

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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January 6, 2009  
Start: 10:34 am  
Recess: 10:38 am

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Erik Martin Dilan  
James F. Gennaro  
Melinda R. Katz  
David Yassky  
Vincent J. Gentile  
Daniel R. Garodnick

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Okay. Welcome  
3 everyone to this hearing of the Public Safety  
4 Committee. Today we'll be voting out Intro 516-A,  
5 sponsored by myself. We have a quorum, we have  
6 with us Melinda Katz, Dan Garodnick, myself, David  
7 Yassky, we've got Vinnie Gentile coming out of the  
8 bathroom, we've got--

9 [Off mic]

10 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: We've got Eric  
11 Dilan, and--who's not doing anything embarrassing  
12 right now, luckily, all right, put that on the  
13 record too. And we are waiting--yes, Council  
14 Member Katz.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Can I just  
16 [crosstalk] be added to the bill?

17 [Pause]

18 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: We believe you  
19 can request it, whether that'll happen is an  
20 interesting question. But Billy--

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Well I request  
22 to be added to the bill.

23 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Okay. And  
24 Melinda Katz wants to be added to this bill and  
25 for good reason, it's a bill that will give us

1  
2 greater oversight and insight into the police  
3 department and their use of firearms.

4 As most of us know, they do produce  
5 a firearm discharge report every year, but we do  
6 not by law get a copy. They have provided it to  
7 us in the past when asked and sometimes it's been  
8 a little late. So this will amend our police  
9 disclosure law to include the firearms discharge  
10 report and require they provide a little bit more  
11 information than they do give in that report.  
12 They will now have to provide to us information  
13 such as the type of individual that was being shot  
14 at, including race.

15 We have to keep this in  
16 perspective, there were less than half of the  
17 police shootings this last year than there were in  
18 1997. In fact, only about 80 intentional  
19 shootings, which is an amazing statistic when you  
20 think about a city of over 8 million people. But,  
21 as usual, when we do get the information, we could  
22 do a better job of oversight and we can help  
23 dispel rumors and false information that are out  
24 there.

25 So we will be voting this--oh,

1  
2 Billy [off mic] right now. Would you please call  
3 the roll.

4 MR. WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin,  
5 committee clerk, Committee on Public Safety,  
6 Introduction 516-A. Council Member Vallone.

7 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I vote aye and  
8 just would like to inform you that Council Member  
9 Katz and Garodnick would like to be added to the  
10 bill. Thank you.

11 MR. MARTIN: Dilan.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: I vote aye.

13 MR. MARTIN: Katz.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Aye.

15 MR. MARTIN: Yassky.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Aye.

17 MR. MARTIN: Gentile.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote aye.

19 MR. MARTIN: Garodnick.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

21 MR. MARTIN: By a vote of six in the  
22 affirmative, zero in the negative, and no  
23 abstentions, item is adopted. Members, please  
24 sign the committee report. Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Okay. We're

1  
2 going to hold the vote for 20 minutes because Jim  
3 Gennaro may be on the way. And I thank you all  
4 for your attendance and we'll be voting this out  
5 of the full Council tomorrow. Thank you. Meeting  
6 is adjourned.

7 [Pause]

8 MR. MARTIN: Introduction 516-A,  
9 Council Member Gennaro.

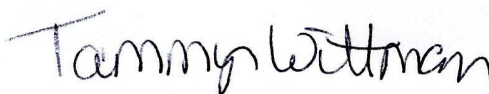
10 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

11 MR. MARTIN: Final vote on the  
12 Committee on Public Safety now stands at seven in  
13 the affirmative, zero in the negative, and zero  
14 abstentions. Thank you.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Tammy Wittman, 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

Handwritten signature of Tammy Wittman in cursive script.Date January 14, 2009