

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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September 6, 2017
Start: 2:09 p.m.
Recess: 2:22 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm.
16th Fl

B E F O R E: MARK LEVINE
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Darlene Mealy
Fernando Cabrera
James G. Van Bramer
Andrew Cohen
Alan N. Maisel
Mark Treyger

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

2 [sound check, pause]

3 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Okay, we're going to
4 get started. Welcome everybody to the Committee of
5 the City Council's Parks and Recreation Committee.
6 We are going to be voting today on Intro 629-A, a
7 Local Law to amend the Administrative Code of the
8 City of New York in relation to the length of the
9 season for city beaches and pools, which are
10 historically closed on Labor Day, but in an era of
11 global warning-warming, sadly the first week of
12 September can often be very hot. As we witnessed
13 yesterday—Today it's raining so not a good beach day,
14 but we want our city's young people and families to
15 have access to these very healthy resources, and the
16 week after Labor Day when the school is sometimes
17 out, as it was yesterday, and it's great for our
18 health, and it's an outlet for people who can't
19 afford to go to Miami or the Hamptons. So, there's a
20 real equity component, and these wonderful free
21 resources, and I'm please that we are going to be
22 voting today on the bill that will enshrine this in
23 law, an extension of the beach and full season to the
24 Sunday beyond Labor Day. So, I'm going to pause for

25

2 a moment, and see if any of my colleagues have any
3 comments. Yes, Council Member Treyger.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you very
5 much, Chair, for your leadership on this issue.
6 Perhaps I'll be a co-sponsor, but one issue I would
7 just take note for the Parks Department moving
8 forward is that already I've gotten feedback from
9 residents in my district who love Coney Island Beach,
10 and also Brighton Beach, too. That a number of the
11 lifeguards that the Parks Department hires they are
12 college students, and their college semesters begin
13 sometimes in early August, and when—so when they go
14 back to school and there is no lifeguard there at
15 that beach section, they close off that section. And
16 so, I get complaints from a lot of residents that
17 they're closing off section after section after
18 section, and so even if we extend the beach season,
19 is the Parks Department fully equipped with staff to
20 provide these services to our residents? So, I just
21 want to just make a note of that, and hopefully they
22 can work out a way where they make the jobs more
23 appealing and attractive to a broader universe, and
24 pay them good wages and other things. Of course, we
25 want to hire college kids and high school seniors as

2 well, but, you know, the staffing issue remains to be
3 a problem. Thank you, Chair.

4 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: It's—it's a great
5 point, and they struggled with that as you see on
6 Coney Island. You can't open a beach at all if you
7 don't have lifeguards because that's—that's a threat
8 to—to safety, and the bill does give the Parks
9 Department the ability to not open in case of sever
10 weather or safety issues that could be precipitated
11 by lack of staffing. We should do more recruiting
12 from local college students. There are so many in
13 the city, and we should make sure the jobs pay better
14 so we can attract better talent and keep them. So, a
15 very good point. Alright, I think I'm going to ask
16 Bill Martin the Committee Clerk to call the roll.

17 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,
18 roll call vote Committee on Parks and Recreation.
19 Introduction 629-A, Chair Levine.

20 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: I vote aye.

21 CLERK: Cabrera.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I'm number two
23 on this bill. So, I will vote aye. I just love it.
24 Thank you so much.

25 CLERK: Maisel.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

3 CLERK: Treyger.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

5 CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the affirmative
6 0 in the negative and no abstentions, the item has
7 been adopted by the committee.

8 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Thank you, Clerk and
9 if we could keep the roll open for 20 minutes.

10 [pause]

11 CLERK: Continuation roll call, Committee
12 on Parks and Recreation. Council Member Cohen.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I vote aye.

14 CLERK: The vote now currently stands at
15 5 in the affirmative. [background comment, pause]
16 Council Member Van Bramer.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye.

18 CLERK: The vote now currently stands at
19 6 in the affirmative. [background comment] The
20 final vote in Committee on Parks and Recreation
21 Introduction 629-A is adopted by a vote of 6 in the
22 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

23 [pause]

24 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Okay, this concludes
25 our committee hearing. [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 September 8, 2017