

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

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September 16th, 2020

Start: 11:01 a.m.

Recess: 11:08 a.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing

B E F O R E: Fernando Cabrera  
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Keith Powers

Ben Kallos

Bill Perkins

Ydanis Rodriguez

Kalman Yeger

Alan N. Maisel

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

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: PC recording started.

3 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Cloud recording started.

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Thank you and good

5 morning, everybody, and welcome to today's remote New

6 York City Council hearing of the Committee on

7 Governmental Operations. At this time, would all

8 panelists please turn on their video? Once again, at

9 this time, would all panelists please turn on their

10 video? To minimize disruption, please place

11 electronic devices on vibrate or silent mode. Thank

12 you for your cooperation. We are ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Let me gavel in.

14 [Gavel]

15 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Good morning. I am

16 Council member Fernando Cabrera, Chair of the

17 Committee on Governmental Operations. I am pleased

18 to be joined together by my colleagues Yeger, Kallos,

19 Perkins, Barron, Cornegy, Grodenchik, and Powers.

20 Today, the committee will hold a vote on two pieces

21 of legislation that will include public access to the

22 laws and rules of the city and improve the process of

23 the city agency rule making.

24 Proposed introduction in 1874A, sponsored

25 by Council member Chin, will permit individuals to

2 sign up to receive notifications from the City  
3 Record, the online version of the official newspaper  
4 for the city government. Currently, [inaudible  
5 00:01:28] allows individuals to sign up to receive an  
6 email notification whenever a city agency publishes a  
7 notice in the city record regarding and overcoming  
8 agency action such as public hearing or the adoption  
9 of a new role. Individuals can select which kinds of  
10 agency actions they would like to get notifications  
11 for. Proposed introduction 1874A will codify the  
12 City Record assisting the notification system. Under  
13 this bill, individuals could limit their notification  
14 to items affecting their selected community or  
15 district. This will ensure that individuals only  
16 receive notification on the item most relevant to.  
17 In addition, individuals will be able to see a brief  
18 description of each agency as they are signing up to  
19 receive notification which will help them select the  
20 right agency.

21 Proposed introduction 1878A, sponsored by  
22 Council member Powers, will amend the City  
23 Administrative Procedure Act or COPA. Currently the  
24 rule making process under COPA can take a long time.  
25 Local laws often include a provision that authorizes

2 the ministry agency to start the rulemaking process  
3 and adopt any necessary roles before the law goes  
4 into effect which helps ensure that the rules and  
5 local laws can take effect simultaneously. This bill  
6 will create a default rule allowing these early  
7 rulemaking's and, therefore, eliminating the need for  
8 a specific provision in individual local law. This  
9 bill will also add a provision to clarify any rule  
10 adopted pursuant to local law that has not yet gone  
11 into effect and would not become effective until the  
12 effective date of the local law.

13 I would like to thank my colleagues,  
14 Counsel member Chin and Powers for their leadership  
15 on the bill. I would also want to thank our  
16 committee staff. CJ Murray, Emily Fort John,  
17 Elizabeth Cronk, and Sebastian Bocce for their work  
18 on this. And, finally, want to thank my legislative  
19 director Claire Michael Bain. I will now turn it  
20 over to the clerk to call the roll.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning. William  
22 Martin, committee clerk. Roll call vote Committee on  
23 Governmental Operations. Both items are coupled.  
24 Chair Cabrera?

25 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: I vote aye.

2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Kallos?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Permission to  
4 explain my vote ever so briefly?

5 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Absolutely.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I just wanted to  
7 speak in favor of Introduction 1874A. The city  
8 record is the most important newspaper in the city of  
9 New York that no one has ever heard of. It comes out  
10 every single weekday and it's the way the city will  
11 tell you whether or not they're going to bulldoze  
12 your house to build an intergalactic highway. And  
13 it's the equivalent of having a [inaudible 00:04:39]  
14 centuri. For those of you wondering what I'm talking  
15 about, it's Douglas Adams and the Hitchhiker's Guide,  
16 one of my favorite books. And so, last term we were  
17 able to put the City Record online, but it is still  
18 very tense. The system does allow for people to  
19 subscribe to specific notices. This legislation,  
20 which is introduced by Council member Chin, which I  
21 am a co-prime sponsor, will codify the notification  
22 requirement and make it easier for people to keep  
23 track of the things that matter to them. So, I am  
24 happy to vote in favor of that as well as

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2 Introduction 1878A, authored by Council member  
3 Powers.

4 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Thank you.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Perkins?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye. Aye on  
9 all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Powers?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye on all. Thank  
12 you to the Chair.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Yeger?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: I vote aye on 1874  
15 and I vote no on 1878.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Okay. By a vote of five  
17 in the affirmative-- excuse me. By a vote of six in  
18 the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no  
19 abstentions, Introduction 878 is adopted by the  
20 committee and with a vote of five in the affirmative,  
21 one in the negative, and no abstentions, Introduction  
22 1874A is adopted by the committee, as well.

23 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Thank you very  
24 much. And with that we conclude this hearing. This  
25 vote.

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2 [gavel]

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4 Transcriber's Note: Vote Revision

5 Int 1874-A adopted 6 affirmative, 0

6 negative, 0 abstentions

7 Int 1878-A adopted 5 affirmative, 1

8 negative, 0 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 October 11, 2020