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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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November 14, 2019  
Start: 10:38 a.m.  
Recess: 10:54 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret S. Chin  
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.  
Mark Gjonaj  
Barry S. Grodenchik  
Farah N. Louis  
Bill Perkins  
Carlina Rivera  
Helen K. Rosenthal  
Ritchie J. Torres

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: [GAVEL] Good morning everyone and thank you for coming. I'm Council Member Robert Corney; Chair of the Council's Committee on Housing and Buildings.

We're here to hold the vote on four bills today. Three related to housing lotteries and one related to construction safety.

Housing developments that receive tax abatements, exemptions, or other forms of public funding contain units set aside for individuals who fall within specific area median income bands and household sizes.

Individuals can get leases for these units by entering house lotteries and for many individuals getting a lease for one of these units can be akin to winning the lottery. Many lotteries receive upwards of 70,000 applications.

Although, some New Yorkers do receive housing through these lotteries, the process is frequently fought with complaints. These include complaints that the selection process is opaque and that there is a lack of clarity about who exactly is receiving units in these developments. Similar complaints have been made about Mitchell Lama housing developments.

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2 Through the bills we will voting on today, are  
3 attempting to provide much needed clarity for the  
4 housing lottery process.

5 Proposed Intro. Number 550-A, sponsored by  
6 Council Member Levine will require the Department of  
7 Housing preservation and development to report on the  
8 housing lottery process including reporting on  
9 implementation, challenges and technical  
10 difficulties, complaints, procedures for further  
11 processing and selecting applications and procedures  
12 for filling waiting lists. This will allow us to  
13 better understand the problems with the housing  
14 lottery process, so that it can be improved upon.

15 Proposed Intro. 564-A sponsored by Council Member  
16 Treyger would require HPD to report on who receives  
17 housing through housing lotteries. The report would  
18 include information about application demographics  
19 such as race, household size and area median income.

20 Proposed Intro. 716-A, sponsored by the Public  
21 Advocate will require HPD to report on Mitchell Lama  
22 housing development waiting lists, including  
23 complaints about these waiting lists. Having this  
24 information would allow us to improve the  
25 effectiveness of Mitchell Lama waiting lists.

1  
2 Additionally, we'll also be voting on Proposed  
3 Intro. Number 720-C, also sponsored by the Public  
4 Advocate. This bill builds on the robust training  
5 requirements created by Local Law 196 for the year  
6 2017. By in part, expanding the qualifications for  
7 site safety training providers.

8 I'm joined today by Council Member Grodenchik,  
9 Louis, Rosenthal, Levine, Cabrera and Chin. Oh,  
10 Council Member Perkins from the great Harlem.

11 We'll as the clerk to read the roll at this time.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Billy Martin Committee Clerk,  
13 roll call vote Committee on Housing and Buildings,  
14 all items are coupled. Chair Cornegy?

15 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: I vote aye.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Chin?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Rosenthal?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Grodenchik?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Perkins?  
25

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: At the back of the bus,  
3 aye.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Louis?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: By a vote of seven in the  
7 affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions,  
8 all items have been adopted by the Committee.

9 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: We will be holding the roll  
10 open for ten minutes for members who have not  
11 arrived, thank you.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Continuation roll call, Committee  
13 on Housing and Buildings, Council Member Gjonaj?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Aye on all.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Vote currently stands at eight in  
16 the affirmative, zero in the negative, no  
17 abstentions.

18 Continuation roll call, Committee on Housing and  
19 Buildings, Council Member Torres?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote aye.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Final vote, all items in today's  
22 Housing and Buildings agenda have been adopted by the  
23 Committee. Nine in the affirmative, zero in the  
24 negative and no abstentions.

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COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Committee on Housing and  
Buildings closed. [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 April 1, 2018