

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 1
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

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December 19, 2024
Start: 12:23 p.m.
Recess: 12:32 p.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Selvena Brooks-Powers, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joann Ariola
Chris Banks
Carmen N. De La Rosa
Amanda Farías
Farrah N. Louis
Mercedes Narcisse
Julie Won

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. This is a
3 microphone check for the Committee on Transportation
4 and Infrastructure. Today's date is December 19,
5 2024, located in the Committee Room, recording done
6 by Pedro Lugo.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and
8 welcome to the New York City Council vote of the
9 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10 At this time, can everybody please
11 silence your cell phones.

12 At this time and going forward, no one is
13 to approach the dais. I repeat, no one is to approach
14 the dais.

15 Chair, we are ready to begin.

16 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: [GAVEL] Good
17 morning, and welcome to the hearing of the Committee
18 on Transportation and Infrastructure. I am Selvena
19 Brooks-Powers, the Chair of the Committee.

20 Today, we will be voting on Proposed
21 Intro. 103-A, sponsored by Council Member Joann
22 Ariola, a local law in relation to notification of
23 the removal of parking spaces, and Proposed Intro.
24 number 104-A, also sponsored by Council Member
25 Ariola, a local law in relation to requiring the

2 Department of Transportation to consult with the Fire
3 Department prior to approving Open Street
4 applications and certain bicycle lane projects to
5 require the Fire Department to confer with any
6 affected firehouse prior to approving Open Street
7 applications, bicycle lane projects, and major
8 transportation projects.

9 Proposed Intro. Number 103-A would
10 require the Department of Transportation to notify
11 affected Council Members 10 days prior the removal of
12 any street parking space when that space would be
13 used, a street-level bicycle corral requested by a
14 local business, a car share program, or a bike
15 program. The notice would include at a minimum the
16 expected date of the removal, the location of the
17 space, and the intended new use of the space. It is
18 important to also highlight that this does not slow
19 down the process, it is merely a notification, and
20 that these approved projects will still go forward.

21 Proposed Intro. Number 104-A would
22 require the Fire Department to confer with local
23 affected firehouses and submit to the Department of
24 Transportation certain information before the
25 Department of Transportation approves Open Street

2 applications or implements major transportation
3 projects, including bicycle lane projects. This bill
4 would also require DOT to consult with FDNY prior to
5 approving Open Street application, which is already
6 required for major transportation projects. DOT would
7 also be required to provide in their notice to
8 community boards and local elected officials the
9 information provided by FDNY pursuant to this law. I
10 want to emphasize on this one too, that this is
11 necessary because what I personally have found is
12 when I met with then-Commissioner Laura Kavanaugh and
13 my local firehouse, the Big House in Far Rockaway,
14 there was concerns that hard infrastructure changes
15 to our roadways took place, and that information
16 unfortunately did not trickle down from the
17 headquarters to the local firehouses, which as a
18 result can increase the time and response for the
19 FDNY to respond or local personnel in general. One,
20 if you're in an emergency situation, you don't want a
21 delay like that, and we don't want our firefighters
22 putting themselves in an even more dangerous dynamic
23 because of lost time.

24 I will now allow Council Member Ariola to
25 speak on her Introductions.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Thank you, Chair.

3 Intro. 103 and 104 are essential for improving public
4 safety and quality of life in New York City. Intro.
5 104, as the Chair so aptly stated, addresses
6 increasing FDNY and EMS response times by giving FDNY
7 input on the placement of Open Streets and bike
8 lanes, ensuring emergency vehicles can navigate the
9 city's roadways without delay.

10 Intro. 103, a notification bill, will
11 require DOT to notify us as elected officials for our
12 Districts when there will be a loss of parking. It
13 does not restrict that loss of parking, it is a
14 notification, and this way we can, as Council
15 Members, provide notification to any communities that
16 these changes are coming because most of the
17 complaints that we have are that we didn't know it
18 was happening, and that's where we get the pushback
19 so I'd like to alleviate that.

20 Together, these bills will create a
21 safer, more transparent, and more livable city for
22 all. I'd like to thank Connor Mealey for all the work
23 he's put in, the hours, untold hours, on this,
24 Majority Whip and Chair of this wonderful Committee,
25 Selvena Brooks-Powers, who worked so dedicatedly,

2 understanding the meaning of this bill and the need
3 for this bill, my Colleagues who trusted and
4 supported this bill by signing on, and my Colleagues
5 today, who I hope will vote in favor. Thank you so
6 much.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you, and
8 with that, I will now ask the Committee Clerk to
9 conduct a roll call, vote on the legislation.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
11 afternoon. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
12 vote, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
13 Proposed Introductions 103-A and 104-A. Items are
14 coupled. Chair Brooks-Powers.

15 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: I vote aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Rivera.
17 Louis.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye.

19 Congratulations to the bill's sponsor.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: De La
21 Rosa.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: A moment to
23 explain my vote. Chair, a moment to explain my vote.

24 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Yes.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Thank you. I
3 just want to say my District has the second highest
4 number of fires in the City of New York. I have a
5 firehouse that is directly in front of a bike lane
6 that trucks are having trouble coming out of the
7 firehouse because the bike lane sometimes and often
8 is blocked, and so the DOT has been an agency that
9 has proven time and time again through their actions
10 that they need more oversight, not less. Notification
11 is the least burdensome thing that we can ask of them
12 in order for us to collaborate as government
13 partners. I proudly vote yes, and I congratulate the
14 sponsor.

15 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Farías.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye.

18 Congratulations.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Congratulations,
21 and it's a safety issue when it come to the Fire
22 Department not knowing what's going on, so I vote
23 aye, thanks.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Won.

25 Banks.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye on all, and
3 congratulations on this timely, needed pieces of
4 legislation, and I know it's going to definitely be
5 impactful to the 42nd Council District.
6 Congratulations, Council Member.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ariola.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye, and
9 thank all of you again.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
11 vote of seven in the affirmative, zero in the
12 negative, and no abstentions, both items have been
13 adopted by the Committee, and the roll will be held
14 open at request of the Chair.

15 Everyone, please remember the Committee
16 is still in session.

17 Continuation roll call, Committee on
18 Transportation, Council Member Won, on Introductions
19 103-A and 104-A.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: I vote aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
22 you. Final vote, Committee on Transportation, is now
23 seven in the affirmative, one in the negative, and no
24 abstentions. Items are still adopted.

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2 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you.

3 With that, this meeting is adjourned. [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 December 23, 2024