

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

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November 15, 2017
Start: 11:05 a.m.
Recess: 11:42 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm,
14th Fl.

B E F O R E:
JAMES VACCA
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Annabel Palma
David G. Greenfield
Barry S. Grodenchik
Joseph C. Borelli

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

[sound check]

[pause]

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Good morning. My name is James Vacca and I am the chair of the City Council Committee on Technology. Today we're here to vote on two pieces of legislation which will update and strengthen New York City's Open Data laws.

New York City was the first municipality in the country to mandate that all non-confidential government data be made available online. Since then, the City has made significant strides in publishing this data and making it readily available to the public, yet, as agencies have become more experienced with the complexities of data publication and technology advances, there is room to improve existing laws and these two bills will do just that.

The first piece of legislation we are voting on is Intro 1528, which I am the prime sponsor of. This bill requires the annual open data compliance plan include names of datasets provided in response to Freedom of Information Law requests which are not already included in the Open Data Portal.

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2 Currently agencies must review FOIL
3 responses that include the release of data and
4 determine if these responses contain data that has
5 not been included in the Open Data Portal. However,
6 until now, the law has only required statistics on
7 these datasets to be included in the compliance plan.

8 The second piece of legislation we are
9 voting on today is Intro 1707, which I introduced
10 with Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer. This
11 bill includes multiple provisions and resulted from
12 conversations with numerous stakeholders. One
13 provision of Intro 1707 changes the timeline for the
14 compliance plan published by DoITT, pushing it from
15 July to September.

16 The purpose of this is to better
17 accommodate the internal processes of agencies and
18 the open data team. The legislation also requires
19 that the head of each City agency designates an
20 employee to serve as the open data coordinator
21 responsible for ensuring that such an agency complies
22 with the Open Data Law and receives feedback from the
23 public; this will codify a current provision in the
24 Technical Standards Manual. Additionally, 1707
25 mandates that a department receive the Technical

1
2 Standard Manual every two years and provide a method
3 for public comment.

4 Another provision in the legislation will
5 require DoITT to collect and public data on the web
6 portal itself, codifying another current departmental
7 practice.

8 Lastly, this legislation will mandate
9 that DoITT provide specific information on the status
10 of all public datasets; this final provision will
11 undoubtedly allow the Council and the public to more
12 easily access the progress of open data and the
13 City's compliance and to identify additional areas
14 for improvement.

15 I want to thank the Tech Committee
16 Counsel Malaika Jabali; Policy Analyst Patrick
17 Mulvihill; and Finance Analyst Sebastian Bacchi for
18 all their work on this legislation. I want to
19 acknowledge my Legislative Director Zach Hecht as
20 well.

21 I want to thank all the advocates for
22 their support and feedback on these bills and I want
23 to thank the open data team for all their hard work
24 making laws we pass a reality and making open data
25 accessible and easy to all New Yorkers to use.

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2 I want to introduce the members of our
3 committee who have joined us today -- Council Member
4 Annabel Palma, Council Member Barry Grodenchik and
5 Council Member David Greenfield.

6 Are there any comments on any of the
7 bills we are voting on today? If not; I will ask the
8 clerk to call the roll and I ask my fellow members to
9 vote aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
11 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on
12 Technology; both items are coupled. Chair Vacca.

13 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: I vote aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Palma.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD:
18 Congratulations, Chairman. I vote aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Grodenchik.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the
22 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
23 both items have been adopted by the Committee.

24 [background comments]
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2 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: I thank all the
3 members; it is now 11:10... [background comments] I
4 will leave the vote open until 11:45, as we have a
5 member in traffic and I'm sure he will be here, so I
6 will leave the vote open until 11:45.

7 There being no further business, this
8 hearing is recessed until that point. [gavel]

9 Thank...

10 [pause]

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call,
12 the Committee on Technology, Introductions 1528-A and
13 1707-A. Council Member Borelli.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Oh I'll vote
15 aye. Thanks.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote in today's
17 Committee; both items have been adopted by the
18 Committee 5 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and
19 no abstentions.

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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 November 22, 2017