

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the
COMMITTEE ON RESILIENCY AND
WATERFRONTS

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MARCH 18, 2021
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HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 1)

B E F O R E: JUSTIN L. BRANNAN
CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEE ON
RESILIENCY AND WATERFRONTS

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
COSTA G. CONSTANTINIDES
RUBEN DIAZ, SR.
JAMES F. GENNARO
DEBORA L. ROSE
ERIC A. ULRICH

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

COMMITTEE ON RESILIENCY AND WATERFRONTS

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Recordings, PLEASE?

Thank you. Sergeant Hope, you're opening.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS HOPE: Thank you. Good Morning. Welcome to the New York City Council remote hearing on resiliency and waterfronts. At this time all Council Members and Council Staff please turn on your videos. Thank you. To minimize disruption please, please all electronic devices to vibrate or silent mode. Thank you. Chair Brannon, we are ready to begin.

CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN L. BRANNON: Thank you so much sergeant. Good morning, everyone. My name is Justin Brannon. I'm the Chair of the Committee on Resiliency and Waterfronts here in the New York City Council.

Today we'll vote on two Bills that would help ensure buildings and infrastructure throughout the city are resilient and built to withstand the effects of climate change. Coastal flooding, heat waves, and severe storms are becoming more intense and occurring more frequently. To prepare for the impacts of climate change buildings and infrastructure throughout the city must incorporate

COMMITTEE ON RESILIENCY AND WATERFRONTS

resilient design and resilient siding. The Mayor's office of resiliency has drafted nonbinding discretionary climate resiliency design guidelines, which provides guidance for planners on how to consider future hazards of heat, precipitation, and sea level rise in the design of buildings and infrastructure.

Proposed intro 2092A, sponsored by Council Member Constantinides, would codify these guidelines. The office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability would develop climate resiliency design guidelines informed by both the currently guidelines and a five-year pilot program evaluating potential resiliency features in city capitol projects. OLTPS with other city agencies and environmental justice organizations and members of the public with expertise in climate resiliency, climate design, the built environment, engineering and environmental justice issues would then be able to use these guidelines to develop a climate resiliency score metric for all city capitol projects.

COMMITTEE ON RESILIENCY AND WATERFRONTS

Proposed intro 2198A, sponsored by Councilman Matteo, would add additional free bore for most newly constructed or substantially improved or renovated buildings located in the floodplain to provide additional floodproofing. I would now to call on Councilman Constantinides to address his bill, Proposed Intro 2092A, Costa.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Thank you Chair Brannan. Thank you for all that you do to make our city more sustainable and more resilient every day, brother.

CHAIR BRANNON: Right on! Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: And as a city on the sea, we are literally on the front lines of the fight to secure livable climate and we've made great strides in our city in making it more sustainable, but the reality is you have to really prepare for worst case scenarios.

As we saw during Hurricane Sandy much of our infrastructure is woefully unprepared to deal with the worst impacts of climate change. That's why it's so critical that we set resiliency standards for everything we build in New York City. Climate

COMMITTEE ON RESILIENCY AND WATERFRONTS

planning must now be the cornerstone of everything that we do. If we have to ask if something was built with sustainability and resiliency in mind then we should just send it back to the drawing board. That's where Intro 2092 comes in. It requires the city to create a pilot program for resiliency design guidelines making them mandatory and once they are complete and having this scoring metric, that you talked about for projects, is the minimum standard for resiliency that every subsequent project must meet.

Again, I want to really thank you for your leadership, brother, in all that you do to make us seem more resilient. I want to thank all of your staff and, you know, the attorney for the Resiliency Committee as well. Jamie Bavishi and the whole team at MOR for getting the ball rolling on the creation of these guidelines and for pushing so hard and really, I want to thank the advocates. We were present at that rally last week rallying for this Bill for the Rise to Resilience Coalition. So, really thank you to the Rise to Resilience Coalition. All of the coalition members there who are every day working

COMMITTEE ON RESILIENCY AND WATERFRONTS

on issues of resilience that are so very important to our city. So, thank you for holding us accountable and thank you for pushing us forward to the advocates and, of course, my staff as well, Nicholas Lozowski, my council. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN L. BRANNON: Well, Costa, thank you.

Yeah, as we all know environmental justice is racial justice is economic justice. None of this stuff happens in a silo and these Bills today are really, what I like to call, no-brainers, but they did not exist until now and that is thanks in large, large part from the environmental justice groups who push us and keep us honest and it is a great partnership because they become our climate change conscience and they make sure that we are doing the right thing and that we're thinking about ways to improve our system that maybe we had not been thinking of immediately.

I also want to thank my committee council, Jessica Alvin, for all of her great work. I also want to acknowledge that we've been joined by other members of the committee Councilwoman Rose,

COMMITTEE ON RESILIENCY AND WATERFRONTS

Councilman Diaz, sr., and Councilman Ulrich and with that I will ask the Clerk to call the roll unless anyone else has anything to say.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Resiliency and Waterfronts introductions 2092A and 2198A. Items are coupled. Chair Brannan.

CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN L. BRANNAN: I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Rose.

COUNCILWOMAN ROSE: On all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: CONSTANTINIDES.

COUNCILMAN CONSTANTINIDES: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ruben Diaz, Sr.

COUNCILMAN DIAZ, SR.: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Ulrich.

COUNCILMAN ULRICH: I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Okay, by a vote of five in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no abstentions both items have been adopted by the committee. Thank you.

COMMITTEE ON RESILIENCY AND WATERFRONTS

CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN L. BRANNAN: Great, thank you everyone for joining us and congratulations Costa and Councilman Matteo and we will see you later at the (UNIDENTIFIED). I have to adjourn, right, this meeting?

COUNCILWOMAN ROSE: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON JUSTIN L. BRANNAN: This meeting has been adjourned. Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN ROSE: Thank you.

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 April 14, 2021