

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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August 19, 2009  
Start: 10:27 am  
Recess: 11:00 am

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
ERIK MARTIN DILAN  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Tony Avella  
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.  
Elizabeth Crowley  
Lewis A. Fidler  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
Vincent Ignizio  
Robert Jackson  
Rosie Mendez  
James S. Oddo  
Joel Rivera  
James Vacca

## A P P E A R A N C E S [CONTINUED]

Vincent Ignizio  
Speaking on Intros  
New York City Council Member

Daniel R. Garodnick  
Acknowledge by the Chair  
New York City Council Member

William Martin  
Committee Clerk  
Committee on Housing and Buildings

Lewis A. Fidler  
Speaking on the Intros  
New York City Council Member

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[Gavel banging]

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SERGEANT AT ARMS: Order please.

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CHAIRPERSON DILAN: I'd like the

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Committee to come to order. A quorum is present.

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I'd like to begin as soon as possible.

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[Pause]

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CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Okay first I'd

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like to welcome by saying good morning. And I'd

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like to acknowledge Council Member Rosie Mendez

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for the purposes of voting on today's agenda

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items. Council Member Mendez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you

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Chair Dilan. I vote aye on all.

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CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Okay. And I'll

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continue with a very brief opening. My name is

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Erik Martin Dilan and I'm the Chair of the Housing

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and Buildings Committee. Today the Committee has

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four bills before it for disposition. They are in

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Intros 993-A, 994-A, 999-A and Intro 1000-A. Just

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very briefly, Proposed Intro 993-A requires that

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an architect or professional engineer submit a

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detailed plan for demolition, including when work

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is to be done by mechanical devices. For example

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jack hammers and bobcats.

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2 Proposed Intro 994 requires uniform  
3 color coding of a standpipe and sprinkler systems.  
4 Proposed Intro 999-A would require that the site  
5 safety manager or a coordinator inspect the  
6 standpipe system daily to ensure that the system  
7 is available and to conduct weekly checks to  
8 verify that no breach exists in the system and to  
9 keep a log of the inspections.

10 Proposed Intro 1000-A would require  
11 that standpipes be painted red before they could  
12 be considered operational, allow capping of  
13 standpipes during the demolition work only when  
14 performed by a licensed Master Plumber or a  
15 licensed Fire Suppression Piping contractors who  
16 have obtained the permit by the New York City Fire  
17 Department and the Department of Buildings, to  
18 approve an application for the removal of damaged  
19 sprinkler systems.

20 Previously on June 8<sup>th</sup> this  
21 Committee heard testimony from representatives of  
22 the Department of Buildings, from the Fire  
23 Department, from real estate industry  
24 professionals with regard to the four pieces of  
25 legislation before the Committee. There were some

2 amendments since the June 8<sup>th</sup> hearing and they were  
3 noted in the Committee reports but I'll detail  
4 them very briefly.

5 Intro 993 now requires that the  
6 Department of Buildings approve plans for  
7 demolition prior to the issuance of a work permit  
8 and to promulgate any necessary rules before the  
9 effective date and that the Departments of Housing  
10 and Preservation and Development and the  
11 Department of Citywide Administrative Services are  
12 now exempt from submitting such documents when  
13 performing or arranging the performance of  
14 emergency demolitions.

15 Intro 994 was amended to allow for  
16 the standpipe to be identified by a letter legend  
17 in accordance with ANSI national standards so long  
18 as it does not obscure the required labeling of  
19 the pipe.

20 An exception to the painting  
21 requirement was added where a different color  
22 coding may be required pursuant to the New York  
23 City Fire Code. The painting requirement of  
24 cross-connections and risers were changed to red  
25 and the handles of the valve serving these

2 sprinklers now must be painted green for new  
3 buildings, buildings undergoing an alteration and  
4 completed buildings as well as buildings under  
5 construction. However where a standpipe is used  
6 as a combination standpipe and sprinkler system,  
7 the valve handles must be painted yellow.

8                   During these alterations the  
9 painting of the valves in the cases where a  
10 hydrostatic pressure test is required, must now be  
11 conducted prior to this test. The retroactive  
12 provision for completed buildings was amended to  
13 require that all exposed risers and cross-  
14 connections be painted within three months after  
15 the effective date of this bill which effectively  
16 gives them nine months to comply should the Mayor  
17 sign these bills.

18                   A new requirement was added that a  
19 licensed Master Plumber, Master Fire Suppression  
20 Contractor, Registered Architect or Professional  
21 Engineer or the holder of an FDNY Certificate of  
22 Fitness for the operation and maintenance of a  
23 standpipe sprinkler system must certify that the  
24 painting has been indeed completed. The required  
25 certification must be kept on the premises and

2 made available for inspection by the Department of  
3 Buildings and FDNY.

4 Intro 999 as amended to require  
5 that a safety manager keep a record of the  
6 required inspections of standpipe systems in a log  
7 book. And finally Intro 1000 was amended to  
8 require that an existing house check valve to  
9 remain in place until the completion of the  
10 demolition work. I'd like to urge all my  
11 colleagues to vote in favor of these bills. And  
12 I'd like to call on one of the bill's sponsors,  
13 Council Member Vinnie Ignizio to make a brief  
14 statement on the personal effects on the changes  
15 in these bills. Council Member Ignizio.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you  
17 Mr. Chairman. I want to thank you, this  
18 Committee, particularly the Speaker and Deputy  
19 Mayor Skyler for working very closely with the  
20 Council. But really this bill is about  
21 Firefighter Graffagnino and Fire Fighter Bedia.  
22 This bill will save lives. And the final act of  
23 these heroic men who gave their lives for this  
24 City will be the gift that no one will meet the  
25 same fate as they did in these tragic fires.

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2 So with that appreciation and that  
3 memory, this bill is not about is. It's not about  
4 this Council. It's not about the Administration.  
5 It's about the memories of Firefighter Graffagnino  
6 and the memories of Firefighter Bedia and that  
7 their loss was not in vain. We have made changes  
8 to this code such that none of their brothers will  
9 meet the same fate. And may God bless them both.

10 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Okay. Well  
11 with that I'd like the...

12 [Pause]

13 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: I'd also like  
14 to acknowledge the presence of the bill sponsor of  
15 Bill 994, Council Member Dan Garodnick who is here  
16 but does not want to make a statement on it. And  
17 with that I'd like to ask the Clerk to call the  
18 roll. And oh, excuse me, I'd like to as the Clerk  
19 to couple all matters and then call the roll.

20 MR. WILLIAM MARTIN: William  
21 Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call on the  
22 Committee on Housing and Buildings, Introductions  
23 993-A, 994-A, 999-A and 1000-A. Council Member  
24 Dilan.

25 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: I vote aye on

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2 all.

3 MR. MARTIN: Rivera.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye  
5 on all.

6 MR. MARTIN: Avella.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Aye on all.

8 MR. MARTIN: Comrie.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on all.

10 MR. MARTIN: Fidler.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Mr.

12 Chairman, if I just may briefly, I just want to  
13 add that we all, you know, try to live our lives  
14 by learning from our mistakes. And I think that  
15 is exactly what we are doing today on behalf of  
16 all the firefighters in the City of New York and I  
17 regret that it is too late for Firefighters  
18 Graffagnino and Bedia.

19 But hopefully this will never  
20 happen again because we will have figured out what  
21 we were doing wrong and corrected it before it did  
22 any more harm. And so I am very pleased to be a  
23 co-sponsor of all of these bills and to vote aye  
24 on all.

25 MR. MARTIN: Vacca.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye on all.

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MR. MARTIN: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

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MR. MARTIN: By a vote of eight in

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the affirmative, zero in the negative and no

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abstentions, all items have been adopted. Council

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Members, please sign the Committee report. Thank

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you.

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CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Okay and I'd

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like to keep the roll open for as long as the

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rules allow, to allow for some members who are in

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transit, the opportunity vote and at such time,

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I'd like to adjourn the Committee in honor of the

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fallen firefighters.

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[Pause]

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[Background conversation]

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MR. MARTIN: Council Member

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Crowley.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote aye

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on all.

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CHAIRPERSON DILAN: She's got to

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sign, right?

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[Pause]

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MR. MARTIN: Final vote on the

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2 Committee on Housing and Buildings now stands at  
3 nine in the affirmative, zero in the negative and  
4 no abstentions. Thank you.

5 [END 1002.MP3]

6 [START 1003.MP3]

7 [Gavel banging]

8 [Pause]

9 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Council Member  
10 White?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: I vote aye  
12 on all.

13 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Council Member  
14 Brewer.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye.  
16 Thank you very much.

17 MR. MARTIN: Revised final is now  
18 11 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no  
19 abstentions.

20 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Committee on  
21 Housing and Buildings is adjourned.

22 [Gavel banging]

23 [END 1003.MP3]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Laura L. Springate 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura L. Springate". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_Laura L. Springate\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_September 4, 2009\_\_\_\_\_