

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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June 25, 2019  
Start: 11:23 a.m.  
Recess: 11:46 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway, Committee Room,  
16<sup>th</sup> Floor

B E F O R E: MARK LEVINE  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Inez Barron  
Andrew Cohen  
Mathieu Eugene  
Robert Holden  
Keith Powers

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

2 Sound check for the Committee on Health  
3 being recorded by Israel Martinez June 25, I believe,  
4 let me just double check that, June 25, 2019 taking  
5 place 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Committee Room and that's about it,  
6 scheduled for 11 a.m.

7 CHAIR LEVINE: Hello everyone. Welcome  
8 to this hearing on the City Council's Health  
9 Committee. I am Mark Levine, Chair of the Committee.  
10 Pleased that we are joined by fellow Committee  
11 Members Council Member Inez Barrow, who is our bill  
12 sponsor, Council Member Keith Powers, Council Member  
13 Bob Holden and Council Member Andy Cohen. Today we  
14 are considering Intro Number 5. That is not a typo.  
15 Intro 5 because Council Member Barron is so speedy or  
16 perhaps her legislative director, Indigo Washington,  
17 and submitted this at 12:01 a.m. on January 1, 2018.  
18 Our topic today, however, is serious. This bill is  
19 part of our continuing fight against obesity and  
20 diabetes, fights that we have unfortunately stalled  
21 in. Of late, more than half of adults are overweight  
22 or obese in New York City and nearly half of  
23 elementary and preschool age children also suffer  
24 from obesity or are overweight and we have to do more  
25 and we have to get people information so that they

2 can manage their diet effectively and today's bill  
3 will do just that by requiring signage in restaurants  
4 to inform people of the health impact of sugar and  
5 carbs and unless one of my colleagues is in an  
6 enormous hurry, I'm gonna que our bill sponsor,  
7 Council Member Barron, for her statement, please.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you,  
9 Mr. Chair and thank you to the Committee members.  
10 This is a very important bill and the idea for this  
11 bill came from my legislator director who has great  
12 interest and concern about not just diabetes but  
13 prediabetes and the fact that so many of our people  
14 who are in that state actually don't even know so  
15 what we want to do is to let people know they may  
16 have forgotten in their physiology that carbs turn to  
17 sugar at that digestive process and they may not be  
18 associating what they're eating as carbohydrates is  
19 in fact increasing the sugar intake and the added  
20 sugar that exists in so many products so what this  
21 bill called for is information that restaurant  
22 keepers will be required to post so that people will  
23 be aware that excessive carbs and sugars can be  
24 contrary to good health outcomes and have them aware  
25 that the administration was involved in having us be

2 mindful that we don't want to bombard the patrons  
3 with a lot of signs but this is an important issue.  
4 The Department of Education will design the content  
5 of the poster and restaurant keepers will be advised  
6 of this when they are visited and they will be told  
7 that this is a requirement and if they don't have it  
8 at the time of the first visit, they will be allowed  
9 a year to be able to implement it without any type of  
10 penalty so we're very mindful of that as well so I  
11 want to thank my colleagues for supporting this bill  
12 and thank you for bringing it to the Committee for a  
13 vote.

14 CHAIR LEVINE: Thank you Council Member  
15 Barron and I'm now going to ask our Committee Clerk,  
16 Billy Martin, to call the roll.

17 CLERK: Introduction 5B, Chair Levine?

18 CHAIR LEVINE: I vote aye.

19 CLERK: Barron?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.

21 CLERK: Cohen?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

23 CLERK: Holden?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

25 CLERK: Powers?

1 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I vote aye and  
3 congratulations to the sponsor.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

5 CLERK: By a vote of 5 in the  
6 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions,  
7 the item has been adopted by the Committee.

8 CHAIR LEVINE: If it's okay, Mr. Clerk,  
9 we're gonna leave it open for a few minutes. We're  
10 expecting Council Member Eugene to join us  
11 momentarily. Thank you everybody. There's good food  
12 next door. Hope there's a warning sign about carbs.

13 CLERK: Continuation roll call, the  
14 Committee on Health, Introduction 5B. Council Member  
15 Eugene?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very  
17 much and I'm pleased to vote aye.

18 CLERK: Final vote on this item now  
19 stands at 6 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and  
20 no abstentions. Thank you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Now the meeting  
22 is adjourned. [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 July 2, 2019