

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

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November 15, 2017
Start: 10:24 a.m.
Recess: 10:38 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm,
14th Fl.

B E F O R E:
CARLOS MENCHACA
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Mathieu Eugene
Daniel Dromm
Peter A. Koo
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.

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

[sound check]

[pause]

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Buenos dias. I am Carlos Menchaca, chair of the New York City Council's Committee on Immigration. Before going any further, I'd like to introduce the members of the Committee who are here today, starting with Council Member Danny Dromm from Queens and Council Member Mathieu Eugene from Brooklyn.

Today the Committee will vote on a package of three bills that will benefit all New Yorkers, no matter their race, their religion, gender identify, nationality, or immigrant status.

Proposed Intro No. 1579-A, which I sponsored, addresses possible safety and privacy concerns that may deter New Yorkers from seeking City services by restricting access to non-public areas of City property as well as locations where human services contractors provide services like housing assistance and legal services. Under the bill, non-local law enforcement can't enter non-public areas of City property unless there is an agreement granting access; there is a warrant or access is required by

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2 law; access furthers the purpose or mission of an
3 agency; or there are exigent circumstances. These
4 requirements would apply to human services
5 contractors, even if their services aren't provided
6 on City property. Each agency would be required to
7 provide free training to employees contracted for
8 security services at covered City buildings.
9 Finally, each agency would be required to post online
10 agency-specific guidelines.

11 We will also be voting on two bills that
12 will revolutionize the City's privacy policies. New
13 Yorkers provide their personal information to the
14 City every day with the expectation that it be kept
15 confidential; that bedrock of trust that allows all
16 New Yorkers, including immigrants, to feel sure that
17 engaging with City agencies, schools, and law
18 enforcement will not put them at risk. To protect
19 those the City serves from undue intrusions of their
20 privacy, Proposed Intro 1588-A and Proposed Intro
21 1557-A would minimize the identifying information the
22 City collects and monitors to regulate the flow of
23 information once it is collected.

24 Intro 1588-A, sponsored by Council Member
25 Jumaane Williams, would require City employees and

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2 contractors to protect all types of information that
3 could be used to identify a person, including contact
4 information, sexual orientation, religion, social
5 media information, and immigration status, by
6 limiting its collection, disclosure, and retention.

7 Proposed Intro 1557-A, sponsored by the
8 Speaker, will help us to refine this new privacy
9 framework through a comprehensive review of every bit
10 of personal information collected by the City and
11 whether we can do more to protect its information.

12 I will now ask Jumaane Williams -- and I
13 don't think he brought his statement. Does anybody
14 have a statement for me to read? Okay. If he gets
15 here; we will have him read his statement to speak on
16 his bill. I will now call roll.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
18 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on
19 Immigration; all items are coupled. Chair Menchaca.

20 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: I vote aye on all.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.
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2 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye on all, and
3 these are very important bills, especially for our
4 immigrant community. Thank you.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 3 in the
6 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
7 all items have been adopted by the Committee.

8 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Thank you. And as
9 we wait for other members, I'll just say a few
10 moments -- a group of us just went down to Puerto
11 Rico with the Speaker and through a few days visited
12 many towns that have yet to see any government
13 response or real infrastructure improvements. The
14 work that we did down there was really to bring back
15 testimony and I hope that members that went and that
16 members who have been following and members that will
17 go in the future come back and talk about what they
18 are seeing in Puerto Rico. A lot of our constituents
19 in our districts have family in Puerto Rico; the
20 wellness check team that OEM has sent is still
21 looking through over a hundred people that have yet
22 to connect to their families here in New York. The
23 OEM team has now sent seven teams at two-week stints
24 and team seven is on the ground right now preparing
25 to give a final document to the San Juan Mayor's

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2 office about everything that we have learned around
3 FEMA, everything we have learned about disaster
4 recovery and moving from phases of response to
5 recovery and rebuilding. Those are the things that
6 New York is dedicated to, because that's who we are
7 as a city, but the stories that will be coming out, I
8 hope you listen to them, I hope you share them, I
9 hope you find them yourself and talk about it and not
10 allow this to die as a humanitarian crisis that it
11 is. With that, I don't know if you wanna say
12 anything else. We'll keep the vote open for a few
13 more minutes. Thank you.

14 [pause]

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call,
16 the Committee on Immigration. Council Member
17 Espinal.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote, all items
20 on today's agenda on the Committee on Immigration are
21 now adopted by a vote of 4 in the affirmative, 0 in
22 the negative and no abstentions.

23 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Thank you all, and
24 with this we'll see these bills on the stated floor
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COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

on Thursday. Thank you all to our committee and
committee staff. Thank you.

[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 November 22, 2017