

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES
Of the
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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November 26, 2019
Start: 11:06 AM
Recess: 11:15 AM

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: YDANIS A. RODRIGUEZ
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Fernando Cabrera
Andrew Cohen
Chaim M. Deutsch
Ruben Diaz, Sr.
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Peter A. Koo
Stephen T. Levin
Mark Levine
Carlos Menchaca
I. Daneek Miller
Anotonio Reynoso
Donovan J. Richards
Deborah L. Rose

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

2 (sound check)

3 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Good morning
4 everyone. Thank to this voting hearing of the
5 Committee of Transportation. This is something that
6 we've been waiting for a long period of time. Since
7 chairing the Committee of Transportation we've been
8 addressing the abuse of placards in the city of New
9 York. Together with many of our colleagues here we
10 have been addressing this issue, but the time has
11 arrived today, the time when with the—with the
12 leadership of Speaker Johnson and the colleagues
13 here, we will be voting today on something that is so
14 important to all New Yorkers, but especially to
15 pedestrians and—and to pedestrians and cyclists.
16 Today we'll be voting on nine bills relating to the
17 city-issued parking permits otherwise known as
18 placards. Placard abuse is corruption. It is misusing
19 the city resources for personal benefit. It is city
20 employees parking wherever they want while obtaining
21 the personal—for personal matters under the false
22 premise that they are doing necessary business for
23 the city. Often this means parking in crosswalks,
24 bike lanes, bus lanes or even on sidewalks forcing
25 other road users into dangerous situations and the

2 slowing down all of our-our commutes. For too long
3 this problem was ignored by the city, but these bills
4 thanks to the leadership of all the colleagues here
5 and Speaker Johnson will provide the way to repaint
6 the entire placard system. They address how placards
7 are issued, for what reason and by what agency. They
8 deal with enforcements for placard misuse and perhaps
9 most importantly, they require much more data to be
10 made public so they-so that we have better insight
11 into how the system is working and can continue to
12 adjust and improve all overtime. I'm the sponsor of
13 the first bill, Intro 314-A. This bill will require
14 the Police Department to issue a report every six
15 months for the next four years on the misuse of
16 citywide parking permits. The report will include
17 information on the number of summons issued by the
18 Police Department in relation to the placard misuse,
19 and the reason for the miss-for the summons. [phone
20 ringing] This will give us better insight into the
21 Police Department enforcement efforts, the lack of
22 which is an integral-integral part of placard abuse
23 and will allow this committee, the City Council and
24 the public to hold the Police Department accountable
25 in addressing this problem. The second bill Intro

2 596-B is sponsored by Public Advocate Jumaane
3 Williams. This bill will increase the penalty for
4 unauthorized of fraudulent placard use from \$250 to
5 \$500. The third bill is sponsored by the Speaker is
6 Intro 927-A. It will require the Police Department
7 to create a centralized electronic tracking system
8 for all city issued parking permits so that police
9 officers and Traffic Enforcement Agents can determine
10 in real time whether the permit is real and valid.
11 We have other bills. I'm not going to be reading the
12 rest of them for the time—for the purpose of the time
13 and my colleague, but all of them are a package of
14 bills that address the abuse of the placard. So, with
15 that, I would like to—Council Member Koo. Council
16 Member Koo, you have something to say. Okay.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you, Chair,
18 yeah, okay. Parking abuse is a growing problem on our
19 city streets in which many now believe the parkers
20 have a right. They are entitled to rather than a
21 privilege to be used under really specific
22 circumstances. Parker abuse not only clogs our
23 streets with illegally parked vehicles, it also
24 creates a resentment and distrust for those
25 authorities allowed to use the parkers. My bill is

2 Intro 942-A. This legislation looks to develop a
3 compre-comprehensive plan regarding the distributions
4 and use of city-issued parking permits. Importantly,
5 this bill will also publish the plan so that we can
6 bring more transparency and accountability to the
7 parker-to the parking parker system. We want to curb
8 the parker abuse, give our streets back to the
9 public, and restore the public trust in those who
10 actually parking parkers to serve the city of New
11 York. Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: [I wonder what
13 that aim is with the bill. [Speaking Spanish] Thank
14 you. I now call for a vote on Proposed Intro 314-A,
15 596-B, 927-A, 932-A, 942-A, 139s-93-A, 1394-A, 1395-
16 A, 1422-A. I recommend a yes vote, and I ask the
17 Counsel-the Committee clerk to please call the roll.

18 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,
19 Roll call vote Committee on Transportation. All
20 items are coupled. Chair Rodrigutez.

21 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

22 CLERK: Cohen.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Congratulations to
24 the Chair. Thank you for your leadership. I vote
25 aye.

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2 CLERK: Deutsch.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Don't speak?

4 Okay, permission to explain my vote.

5 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: [off mic] It is
6 my pleasure. You may explain your vote. (sic)

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: [laughs] Okay,
8 so, um, first I'd like to—I'd like to sign onto all
9 the bills as sponsor—as a co-sponsor except for 1394-
10 A and 1394-A is, um, the local law to amend the
11 Administrative Code in the city in relation to city
12 vehicles obstructing a bicycle lane, bus lanes,
13 sidewalk, crosswalk and fire hydrant. Now, the one
14 who is going to enforce this will be Traffic
15 departments, and TA or Traffic Departments, and in my
16 district, and I've seen it all across the city where
17 the Traffic Department has been one of the most, um,
18 one of the biggest violators when it comes to
19 blocking bike lanes, and sitting as fire hydrants and
20 bus lanes. So, we don't have anyone to have that
21 oversight on TA or Traffic Department when they
22 stopped to issue someone a summons and they double
23 park and park at hydrants and park at bus stop. Um
24 so with that being said I vote no on 1394-A, and I
25 vote aye on the rest. Thank you.

1 COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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2 CLERK: Espinal.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye.

4 CLERK: Koo.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

6 CLERK: Levine.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

8 CLERK: Menchaca.

9 MALE SPEAKER: [off mic] Menchaca.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

11 CLERK: Reynoso.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

13 CLERK: Richards.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

15 CLERK: by a vote of 9 in the

16 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,

17 all items are adopted by the committee with

18 Introduction No. 1394-A being adopted by the

19 committee 8 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative and

20 no abstentions.

21 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: [off mic] Okay,

22 thank you. [on mic] I would like also to invite my

23 colleagues to join us at 12:00 noon as we're going to

24 be holding a press conference together with Council

25 Member Carlina Rivera as we will be introducing the

2 bills that we—that we create, the Bicycle and
3 Pedestrian Department in the City of New York, a bill
4 that we are introducing today, are hoping to have a
5 hearing in December. So, we feel that with the
6 Transportation Master Plan, with the—with the package
7 of bills that we're voting today will make the city
8 more pro-pedestrian and cycling, and now with the two
9 bills that we are introducing today creating the
10 Departments of Cyclists and Pedestrians, we want to
11 make our city the more pedestrian and cyclist
12 friendly in the whole nation, ad with that, this
13 hearing is adjourned. [gavel]

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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 December 13, 2019