

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FIRE AND CRIMINAL
JUSTICE SERVICES

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December 5, 2016
Start: 10:35 a.m.
Recess: 10:39 a.m.

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

B E F O R E: ELIZABETH CROWLEY
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Mathieu Eugene
Fernando Cabrera
Paul Vallone

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON CROWLEY: Good morning. My name is Elizabeth Crowley and I am the chair of the Fire and Criminal Justice Services Committee.

I fully support all these bills that we are about to vote on today, which are three bills related to the Department of Correction, and I will vote aye on them when I have a chance to vote, but I want to take the time to briefly address each bill individually.

Intro 1260-A, the first bill, is sponsored by our Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito, which requires the Department of Correction to determine whether an inmate admitted to their custody has other open criminal cases, and if so, to both notify the court system that the inmate is in their custody and transport these inmates to all required appearances for these open criminal court cases. The bill will prevent thousands of warrants being issued each year for people who are actually in our custody at the time the warrant is issued and create efficiencies in our District Attorney's office, defense bar and court system.

1 The next bill, Intro 1261-A, is also
2 sponsored by our Speaker. It relates to the fees on
3 cash bail. Cash bail is typically posted by those
4 with few financial means, often in amounts of just a
5 few hundred dollars, and its purpose is to encourage
6 defendants in criminal cases to make their court
7 dates. Presently, the city collects a 3% fee from
8 all cash bail, which is returned to the person who
9 posted it, even if the defendant in that criminal
10 case made all their court appearances. So long as
11 the defendant is convicted of any offenses, including
12 non-criminal offenses, this bill will permit the DOF
13 to refrain from collecting this fee.

14 The third bill, also sponsored by our
15 Speaker, Intro 1262-A, relates to the housing of pre-
16 trial detainees in DOC uniforms. The DOC began
17 housing detainees in uniforms just over one year ago,
18 which has led to problems in courthouses, both with
19 inmates testifying before grand juries in DOC
20 uniforms and being released out onto the streets of
21 our city in uniforms. This bill would require that
22 DOC to produce inmates for any trial or any grand
23 jury appearance in personal clothing and to provide
24 street clothes for those inmates who do not have such
25

1 clothing available. It would also require the DOC to
2 provide weather appropriate street clothes to inmates
3 released from courthouses.
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5 In conclusion, I look forward to voting
6 on these bills in committee this morning and would
7 like to thank all the council members who sponsored
8 these bills, which address important issues facing
9 the DOC. I also want to thank my staff, the
10 committee staff and the staff who have helped create
11 these bills.

12 Now I'd like to ask the committee clerk
13 to do the roll call.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Committee Clerk Matthew
15 DiStefano. Committee on Fire and Criminal Justice
16 Services. Roll call on the Intro Numbers 1260-A,
17 1261-A and 1262-A. Chair Crowley.

18 CHAIRPERSON CROWLEY: I vote aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all.
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COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the
affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
the items have been adopted. [background voices]
[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 20, 2016