

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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August 12, 2013
Start: 11:13 a.m.
Recess: 11:16 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E: MARK S. WEPRIN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Mathieu Eugene
Helen Foster
Peter Vallone
Albert Vann

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joel Rivera
Helen D. Foster
Rosie Mendez
Inez E. Dickens

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COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Good morning everyone and thank you for being here. My name is Maria del Carmen Arroyo, I chair the Committee on Health. Today, the Committee on Health will vote-- phones? Yeah. The Committee on Health will vote on two bills to improve the transparency and accountability of the office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Intro number 1058A sponsored by Council Member Julissa Ferreras and of which I am co-sponsor requires OCME to post information about the proficiency of lab--of its lab workers and other documents related to procedures used in the DNA lab. The second bill, intro number 1051A of which I am the prime sponsor and Council Member Ferreras is the co-sponsor is designed to improve the accountability of OCME by requiring it to conduct a root cause analysis whenever a significant error occurs and share the root cause analysis report with the Council and the Mayor as well as other entities and parties. This legislation is intended to help OCME be able to quickly and efficiently examine the systems and structures that lead to failures and bring corrective action as soon as possible, and we can all agree that, and understand that mistakes happen. These

1 bills are not going to eliminate human error in the
2 medical examiners office. What they will do is
3 require OCME to take a hard look at mistakes that are
4 made that greatly minimize the opportunity for
5 something to go wrong, and in the future--in the
6 future, and lift the veil of secrecy surrounding this
7 office to restore the public's trust. The public
8 will now have confidence that the OCME has identified
9 problems and acted quickly to resolve the root of
10 those problems and that these--this process is
11 embedded in the day-to-day operation of the office as
12 it should be. I want to thank Speaker Quinn and
13 Council Member Ferreras for their work in advancing
14 these bills. I want to thank the Committee staff who
15 have worked for very long hours in negotiating the
16 best bill possible, that we can all agree will
17 improve the function of the office of the Medical
18 Examiner, and for those of you who may not be aware,
19 Council Member Ferreras is not here to make a
20 statement on her bill because she gave birth to her
21 baby boy yesterday. So we want to congratulate her
22 and wish her well, and hope they come home soon to
23 form that incredible family that she's been looking
24 forward to create. With that said, I urge my
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colleagues to vote yes on both bills, and if we can
get the clerk to call the roll?

COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Kevin Penn,
Committee Clerk; roll call on the Committee on Health
Intros 1051A and 1058A. Council Member Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Foster?

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Vann?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Dickens?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Mendez?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: By a vote of nine
in the affirmatives, zero in the negative, no

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abstentions, the items have been adopted. Members,
please sign the Committee Report.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Okay,
understanding that Council Member Ferreras can't make
it, we adjourn this meeting.

[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 there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is no interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date 09/13/2013