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COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

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 27, 2020
Start: 10:51 a.m.
Recess: 11:00 a.m.

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING

B E F O R E: Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.,
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Fernando Cabrera
- Margaret S. Chin
- Mark Gjonaj
- Barry S. Grodenchik
- Farah N. Louis
- Bill Perkins
- Carlina Rivera
- Helen K. Rosenthal
- Ritchie J. Torres

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SERGEANT HOPE: P recording, good to go.

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SERGEANT DAUTAJ: Cloud recording is good.

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SERGEANT SADOWSKY: Good morning and welcome to today's remote New York City Council hearing on the Committee on Housing and Buildings.

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At this time, would all panelists please turn on their video. To minimize disruption, please place electronic devices on vibrate or silent mode.

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Chair Cornegy, we are ready to begin.

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CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Housing and Buildings.

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We're here to hold a vote on a bill related to extending a full compliance and date of existing site safety training requirements. Pursuant to Local Law 196 of 2017, construction workers are required to complete specified hours of site safety training courses prior to obtaining a full site safety training card. The deadline to complete these courses is currently September 1st, but the COVID-19 crisis has made compliance difficult for the many workers.

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With in person courses becoming unavailable and only a limited number of trainings remotely. Many workers need additional time to complete our standing requirements. To provide this additional time, Preconsidered Intro. sponsored by Public Advocate,

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Council Member Menchaca and myself would extend the full compliance date to March 1, 2021.

I am joined today by Council Members Chin, Yeger, Cabrera, Rosenthal. I think that's it. We will now as the clerk to call the vote.

COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Gjonaj.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Oh, hey Mark and Mark Gjonaj.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Rivera.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Torres, Rivera, sorry.

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Louis.

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Grodenchik.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Okay, so, everybody is here. So, we can now ask the clerk to call the roll please.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning everyone.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: I'm sorry, before you call the roll, I just have a very brief statement before we go into this.

While we as a body under my friend and Speaker Corey Johnson have made tremendous strides in working towards equity in minority communities, I personally

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2 will not be voting on any matters before the New York
3 City Council today.

4 As a member of the New York City Council who is a
5 Black man, I take my responsibility to my community
6 and to this city seriously. As a member of the New
7 York City Council, I have legislated, marched, walked
8 out, sat down and actually laid down on behalf of
9 racial injustice and inequity.

10 The one thing I have not done is leverage my vote
11 and its incredible value to highlight the racial
12 division that exists and continues to conspire to
13 minimize the Black experience in this country.

14 Again, I look to more news or police misconduct and
15 act of violence against American citizens who happen
16 to be Black. I will be withholding my vote on behalf
17 of Robert E. Cornegy the 3rd, who resides in the
18 great state of Florida while holding his creative
19 skills for Nicholas Cornegy who lives in one of the
20 most violent parts of Brooklyn.

21 Formia[SP?] Cornegy who attends in HBCU in North
22 Carolina. Fanila[SP?] Cornegy who attends a self-
23 proclaimed Trump School in Arlington Virginia and for
24 Noah and Acosse[SP?] Cornegy who attend school in
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2 Georgia. One of the most characteristically racist
3 states in the country.

4 I will be withholding my vote on behalf of Amadou
5 Diallo, Patrick Dorismond, Ty Sheen Bonn[SP?], Andre
6 Fields, Alberta Spruill, Ousmane Zongo, Timothy
7 Stansbury, Sean Bell, John Collado, Antwon White,
8 Duane Browne, Shantel Davis, Comonie Brey[SP?],
9 Ronald Singleton, Accon Greely[SP?], Jeffrey Ragland,
10 Eric Garner, Miguel Espinal, Felix Kumi, Barium
11 Carey[SP?], David Felix, Raymond Peralta, Gerald
12 Tyre[SP?], Dalton Branch, Michael Hansford, Shaheed
13 Vassell, Captain Johnson, Oscar Grant, Aiyana Stanley
14 Jones, Kenneth Chamberlain, Rakeem Boyd, Trevon
15 Martin, Kendrick McDay[SP?], Timothy Russell and
16 Melissa Williams, Kendrick James, Michael Brown,
17 Tamia Rice, Samuel Dubois, Natasha McKenney, Megan
18 Hockaday, Christian Taylor, Sandra Bran, Freddy Grey,
19 Walter Scott, Alton Sterling, Fernando Castillo,
20 Coreen Ganes[SP?], Atatiana Jefferson, Pamela Taylor,
21 Pamela Turner, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Stephon
22 Kieron Crawford and lastly, who is not dead but
23 paralyzed, Jacob Blake.

24 Thank you.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin Committee Clerk
roll call vote Committee on Housing and Buildings on
Preconsidered Introduction. Chair Cornegy?

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: I will be withholding my
vote this morning.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera?

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: We also had an opening
statement from Council Member Menchaca.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Okay.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Are we going to do the
statement or continue roll call?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I think I'm just going
to come in and say thank you to the Committee. Thank
you for giving me this opportunity and really to
remind everyone about the hard work that this bill
Local Law 196 and the many years of work that we've
done that lifted up the workers. We saw union
workers alongside nonunion workers asking for these
kind of protections and this kind of training.

This tiered deadline piece was really to help
craft the ability to inject all this training into
our communities. We've had a lot of ups and downs

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2 around this and so, I'm really thankful for the
3 Council's ability to be flexible. The workers who
4 are speaking to us right now are telling us that
5 these extensions are actually creating dangerous
6 conditions with companies who are using fake OSHA
7 cards and other tactics to confront undocumented
8 workers and other workers who are vulnerable.

9 This is going to allow for more space to do the
10 work. The Department of Buildings, in the hearing
11 that we had before redoubled their commitment to our
12 workers. And so, these are all beautiful things
13 right now that we want to continue to allow it to
14 happen without that pressure point.

15 So, I want to say thank you to the Chair. To
16 Public Advocate then Council Member in the last
17 session Jumaane Williams, who really pushed this
18 forward, the unions and all the organizations and the
19 day laborer organizations that have continued to be
20 on the ground fighting this.

21 So, I want to say thank you to the Committee and
22 we will see you at Stated.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you Council Member. The
24 roll call on Preconsidered Introduction, Council
25 Member Cabrera?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres?

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Grodenchik?

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Perkins?

COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gjonaj?

COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Louis?

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 9 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions, Preconsidered Introduction has been adopted by the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Can you guys still hear me?

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Yes.

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CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: So, I want to thank you attending. I thank you for your vote. I think that this is a bill that's incredibly important. We are now concluding the hearing on Housing and Buildings for today.

Thank you [GAVEL]

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 AUGUST 30 , 2020