

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

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June 20, 2016
Start: 1:36 p.m.
Recess: 3:25 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm,
16th Fl.

B E F O R E:
ANTONIO REYNOSO
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Andy L. King
Vanessa L. Gibson
Costa G. Constantinides
Steven Matteo
Brad S. Lander

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

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2 [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Good afternoon and
4 thank you all for being here this amazing day, thank
5 you, Rod [sic]; joined by Council Member Brad Lander
6 and members of the committee, from Staten Island,
7 Steven Matteo, Vanessa Gibson from the Bronx and
8 Council Member Costa Constantinides from Queens.
9 Thank you guys for being here and good afternoon and
10 welcome to this committee vote on a preconsidered
11 vote to delay the implementation of Local Law 63,
12 which imposes a 5 cent fee on carryout bags. If
13 enacted, this bill would move the effective date of
14 Local Law 63-2016 from October 1, 2016 to February
15 15, 2017 and would move the six-month period during
16 which warnings would be given instead of fines for
17 covered stores who don't comply with the law from the
18 period beginning October 1, 2016 and ending March 31,
19 2017 to the period beginning February 15, 2017 and
20 ending August 14, 2017. After you guys decipher that
21 and get it on the record, it'll make sense; in
22 writing it makes sense.

23 It would allow covered stores to give
24 away reusable bags free of charge from February 15,
25 2017 to April 30 of 2017 and would move the deadline

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2 for the study required in Section 16-495(e) from
3 January 1, 2019 to March 1, 2019, so thank you guys.

4 Alright, now I'm gonna call the clerk for
5 the vote.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
7 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on
8 Sanitation and Solid Waste Management, Preconsidered
9 Introduction. Chair Reynoso.

10 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: I vote aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to
13 explain my vote real briefly.

14 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Absolutely.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you so
16 much, Chair Reynoso, and good afternoon all of my
17 colleagues. I hope many of our fathers had a very
18 happy father's day this past weekend, and certainly
19 recognizing that this bill and Local Law 63 and its
20 chaptering has been a very long process and I am
21 happy to support this extension; I do believe that
22 there is more conversation that needs to be had on
23 this particular law and I'm thankful to our Speaker,
24 Melissa Mark-Viverito and the Assembly Speaker, Carl
25 Heastie, on their conversations. After this was

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2 chaptered into law many of my former colleagues in
3 Albany called very concerned about the implementation
4 and the effect it would have many New Yorkers,
5 predominantly those on low and fixed incomes and so
6 I'm grateful that we do have this agreement to extend
7 the implementation of this legislation by several
8 months, and what I am hoping will happen over the
9 next several months is we will further have more
10 conversations on alternative measures instead of this
11 fee, as in making sure that we can really look at
12 more recycling programs and more education, so I am
13 proud to support this and look forward to being a
14 part of the conversations with both Speaker Heastie's
15 office, as well as my colleagues here at the Council.
16 I will vote yes on this bill. Thank you.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I vote
19 aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: I don't want
22 there to be any effective date for this issue, so I'm
23 voting no.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 3 in the
3 affirmative, 1 in the negative and no abstentions,
4 item has been adopted.

5 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Okay. And we wanna
6 hold the vote open for one of the colleagues that are
7 running in, and I also wanna give an opportunity for
8 the sponsor of the bill, Council Member Brad Lander
9 from Brooklyn to say a few words. Brad.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you, Chair
11 Reynoso and I can't resist pointing out that if
12 everyone were to follow the Minority Leader and vote
13 no on this bill, then the bag fee will go into effect
14 on October 15, so I don't know; I have to see what
15 happens on the floor tomorrow.

16 No, in all seriousness, the plastic bag
17 is getting a several month reprieve, but its days of
18 littering New York City are numbered; this extra
19 couple of months until February 15 will give us the
20 time to do an even stronger implementation, even
21 stronger outreach, even more reusable bag giveaways;
22 we look forward to the conversation about things we
23 can do to do an even better job of making sure we
24 reduce plastic bag waste in New York City and I
25 certainly appreciate that Speaker Heastie prevented

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2 the senate from nullifying our bill entirely and from
3 preventing any other municipality in the state from
4 moving forward; some people may have seen that
5 Suffolk County actually is moving forward to consider
6 a fee bill and I hope other municipalities around the
7 state will as well. We look forward to working with
8 our colleagues in Albany to further strengthen
9 implementation and we look very forward to
10 implementing this law on February 15, 2017. Thank
11 you very much, Mr. Chair.

12 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Thank you Council
13 Member Brad Lander. And now again, we're gonna hold
14 the vote open for I wanna say 20 minutes, and thank
15 you all for your votes and your time. I hope you can
16 get back to your districts and continue your great
17 work.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Right.

19 [pause]

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote now in
21 Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management of
22 Preconsidered Introduction in relation to reducing
23 the use of carryout bags now stands at 3 in the
24 affirmative, 1 in the negative and no abstentions.
25 Thank you.

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2 [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 6, 2016