

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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April 21, 2021  
Start: 4:07 p.m.  
Recess: 4:34 p.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing (Virtual Room 4)

B E F O R E: Peter Koo  
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Joseph Borelli  
Justin Brannan  
Brooks-Powers  
Darma Diaz  
Gennaro  
Mark Gjonaj  
Robert Holden  
Mark Levine  
Francisco Moya  
Kevin Riley  
Carlina Rivera  
Eric Ulrich  
Jimmy Van Bramer

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

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Recording to the  
3 computer all set.

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Recording to the cloud  
5 all set and back up recording is running. Good  
6 afternoon. Welcome to the New York City Council's  
7 remote committee hearing on Parks and Recreation.  
8 Everyone please turn on your video at this time.  
9 Silence all electronic devices. Chairman Koo, we are  
10 ready to start.

11 [gavel]

12 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Good afternoon. I'm  
13 Peter Koo, Chair of the City Council's Committee on  
14 Parks and Recreation. We are joined by the following  
15 Council members: Council member Gennaro, Council  
16 member Moya, Council member Brooks-Powers, Council  
17 member Borelli, Council member Gjonaj, Council member  
18 Holden, Council member Riley, Council member Darma  
19 Diaz, Council member Rodriguez, Council member  
20 Treyger. Today, we will vote on two pieces of  
21 legislation. The first is proposed introduction  
22 number 1888-A. The proposal by my colleague, Council  
23 member Mark Treyger. This bill will ban commercial  
24 and privately owned vehicles from operating on the  
25 city's boardwalks. It will allow an exemption for

2 certain types of city owned vehicles needed for  
3 maintenance work and upkeep as well as for emergency  
4 vehicles. We first considered this bill at a past  
5 committee hearing on April 12th where all who  
6 testified spoke in favor of this bill. The second  
7 bill is proposed Intro number 1959-A, sponsored by my  
8 colleague, Council member Ydanis Rodriguez. This  
9 bill would create a Mayoral office or [inaudible  
10 00:02:15] wellness and recreation along with an  
11 advisory board which would be responsible for  
12 promoting and enhancing [inaudible 00:02:25] and  
13 recreational opportunities primarily for our city's  
14 disadvantaged youth. We first considered this bill  
15 in a past committee hearing on February 27th where,  
16 again, all who testified spoke in favor of this  
17 legislation. I'm proud to support both of these  
18 bills and I urge all my colleagues on this committee  
19 to vote in favor of these pieces of legislation. I  
20 want to thank both Council member Treyger and Council  
21 member Rodriguez for introducing these bills and I  
22 would like to hear Council member Treyger followed by  
23 Council member Rodriguez to offer any remarks on the  
24 bills. Following their comments, I would like to  
25 call on the clerk to call the role. Thank you.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you very  
3 much, Chair Koo, for your partnership, for your  
4 leadership and your staff, the committee staff, and  
5 to all the members of the Parks Committee. We truly  
6 appreciate your time and your help. Thank you for  
7 scheduling this vote on my legislation, 1888-A,  
8 prohibiting vehicles on boardwalks. I have the honor  
9 of representing the 47th District in Brooklyn which  
10 includes the iconic Riegelmann Boardwalk in Coney  
11 Island and Brighton Beach. Coney Island just had its  
12 opening day earlier this month. We welcome everyone  
13 to come visit Coney Island-- and that is a step  
14 towards rebuilding for our whole city after the  
15 devastating impacts of the pandemic. As many of you  
16 remember, my community and I have worked tirelessly  
17 to ensure that the Boardwalk in Coney Island was  
18 landmarked as a way to honor it and that it finally--  
19 it did happen finally in 2018. It was a joyous time  
20 because New York City landmarks Preservation  
21 Commission recognize the need to preserve and protect  
22 this beloved structure, as well as this integral  
23 piece of southern Brooklyn's rich history, culture,  
24 and tradition. The boardwalk continues to be an  
25 iconic symbol of our city and it is also a vital part

2 of connective tissue here in southern Brooklyn and in  
3 our neighborhood. The boardwalk is a place for our  
4 children, seniors, and families to gather to enjoy  
5 each other's company. It is where New Yorkers and  
6 tourists alike leisurely stroll to relax and enjoy  
7 breathtaking ocean views. It is a place for runners  
8 and folks who practice fitness. It is a place to  
9 enjoy nature and relax. In my bill, everyone that  
10 enjoys the boardwalk will also feel safe. My bill  
11 would prohibit all non-city motor vehicles from being  
12 used on city elevated boardwalks and require that  
13 authorized city employees use vehicles under 2400  
14 pounds which, to give you context, that would be the  
15 size of a gator which the NYPD does use and other  
16 agencies. So, that could still be used, but just not  
17 those big trucks. For any work-related activities  
18 and there is an exception for emergency services,  
19 just so we are clear. This is important because  
20 heavy vehicles have had a tremendously negative  
21 impact on the boardwalk and has led to wherein chair  
22 for many, many years and, quite frankly, it makes  
23 people not safe. The boardwalk is truly a treasure  
24 and it is important that pedestrians feel safe at all  
25 times and that the boardwalk is properly maintained.

2 My bill will help preserve this iconic landmark  
3 structure. I urge my colleagues to please vote yes  
4 on this important bill to our community and to New  
5 York City and I, again, welcome everyone to Coney  
6 Island now and, of course, during a wonderful season.  
7 Thank you all so much for your time.

8 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Thank you. Council  
9 member Rodriguez?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Yes. First of  
11 all, thank you, Chair, for your support. First and  
12 foremost, I would like to thank, also, Speaker Corey  
13 Johnson, Brooklyn borough president, Eric Adams,  
14 Mayor Bill de Blasio for the leadership and the  
15 collaboration working with me and my colleagues to  
16 get this bill passed. I also want to thank Manhattan  
17 borough president and also Public Advocate Jumaane  
18 Williams and all the advocates who worked with me to  
19 make this bill happen. I am proud to be the main  
20 sponsor for Intro 1959, along with Brooklyn Borough  
21 President, Eric Adams, and the Mayor's Office of  
22 Sport, Wellness, and Recreation. The bill will help  
23 the city centralize the role that is currently played  
24 in support with the DOE, DYCD, and the Fire  
25 Department. Our goal is to increase the number of

2 youth that are connected with competitive sport  
3 opportunity. The Office of Sport, Wellness, and  
4 Recreation will also create opportunities for sport  
5 institutions like the Yankee Stadium, the Mets, the  
6 Barclay Center to be an integral part of this  
7 initiative. We need to make New York City a hub  
8 where students who have the talent and who are ready  
9 to put in the hard work are also given the same  
10 opportunities and investment that other students and  
11 wealthier communities receive. We must give the  
12 students in low income underserved communities the  
13 resources and the opportunity they need to reach  
14 their full potential. The Mayor's Office of Sport,  
15 Wellness, and Recreation will be responsible for  
16 creating a strategy and initiative that will help the  
17 city to become the major sport competitor across the  
18 country and the world. This strategy and initiative  
19 would create a pipeline for all youth in New York  
20 City to be placed in a competitive sport program and  
21 competition. This is about equity. Everyone saw the  
22 disparity that were brought to light because of the  
23 coronavirus. Many underserved communities suffered  
24 from high rates of asthma, heart disease, and  
25 obesity. These communities became the most

2 vulnerable because they lack many of the resources  
3 and opportunity that are available to other  
4 neighborhoods. Sport is one area where we must  
5 balance the playing field. We need to connect the  
6 youth with quality sports opportunities and  
7 recreation centers. We know that when students are  
8 connected with the right resources to continue their  
9 athletic careers, their skills can also open doors  
10 for them to go to college, get a scholarship in many  
11 areas. [speaking foreign language] With that, I ask  
12 my colleagues to vote yes on this bill.

13 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Thank you, Council  
14 member Rodriguez. We are also joined-- We are also  
15 joined by Council member Levine, Council member Van  
16 Bramer, and Council member Brannan. Will the clerk  
17 please call the roll?

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good afternoon,  
19 everyone. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll  
20 call vote Committee on Parks and Recreation.  
21 Introductions 1888-A and 1959-A. the items are  
22 coupled. Chair Koo?

23 CHAIRPERSON KOO: I vote aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Levine?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I vote aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Brannan?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gjonaj?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I vote aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Holden?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Moya?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Darma Diaz?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: I vote aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Riley?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: I vote aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gennaro?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote yes and

18 I have added my name as a cosponsor to both good

19 bills and I congratulate the sponsors of these good

20 bills. Thank you.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Brooks-

22 Powers?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I vote

24 aye.

25

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Borelli?  
3 Council member Borrelli? Okay. We will come back.  
4 By a vote of 11 in the affirmative, zero in the  
5 negative, and no abstentions, both items have been  
6 adopted by the committee.

7 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Mr. Martin?

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Yes?

9 CHAIRPERSON KOO: I would like to keep the  
10 vote open for another 10 minutes.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Absolutely.

12 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Some members might be a  
13 little bit late because of the transportation  
14 problem.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Absolutely, Mr. Chair.  
16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Yeah. Thank you.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council member Ulrich,  
19 welcome.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Hi. Thank you. I  
21 apologize and I just had to pull over so that I'm not  
22 putting myself or anybody else in danger. But did  
23 they call the roll call yet on the bill?

24

25

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Yes. N worries.

3 Proposed Introductions 1888-A and 1959-A? Your vote  
4 cast?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, sir.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote is now  
9 currently 12 in the affirmative, zero in the  
10 negative, and no abstentions in the vote is still  
11 remaining open by request of the Chair.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I am here.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Welcome, Council member  
14 River. [inaudible 00:22:25] Roll call vote  
15 Introductions 1888-A and 1959-A. Your vote, Council  
16 member Rivera?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. The roll  
19 count stands at 13 in the affirmative, zero in the  
20 negative, and one-- excuse me. 13 in the  
21 affirmative, zero in the negative, and no  
22 abstentions.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thanks, guys.

24 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Thank you very much.

25 So, the meeting is adjourned.

2 UNIDENTIFIED: Excuse me, Council  
3 member Koo. We still have--

4 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Yes.

5 UNIDENTIFIED: We still have Council  
6 member Borelli on. He is having some issues. We are  
7 tried to get him to resolve his audio issues. Could  
8 you just please give us another minute so we can get  
9 him to vote?

10 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Sure. Of course. Yeah.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, sir.

12 Council member Borelli?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: I vote aye on  
14 all. Apologies for having a family issue.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: No problem. Thank you,  
16 sir. Final vote on the Committee on Parks and  
17 Recreations proposed Introduction 1888-A and 1959-A,  
18 both items are adopted by a vote of 14 in the  
19 affirmative, zero in the negative, and no  
20 abstentions. Thank you all.

21 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Thank you very much.  
22 Yeah. The meeting is adjourned.

23 [gavel]

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 May 29, 2021