

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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February 10, 2020

Start: 11:11 AM

Recess: 11:26 AM

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm.
16th Fl.

B E F O R E: PAUL A. VALLONE,
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Inez D. Barron
Robert Cornegy
Farah N. Louis
Mark Gjonaj
Peter A. Koo
Brad S. Lander
Carlos Menchaca
Keith Powers

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

2 (pause) (background comments/pause)

3 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Good to go?

4 Alright. Good morning everyone. Welcome to the
5 Committee on Economic Development. I'll get this
6 thing going because I know you have lots of hearings.
7 Today is Monday, February 10, 2020. My name is
8 Council Member Paul Vallone. I have the privilege of
9 chairing this committee. I'd like to extend my
10 thanks to my fellow committee members and staff for
11 coming together for today's vote. As tall this
12 committee heard a package of 18 pieces of legislation
13 jointly with the Committees on General Welfare and
14 Education. That package focused on food equity, which
15 Speaker Johnson has highlighted as a key note
16 component of his legislative policy agenda. Today
17 after several rounds of negotiation with food policy
18 advocates and Mayoral Administration, this committee
19 is proud to be voting on two bills from that
20 legislative package with more to come in the near
21 future. The Committee on General Welfare will also
22 be voting on two of the bills in the package later
23 this afternoon. The first bill in front of this
24 committee today is Proposed Introduction 1666-A co-
25 sponsored by Council Member Ben Kallos and Speaker

2 Johnson, which would codify into law the Mayor's
3 Office of Food Policy. The Office of Food Policy
4 would be added to the City Charter, and tasked with
5 several critical responsibilities including providing
6 recommendations to the Mayor and agencies regarding
7 food policy, coordinating multi-agency initiatives
8 relating to food policy, performing outreach to food
9 policy advocates, community based organizations,
10 academic institutions, and other entities to advance
11 the city's food policy, and support initiatives that
12 are designed to promote access to healthy food. This
13 bill was in the works for a number of years, and
14 today caps a multi-agency and multi Speaker effort to
15 shift food policy and food equity towards the top of
16 the city's list of priorities. The second bill we
17 are considering today is Proposed Introduction Number
18 1664-A sponsored by Council Member Vanessa Gibson,
19 which would require the newly codified Office of Food
20 Policy to develop a 10-year food policy plan. As
21 part of that plan the Office of Food Policy would
22 need to consult with relevant city agencies,
23 community based organizations, leaders in food
24 systems, stakeholders that focus on food policy,
25 equity, justice and food insecurity. The 10-year

2 plan would set goals to reduce hunger, improve
3 nutrition, increase access to healthy food, reduce
4 food waste, develop and improve food and farm
5 economies and increase urban agriculture and
6 sustainability. The Office of Food Policy would also
7 be required to issue a progress report on the food
8 policy plan every two years. We commend the goal set
9 by legislation before the committee today, and we
10 think they are a welcomed step towards improving the
11 state of food equity in our city. For these reasons,
12 I'll be voting yes on both bills and urge fellow
13 committee members to do so as well. Finally, I'd
14 like to thank the hard working EDC staff, Legislative
15 Counsel Alex Paulenoff; Policy Analyst Emily
16 Forgione; Finance Analyst Alia Alli, as well as
17 Senior Policy Analyst Nadia Johnson for al of their
18 hard work. I know Ben Kallos has a statement since
19 he couldn't make it today, but let me just say the
20 Council Members that are here. We have Council
21 Members Cornegy, Koo, Menchaca, Gjonaj, Powers,
22 Louis. So we have a quorum. Before we take the vote
23 let me just read Ben Kallos since he's co-sponsoring
24 the bill's statement.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Wait you leave
3 the vote open when you read that? (sic)

4 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I know, I was—I was
5 not a happy camper, but he promised a half a page.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Garbage.

7 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: A half a page is
8 the limit.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Can I second that
10 motion? (laughter)

11 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Yes, denied.
12 (laughter) I'm proud to be the prime sponsor of
13 Introduction 1666-A establishing high level
14 coordination of the city's food activities through
15 empowering and codifying the Mayor's Office of Food
16 Policy as a Charter mandated office. Currently work
17 related to food policy is done across various city
18 agencies. Given this, the city lacks a comprehensive
19 food plan that is well funded and strategic and
20 improving access to health foods in this city. This
21 is the cost of public health. This legislation
22 creates a unified task force of experts that can
23 streamline attention and resources to fight for a
24 fair and just food system. I've been working on this
25 bill since 2014 building on Council Member Brad

2 Lander's work and collaborating with the New York
3 City Food Forum. We wanted to codify the Mayor's
4 Office of Food Policy. Further, this office will
5 help to provide vision into the implementation of
6 programs such as breakfast after the bell, Universal
7 School Lunch and Healthy Happy Meals all of which
8 have been priority during our tenure at City Council.
9 I'd like to thank our co-sponsors as well as
10 Committee staff for their hard work, and he's asking
11 all of us to vote yay on this important piece of
12 legislation. Would anyone else like to be heard this
13 morning before we vote? Seeing none, I'd like to
14 open up for a vote.

15 CLERK: William Martin Committee Clerk,
16 roll call vote Committee on Economic Development. The
17 items are coupled. Chair Vallone.

18 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Aye on all.

19 CLERK: Cornegy.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye on All.

21 CLERK: Koo.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

23 CLERK: Menchaca.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

25 CLERK: Gjonaj.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Aye on all.

3 CLERK: Powers.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye on all.

5 CLERK: Louis.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye.

7 CLERK: By a vote of 7 in the

8 affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions

9 both items have been adopted by committee.

10 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: And I'd also like

11 to hold the vote open until about 11:30 to give the

12 other two Council Members a chance to come if that's

13 possible. Alright, thank everybody. This meeting is

14 adjourned. Well, it's not adjourned yet. (gavel)

15 (background comments/pause)

16 CLERK: Continuation roll call, the

17 Committee on Economic Development, Introduction 1664-

18 A and 1666-A, Council Member Barron

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.

20 Thank you.

21 CLERK: The vote is currently 8 in the

22 affirmative. (pause) (background comments)

23 COUNCIL MEMBER: Continuation roll call

24 Committee on Economic Development, Introduction 1664-

25 A and 1666-A, Council Member Lander.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: With gratitude
3 for holding the vote open for me, I enthusiastically
4 vote aye on all.

5 CLERK: The final vote on these items is
6 now 9 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
7 abstentions. Council Member Vallone.

8 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Before we deputize
9 Alex Paulenoff to close this meeting please

10 ALEX PAULENOFF: This meeting is hereby
11 adjourned. (gavel) I always wanted to do that.

12 (background comments)

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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 20, 2020