

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

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November 22, 2021
Start: 12:12 p.m.
Recess: 12:22 p.m.

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING VIRTURAL ROOM 4

B E F O R E: Fernando Cabrera

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Fernando Cabrera
Alan Maisel
Darma Diaz
Ben Kallos
Kalman Yeger
Keith Powers
Stephen Levin

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

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3 SGT. BIONDO: Recording to the PC has
4 begin.

5 SGT. HOPE: Cloud recording has begun as
6 well and is extremely good.

7 SGT. BIONDO: Thank you.

8 SGT. PEREZ: Backup is rolling.

9 SGT. BIONDO: Thank you. Good afternoon
10 and welcome today's remote New York City Council
11 hearing for a vote on the Committee of Governmental
12 Operation. At this time, would all panelists please
13 turn on your video for verification purposes and to
14 minimized disruptions, please place all electronic
15 devices to vibrate or silent mode. Thank you for
16 your cooperation. Chair Cabrera, we are ready to
17 begin.

18 CHAIR FERNANDO CABRERA: Thank you so
19 much Sergeant, thank you for what you do and what
20 everyone on this team has done year after year. So,
21 good afternoon everyone. I am Council Member
22 Fernando Cabrera. I am the Chair on Governmental
23 Operations. I want to start off by thanking members
24 of the committee who have joined us today. We've
25 been joined by Council Member Diaz, Council Member

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2 Louis, Maisel, Council Member Darma Diaz as well,
3 Council Member Kallos, Council Member Yeger, Council
4 Member Powers, Council Member Levin. If I missed
5 anyone, please let me know. Today, the committee
6 will be voting two pieces of legislation. The first
7 is Proposed Introduction number 167B, sponsored by
8 Council Member Alan Maisel. This Bill will require
9 certain agencies to be capable of issuing warnings
10 for first-time violations. As we know, New York
11 City's small businesses have long struggled to remain
12 complaint with many regulations and requirements
13 necessary to lawfully conduct business in the city.
14 Recognizing this fact, certain administrative codes
15 provisions allow the enforcing agency to issue a
16 warning in lieu of a citation for the first time
17 infraction. Agency inspectors are not always able to
18 issue such warning, however, because they lack the
19 necessary equipment. Proposed Introduction number
20 167B will fix this problem. The Bill will require
21 the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene,
22 Sanitation and Environmental Protection, and Consumer
23 Affairs and Protection to equip their inspector with
24 devices capable of determining whether a violation,
25 if served in the field is on a first-time violation

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2 and issuing a warning for such violation if permitted
3 by law. This will ensure that in cases with the
4 administrative code provides a warning, inspectors
5 are actually able to issue those warnings in the
6 manner provided for by the law. The committee
7 previously heard this Bill on Tuesday, October 19th,
8 of 2021 and I am glad to see them moving forward
9 today. The second Bill we are voting on today is
10 Proposed Introduction number 1784A, sponsored by
11 Council Member Farrah Louis. This Bill will require
12 the mayor to establish an office of not for-profit
13 organization services. This new office will serve as
14 a liaison for not for-profits in the city helping
15 navigate city policies, procedures, and regulation
16 and connecting them with city resources and funding
17 opportunities. It would also advise city agencies of
18 measures to improve their programs and processes to
19 better support the not for-profit sector. The
20 committee previously heard this legislation October
21 2019 where we heard from many representatives for the
22 not for-profit sector. We are so grateful for the
23 work these organizations do tirelessly providing
24 critical services to communities throughout the five
25 boroughs, and with that, I want to thank Council

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2 Member Maisel and Council Member Louis for their
3 leadership of this Bill. They are wonderful Bills,
4 and I also want to thank our committee staff,
5 (inaudible), CJ Mary, Sebastian Backy (SP?) for their
6 work on this hearing. Finally, I want to thank my
7 own Legislative Director, Clark Pena for his
8 assistance. I will now turn it over to my colleague,
9 Council Member Farrah Louis to say a few words about
10 her Bill and congratulations again council member.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER FARRAH LOUIS: Thank you
12 so much and good afternoon, Chair Cabrera and members
13 of the committee on Governmental Operations. Thank
14 you for the opportunity to run my voice for my Bill,
15 Intro 1784, that would support one of the most
16 important, yet underrated and under-represented
17 industries in our city, which is the non-profit
18 sector. Non-profit organizations across this city
19 provide a vast (inaudible) of services each and every
20 day, and in many cases, they're the life blood of
21 underserved communities like mine. As council
22 members, we allot funding to thousands of
23 organizations to cover the needs of diverse
24 communities ranging from housing, senior services to
25 street cleaning and youth programing. While this

2 funding is crucial to ensuring thousands of human
3 social service workers employed by these non-profits
4 are paid equitably. It is but a fraction of support
5 that they need to continue providing support
6 services. One of the many challenges that many non-
7 profit organizations face is balancing their day-to-
8 day operations while keeping pace with the needs of
9 New Yorkers during their time of need which increases
10 exponentially during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a
11 city, we recognize that running a non-profit
12 organization is never easy and it can be difficult to
13 navigate the checks and balances in place. My Bill,
14 Intro 1784 is intended to provide non-profit
15 organizations with a liaison that can help streamline
16 the budgeting process from allocation to disbursement
17 while bridging communication and information gap
18 between city agencies and organizations working on
19 the ground. By establishing an office of non-profit
20 services within the mayor's office, we are dedicating
21 resources exclusively to provide the support non-
22 profits need to focus on providing transformative
23 services for our communities. While this is not the
24 end of the plethora of issues that non-profits
25 encounter each and every day, this is a step in the

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2 right direction towards addressing some of the more
3 prevalent and critical shortcomings within this
4 sector. I hope we can all agree that this will
5 support an essential sector in our communities and
6 that action must be taken now. Thank you again,
7 Chair Cabrera for this opportunity and members of the
8 committee and I hope everyone will support 1784.
9 Thank you.

10 CHAIR FERNANDO CABRERA: Thank you so
11 much, Council Member Louis and I want to tell you,
12 having run a non-profit for 33 years, we needed this
13 Bill a long time ago and it took your leadership to
14 put it forward and now it's going to be come a
15 reality. I know all the non-profits will be
16 celebrating and in Thanksgiving week, I know they're
17 grateful for this Bill, and so thank you so much, and
18 thanks to Council Member Maisel as well. Another
19 timely Bill, and so with that now, I'll turn it over
20 to the Clerk to call the roll.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:
22 Matthew DiStefano, Legislative Clerk, Committee on
23 Governmental Operations, roll call vote on Proposed
24 Intro 167B and Proposed Intro 1784A. Chair Cabrera.

25 CHAIR FERNANDO CABRERA: I gladly vote I.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

3 Levin.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER STEPHEN LEVIN: I.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

6 Kallos.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BEN KALLOS: I.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

9 Maisel.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ALAN MAISEL: Yes.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

12 Powers.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KEITH POWERS: I vote I.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

15 Yeger.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KALMAN YEGER: May I very
17 briefly explain my vote, Mr. chair?

18 CHAIR FERNANDO CABRERA: Absolutely.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KALMAN YEGER: Thank you.

20 Just, I vote I on all. I just really want to speak
21 very briefly on Intro 167 by Council Member Maisel.

22 This is exactly the kind of common sense legislation
23 that I've been talking about since I've been here for
24 the last four years and before when I was running and
25 my mentor and friend, Council Member Maisel

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2 introduced this bill January 31st, 2018, the first
3 month of this session. It's actually a Bill that I
4 believe had been introduced in the previous session
5 of council in 2014, although I may be wrong on the
6 dates, and this is exactly what our council should be
7 doing. It's so simple, it's so easy, and it's one of
8 the reasons that I unfortunately, in the view of many
9 of my colleagues have a high number of no votes
10 because I frequently speak about that I will not vote
11 a Bill that doesn't provide for the opportunity to
12 give a warning before issuing the penalties. Here
13 we're actually legislating that where the statutes do
14 provide for the opportunity for warning before
15 penalty, we should enable the inspectors to actually
16 do what the statute says, so Council Member Maisel had
17 this wise idea many years ago. Today, with just 40
18 or so days to go, we're passing it and I look forward
19 to tomorrow while passing it on the floor to council.

20 CHAIR FERNANDO CABRERA: Thank you so
21 much, council member. Those are wonderful words. I
22 appreciate, myself and Council Member Maisel
23 appreciate those words.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Darma
25 Diaz.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER DARMA DIAZ: Yes.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: By a
4 vote of seven in the affirmative, zero in the
5 negative, and no abstentions, the Bills have been
6 adopted.

7 CHAIR FERNANDO CABRERA: Thank you so
8 much, and with that, we concludes today's vote.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

Worldwide 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 25, 2021