

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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September 4, 2008

Start: 10:00am

Recess: N/A

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E: ERIK MARTIN DILAN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Tony Avella
Maria Baez
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Lewis A. Fidler
Robert Jackson
Rosie Mendez
James S. Oddo
Joel Rivera
Thomas White, Jr.
James Vacca

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2 ALIBERTO COYASSO: Testing, one,
3 two, three. Testing, one, two three. The next
4 committee meeting is going to be on Housing and
5 Buildings. Today's date is September 4, 2008 and
6 is being recorded by Aliberto Coyasso [phonetic].

7 [Break in Audio]

8 MALE VOICE: Quiet please.

9 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: All right. I'd
10 like to call this Committee Hearing to Order.
11 Good afternoon everyone, I know this was scheduled
12 to be a morning hearing, but it is afternoon. My
13 name is Erik Martin Dilan. I'm the Chair of the
14 Housing and Buildings Committee, and today the
15 Committee will consider three bills that amend the
16 administrative code of the City of New York for
17 their disposition to the full Council in a few
18 minutes. The first is Proposed Intro 794-A, and
19 that's a local law in relation to training for
20 tower and climber crane workers and riggers. The
21 second is Proposed Intro 795-A, and that's in
22 relation to the use of slings and rope on climber
23 cranes. And the final piece of legislation is
24 Intro 796-A and again, this is a law that relates
25 to tower and climber cranes and licensed riggers.

1 That bill will require a 30-hour training course.
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3 In July 15th we heard from industry professionals
4 with regard to earlier versions of these three
5 pieces of legislation. In light of the recent
6 crane accidents and tragedies, the Council is
7 concerned about the use of cranes and the
8 communication and coordination between workers.
9 Proposed Intro 794-A would require all workers
10 engaged in the erection, jumping, climbing,
11 rigging or disassembly of a tower crane to have
12 successfully completed an authorized 30-hour
13 training course and to take an eight hour
14 refresher course within three years of the initial
15 course-- three years thereafter, obviously.
16 Riggers would be required to certify in a meeting
17 log that all members of the jumping crew have
18 completed all the mentioned training requirements.
19 Proposed Intro 795-A would permit the use of nylon
20 slings, only if a manufacturers manual
21 specifically states or it recommends softening
22 mechanisms that have been applied to all sharp
23 edges. The use of rope as a sling will be
24 prohibited. Intro 796-A will require a licensed
25 engineer in conjunction with a licensed rigger to

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2 prepare a plan for the erection, jumping, climbing
3 and dismantling of tower or climber cranes and
4 mandate safety meetings between workers.

5 Additionally this bill would impose a mandatory
6 revocation of a rigger's license, in certain
7 instances, would also impose civil penalties on
8 riggers who fail to inspect suspended scaffold.

9 At this point I would like to give the sponsor of
10 all three items on today's agenda a chance to say
11 a few words on her bill. Council Member Lappin?

12 JESSICA S. LAPPIN: Thank you, Mr.
13 Chair. I will be brief. First and foremost I
14 want to thank you for the many hours that you have
15 put in to both hearings and the drafting of these
16 bills. And I wanted to thank Rob Newman and the
17 Committee staff for their extensive work on these
18 bills. I mentioned downstairs; it's been almost
19 six months since the first crane collapsed. I
20 think we as a body did the appropriate thing,
21 which was not to, in a knee jerk reaction way,
22 pass legislation quickly without really thinking
23 through what was the appropriate thing to do in
24 terms of making crane operations safer in this
25 city. We have had an extraordinary amount of

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2 discussion with the Mayor and with Labor, and I
3 see Jimmy Conway is here from Local 14, with the
4 Central Labor Council, with the industry, with the
5 contractors, with the real estate community, to
6 come to draft legislation that I think will really
7 make construction safer, but do it in a sensible
8 way. So, I'm very proud to be the sponsor of
9 these bills. I look forward to being able to go
10 back to my neighborhood and my community and tell
11 the people who are still being impacted by these
12 tragedies, who are still afraid to walk down the
13 street, that we have done something here and done
14 something that is going to make a difference.

15 [Break in Audio]

16 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Thank you,
17 Council Member Lappin. I'd like to urge my
18 colleagues to vote in favor of all three on the
19 items on today's agenda. I'd like to have all
20 three of the items coupled, and if I could ask the
21 Clerk to call the role.

22 THE CLERK: Council Member Dilan.

23 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: I vote aye on
24 all.

25 THE CLERK: Rivera.

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2 JOEL RIVERA: I vote aye.

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THE CLERK: Avella.

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TONY AVELLA: Aye.

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THE CLERK: Baez.

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MARIA BAEZ: Aye.

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THE CLERK: Comrie.

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LEROY G. COMRIE, JR.: Aye.

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THE CLERK: Fidler.

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LEWIS A. FIDLER: Aye.

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THE CLERK: Jackson.

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ROBERT JACKSON: Aye on all.

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THE CLERK: Mendez.

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ROSIE MENDEZ: Aye on all.

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THE CLERK: Vacca.

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JAMES VACCA: Aye on all.

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THE CLERK: White.

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THOMAS WHITE, JR.: Aye on all.

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THE CLERK: Oddo.

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JAMES S. ODDO: Yes.

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THE CLERK: My vote of 11 on the

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affirmative, zero on the negative and no

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abstentions. All items are adopted. Members,

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please sign the Committee report. Thank you.

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[Break in Audio]

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CHAIRPERSON DILAN: This Committee

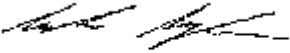
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is now adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Erika Swyler 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_____

Date September 9, 2008