

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON RESILIENCY AND
WATERFRONTS

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October 7, 2021
Start: 12:16 p.m.
Recess: 12:21 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: Justin Brannan
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Ruben Diaz, Sr.
James F. Gennaro
Eric A. Ulrich
Deborah Rose

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

2 [background comments]

3 CHAIRPERSON BRANNAN: All right.

4 [gavel]

5 CHAIRPERSON BRANNAN: Good afternoon.

6 Councilman Justin Brannan, Chair of the Council's
7 Committee on Resiliency and Waterfronts. Today, we
8 will vote on proposed Intro 1620-A. It's a very
9 important piece of legislation that I introduced with
10 my former colleague, Council member Constantinides
11 two years ago, 2019. This bill will ensure that all
12 neighborhoods throughout the entire city, both
13 shoreline and inland communities, are prepared and
14 protected against the effects of climate change.
15 Coastal and inland flooding, extreme rain, heat waves,
16 and severe storms are becoming more intense and more
17 frequent. This new climate reality and the climate
18 crisis are very much here now. In August of 2020,
19 extreme winds from Tropical Storm Isaias caused the
20 second biggest power outage for customers in Con
21 Edison's history behind Superstorm Sandy. This past
22 summer's Tropical Storm Elsa, Henri, and Ida caused
23 significant flooding from heavy rain. Tropical Storm
24 Henri set a record with almost two inches of rain
25 falling in just one hour. This record was then

2 broken two weeks later by Tropical Storm Ida which
3 dumped three and a quarter inches of rain in one
4 hour. For the first time, a flash flood emergency
5 for all five boroughs at the same time was put in
6 place. Storms are not the only climate threat that
7 faces the city. Heat waves kill more people than any
8 other weather disaster and, because of the urban heat
9 island effect, the city and its residents are
10 extremely vulnerable to extreme heat. This past
11 June, the temperature was above 90 degrees on eight
12 days. That is almost three times more than the
13 average number of above 90 degree days for June.
14 These recent storms and heat waves demonstrate that
15 the city needs a much more comprehensive approach to
16 address the climate hazards that the city faces. The
17 city must also ensure that vulnerable neighborhoods
18 are both prepared and protected so that they are able
19 to withstand or avoid these climate hazards. The
20 bill that we are voting on today addresses these
21 issues.

22 Proposed Intro 1620-A would require that,
23 no later than September 30th, 2020 and every 10 years
24 thereafter, the Office of Long Term Planning and
25 Sustainability or another office or agency designated

2 by the Office of Long Term Planning and
3 Sustainability in consultation with other city
4 agencies will develop and post on its website a
5 climate adaptation plan that considers and evaluates
6 various climate hazards impacting the city and its
7 shoreline. Such climate hazards would include
8 extreme storms, sea level rise, tidal flooding,
9 extreme heat, extreme precipitation, extreme wind,
10 wildfire, and flood surge events associated with the
11 storm. The Climate Adaptation Plan would include
12 recommendations for resiliency and adaptation to
13 protect residents, property, and infrastructure in
14 the city. The plan would identify areas that are
15 highly vulnerable to climate hazards to help
16 determine where resiliency and adaptation measures
17 should first be implemented and would consider
18 recommendations in reports by the Intergovernmental
19 Panel on Climate Change and the New York City Panel
20 on Climate Change. The Climate Adaptation Plan would
21 also consider the potential impacts of adaptation
22 measures on environmental justice areas.

23 Before I call the bill for a vote, I want
24 to thank my committee staff who has worked very hard
25 on this bill, especially over the past couple of

2 weeks. Committee counsel Jessica Albans-- Jessica
3 Steinberg Alban, senior policy analyst Patrick
4 Muldahill [sp?], senior finance analyst Johnathan
5 Seltzer, my senior advisor Johnathan Yetten [sp?], my
6 chief of staff Chris McCrite, and my legislative
7 director Michael Sheldon. And, of course, chief of
8 staff, Tacori Johnson, Jason Goldman. I'd like to
9 recognize that I am currently joined by Council
10 member Gennaro and Council member Debbie Rose. I'll
11 now ask the clerk to call the role and I'd like to,
12 obviously, encourage my fellow members to vote in
13 favor of this very, very important piece of
14 legislation.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good afternoon. William
16 Martin, committee clerk. Roll call vote Committee on
17 Resiliency and Waterfronts. Proposed Introduction
18 1620-A. Chair Brannan?

19 CHAIRPERSON BRANNAN: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Chair, I very
22 proudly vote aye for this very timely legislation.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gennaro?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote aye
25 and, with the Chair's indulgence, I'd just like to

2 thank him very much for his leadership in putting
3 this forward and bringing us to this good day and,
4 with that, I vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of--

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I'm also a
7 proud co-sponsor of this. So, there you go.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of three in
9 the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
10 abstentions, the item has been adopted by the
11 committee.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Am I on the bill?
13 Okay.

14 CHAIRPERSON BRANNAN: You're on.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I just wanted to
16 make sure. Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON BRANNAN: Okay.

18 [gavel]

19 CHAIRPERSON BRANNAN: Meeting adjourned.

20 Thank you.

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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 November 1, 2021