

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES
Of the
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HOUSING

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May 26, 2021
Start: 3:06 p.m.
Recess: 3:13 p.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing (Virtual Room 1)

B E F O R E: Alicka Ampry-Samuel
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Diana Ayala
Laurie Cumbo
Dharma Diaz, Sr.
Oswald Feliz
Vanessa Gibson
Mark Gjonaj
Carlos Menchaca
Kevin Riley
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Mark Treyger
Jimmy Van Bramer

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

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Computer started.

3 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Cloud has started.

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Backup is rolling.

5 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Thank you. Sergeant
6 Bradley, with your opening statement, please.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good afternoon and
8 welcome to today's New York City Council vote on
9 Public Housing. At this time, will all members turn
10 on your videos for verification purposes. Thank you.
11 Chair, we may begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON AMPRY-SAMUEL: Good afternoon
13 and thank you for coming. I am Council member Alicka
14 Ampry-Samuel, Chair of the Public Housing Committee.
15 We are here to vote on two bills to improve the
16 quality and service of DFTA sponsored senior centers
17 located on NYCHA property. Proposed Intro number 415
18 A, sponsored by Council member Chin and proposed
19 Intro number 1827 A sponsored by me. Both bills were
20 originally heard by this committee along with the
21 Committee on Aging at a joint hearing on April 7 of
22 this year. At that hearing, this Committee sought to
23 better understand how NYCHA and DFTA are working
24 together to best meet the needs of NYCHA's aging
25 population. Over 20% of the more than 350,000

2 authorized residents at NYCHA are aged 62 and older.

3 A few years ago, we were told that NYCHA and DFTA

4 were working on an MOU to work out the relationship

5 and responsibilities between the two agencies, but

6 this year we learned that that MOU never came to be.

7 Regardless of what NYCHA and DFTA have worked out,

8 it's only fair that residents, especially some of the

9 most vulnerable residents, have a clear understanding

10 of what is going on and raise complaints when their

11 needs are being met. Senior centers are an important

12 way for our senior population to access critical

13 resources and services, unfortunately, in response to

14 Covid 19, senior centers have been closed since March

15 2020. There still seems to be confusion and

16 frustration related to the planning of reopening the

17 centers. Even though vaccines have been rolling out

18 and the city has been taking steps to safely reopen

19 and return to normalcy. Whatever senior centers do

20 fully reopen, we want to be sure that they are

21 prepared to meet the needs of our seniors. The two

22 bills we are voting on today are designed to improve

23 the provision of services at senior centers in NYCHA.

24 First, proposed Intro number 415 A sponsored by

25 Council member Margaret Chin would require DFTA to

2 report on certain information regarding senior
3 centers located on NYCHA property. Including
4 information on how to raise complaints about senior
5 center facilities at those locations and what steps
6 have been taken to address those complaints. Second,
7 my bill, proposed Intro number 1827 They would
8 require the establishment of a NYCHA liaison within
9 DFTA. This liaison would help clarify the division
10 of responsibility between NYCHA and DFTA with respect
11 to senior centers. As I said at the hearing last
12 month, these bills would establish an important
13 common sense steps to improve the coordination of
14 services to NYCHA's most vulnerable seniors. I am
15 joined today by Council member Menchaca, Council
16 member Diaz Senior, Council member Ayala, Council
17 member Van Bramer, Council member Riley, Council
18 member Gjonaj, Council member Salamanca, Council
19 member Feliz, and Council member Gibson. And I am
20 not sure if the Chair of the Aging Committee, Council
21 member Chin is on or if she is coming on to speak on
22 her bill.

23 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: I don't believe she
24 will be joining us.

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2 CHAIRPERSON AMPRY-SAMUEL: Okay. With
3 that, we will now ask the clerk to call the role.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good afternoon. Matthew
5 Distefano, Committee Clerk. Committee on Public
6 Housing. Roll call vote on proposed Intro 415 A and
7 1827 A. All items are coupled. Chair Ampry-Samuel?

8 CHAIRPERSON AMPRY-SAMUEL: I vote yes.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Congratulations,
13 Madam Chair. I vote aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA:

16 Congratulations to Chair and Council member
17 Alicka Ampry-Samuel and also Council member Margaret
18 Chin. I vote aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Salamanca?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I vote aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ayala?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I vote aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ruben Diaz Senior?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Yo voto si.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gjonaj?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I vote aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Riley?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Congratulations,
5 Chair. I vote aye on all and I would like to be
6 added to Intro 1827-A, if possible. Thank you.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Feliz?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Congratulations.
9 Yo voto si. Thank you for the good work on this
10 issue.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Okay. By a vote of 10
12 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
13 abstentions, the items have been adopted.

14 CHAIRPERSON AMPRY-SAMUEL: Thank you,
15 everyone. And with that, that will-- Is that the
16 conclusion? We're not waiting, right? We are not
17 holding anything open, right?

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: I'm not sure yet. I'm
19 sorry.

20 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Committee counsel, are
21 we good?

22 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Could we keep it
23 open just for a few more moments? We did receive
24 RSVPs from the other two members of the committee and

25

2 we-- just make sure. All right, Chair Ampry-Samuel,
3 I believe we are ready to close.

4 CHAIRPERSON AMPRY-SAMUEL: Okay. Thank
5 you so much. So, that will conclude today's vote on
6 the-- both bills. I appreciate everyone's support.
7 That's the end.

8 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: We have ended the
9 livestream. Thank you all.

10 UNIDENTIFIED: Thanks.

11 UNIDENTIFIED: Good job, Alicka.

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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 30, 2021