

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

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September 10, 2014
Start: 10:13 a.m.
Recess: 10:47 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Room
16th Floor

B E F O R E: DONOVAN J. RICHARDS
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Stephen T. Levin
Costa G. Constantinides
Rory I. Lancman
Eric A. Ulrich

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

2 [sound check]

3 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDSON: All right, good
4 morning. First, I would like to acknowledge members
5 of the Environmental Protection Committee who have
6 joined us. Council Member Rory Lancman and Steve
7 Levin. I am very grateful for them being here this
8 morning.

9 Good morning, I am Chairman Donovan
10 Richards, Chair of the Environmental Protection
11 Committee, and today the Environmental Protection
12 Committee will hold a hearing, and vote on Resolution
13 No. 356 recognizing the dangers of climate change to
14 human health and the environment, and endorsing the
15 People's Climate March.

16 Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
17 currently measures at 396.50 PPM and it has increased
18 by an average of 2.75 PPM per year over the last ten
19 years. According to the National Oceanic and
20 Atmospheric Administration's Annual Greenhouse Gas
21 Index, the direct climate impact known as radiated
22 forcing of long-lived greenhouse gases is up 34% from
23 the base year of 1990.

24 The burning of fossil fuels including
25 gas, oil and coal to meet basic human needs for

2 cooking, heating, cooling, lighting, and
3 communication is the primary cause of elevated
4 greenhouse gas emissions.

5 The United States is the second largest
6 emitter of greenhouse gases in the world on an annual
7 basis following China, who has the largest annual
8 greenhouse gas emissions. However, the United States
9 is by far the largest greenhouse gas emitter on a
10 cumulative basis. Prior effects including
11 international treaties meant to limit emissions have
12 not been as successful as intended because large
13 industrial countries like the U.S. either refuse to
14 ratify it or later withdrew, and because exemptions
15 allowed developing countries to delay taking strong
16 action to curb emissions.

17 However, the Obama Administration is
18 working to forge a sweeping international climate
19 change agreement to compel nations to cut their
20 planet-warming fossil fuel emissions without
21 ratification from Congress. U.N. Secretary-General
22 Ban Ki-Moon has invited world leaders from
23 government, finance, business, and civil society to
24 Climate Summit 2014 this September 23rd, my mother's
25 birthday--a shout out, mom--to motivate, galvanize,

2 and catalyze climate actions. The U.N. Secretary has
3 asked these leaders to both announcements and actions
4 to the Summit that will reduce emissions, strengthen
5 climate resilience, and mobilize political will for a
6 meaningful legal agreement in 2015.

7 Climate Summit 2014 provides a unique
8 opportunity for leaders to champion an ambition
9 vision anchored in action that will enable a
10 meaningful global agreement in 2015. According to
11 the United Nations, only an intensive push over the
12 next 15 years will be able to bring emissions under
13 control.

14 The People's Climate March, which will
15 take place on September 21, 2014. It will be a mass
16 climate mobilization of a coalition of diverse
17 organizations just before the United Nations Climate
18 Summit, and is intended to urge our world leaders to
19 take serious and immediate steps towards addressing
20 the climate crisis. Expected to be the largest march
21 in support of the global environment in history, the
22 People's Climate March will unite advocates from all
23 over the world in a show of strength that clearly
24 calls for protecting the earth, and all its
25 inhabitants and subsequent generations.

2 The City Council is looking at a number
3 of measures to address the reduction of greenhouse
4 gases including installing solar energy systems on
5 City buildings, wider implementation of geothermal
6 energy use, reduction of fossil fuel exploration in
7 New York, energy efficiency, improving air quality,
8 and enforcement.

9 The Council supports the People's Climate
10 March, the UN Climate Summit, and the initiatives by
11 President Obama to achieve a climate accord, which
12 includes participation by the United States while
13 there is still time to reduce or emissions. And
14 transition our energy use to renewable and
15 sustainable sources. I support this Resolution, and
16 recommend a yes vote. So we will now call the vote
17 unless any of my colleagues want to say anything.
18 No? Okay. We're ready. So the vote is open. We
19 will allow you to vote. Thank you.

20 CLERK: Lee Martin, Committee Clerk.
21 Roll call vote, Committee on Environmental
22 Protection, Resolution 356. Council Member Richards.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I vote aye.

24 CLERK: Levin.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Congratulations to
3 the Chair for their important resolution. I vote
4 aye, proudly.

5 CLERK: Lancman.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

7 CLERK: By a vote of 3 in the
8 affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
9 abstentions, the item has been adopted. Thank you.

10 [Pause]

11 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: The hearing is
12 adjourned. We will hold the vote open for a half an
13 hour? Got you. Thank you. My first one. Thank
14 you.

15 [Pause]

16 [background discussion]

17 [gavel]

18 CLERK: Roll call continuation, Committee
19 on Environmental Protection. Council Member Ulrich.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Pass. Just
21 kidding. Yes.

22 CLERK: Final vote in the Committee on
23 Environmental Protection is now 4 in the affirmative,
24 zero in the negative, and no abstentions.

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 September 11, 2014