24 YDANIS RODRIGUEZ: Good morning.

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2 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: You can  
3 vote whenever you are ready sir.

4 YDANIS RODRIGUEZ: I vote aye.

5 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank  
6 you.

7 YDANIS RODRIGUEZ: Thanks.

8 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: The  
9 vote is currently at eight in the affirmative, one in  
10 the negative, no abstentions. Madam Chair, we still  
11 have another member outstanding.

12 CHAIRPERSON ADRIENNE ADAMS: Okay. We're  
13 going to give that member three minutes. We have  
14 another Committee coming in here for their vote.

15 CHAIRPERSON ADRIENNE ADAMS: Okay. Mr.  
16 Clerk we are going to adjourn.

17 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Sure.  
18 Okay. So final vote on the Committee on Public  
19 Safety Introduction 1392 is adopted eight in the  
20 affirmative, one in the negative and no abstentions.

21 CHAIRPERSON ADRIENNE ADAMS: Thank you  
22 very much. Thank you to all of my colleagues for  
23 being here this morning for this vote. This meeting  
24 is hereby adjourned.

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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 DECEMBER 30, 2021