Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	Res 0174-2022	**Version:**	A	**Name:**	Consolidated Edison to improve communication with City residents about increases in utility costs
Type:	Resolution			**Status:**	Adopted
				In control:	Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection
On agenda:	5/19/2022				
Enactment date:				**Enactment #:**	

Title: Resolution calling upon Consolidated Edison to improve communication with City residents about increases in utility costs

Sponsors: Marjorie Velázquez, Kalman Yeger, Sandra Ung, Sandy Nurse, Mercedes Narcisse, Erik D. Bottcher, Lincoln Restler, Chi A. Ossé, Farah N. Louis, Carmen N. De La Rosa, Eric Dinowitz, Tiffany L. Cabán, Linda Lee, Alexa Avilés, James F. Gennaro

Indexes:

Attachments: 1. Res. No. 174, 2. May 19, 2022 - Stated Meeting Agenda, 3. Hearing Transcript - Stated Meeting 5-19-22, 4. Minutes of the Stated Meeting - May 19, 2022, 5. Committee Report 6/30/22, 6. Hearing Testimony 6/30/22, 7. Hearing Transcript 6/30/22, 8. Proposed Res. No. 174-A - 7/7/22, 9. Committee Report 7/13/22, 10. Hearing Transcript 7/13/22, 11. Committee Report - Stated Meeting, 12. July 14, 2022 - Stated Meeting Agenda, 13. Hearing Transcript - Stated Meeting 7-14-22, 14. Minutes of the Stated Meeting - July 14, 2022

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
5/19/2022	*	City Council	Introduced by Council	
5/19/2022	*	City Council	Referred to Comm by Council	
6/30/2022	*	Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection	Hearing Held by Committee	
6/30/2022	*	Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection	Laid Over by Committee	
7/13/2022	*	Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection	Hearing Held by Committee	
7/13/2022	*	Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection	Amendment Proposed by Comm	
7/13/2022	*	Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection	Amended by Committee	
7/13/2022	A	Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection	Approved by Committee	Pass
7/14/2022	A	City Council	Approved, by Council	Pass

Res. No. 174-A

Resolution calling upon Consolidated Edison to improve communication with City residents about increases in utility costs

By Council Members Velázquez, Yeger, Ung, Nurse, Narcisse, Bottcher, Restler, Ossé, Louis, De La Rosa, Dinowitz, Cabán, Lee, Avilés and Gennaro

Whereas, Consolidated Edison Company of New York (ConEd) supplies energy services to around 10

million people within New York City and Westchester County; and

Whereas, In 2020, ConEd reported $10.647 billion in operating revenues, with total assets amounting to $50.967 billion; and

Whereas, In January of 2022, City residents experienced dramatic and unexpected increases in their ConEd bills, caused by an increase in the cost of energy; and

Whereas, According to ConEd, the average energy price charged by power generators increased from $50 per megawatts per hour (MWh) in December 2022 to $140 per MWh in January of 2022; and

Whereas, This increase, coupled with the 10% increase in customer usage in January of 2022 due to cold weather, resulted in large monthly increases for City residents; and

Whereas, City residents reported increases of up to 300 percent in their gas and electric bills, a staggering surge that many New Yorkers cannot afford; and

Whereas, The financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is still affecting New Yorkers across the five boroughs; and

Whereas, The NYC Independent Budget Office predicts that New York City will not recover all of the jobs lost in 2020 until 2025; and

Whereas, Families in New York City who are struggling to pay rent should not have to choose between buying groceries and staying warm in their homes during the winter; and

Whereas, The unexpected increase of hundreds of dollars in gas and electric bills will further devastate households and force New Yorkers into greater debt; and

Whereas, ConEd has a robust notification system to alert City residents before major storms of the possibility of power outages; and

Whereas, City residents can sign up for ConEd's text alert system, which updates residents on the expected severity of impending storms; and

Whereas, The purpose of this notification system is to equip City residents with the necessary time and information to prepare for potential outages; and

Whereas, Many City residents were shocked in February when they saw their gas and electric bills; and

Whereas, Had residents been made aware of the expected increases, they would have had more time to limit their utility usage, decreasing their January utility bills; and

Whereas, As soon as ConEd was aware of the increase in energy costs, they should have made it a priority to develop a comprehensive notification system to alert all New Yorkers about the impending price increases; and

Whereas, To ensure City residents are better informed of potential changes in their utility bills, ConEd should update customers monthly through text, mailed notices, and email on their energy forecasting so City residents know whether their utility bill will remain stable, increase, or decrease; now, therefore, be it,

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon Consolidated Edison to improve communication with City residents about increases in utility costs.

NM
LS #8,048
4/18/2022