

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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July 23, 2013
Start: 1:31 p.m.
Recess: 1:50 p.m.

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

B E F O R E:
PETER F. VALLONE
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Erik Martin Dilan
Helen D. Foster
Daniel R. Garodnick
James F. Gennaro
Vincent J. Gentile
Eric A. Ulrich
David G. Greenfield

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

Diana Reyna
Council Member
District 34

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CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Okay. Welcome to this hearing of the Public Safety Committee. I want to thank the members who've been here right on time and waiting, and now we are ready to go. We have a quorum.

We're holding a vote today on nine pieces of legislation, all of which are aimed at improving the City's response to coastal storms and other severe weather and natural disaster events. As we know, Superstorm Sandy hit New York City with an intensity unparalleled by any coastal storm in recent history, and while the city did a decent job preparing for the storm, there is absolutely room for improvement. In an effort to assess the City's preparation for a response and recovery efforts stemming from Sandy, the council held 11 hearings in January and February. From the knowledge gained at those hearings and with the help of many concerned community leaders and advocates we were able to determine the shortcomings of the city's actions and draft these pieces of legislation to respond.

On June 20th, we held a hearing to discuss these pieces of legislation. We heard from

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2 Cass Holloway and Linda Gibbs who explained some of
3 their concerns but explained that they were overall
4 receptive to the proposals. As a result, we work
5 with the Mayor's office and relevant advocates to
6 amend these bills to achieve our goals.

7 Specifically, we're voting on 1053-A,
8 which tracks person with special needs during an
9 emergency; 1054-A, which provides the basic
10 structure for relief operations in the community;
11 1065-A, which creates outreach and recovery plans
12 to assist vulnerable and homebound individuals;
13 1069-A that would create an access plan for food
14 and water; 1070-A, which would create a plan to
15 ensure evacuation shelters are properly stocked;
16 1072-A by Council Member Reyna who will be speaking
17 after we vote to create a recovery plan for small
18 businesses and nonprofits; 1076-A requires an OEM
19 traffic management plan; and 1077-A, something I
20 was leading the fight to during Sandy to get fuel.
21 We will create a fuel management plan to ensure
22 access to fuel and determine who has priority to
23 this fuel during a shortage. In addition, the last
24 bill, 1075-A, would require OEM to regularly review
25 these plans and make appropriate changes.

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So with the thanks to all the sponsors,
we are going to go first for the vote to let these
Council Members who have been waiting out and then
to any sponsor or anyone else who would like to be
heard. Would you please call the vote?

COMMITTEE CLERK: Keven Penning,
Committee Clerk, roll call on the Committee on
Public Safety. Council Member Vallone?

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Vote Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dilan?

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Foster?

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick?

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of five in
the affirmative and zero in the negative, no
abstentions. All lines have been adapted.
Members, please sign the committee reports.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Please hold that
vote open for as long as legally allowable for
Council Members who are on their way. Council

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2 Member Reyna, you're the sponsor of one of these
3 bills, and thank you for joining us today. Would
4 you like to say something?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you so
6 much, Chair Vallone. I just wanted to take this
7 opportunity to thank my committee staff, Jeffrey
8 Campaña (SP?) and Faith Corbett (SP?). This is an
9 introduction, 1072-A voting today concerning
10 Hurricane Sandy. It affected hundreds of thousands
11 of New Yorkers. Families are still without homes.
12 Schools are shut. Small businesses are still
13 suffering from Coney Island to the Rockaways. It
14 is incumbent upon us to learn from this superstorm
15 to identify what we did right and what we did wrong
16 and to take these lessons and apply them to the
17 future. Intro 1072-A does just that. I look
18 forward to reviewing the preliminary plans that the
19 Office of Emergency Management and the Department
20 of Small Business Services will create. I have
21 full faith in the agencies that a thorough set of
22 strategies to support the small business community
23 in future emergencies applying what we have been
24 able to just assess in moving forward. I'd like to
25 thank Speaker Quinn for her unwavering leadership

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2 post Hurricane Sandy and Chairman Vallone for
3 conducting this hearing. I know this is one piece
4 of many pieces to this package of legislation.
5 Thank you again to the committee members and
6 colleagues.

7 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you. I,
8 too, would like to thank my staff, especially of
9 this committee, but of the entire City Council who
10 has worked so hard on these bills. It's hard for
11 me to even read just a synopsis of what they're
12 about. I can't imagine the work that went into
13 drafting everyone of these and amending them. So
14 congratulations to all of you. Anyone else like to
15 be heard on this?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Mr. Chairman, I
17 just want to say a word about 1075-A which I'm a
18 prime cosponsor along with the sponsor Ydanis
19 Rodriguez. It really establishes a better
20 communication between OEM and the Council and
21 requires OEM to communicate with the Council as to
22 the plans that they have for coastal storms and
23 some other emergencies and to share those plans
24 with the council to the extent that they can and
25 then to assess the plans that they have each time

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2 that they're put into practice and requires them if
3 they're not put into practice over a two-year-
4 period to do a reassessment of the plans and share
5 any changes with the Council, so I think it
6 establishes a better communication that we didn't
7 have the last time around with the Council and
8 allows us some input into the emergency plans that
9 the city ultimately employs.

10 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Yeah, and I'd like
11 to point out for the record that sometimes you do
12 have to push people to actually have plans. In
13 2005 we had a hearing with the Public Safety
14 Committee entitled "Are We Ready for a Hurricane?"
15 Some people laughed and said we're fear mongering
16 and we're Pollyanna's and we're not going to have a
17 hurricane like that, and we didn't have a plan in
18 2005. And then in 2009 we held a second hearing,
19 "Are We Ready for a Hurricane?" and OEM came in
20 with a plan on that day, and clearly that plan
21 needs to be improved. It was good that we had one.
22 And that planned helped an evacuation, but there
23 are a lot of ways to improve that plan and that's
24 what today is about.

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Council Member Ulrich, would you like to vote on all these matters?

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Mr. Chairman, I vote Aye.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Okay. Seeing that no one else wants to be heard, again we're going to hold this vote open. Is there anyone else coming, Council Member Gennaro, and anyone else who might want to vote. And thank you all for attending today. [gavel]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gennaro.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Yes, and that concludes the vote and.. I'm sorry.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote on the Committee on Public Safety is now seven in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no abstentions.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you, Billy. And with that said, this hearing is adjourned. [gavel]

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 07/24/2013

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