

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

----- X

November 15, 2017
Start: 1:01 p.m.
Recess: 1:13 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm.
14th Fl

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Daniel R. Garodnick
James Vacca
Margaret S. Chin
Stephen T. Levin
Deborah L. Rose
James G. Van Bramer
David G. Greenfield
Costa G. Constantinides
Carlos Menchaca
I. Daneek Miller
Antonio Reynoso
Donovan J. Richards

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

2 [sound check, pause] [background comment,
3 pause]

4 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon,
5 everyone. Welcome to this hearing of the City
6 Council Transportation Committee. I am Ydanis
7 Rodriguez the Chair of the Committee. First, let me
8 recognize my colleagues who are here with us today,
9 Council Members Garodnick, Vacca, Chin, Van Bramer,
10 Richards, Constantinides and Menchaca. Today, we
11 will be voting on three important pieces of
12 legislation related to street safety. This committee
13 and this Council have been active partners with this
14 Administration on the Vision Zero Initiative, and
15 that eliminating—eliminating traffic fatality from
16 our city's streets. Through a smart data driving
17 approach to our streets at this robust enforcement
18 and more education and awareness among the public
19 traffic crashes can be prevented. I am proud that
20 today we will be adding these bills to the already
21 extensive list of street safety related legislation
22 advanced by this committee.

23 Proposed Intro 1116-A sponsored by
24 Council Member Van Bramer will go a long way toward
25 enhancing and straining (sic) into law the many

2 improvements that the city has made to publicly
3 available crash data. Robust comprehensive user-
4 friendly data about collisions underpins much of the
5 rest of the work of Vision Zero as it allows New
6 Yorkers to see for themselves where the biggest
7 problems are, and help devise suggestions for
8 solutions and improvements while also making it
9 easier to keep government accountable. This bill
10 will codify the online Vision Zero View Portal and
11 require DOT to publish an online crash map.

12 Proposed Intro 1270—and 1257-A also
13 sponsored by Council Member Van Bramer will require
14 DOT to develop a strategy for enhancing pedestrians
15 and traffic safety near schools, and to report on
16 their implementation protecting our most vulnerable
17 street users, such as children on their way to
18 school. It is a key component of Vision Zero, and
19 this bill will ensure that their safety gets the
20 attention it deserves.

21 Finally, Proposed Intro 1463-A, which I
22 introduced, would require the city to create the new
23 public notification alert system for hit and run
24 crashes. Hit and runs are some of the most cowardly
25 acts to occur on our streets as people who leave the

2 scene of a crash not only inhibit a proper
3 investigation from taking place, but in many cases
4 also delay vital medical attention—assistance from
5 reaching injured victims, one of them dying every
6 week because those criminal drives leave the scene.

7 In Fiscal Year 2016, there was a total of 44,865 hit
8 and runs and 510 arrests. Thirteen—38 of these
9 crashes resulted in the death of pedestrians, but
10 only 13 arrests were made, and 22 crashes it resulted
11 in series injuries, but only 14 arrests were made.

12 In the first three-quarters of 2017, there were 42
13 hit and runs resulting in critical injury; 18 led to
14 an arrest, but the data is reported quarterly, and it
15 is not clear if an open case from a previous quarter
16 that has since led to an arrest is captured. So,
17 that number may be artificially low. There is no—an
18 FY17 annual report up yet, which will be as
19 comprehensive as the data from FY16. These reckless
20 individuals need to be held accountable, and it is my
21 hope that just as the Amber Alert and Civil (sic)
22 Alert this new alert system will allow the NYPD to
23 leverage the eyes and ears of the over eight million
24 New Yorkers to quickly find and apprehend hit and run
25 suspects. I'm proud to have sponsored this bill in

2 honor of Jean Paul Guerrero also known as DJ Jean
3 Paul, a DJ from the Mega 97-97 who was killed last
4 December by a hit and run driver in Brooklyn. Along
5 with previous legislation we have passed increasing
6 penalties for hit and run drivers. It is my hope
7 that this new alert system will make people think
8 twice before leaving the scene of a crash. I know
9 invite our Majority Leader Council Member Van Bramer
10 to deliver his marks-remarks on Intro 1116 and 1257.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you,
12 (coughs) very much Mr. Chair and congratulations on
13 your amazing work, and I want to thank you for co-
14 sponsoring the two piece of legislation that I'm
15 thrilled that we're taking up today and, of course,
16 all of your work on Vision Zero, and 1116, which
17 codifies the Vision Zero Portal, and it's going to
18 require the Commissioner to publish a map showing the
19 locations of motor vehicle related injuries and
20 fatalities in the city in a manner that allows users
21 to disaggregate crash data by year, month and time
22 and day of occurrence. Incredibly important for
23 folks to know where the danger is, and 1257, which is
24 a bill that we're really proud of that also
25 tragically came to us because we had a young 8-year-

2 old boy Noshat Nahian, who was killed on Northern
3 Boulevard crossing the street to go to school at PS
4 152 in Woodside, holding the hand of his 11-year-old
5 sister. He did not make it across the street because
6 a truck killed him, and—and so it's really, really
7 important that we be able to identify which are the
8 most dangerous schools in terms of the streets around
9 them where are these crashes happening. And 1257,
10 our Safe Routes to School Act will require the
11 Department of Transportation to actually enact a plan
12 to identify the 50 most dangerous schools, and then
13 enact a plan and publish it to make those schools
14 that are most dangerous like PS 152 to be safer, and
15 ultimately all of this, of course, to save lives.
16 So, with that, I'll just thank the Chair and all of
17 the co-sponsors and all of my colleagues and, of
18 course, the staff both the Transportation Committee
19 staff and then my staff Matthew Wallace and my Deputy
20 Chief of Staff in charge of Legislation and Budget
21 Andre Sveja (sp?) who's taking a picture right now,
22 but I want to recognize his work on these piece of
23 legislation as well. So, thank you very much, Mr.
24 Chair.

2 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: And I would like
3 to thank the Speaker for allowing to move this bill
4 tomorrow at the Stated Meeting as we're going to
5 voting. A hit and run is epidemic. It's a killing a
6 lot of beautiful New Yorkers and tourists who come
7 here. It is possible to eradicate this epidemic, and
8 with this alert and the two bills, the piece of
9 legislation that I've also been working on with my
10 colleagues Jimmy—Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer.
11 We hope that we provide more tools and more
12 information to New Yorkers so that we can definitely
13 eradicate hit and run in New York City. With that, I
14 now call for the vote on Proposed Intro 1116-A, 1257-
15 A, and 1463-A. I recommend a yes vote and ask the
16 Committee Clerk to please call the roll.

17 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,
18 Roll Call Vote Committee on Transportation. All
19 items are coupled. Chair Rodriguez.

20 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

21 CLERK: Constantinides.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye and
23 I'd like to be added as a co-sponsor to 1257-A and
24 1463-A.

25 CLERK: Richards.

1 COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION 9

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Thank you. I
3 vote aye. I also would like to be added to Intro
4 1257-A and also 1169. Thank you.

5 CLERK: Garodnick.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

7 CLERK: Vacca.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

9 CLERK: Chin.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye and also
11 please add me as a co-sponsor to 1463-A. Thank you.

12 CLERK: Van Bramer.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye.

14 CLERK: Menchaca.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I vote—I vote
16 aye and if you can please add me to 1463-A as a co-
17 sponsor. Thank you.

18 CLERK: Greenfield.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

20 CLERK: By a vote of 9 in the
21 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
22 all items have been adopted by the Committee.

23 [background comment, pause]

24 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: I'll have it open
25 for—I'm going to—I'm going to leave it open for the

1 COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

10

2 next few minutes, and with that, I'd like to dedicate
3 these bills that we're passing to the Families for
4 Safer Streets, Transportation Alternatives and other
5 advocate groups who are on the front line fighting
6 for justice, and these epidemic guys affecting our
7 city. [background comments, pause]

8 CLERK: Continuation roll call the
9 Committee on Transportation. Council Member Levin.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye.

11 CLERK. The final vote Committee on
12 Transportation all items have been adopted by the
13 committee, 10 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative
14 and no abstentions.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: This hearing on
16 the Committee of Transportation is adjourned.

17 [gavel]

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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 28, 2017