

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

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December 09, 2013  
Start: 12:12 p.m.  
Recess: 12:43 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm,  
14th Fl.

B E F O R E:  
ANNABEL PALMA  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
MARIA DEL CARMEN ARROYO  
GALE A. BREWER  
BRAD S. LANDER  
STEPHEN T. LEVIN  
YDANIS A. RODRIGUEZ  
JAMES G. VAN BRAMER  
RUBEN WILLS



[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON PALMA: Now? Thank you. Good morning everyone. Good, I mean good afternoon everyone. Thank you for being here on time and I'm Council Member Annabel Palma, chair of the Committee on General Welfare. I'd like to recognize my colleagues who are here today; Maria Del Carmen Arroyo, Gale Brewer, Ruben Wills, and Jimmy Van Bramer. I'd also like to thank the, the staff who prepared for today's hearing, vote actually. We had the hearing about two weeks ago. The purpose of today's hearing is to vote on a proposed local law to amend the New York City Charter and the administrative code of the City of New York in relation to conducting a full security assessment at the local level. This will be the second hearing of this bill. The first hearing was held on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The proposed bill will require the Office of Long Term Planning and, and Sustainability to consult with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Human Resource Administration and relevant community based organizations and any others, others the director of OTLPS may designate to develop indicators to

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2 measure food security in the city. At a minimum  
3 these indicators would include an analysis of  
4 existing federal data, data and the use and impact  
5 of governmental nutrition assistance programs. The  
6 indicators also will be included in the annual full  
7 metrics report produced for OLTPS. Households are  
8 considered food insecure if at some point during  
9 the year they had difficulty providing enough food  
10 for all household members due to a lack of  
11 resources. Although the federal government measures  
12 food security at a national level and some  
13 community based organizations examine food security  
14 under, on a city level currently there's no  
15 official measure, measurement of food security by  
16 the city government. The federal government has  
17 programs in place through the USDA and the United  
18 States Census Bureau that measure food security on  
19 a national level. Data produce by these reports is  
20 reinforced by research conducted by community based  
21 organizations. Although accurate the figures  
22 produced are too broad to analyze local numbers of  
23 New York City residents at risk of food insecurity.  
24 Current efforts include annual reports by the food  
25 bank for New York City and the New York City

1 Coalition Against Hunger. Although extremely useful  
2 due to the low sample size the federal data relied  
3 upon in these reports cannot be used for any  
4 accurate analysis, analysis of food insecurity on a  
5 borough by borough level. There is an imminent need  
6 to examine food insecurity in New York City more  
7 closely as indicated by findings from the Coalition  
8 Against Hunger which know that one in six city  
9 residents live in households that cannot afford  
10 enough food in the, couldn't afford enough food in,  
11 in the years 2010 through 2012 periods. This  
12 proposed local law will build on a legislation  
13 previously enacted by the city council which  
14 requires OLTPS to produce an annual food system  
15 metrics report to measure the production,  
16 processing, distribution, and consumption of food  
17 and in, and for the city. Although the food system  
18 metrics report includes some information about  
19 nutrition assistance programs including the number  
20 of adults 65 years or older receiving SNAP and the  
21 mom HRA depends on SNAP outreach. This proposed  
22 legislation will increase the amount of information  
23 about these vital programs included in the report.  
24 The addition of a food security assessment to the  
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1  
2 food system metrics report would allow New York  
3 City government to examine specific data on local  
4 food security issues in order to better understand  
5 the needs of the population on a local level. Local  
6 measurement standards for food security are, are  
7 key and obtaining a better understanding of the  
8 scope of New York City residents dealing with  
9 hunger issues. Today with a proposed local law the  
10 committee hopes to increase understanding of food  
11 security issues in city by developing a  
12 comprehensive measure of the local law of food  
13 security. I encourage my colleagues to vote yes on  
14 this bill. I think it will definitely give us an  
15 opportunity to get a handle on the issue that has  
16 been plaguing our, our city in terms of food  
17 security and how much food the New York City  
18 residents who live below the poverty line have  
19 actual access to. So with that I will ask the clerk  
20 to call the roll. Unless any of my colleagues have  
21 any comments, questions...

22 [background comments, laughter]

23 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: And seeing none.

24 Call the roll.

25

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kevin Penn[phonetic]  
committee clerk. Roll call on the Committee on  
General Welfare intro 1194A. Council Member Palma.

CHAIRPERSON PALMA: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of five in  
the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no  
abstentions the item has been adopted. Members  
please sign the committee report.

CHAIRPERSON PALMA: Thank you so much.  
I'm going to adjourn today's hearing. I want to  
thank my colleagues for voting in favor of the bill  
and for being on time. I really appreciate it.  
Thank you. Today's hearing is adjourned.

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON PALMA: No you guys were on  
time thank you. I...

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[background comments]

CHAIRPERSON PALMA: Okay so... Okay so, so the meeting of the General Welfare December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 hearing is going to be reopened and stay opened for 15?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Or whatever.

CHAIRPERSON PALMA: 15 minutes and then council to, Council Andrea Vascez[phonetic] will adjourn the hearing.

[background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council member Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vote stands at six in the affirmative.

[pause]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUES: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote in Committee on General Welfare seven in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no abstentions.

[pause]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.



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COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote in  
Committee on General Welfare eight in the  
affirmative, zero in the negative, and no  
abstentions.

[background comments]

[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            December 16, 2013