

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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May 22, 2018
Start: 11:15 a.m.
Recess: 11:42 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Fernando Cabrera
Costa G. Constantinides
Chaim M. Deutsch
Ruben Diaz, Sr.
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Peter A. Koo
Stephen T. Levin
Mark Levin
Carlos Menchaca
I. Daneek Miller
Antonio Reynoso
Donovan J. Richards
Deborah L. Rose
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.

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

2 [background comments] [sound check]

3 [pause] [gavel]

4 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Good morning
5 everyone. Welcome to today's hearing of the City
6 Council Transportation Committee. I am Ydanis
7 Rodriguez, the chair of this committee. Before we
8 proceed I would like to recognize my colleagues who
9 are here with us. For of all Council Member Matteo
10 whose bill we're going to be voting today, Council
11 Members Cabrera, Constantinides, Koo Levin, Levine,
12 Menchaca Rose and Diaz. Today we will vote on
13 Proposed Intro 210-B sponsored by Council Member
14 Matteo. I also would like to add my name to the
15 bill, which would give property owners more time to
16 make repairs when they receive sidewalk violations
17 from DOT. While maintaining the sidewalk is an
18 important responsibility of being a homeowner in New
19 York City, it is also a costly and time-consuming
20 responsibility. Given homeowners more time to comply
21 with orders from DOT to repair their sidewalks is a
22 common sense change that will benefit the New York-
23 New Yorkers throughout the city. I now invite
24 Council Member Matteo to deliver an opening statement
25 on his legislation.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Thank you, Chair
3 Rodriguez. I appreciate it. Thank you for holding
4 the hearing and supporting the bill. As with most of
5 the bills I introduce, Intro 210-B is the result of
6 my office's work to solve problems for our
7 constituents. In this case, the problems that
8 homeowners who have been issued violations by the
9 Department of Transportation for a defective or
10 otherwise unsafe sidewalk do not have enough time to
11 correct the condition. Under current city law the
12 property cited for damaged sidewalks the owner has 45
13 days to complete repairs or the city will impose a
14 lien on the property. This is both unfair and
15 impractical for several reasons. Even under the best
16 of circumstances 45 days is not enough time to get
17 quotes from contractors, compare prices and to
18 schedule and complete repair work, and no work can be
19 done during the cold months and inclement weather,
20 which this year extended from November through on of
21 the harshest early springs we have had experienced.
22 This problem is exacerbated even further if the
23 homeowner does not have money to make the repairs
24 readily available, which is a reality for so many
25 families or seniors on fixed incomes. Thus, property

2 owners who in good faith actually want to fix their
3 sidewalks are often hit with liens, which place undue
4 restrictions on their properties and can adversely
5 affect their credit. Intro 210-B, which would almost
6 double the amount of time homeowners would have to
7 correct an unsafe sidewalk condition before a lien is
8 imposed from 45 days to a more reasonable 75 days.
9 While I wanted to provide more time, I believe this
10 bill strikes the appropriate balance between
11 homeowners' needs and the Administration's concerns
12 and it's fairer, more practical and less punitive
13 than the current law. I urge all of you to vote in
14 favor of the legislation today. Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Thank you and
16 before moving on the vote I'd like to acknowledge
17 Council Member Espinal, and I also thank my—the staff
18 of this committee Malak, Jonathan and Emily, Shieva,
19 Joanne, John and also thanks to Evelyn and Stephanie
20 from my office. I now call for the vote on Proposed
21 Intro 210-B. I recommend a yes vote, and I ask the
22 Committee Clerk to please call the roll.

23 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,
24 roll call vote Committee on Transportation. Chair
25 Rodriguez.

2 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

3 CLERK: Cabrera.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

5 CLERK: Constantinides.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye, and
7 if you can please add me as a co-sponsor of the bill.
8 Thank you.

9 CLERK: Espinal.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

11 CLERK: Koo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye and also I want
13 to congratulate Minority Leader Matteo for
14 introducing the bill. Thank you.

15 CLERK: Levin.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

17 CLERK: Levine.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: [off mic]

19 CLERK: Menchaca.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Actually, I
21 didn't vote yet. I was just going to say that so far
22 I'm here—I'm here, Billy. Thank you.

23 CLERK: Excuse me, you weren't moving.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: So, far every
25 single hearing I've been in today has a bill authored

2 by Minority Leader Matteo, and I'm going to continue
3 the streak and vote aye on this one, too. [pause]

4 CLERK: Menchaca.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

6 CLERK: Rose.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye, and please add
8 me to the bill.

9 CLERK: Diaz.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Permission to
11 explain my vote. [pause] Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
12 Chairman. I just want to congratulate the sponsor of
13 this magnificent piece of legislation. It's time
14 that the homeowners, the property owners gets a
15 relief, and one of the bad things that's happening is
16 that—that I've seen is that the city also owns
17 sidewalks, and they give ticket and maybe the—the
18 homeowners of private property—private property fix
19 that property, but the city don't fix their—their
20 sidewalk—its sidewalk. So maybe we could do
21 something to—to imposing the city also to fix also
22 the sidewalks because it is nice to impose a sanction
23 on a property—on homeowners to fix their sidewalk but
24 next to that sidewalk the city sidewalk will be
25 broken and always doesn't fix it. So,

2 congratulations and—and thank you for this piece of
3 legislation. I vote yes.

4 CLERK: By a vote of 10 in the
5 affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions,
6 the item is adopted by the committee.

7 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, and we
8 will leave the vote open, but I would like to take
9 advantage—take the opportunity also to invite New
10 Yorkers to make—to keep—inform about the next hearing
11 that we will have in June on parking where we will be
12 hearing the bills related to create a residential
13 parking bill in the city of New York. We will also
14 hear the bill related to provide members of the press
15 a permit—a—a right to have a placard—a press—to have
16 an opportunity to park their car as they're doing
17 their job, and other bills related to—to parking from
18 Council Member Moya, Council Member Levine. As also
19 we have many bills related to parking. So, they—
20 they--we will have two hearings in June. We're
21 working on the day. One is going to be about parking
22 and the second is going to be about the—the—the
23 closing of the L-Train, and how that we are working
24 together, the city and MTA to provide the services
25 necessary. So, with that we will leave the vote

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2 open. [pause] [background comments] The vote will
3 be open for the next 15 minutes. [pause]

4 CLERK: Continuation roll call the
5 Committee on Transportation. Council Member
6 Salamanca.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: The vote currently stands at 11.
9 [pause] Continuation roll call the Committee on
10 Transportation, Introduction 210-B, Council Member
11 Deutsch.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: [off mic] Aye.

13 CLERK: The vote currently stands at 12
14 in the affirmative. [pause] The final vote,
15 Committee on Transportation, Introduction 210-B is
16 adopted by the Committee 12 in the affirmative, 0 in
17 the negative and no abstentions. Thank you. [pause]

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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 June 13, 2018