

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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March 14, 2012
Start: 11:08 a.m.
Recess: 11:15 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway
Committee Room, 14th Floor

B E F O R E:

ERIK MARTIN DILAN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joel Rivera
Robert Jackson
Letitia James
Melissa Mark-Viverito
Elizabeth Crowley
Brad Lander
Jumaane D. Williams
Gale A. Brewer
Rosie Mendez
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Lewis A. Fidler
James S. Oddo

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2 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Good morning
3 everybody, and this should be an expeditious
4 hearing. My name is Erik Martin Dilan and I'm the
5 Chairperson of the City Council's Committee on
6 Housing and Buildings.

7 And today the Committee has before
8 it two legislative items for the purposes of a
9 vote, and they are Intro 791, which is a Local Law
10 to amend the Code of the City of New York in
11 relation to extending the rent stabilization laws,
12 as well as Resolution number 1230, resolution to
13 determine that a public emergency requiring rent
14 control in the city of New York continues to exist
15 and will continue to exist on and after April 1st
16 of this calendar year.

17 The regulation of rents in the city
18 of New York is of great concern to many New
19 Yorkers. This Committee conducted an initial
20 hearing on these items on March 2nd and received
21 Commissioner Wambua's testimony from HPD, as well
22 as from tenant leaders, housing advocates, and
23 representatives of the real estate industry. As
24 we heard at the time, the report of the Housing
25 Vacancy Survey which was submitted by HPD

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2 indicates that a citywide rental vacancy of about
3 3.1% exists, which is below the 5% threshold
4 enabling the Council to continue the rent
5 regulation system.

6 As everyone probably knows, the
7 passage of 791, which I expect to pass today,
8 would extend rent stabilization laws from April 1,
9 2012, to April 1, 2015; and the passage of the
10 corresponding Reso would extend the rent control
11 law from April 1, '12, to April 1, of '15 as well.
12 At this point, if the sponsor of Reso 1230,
13 Council Member Viverito, would like to make a
14 brief statement, she may.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

16 Yeah, no, thank you, Mr. Chair, for this hearing
17 and the vote. And obviously, we are all very
18 strong advocates in this Council on behalf of our
19 rent stabilization laws and rent regulation laws,
20 and so with that, I'm proud co-sponsor of this
21 Reso and commend Council Member Gonzalez and the
22 Speaker for their leadership on Intro number 791.

23 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Okay. With
24 that, I'd like to ask the clerk to couple both
25 items and to call the roll.

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KEVIN PIN: Kevin Pin, Committee Clerk, roll call on the Committee on Housing and Buildings, Intro 791 and Reso 1230. Council Member Dilan.

CHAIRPERSON DILAN: I vote aye on both, or aye.

KEVIN PIN: Rivera.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

KEVIN PIN: Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on all.

KEVIN PIN: James.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Congratulations, Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito, I vote aye.

KEVIN PIN: Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye on all.

KEVIN PIN: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote aye.

KEVIN PIN: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Enthusiastically, yes.

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KEVIN PIN: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: As a former tenant organizer, proud to vote aye.

KEVIN PIN: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye on all.

KEVIN PIN: By a vote of nine in the affirmative, zero in the negative, no abstentions, the items have been adopted. Members, please sign the Committee Reports.

CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Okay. We'll hold the vote open for as long as the rules allow. I know some members of leadership are around, just want to give them the opportunity to vote, and just ask that members sign the Committee Report before leaving.

And if the Clerk could acknowledge Council Member Mendez for the purposes of casting her vote.

KEVIN PIN: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

KEVIN PIN: Vote stands at ten in the affirmative. [Long pause] Council Member Comrie.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on all,

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thank you.

KEVIN PIN: Vote currently stands at 11 in the affirmative. [Long pause] This is Housing and Buildings. Council Member Fidler.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye on all.

KEVIN PIN: Vote on Housing and Buildings now currently stands at 12 in the affirmative. [Pause] Council Member Oddo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: No.

[Long pause]

KEVIN PIN: Final vote on the Committee on Housing and Buildings [pause] stands at 12 in the affirmative, one in the negative, and no abstentions. Thank you.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Tammy Wittman, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature

Tammy Wittman

Date March 31, 2012