

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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January 22, 2020

Start: 2:27 PM

Recess: 2:58 PM

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm.  
16<sup>th</sup> Fl.

B E F O R E: MARK LEVINE  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Alicka Ampry-Samuel  
Inez D. Barron  
Andrew Cohen  
Mathieu Eugene  
Robert F. Holden  
Keith Powers

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

(sound check) (pause) (gavel)

CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: ...and a decade later we are still short of that commitment. You didn't catch anything I just said. It was—it was pretty good. Okay, I'll give the very short version. Um, were—were you rolling? Okay? Well, um, once again welcome to our City Council Committee on Health. (laughter) and I want to thank my colleagues for joining me as today we take up the issue of lead poisoning. We are working intently on this, and will continue as we make up for lost time. This body legislated back in 2004 a landmark legislation that in writing committed to end lead poisoning in New York City 2010. We have failed miserably, and a decade later, 4,000 children a year are suffering with elevated lead poisoning in their blood. We have passed already ten bills that attempt to tackle this problem, and today's bill in the Health Committee is part of an additional five that are going to various committees, and there will be more until we end this epidemic for the benefit of the young people in this city. We are focusing today on pregnant individuals who when they test positive for elevated lead are at risk of passing on that sickness to the child, and we

1  
2 want to make sure that a full investigation is done  
3 to examine the sources of that lead poisoning, and a  
4 long-term observation is undertaken to protect the  
5 child, who as I mentioned is at very high risk of  
6 also having elevated lead in the blood if-if they  
7 have it from birth. This is a Bill 904-A whose lead  
8 sponsor is Council Member Carlina Rivera, and I'm  
9 pleased that we are voting on it today, and I am  
10 going to ask our Committee Clerk Billy Martin to call  
11 the roll. Is he still here? Yeah, there you are.  
12 Okay.

13 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,  
14 roll call vote Committee on Health, introduction 904-  
15 A. Chair Levine.

16 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: I vote aye.

17 CLERK: Barron.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye and  
19 ask to be added to the sponsors of this bill. Thank  
20 you.

21 CLERK: Holden.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye and,  
23 um, again, I'm-I'm very proud of my colleague Carlina  
24 Rivera. These-these lead bills, by the way are-it's  
25 amazing that we didn't have the laws on the books for

1  
2 so long to protect our children. So, I'm so glad to  
3 see that we're catching up, and I just—I'm a proud  
4 sponsor of one of the lead bills, but this one it  
5 goes a long way in protecting newborn children. So,  
6 a terrific bill. I vote aye

7 CLERK: Powers.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I vote aye.

9 CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the  
10 affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions,  
11 the item has been adopted by the committee.

12 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Okay. I'm going to  
13 ask that we hold the vote open. We're expecting the  
14 arrival of one or two colleagues, and I want to thank  
15 those who came here on time. You will have an extra  
16 member that I'm funding for health initiatives this  
17 year. Thank you all very much. (pause)

18 CLERK: Continuation of roll call vote,  
19 Introduction 904-A, Council Member Ampry-Samuel.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: I vote aye.

21 CLERK: The vote is now at 5 in the  
22 affirmative. (pause) Continuation roll call vote,  
23 Committee on Health. Introduction 904-A, Council  
24 Member Cohen.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Mr. Chair, thank  
3 you for keeping the roll open. I guess I'll vote aye  
4 since I came all this way to. (laughter) Thank you  
5 very much.

6 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: That makes it  
7 unanimous. (laughter) I think we're going to close  
8 it at this point, but um...

9 CLERK: Final vote on Introduction 904-A  
10 is now 6 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and  
11 no abstentions.

12 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Excellent. Thank  
13 you, and that concludes our hearing. (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 February 4, 2020