

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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May 3, 2016
Start: 10:25 a.m.
Recess: 10:30 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E:
VANESSA L. GIBSON
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Vincent J. Gentile
James Vacca
Julissa Ferreras-Copeland
Jumaane D. Williams
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Chaim M. Deutsch
Rafael Espinal, Jr.
Rory I. Lancman
Ritchie J. Torres
Steven Matteo
Helen K. Rosenthal
Daniel Dromm

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

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Good morning ladies and gentlemen; welcome to City Hall; welcome to the Committee on Public Safety's hearing this morning. Before we begin our hearing we will take a vote this morning on a package of resolutions to support state and federal gun reform legislation to ensure universal background checks for all potential gun owners, local jurisdiction's ability to decide who can carry concealed weapons and additionally, to provide safeguards against wrongful convictions.

I am Council Member Vanessa Gibson, Chair of the Committee on Public Safety of the 16th District of the Bronx and I thank you all for being here today.

This City Council and this administration have made addressing gun violence a number one priority, as evidenced by the \$19.9 million that was specifically allocated towards addressing gun violence in the FY 2016 budget. New York City and New York State are among the toughest in the nation on ensuring gun safety, but as we all know, gun violence continues to be pervasive and we will not stop this public health crisis alone. The

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2 resolutions we are voting on today address the
3 various ways that we can combat this issue with our
4 partners on the state and federal levels.

5 Res. 0853, sponsored by the Public
6 Advocate, Letitia James, calls on the federal
7 government to close the loophole in the current gun
8 background check system; this loophole abuses the
9 commonsense laws that are in effect across our
10 country and have led to a thriving, unregulated gun
11 trade which must be stopped.

12 Res. 1094 [sic], which is sponsored by
13 our Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito, and I proudly co-
14 sponsor, calls on the federal government to oppose
15 the Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of
16 2015 which would allow a resident from one state who
17 has a license to carry a concealed handgun to
18 lawfully carry the gun into a different state,
19 regardless of the licensing standards of the other
20 state. We cannot control the public safety of our
21 city if our safety measures can be undermined by the
22 safety measures of another jurisdiction with
23 deferring interest.

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2 In addition, we are also voting on a
3 resolution that addresses another important issue;
4 providing safeguards against wrongful convictions.

5 Res. 0979, which I proudly sponsor, calls
6 on the state to pass legislation which requires the
7 recording of entire custodial interrogations in
8 certain serious crimes, mandates blind or double
9 blind identifications and allows photo
10 identifications to be admissible at trial. Studies
11 have shown that two of the leading contributing
12 factors resulting in many wrongful convictions are
13 eyewitness misidentification and false confessions,
14 and these basic procedural methods would safeguard
15 against wrongful convictions.

16 I am thankful for all of the support of
17 the Speaker and our colleagues; when we had this
18 hearing several weeks ago we had New Yorkers Against
19 Gun Violence and many other gun advocates talk and
20 speak in favor of these resolutions and the ways in
21 which we can continue to work together to not only
22 invest in programs that focus on prevention, but also
23 focus on ways in which we can safeguard many of our
24 New Yorkers, and I'm thankful for all of my
25 colleagues who are here this morning and I'd like to

1 recognize the colleagues who are present; we have
2 Council Member Vincent Gentile, James Vacca, Robert
3 Cornegy, Chaim Deutsch, Rafael Espinal, Ritchie
4 Torres, Minority Leader Steve Matteo; we also have
5 Council Member Helen Rosenthal and Daniel Dromm, and
6 I believe that is all and we'll be joined by other
7 members.
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9 And now do any of our colleagues have any
10 questions on any of the resolutions before us this
11 morning? Okay, seeing no hands, I will now ask our
12 committee clerk to call the roll.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
14 Committee Clerk, roll call vote, Committee on Public
15 Safety. Resolutions are coupled. Chair Gibson.

16 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: I vote aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye. [sic]

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye. [sic]

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

1 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye. [sic]

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo. By a vote of 7
6 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no
7 abstentions, all items have been adopted.

8 [background comments]

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Wait. Hang on. By a
10 vote of 7 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative and
11 no abstentions, all items have been adopted. Excuse
12 me.

13 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Thank you very much
14 to all of my colleagues and now we will close this
15 vote and we will adjourn and then we will begin our
16 hearing on the Committee of Public Safety. Thank you
17 so much, this committee vote and hearing is
18 adjourned.

19 [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 May 17, 2016