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COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

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February 2, 2023
Start: 9:38 a.m.
Recess: 9:55 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Pierina Ana Sanchez, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alexa Aviles
Charles Barron
Tiffany Caban
David M. Carr
Eric Dinowitz
Oswald Feliz
Crystal Hudson

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. This is a
3 mic check for the Committee on Housing and Buildings.
4 Today's date is February 2, 2023. Located in the
5 Committee Room. Recording done by Pedro Lugo.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, good
7 morning. Can everyone settle down, please? We are
8 ready to begin.

9 Good morning and welcome to the City
10 Council hearing of the Committee on Housing and
11 Buildings.

12 At this time, can everyone please silence
13 your cell phones? Thank you for your cooperation.

14 Chair, we are ready to begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: [GAVEL] Good
16 morning. I'm Council Member Pierina Sanchez, Chair of
17 the Committee on Housing and Buildings, and we are
18 here today to vote on three bills to help our city's
19 aging population. The bills were first heard by the
20 Committee on a joint hearing with the Aging Committee
21 on October 3rd.

22 With over 1 million seniors in New York
23 City, more than children in New York City's public
24 schools, it is time to put attention to our city's
25 senior population. We need to meet the needs of these

2 New Yorkers so they can live with dignity in their
3 homes. This includes features in buildings and
4 apartments that make it easier for seniors to live
5 safely and age in place. We cannot rely on landlords
6 to make adjustments on a case-by-case for seniors. We
7 must take action rather than put our senior
8 population in a position where their only option will
9 be to move. When new housing is being built, units
10 need to be set aside for tenants who are disabled,
11 and these units must be rented to persons with those
12 disabilities. If a project is being built with city
13 financing, it needs to be built with universal design
14 features that ensures that an apartment is accessible
15 to everyone, regardless of age or physical ability.
16 The three bills we are voting on today will continue
17 to push us forward in creating and maintaining a
18 housing stock that meets the needs of the city's
19 aging population and people with disabilities. By
20 making our housing more accessible to those
21 individuals, we are better able to meet the needs of
22 all New Yorkers.

23 The first two bills are sponsored by
24 Council Member Diana Ayala. Proposed Intro 141-A
25 relates to the signage for automatic doors. Proposed

2 375-A requires HPD to report on the amount of set-
3 aside units rented to persons with disabilities as a
4 result of housing lotteries.

5 The third bill, Proposed Intro 676-A
6 sponsored by Council Member Hudson, requires
7 developers receiving city financial assistance to
8 incorporate universal design features in new
9 construction.

10 I am joined today by Council Member
11 Barron, Council Member Aviles, Council Member
12 Dinowitz, Council Member Hudson, and other Council
13 Members who will join shortly.

14 Are there any questions or statements on
15 today's bills?

16 I will now ask the Clerk to call the
17 roll.

18 I'm sorry. Council Member.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I'm sorry about
20 that. It's not so much a question, but I think on the
21 lottery, we need to have a real hearing on that
22 because a lot of people have problems, even when they
23 get selected, then they say, okay, it takes them a
24 long time for them to finally approve it and then it
25 gets changed so I want to know how that thing works,

2 just a suggestion that we do some kind of hearing on
3 the lottery.

4 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Absolutely. Thank
5 you, Council Member.

6 We will now ask the Clerk to call the
7 roll.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
9 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
10 vote, Committee on Housing and Buildings. All items
11 are coupled. Chair Sanchez.

12 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Aye on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Dinowitz.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Aviles.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILES: Aye on all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Barron.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye on all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hudson.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye on all and

21 thank you to the Chair and my Colleagues for

22 acknowledging, recognizing, and supporting the

23 importance of older adults.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote
25 of five in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and

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2 no abstentions, all items have been adopted by the
3 Committee.

4 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: I'm sorry, Clerk.
5 Can we hold the vote open?

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: And the
7 vote will be held open at the request of the Chair.

8 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:
10 Continuation roll call, Committee on Housing and
11 Buildings. Council Member Feliz.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Caban.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CABAN: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Carr.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye on all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote
18 of eight in the affirmative, zero in the negative,
19 and no abstentions, both items are still adopted by
20 the Committee. That's the final vote.

21 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: We'll hold it for
22 another five minutes.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Final
24 vote on Proposed Introductions 141-A, 375-A, and 676-

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2 A is eight in the affirmative, zero in the negative,
3 and no abstentions.

4 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much.

5 I'd like to thank my Colleagues, the Staff of the
6 Housing and Buildings Committee, and everyone who
7 tuned in today. This hearing is now closed. [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 February 9, 2023