

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

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November 13, 2024
Start: 9:55 a.m.
Recess: 10:04 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Selvena Brooks-Powers, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joann Ariola
Chris Banks
Carmen N. De La Rosa
Amanda Farías
Farrah N. Louis
Mercedes Narcisse

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Erik D. Bottcher
Shahana Hanif

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Check, check. This is
3 the microphone check for the Committee on
4 Transportation and Infrastructure located in the
5 Committee Room, recorded on the 13th of November 2024
6 by Pat Kurzyna.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. Welcome
8 to the New York City Hearing Council vote on the
9 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10 At this time, please silence all
11 electronics and do not approach the dais.

12 Chair, you may begin.

13 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Good morning, and
14 welcome to this hearing of Committee on
15 Transportation and Infrastructure. Chair Selvena N.
16 Brooks-Powers, the Chair of the Committee, is on
17 remotely and has requested that I read the following
18 statement on her behalf.

19 Today, we will be voting on Proposed
20 Introduction 663-A, sponsored by Council Member Erik
21 Bottcher, a local law in relation to news rack
22 requirements and to repeal and replace Subdivision A
23 of Section 19-128.1 of the Administrative Code of the
24 City of New York. This bill would empower the
25 Department of Transportation to establish standards

2 regarding the shape, size, and materials used to
3 construct news racks and to restrict news racks from
4 being placed too closely to certain infrastructure
5 located on sidewalks. This proposed bill would
6 further require DOT to provide notice to news rack
7 owners of any changed obligations imposed by DOT
8 rules. Congratulations, Council Member Bottcher, on
9 your bill that you worked so hard to see to this
10 point.

11 I will now allow Council Member Bottcher
12 to speak on his introduction, and I'd like to
13 acknowledge we've been also joined by Council Member
14 Bottcher, Ariola, Narcisse, Louis, Banks, and De La
15 Rosa.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: I didn't know
17 this was just for my bill today. Thank you so much.
18 Hi, everyone.

19 New York, as we know, at the end of the
20 day, we're a collection of small neighborhoods, and
21 within our small neighborhoods, we take a lot of care
22 to make them look better, make them nicer, planting
23 trees, removing graffiti, cleaning, and one of the
24 things that's holding us back from making our
25 neighborhoods as nice as possible are often these

2 plastic newspaper boxes on the sidewalk that are
3 poorly maintained. A lot of them are well-maintained,
4 but oftentimes, they're covered in graffiti, they're
5 broken, they're tipped over, they're empty, they're
6 filled with garbage sometimes. Unfortunately, the
7 City has had very limited tools to make sure that
8 they are well-maintained, make sure that they're
9 placed in the right locations, to ensure that they're
10 operative, and that has been a policy failure so
11 today, the City Council is going to pass Intro. 810,
12 which will direct the Department of Transportation to
13 establish standards regarding the manner in which
14 news racks and boxes can be placed and installed. It
15 gives the DOT the ability to create design standards
16 regarding the size, shape, and appearance of news
17 racks. It also clarifies that news boxes shouldn't be
18 used just for advertising or promotional purposes,
19 other than announcing the name and/or the website of
20 the publication offered for distribution. It would
21 require news rack owners to affix their name,
22 address, and telephone number, and email address in a
23 readily visible location on the front or the sides of
24 the news rack. That way, everyone knows who's
25 responsible for it and who to contact if there's a

2 problem with it. It might sound like a small thing,
3 but how a neighborhood looks matters. It affects so
4 much else in a neighborhood, and this is just one
5 step towards making our city a better place to live.

6 I want to thank the prime co-sponsor of
7 this legislation, Council Member Sandra Ung, and all
8 the community organization, the BIDs, and everyone
9 who's behind this. I also wanna thank Majority Whip
10 Selvena Brooks-Powers for her leadership as well as
11 all the Staff at the City Council, and Hannah Moses
12 and Carl Wilson in my office. Together, we'll work to
13 continue working to improve life for New Yorkers in
14 ways large and small.

15 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you,
16 Council Member.

17 I will now ask the Committee Clerk to
18 conduct a roll call vote on the legislation.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
20 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
21 vote, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,
22 Proposed Introduction 663-A. Brooks-Powers.

23 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: (INAUDIBLE)

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
25 you, Council Member Brooks-Powers.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: For the record,
3 I'd like to recognize Chair Brooks-Powers put a
4 thumbs up in support in voting aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
6 you. Rivera. Louis.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye, and
8 congratulations, Council Member Bottcher.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: De La
10 Rosa.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye. Congrats.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Farías.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: I vote aye.
14 Congratulations, Council Member Bottcher.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I vote aye,
17 congratulations, and I love it.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Won.
19 Banks.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye, and
21 congratulations, Council Member Bottcher.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ariola.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye, and
24 congratulations.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
3 vote of seven in the affirmative, zero in the
4 negative, and no abstentions, item has been adopted
5 by the Committee.

6 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you so
7 much. This vote is now closed. [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 November 15, 2024