

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES
Of the
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HOUSING

----- X

December 10, 2020
Start: 9:41 AM
Recess: 9:48 AM

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 1)

B E F O R E: ALICKA AMPRY-SAMUEL
Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Diana Ayala
Laurie A. Cumbo
Ruben Diaz, Sr.
Vanessa L. Gibson
Mark Gjonaj
Carlos Menchaca
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Ritchie J. Torres
Mark Treyger
James G. Van Bramer

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

2 (technical)

3 MALE SPEAKER: Recording to the Cloud is all set.

4 MALE SPEAKER: Back up is rolling.

5 ALICKA AMPRY-SAMUEL: And Sergeant Jones if you
6 would be able to start with your opening statement.

7 SERGEANT JONES: Good morning everyone and
8 welcome to today's remote hearing of the Committee on
9 Public Housing. At this time would all panelists
10 please turn on their videos, and to minimize
11 interruptions please place electronic devices to
12 vibrate or silent, and thank you for your cooperation
13 and Chair, we are ready to begin.

14 ALICKA AMPRY-SAMUEL: Good morning everyone, and
15 thanks for coming. I am Council Member Alicka-Ampry-
16 Samuel, Chair of the Council's Committee on Public
17 Housing. We are here to vote on Proposed Intro No.
18 1911-A sponsored by Council Member Torres in relation
19 to the provision of information to residents of the
20 New York City Housing Authority regarding the mold
21 ombudsperson. The bill was originally heard by this
22 committee on October 7th of this year. At that
23 hearing the committee sought to better understand
24 NYCHA's efforts to address chronic mold and weak
25 problems in their developments. Despite the

1 quote/unquote Mold Buster Program the appointment of
2 a special master and other changes to NYCHA process
3 for remediating mold conditions, these problems have
4 persisted. In 2018, an independent mold ombudsperson
5 was appointed by the court to provide additional
6 resource to NYCHA residents whose mold problems are
7 not adequately addressed. At the October hearing the
8 committee heard from resident leaders and advocates
9 about the value of the Mold Ombudsperson. The
10 Ombudsperson helps address resident's concerns when
11 NYCHA has failed to address mold issues, and is
12 empowered to hold NYCHA accountable to its mold
13 related responsibilities. Many NYCHA residents
14 remain unaware of the mold Ombudsperson existence or
15 may not know the Ombudsperson is an independent
16 appointee separate from NYCHA. Proposed Intro Number
17 1911-A would require the Administration to distribute
18 information about the Mold Ombudsperson to every
19 single NYCHA resident. This will help ensure they
20 have access to every resource available to them, and
21 will hopefully move NYCHA towards better resolving
22 its chronic mold and leak problems. I am joined
23 today by Council Members Menchaca, Diaz, Senior, Van
24 Bramer, Ayala, Gjonaj, Gibson, Salamanca, and
25

2 Salamanca. Thank you and we will now have the Clerk
3 to call the role for a vote on Proposed Intro Number
4 1911-A.

5 CLERK: Good morning. William Martin,
6 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Public
7 Housing, Introduction 1911-A. (bell) Chair Ampry-
8 Samuel.

9 CHAIR AMPRY-SAMUEL: I vote aye.

10 CLERK: Gibson.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Good morning all. I
12 vote aye.

13 CLERK: Thank you. Menchaca.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Good morning
15 everyone. I vote aye.

16 CLERK: Van Bramer.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

18 CLERK: Salamanca

19 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

20 CLERK: Thank you, sir. Ayala.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

22 CLERK: Diaz.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Aye.

24 CLERK: Gjonaj.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Good morning all. I
3 vote aye.

4 CLERK: Thank you. One moment, and by a vote
5 of 8 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
6 abstentions, the item had been adopted by the
7 committee.

8 CHAIR AMPRY-SAMUEL: Are we still going to
9 hold it open?

10 FEMALE SPEAKER: Yes, the member, one of the
11 members have just text to me the they would be
12 joining us. We'll give them one, we'll give them a
13 couple of minutes.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Congratulations, Chair.

15 CHAIR AMPRY-SAMUEL: Oh, thanks. This is,
16 this is a great bill from our, the amazing Ritchie
17 Torres who is now about to be a congressman.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Well, he will be
19 amazing Congressman. Have a great day folks.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: The same to you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I would just like
22 to know, Chair I'm also here in the...

23 CHAIR AMPRY-SAMUEL: Hey
24
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I truly appreciate you
3 and, you know, great to be with you, and prayers
4 remain with you and family.

5 CLERK: Go on Council Member Treyger,
6 Introduction 1911-A. How do you vote please?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I vote aye.

8 CLERK: Thank you, sir. The vote now currently
9 stands at 9 in the affirmative, zero in the negative
10 and no abstentions.

11 CLERK: Chair Ampry-Samuel we're waiting for
12 one more member.

13 CHAIR AMPRY-SAMUEL: Sorry. (laughs) Thank
14 you. Erie, (sic) can you please call the Majority
15 Leader?

16 ERIE: I'm sorry. That is the (inaudible)

17 CLERK: Council Member Cumbo.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Yes.

19 CLERK: Good morning. Introduction 1911-A.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. Good
21 morning. I was on two other Zooms at the same time.
22 So, I want to support this hearing as well, and I
23 vote aye.

24 CLERK: Thank you. The final vote on
25 introduction 1911-A is now 10 in the affirmative,

2 zero in the negative and no abstentions. Thank you
3 all.

4 CHAIR AMPRY-SAMUEL: Thanks everyone. This
5 hearing on the vote, on the vote for Intro No. 1911
6 is now adjourned. Have a great day on purpose. Great
7 day everyone

8 FEMALE SPEAKER: Thank you Alicka Ampry-Samuel.
9 Thank you Alicka. See you all later.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

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 December 18, 2020