CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

------------------------ X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

           Of the

COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

------------------------ X

                    February 23, 2016
                    Start: 1:15 p.m.
                    Recess: 1:22 p.m.

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

B E F O R E: JAMES VACCA
                  Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Annabel Palma
                  David G. Greenfield
                  Barry S. Grodenchik
                  Joseph C. Borelli

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

2   [sound check, pause]

3   CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Joe Borelli, how are

4   you? You're on time. Okay, thank you everyone.

5   [gavel] Good afternoon. My name is James Vacca, and

6   I'm Chair of the Committee on Technology, and today

7   we're here to vote on two pieces of legislation in

8   relation to the accessibility of our city's websites

9   to persons with disabilities, and to those who are

10 limited English proficient. My colleagues are here

11 with me today, Council Member Joseph Borelli, Council

12 Member Barry Grodenchik, and we're also joined by

13 Council Member Jumaane Williams sponsors of one--

14 sponsor of one of the bills, 673-A, which would

15 require every city agency website to provide a

16 translation feature. I also want to thank Council

17 Member Garodnick for introducing legislation dealing

18 with those with disabilities. Since this committee's

19 hearing on both of these bills was completed last

20 spring, we worked with the Administration to tighten

21 up language, and it's been encouraging to see the

22 commitment that everyone across the board has had to

23 making these bills a reality. I want to thank the

24 Speaker, of course, and let me first call upon

25 Council Member Williams, sponsor of Intro 673-A.

2   COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr.

3   Chair and thank you for your support and leadership

4   on this, and obviously we want to thank the Speaker

5   as well and thank you the Administration for working

6   with us to tighten the language, and making something

7   that they can agree with. To me it's kind of a no-

8   brainer. There's already laws that require things to

9   be translated in specific languages. It makes sense

10   that our website should adhere to that law as well.

11   I think as people are going to get information, they

12   should try to get it in a language they understand so

13   they can fully understand how our city operates.

14   This just seemed to be a common sense button that is

15   going to rotate. So we have at least seven major

16   languages. So people can see theirs and just

17   translate it. It seemed like a simple solution that

18   will help a lot of people. So thank you so much for

19   having this hearing, and this vote today.

20   CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Thank you. Council

21   Member Garodnick is not here, but I know I can speak

22   on his behalf in saying that this legislation is

23   important, and the committee passing it today will be

24   significant and we await that action. So why don't I

25   do this, we have our--our--Billy Martin is here who

calls the roll. So, I've forgotten your title, but

I'll make you chief cook and bottle washer at this

point.

CLERK: [off mic] Okay.

CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Oh, you're a clerk.

Okay, whatever you are. You're--you're very

competent at anything you do. So with that said, I'd

like to ask you to please call the roll. The

Chairman asked that there be a yes both on both

intros.

CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk.

Roll call vote Committee on Technology. Items are

coupled. Chair Vacca.

CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Chair Vacca votes aye

on all.

CLERK: Grodenchik.

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: [off mic] Aye

on both.

CLERK: Borelli.

COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye.

CLERK: By a vote of 3 in the

affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,

both items have been adopted.

2   CHAIRPERSON VACCA: The vote passes. I

3 will eave the vote open for ten minutes of additional

4 time. We have a member who's on his way.

5   COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you, sir.

6 Thank you, sir. Thank you.

7   CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Okay, thank you.

8 There being no further comment, this meeting of the

9 Technology Committee of the New York City Council is

10 hereby adjourned. [gavel] Held in recess and then

11 adjourned. Thank you.

12   [pause]

13   CLERK: Continuation of roll call, the

14 Committee on Technology. Council Member Greenfield.

15   COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [off mic]

16 Aye.

17   CLERK: The final vote in the Committee

18 on Technology stands at 4 in the affirmative, 0 in

19 the negative and no abstentions.

20

21

22

23

24

25

<u>C E R T I F I C A T E</u>

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 ____ February 25, 2016 _____