

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AND WORKER PROTECTION
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

1

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AND WORKER
PROTECTION

----- X

October 29, 2025
Start: 9:50 a.m.
Recess: 9:59 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING
ROOM 1

B E F O R E: Julie Menin, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shaun Abreu
Gale A. Brewer
Amanda Farías
Shekar Krishnan
Chi A. Ossé

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Erik D. Bottcher
Chris Banks

1 COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AND WORKER PROTECTION

2

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Mic check, mic check.

3 This is a mic check on a vote of Consumer and Worker
4 Protection. Today's date is October 29, 2025, in HR1
5 recorded by Walter Lewis.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and
7 welcome to today's New York City Council hearing vote
8 from the Committee on Consumer and Worker
9 Protections.

10 At this point, I'd like to remind
11 everyone to please silence their electronic devices
12 and at no point going forward is anyone to approach
13 the dais.

14 Chair, we're ready to begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON MENIN: [GAVEL] Good morning.
16 My name is Julie Menin, and I'm the Chair of the
17 Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection. Welcome
18 to today's vote on Proposed Introduction Numbers 495-
19 A, 1016-A, 1231-A, and 1290-A.

20 I first want to recognize my Colleagues
21 who are here. We have been joined by Majority Leader
22 Farías, Council Member Bottcher, Council Member Ossé,
23 Council Member Krishnan, Council Member Abreu, and
24 Council Member Banks.

25

2 The bills we're hearing today touch on a
3 variety of consumer protection and business licensing
4 issues. Proposed Introduction Number 495-A, sponsored
5 by Council Member Brannan, would require self-storage
6 facilities and storage warehouses to provide 60 days'
7 notice prior to increasing an occupant's storage
8 fees. It would also prohibit self-storage facilities
9 from terminating occupancies without providing an
10 explanation.

11 Proposed Introduction 1016-A, sponsored
12 by Council Member Bottcher, would require gun dealers
13 and licensing officers to display or disseminate
14 graphic warnings designed by the Department of Health
15 and Mental Hygiene alongside written warnings about
16 the risks of firearm ownership these businesses are
17 required to post pursuant to State law.

18 Proposed Introduction Number 1231-A,
19 sponsored by Council Member Banks, would require tax
20 preparers to provide consumers with a receipt that
21 includes an itemized list of all charges and fees.
22 This bill would also require tax preparers to provide
23 consumers with an itemized statement prior to
24 providing tax services, which would include all
25

2 charges for the services that the tax preparer
3 intends to provide the consumer.

4 And then finally, Proposed Introduction
5 1290-A, sponsored by myself, would require the
6 Department of Consumer and Worker Protection to
7 license self-storage facilities. It would also remove
8 outdated requirements associated with storage
9 warehouse licenses.

10 I now want to invite the bill sponsors to
11 make a comment. Council Member Bottcher.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: Thank you so
13 much, Chair Menin.

14 Gun violence. The United States of
15 America stands out among all countries in the world
16 for the epidemic of gun violence. Over 41,000 people
17 died from gun-related injuries in the United States
18 last year. It recently surpassed car accidents as the
19 leading cause of death for American children.
20 Approximately 16.7 million firearms were sold in the
21 United States last year. Yet, at the point of
22 purchase, there is no warning at the point of
23 purchase. I can't think of a deadlier consumer
24 product that requires no warning at the point of
25 purchase. Gun violence is a public health crisis, and

it's time that we start treating it as such. So today, in the City Council, we are passing the first legislation in the United States that will require a graphic image warning on the wall of gun stores in New York City. This is a public health effort inspired by graphic images on cigarette packaging in other countries. We've all seen cigarette packs in other countries where they have an image of a blackened lung or something that drives home the dangers of that product. We are going to require gun sellers to do that in New York City. It'll be imagery crafted by the New York City Department of Health. It could be an image of a child reaching into a drawer, pulling a gun out of a bed stand drawer. It could be an image of a child's coffin. It could be any image that gets people to think twice before making that purchase, because we know that public health warnings with images are vastly more effective. So, we're passing this legislation today in the City Council. And one day, I would like to think that across the country, firearms sellers will be required to have a warning on the wall with a graphic image that gets people to think twice before purchasing a firearm and bringing it into their home.

2 I want to thank everyone who was part of
3 this legislation and all my Colleagues who co-
4 sponsored it and Chair Menin and the Committee here
5 for passing it. Let's go forward and reduce gun
6 deaths in the United States.

7 CHAIRPERSON MENIN: Thank you so much,
8 Council Member Bottcher, for that incredibly
9 important bill. I mean, this bill is literally going
10 to save lives, and the fact that no other consumer
11 products... we're constantly selling consumer products
12 that are very, very safe and then we have one of the
13 most dangerous products and it has no warning so
14 thank you so much for your leadership on this. It's
15 mission critical.

16 Now we're going to turn to Council Member
17 Banks.

18 And I also want to mention we've been
19 joined by Council Member Brewer.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Thank you, Madam
21 Chair.

22 It's an honor and a privilege to be here
23 to speak about a bill Intro. 1231, which would
24 require tax preparers to provide customers with an
25 itemized statement of changes. This would include

1 COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AND WORKER PROTECTION

7

2 fees for state and federal tax returns, software,
3 filings and any charges related to refund
4 anticipation loans or checks. Tax preparers would be
5 required to provide this statement in both physical
6 and electronic formats. This bill was inspired by a
7 constituent complaint. A tax preparer contacted my
8 office after a client refused to pay a fee of about
9 150 dollars. What should have been a straightforward
10 transaction turned into a frustrating ordeal for the
11 business owner who had to jump through unnecessary
12 hoops just to get paid and a customer who honestly
13 just wanted to know what they were paying for. I
14 thought if customers had a clear itemized breakdown
15 of charges, something that they could understand and
16 reference to, it would prevent misunderstandings and
17 make things easier for everyone involved. That's the
18 goal of Intro. 1231, to offer transparency and
19 protection for both consumers and the tax preparers.
20 Thank you, Madam Chair.

21 CHAIRPERSON MENIN: Thank you so much.

22 Now, we are going to turn it over to the
23 Clerk to call the roll.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
25 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call

1 COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AND WORKER PROTECTION 8

2 vote Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection. All
3 items are coupled.

4 Chair Menin.

5 CHAIRPERSON MENIN: I vote aye on all, and
6 I want to congratulate Council Member Bottcher and
7 Council Member Banks on these incredibly important
8 bills that we are voting on today.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Abreu.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brewer.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Farías.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Aye.

15 Congratulations to my Colleagues.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Krishnan.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ossé.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
21 vote of six in the affirmative, zero in the negative,
22 and no abstentions, all items have been adopted by
23 the Committee.

24 Madam Chair, that is a full Committee.

25 CHAIRPERSON MENIN: Thank you. [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 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 3, 2025