

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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September 14, 2023

Start: 9:12 a.m.

Recess: 9:36 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Shekar Krishnan, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

David M. Carr  
Eric Dinowitz  
Robert F. Holden  
Linda Lee  
Christopher Marte  
Julie Menin  
Francisco P. Moya  
Mercedes Narcisse  
Lincoln Restler  
Sandra Ung  
Marjorie Velazquez

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone  
3 check for the Committee on Parks and Recreation.  
4 Today's date is September 14, 2023, located in the  
5 Committee Room, recording done by Pedro Lugo.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and  
7 welcome to the New York City Council vote of the  
8 Committee on Parks and Recreation.

9 At this time, can everyone please silence  
10 your cell phones? Thank you for your cooperation.

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: [GAVEL] Good  
13 morning, everyone, and welcome to our relatively on-  
14 time Parks Committee vote today. I'm Shekar Krishnan,  
15 Chair of the Committee on Parks and Recreation.

16 Today, the Committee will vote on four  
17 pieces of legislation. All of these pieces of  
18 legislation affect two major crises in our city when  
19 it comes to both swimming and water safety as well as  
20 climate change and the importance of our tree canopy  
21 and expanding our tree canopy to combat our climate  
22 crisis.

23 First, Proposed Intro. 7-A sponsored by  
24 Council Member Menin would require the Department of  
25 Parks and Recreation to provide swimming lessons and

2 water safety instruction for free to all New York  
3 City public school second grade students. We first  
4 considered this bill at a Parks Committee hearing on  
5 April 26th of this year, and it is extraordinarily  
6 exciting to know that we as a Council are now taking  
7 steps to make sure that every single New York City  
8 child knows how to swim.

9           Second, Proposed Intro. 962-A is  
10 sponsored by Majority Whip Brooks-Powers. It would  
11 require the Parks Department with other City agencies  
12 to conduct a survey of sites owned by the City to  
13 identify suitable locations where additional public  
14 swimming pools can be built with the focus on  
15 communities that do not have access to pools, assess  
16 the ongoing capital needs of its pools, and update  
17 the assessment routinely. It would also require that  
18 the Parks Department consult with the Department of  
19 Education on creating a plan to open pools under DOE  
20 jurisdiction for use by the public. Finally, it would  
21 require that the Parks Department offer free swimming  
22 lessons at indoor swimming pools under its  
23 jurisdiction. This bill was first considered at a  
24 Parks Committee hearing on April 26th of this year,  
25 and it could not come at a more critical and urgent

2 time. We know that one of the biggest barriers for  
3 children learning how to swim is access to swimming  
4 pools, and the biggest step forward that we can take  
5 as City Government is to make sure that we are  
6 looking at every tool at our disposal, every public  
7 site available to build swimming pools, especially in  
8 communities that don't have any.

9           Next is Proposed Intro. 1017 which I have  
10 sponsored. It would require the Parks Department to  
11 submit an annual report to the Mayor and Council on  
12 staffing levels and training for the City's pools and  
13 beaches programs including information on seasonal  
14 recruitment of lifeguards, the number of emergencies  
15 that occurred at each beach and pool, and the current  
16 number of pools that are closed for public use due to  
17 maintenance or other issues. This bill was also first  
18 considered at a Parks Committee hearing on April 26th  
19 of this year. We face a serious crisis of lifeguards  
20 and water safety, not only this city but across the  
21 country, and the way to ensure that we actually have  
22 the proper staffing of lifeguards at our pools and  
23 beaches is first by requiring much more  
24 accountability and transparency from our City  
25 Government, from our Parks Department to ensure we

2 know well in advance the issues with lifeguard  
3 staffing as well as pool maintenance or other  
4 barriers that may inhibit our ability to fully staff  
5 our pools and beaches. This bill addresses that issue  
6 head-on.

7           Last but not least, Proposed Intro. 1066-  
8 A sponsored by Council Member Brewer would require  
9 the sustainability report issued pursuant to Local  
10 Law 84 of 2013 to also consider the roll of trees in  
11 long-term sustainability planning in addition to the  
12 other sustainability factors that are currently  
13 measures. We know from this summer alone with extreme  
14 heat, with flooding from rains that our tree canopy  
15 is one of our best measures to protect our city from  
16 climate change. It is essential that we take these  
17 steps to make sure we are considering trees when we  
18 make our city sustainable and expanding our urban  
19 forest.

20           I'd like to thank all my Colleagues for  
21 sponsoring these important bills, and I urge all of  
22 my Colleagues to vote in favor of the legislation  
23 before us.

24           Thank you, again, and I'd ask the Clerk  
25 to call the roll.

1 COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good  
3 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call  
4 vote, Committee on Parks and Recreation. All items  
5 are coupled. Chair Krishnan.

6 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Aye on all.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Holden.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: [No response]

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Moya.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
12 you. Dinowitz.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Lee.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Marte.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Menin.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: [No response]

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ung.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

1 COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

3 Velazquez.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VELAZQUEZ: Aye on all.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
6 you. Carr.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye on all.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a  
9 vote of 10 in the affirmative, zero in the negative,  
10 and no abstentions, all items have been adopted by  
11 the Committee.

12 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you, and I'd  
13 ask the Clerk to hold the vote open for another 15  
14 minutes or so.

15 Thank you all so much and  
16 congratulations.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Quiet,  
18 please. Continuation roll call, Committee on Parks  
19 and Recreation. Items are coupled. Council Member  
20 Holden.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
23 you. Vote is now currently at 11 in the affirmative,  
24 and the roll is still open at request of the Chair.

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1 COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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2 Continuation roll call, Committee on  
3 Parks and Recreation. Council Member Narcisse.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye on all.  
5 Thanks.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Final  
7 vote is now 12 in the affirmative, zero in the  
8 negative, and no abstentions. Council Member Narcisse  
9 to close.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Adjourned. Thank  
11 you. [GAVEL]

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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 September 18, 2023