CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

            Of the

COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

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                    DECEMBER 15, 2015
                    Start: 11:02 A.M.
                    Recess: 11:08 A.M.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY – COMMITTEE RM, 14TH FL

B E F O R E: JAMES VACCA
                CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

                JOSEPH BORELLI
                DAVID GREENFIELD
                BARRY GRODENCHIK
                ANNABEL PALMA

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

CHAIR VACCA: Ok thank you. It is now

11:00 on Tuesday and I will open up this meeting,

December 15. This is the Committee on Technology.

I'm James Vacca, Chair of the Committee and I want to

welcome everyone here. Members who are here are

Council Member Annabel Palma, Council Member Barry

Grodenchik, me, Jimmy Vacca and David Greenfield to

my extreme left and Joe Borelli to my left on the

(inaudible) that is. We building on the great work

today that this Committee has been able to accomplish

over the past few months. Were here today to vote

two additional bills that will remarkably strengthen

our open data law. In October I held a hearing on 7

open data bill and 5 of those were passed into law

just a couple of weeks ago. The 2 bills before us

today required more time and attention and I'm proud

of the product and the hard work of the Committee. I

am proud sponsor one piece of legislation considered

today, Intro 916-A, which would require a series of

examinations and verification on the compliance of

agencies with the open data law public data set

requirement. Additionally we will vote on Council

Member Palma's bill, Intro 908-A, which would require

agencies to review freedom of information law request

2   that includes the release of data for inclusion of

3   that data on the open data portal. I'd like thank

4   Council Member Palma for working on this important

5   legislation with me. It is an important priority of

6   the Committee on Technology to keep improving the

7   open data law and we will continue to move toward

8   this goal.

9   [gavel]

10   CHAIR VACCA: The previous five bills

11   that were just put into law will remedy issue that

12   have been brought up time and time again when we have

13   discussed open data. User friendliness, data

14   retention, public responsiveness and the timeliness

15   of updated data sets. Today's legislation goes even

16   further. Taking steps to integrate foil request into

17   open data and most importantly improving compliance

18   across the board. My bill Intro 916-A, which would

19   require the administration to conduct a series of

20   examinations and verifications on the compliance of

21   agencies with the open data laws public set data

22   requirement is an essential component of improving

23   the open data law. In government we sometimes say

24   the trying to get coordination across many offices is

25   like hurting cats. Currently DOIT is tasked with

2 getting the data that falls under the open data law

3 from every City agency. There dozens of agencies,

4 each with different staff resources, different types

5 of data, and varying amounts of data. It is an

6 overwhelming duty and compliance is going to be

7 difficult. Research from this committee has led to

8 the discovery of the exclusion of much data that

9 should be included on the portal. For example 311

10 referral data and complaint data from the Mayor's

11 Office of Media and Entertainment but this process of

12 random discovery is not official. There may be more

13 public data sets that have been excluded and there

14 needs to be a systematic way to address this.

15 Developing a compliance examination approve by the

16 Department of Investigation is the tool that we need

17 to inform all the relevant entities what is missing.

18 Council Member Palma's bill, Intro 908-A will enable

19 better coordination when it comes to foil request and

20 the data that is available on open data. For a while

21 advocates had pointed out that data requested as part

22 of a foil request is often times already available on

23 open data and that there can be significate savings

24 in time and effort for both the public and for foil

25 officers. However, it has been recognized but this

2 committee that foil request can be a tool for

3 identifying data that has been incorrectly excluded

4 from open data or which might not be required to be

5 posted under current law but still merit voluntary

6 posting due to public demand. Intro 908 would

7 require agencies to review responses to foil request

8 that could be included on the open data portal. Both

9 bills have improved since our initial hearing and

10 much time and energy has gone into this. I want to

11 thank Brad Reid, Counsel to my Committee, my Deputy

12 Chief of Staff, Stacey Gardner and the

13 representatives in the Mayor's Office, DOIT and MODA

14 who took the time to careful craft each bill. With

15 that I'd like to call on any colleagues who wish to

16 speak and I recommend a yes vote on each bill.

17 Council Member Palma do you wish to say anything? Ok.

18 Ok Council Member Palma waves her right a sponsor,

19 thank you. We will no call the role, no other

20 speakers evidencing themselves, please call the roll.

21   COMMITTEE CLERK: Matthew DeStephino

22 (sp), Committee on Technology, roll call on Intro

23 908-A and 916-A. Chair Vacca.

24   CHAIR VACCA: I vote I on both.

25   COMMMITTEE CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: I vote I, congratulations Mr. Chair on the passage of these two important pieces of legislation.

CHAIR VACCA: Congratulations to you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Congratulation Council Member Palma and Chair Vacca. I vote I on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Grodenchik.

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Borelli.

COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: I on all. Can you please add my name to the Palma bill as well.

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

CHAIR VACCA: The items being adopted it is now 10 after 11:00, there being no further speakers or business before this Committee today, this meeting is adjourned.

[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, 2016 _____