

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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May 28, 2020

Start: 9:03 AM

Recess: 9:07 AM

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING

B E F O R E: KEITH POWERS
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: ALICKA AMPRY-SAMUEL
ROBERT F. HOLDEN
RORY I. LANCMAN
CARLINA RIVERA

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

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
3 welcome to the Committee on Criminal Justice. All
4 members and staff, please turn on your video and
5 place your electronic devices to silence. Chair,
6 whenever you're ready to begin. Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: (bell) Alright,
8 (gavel) Thank you, everyone here today, and good
9 morning. I'm City Council Member Keith Powers, Chair
10 of the Committee on Criminal Justice. Today we're
11 here to have a vote on two bills, which I am
12 sponsoring. The first bill requires the Department
13 of Correction and City Justice submit to the Speaker
14 of the City Council and make publicly available on
15 the department's website a daily report related to
16 the outbreak of COVID-19 in city jails. The report
17 would include cumulative numbers of individuals
18 diagnosed and tested for COVID-19 along with other
19 pertinent information. It also would require CHS and
20 DOC to provide regular updates to people in custody
21 about the public health emergency and to publish a
22 timeline of significant events. This is really
23 important because during this crisis we've been
24 trying to get as much information as we can about the
25 crisis, whose—whose guidance say how many people have

2 been out from work and other information. This is
3 going require and ensure that we get all information
4 in a timely manner to be able to evaluate this crisis
5 and a crisis and crisis in the future. The second
6 bill required the mayor to create a local conditional
7 release commission pursuant Section 271 of the
8 Correction Law. The Commission would determine
9 subject to state limitations, which individuals who
10 are serving city sentences could be granted early
11 release. This bill in addition to the Six-Day Work
12 Release program would give the city an additional
13 tool to release people who do not need to be
14 incarcerated at the discretion of this commission. As
15 I said in our last hearing on these bills, had the
16 Commission been in place prior to the pandemic, we
17 could have let folks out who were vulnerable
18 populations in the long last details or were at risk
19 and at risk at getting the virus and having -
20 potentially having underlying health conditions in a
21 more timely fashion. Time is of the essence in
22 making sure that the bridge is up and running. I'm
23 glad that we have both of these bills before us
24 today, and I want to thank our staff here or here at
25 the City Council my staff Abigail Bessler, Dee Ebald

2 (sp?) and the staff here Brian Crow, Allana Siven and
3 all the others who helped put together a hearing last
4 week on Rikers and also hearing these bills as well.
5 I want to just thank as well the Council Members who
6 are here in attendance. I see Council Member Ampry-
7 Samuel, Council Member Menchaca, Council Member
8 Lancman, Council Member Holden, Council Member
9 Rivera. (coughs) With being said, I think we are
10 going to now open the vote. I can open mine.

11 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,
12 roll call vote Committee on Criminal Justice. The
13 items are coupled. Chair Powers.

14 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: I vote aye.

15 CLERK: Landcman.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

17 CLERK: Ampry Samuel.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: I vote aye.

19 CLERK: Holden.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote yes. on

21 Intro 1954 and no on Intro 1956.

22 CLERK: Rivera.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye and add
24 my name to both bills. Thank you.

2 CLERK: By a vote of 5 in the
3 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
4 Preconsidered Introduction 1954 has been adopted by
5 the committee and by a vote of 4 in the affirmative 1
6 in the negative, and no abstentions, Preconsidered
7 Introduction 1956 has also been adopted by the
8 committee.

9 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Thank you, you know
10 I will keep the vote open. So, thanks, thanks
11 everybody and this is adjourned. Thanks. (gavel)
12 (chimes/background comments)

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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 June 8, 2020