

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

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June 14, 2011  
Start: 10:03 am  
Recess: 10:07 am

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
ERIC MARTIN DILAN  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.  
Elizabeth Crowley  
Lewis A. Fidler  
James F. Gennaro  
Robert Jackson  
Letitia James  
Brad S. Lander  
Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Rosie Mendez  
Joel Rivera  
Jumaane D. Williams  
James S. Oddo

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2 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Alright, I'd  
3 like to call the Committee to order. Good  
4 morning. My name is Erik Martin Dilan. I'd like  
5 to call the Committee to order. Thank you for  
6 attending today's hearing for the purposes of a  
7 vote on proposed Intro 64-A, which would update  
8 the City's electrical code by adopting the 2008  
9 version of the National Electrical Code or the NEC  
10 along with some New York City-specific amendments.  
11 The Council first adopted the 1999 version of the  
12 NEC as local law 64 in 2001. Because the  
13 electrical code at the time had not been  
14 significantly revised for several decades, local  
15 law 64 provided for the periodic update of the  
16 electrical code and mandated reviews of each new  
17 cycle of the NEC, which is published approximately  
18 every three years. Thus by adopting the 2008 NEC  
19 along with some amendments, Intro 64 would make  
20 several important technical and administrative  
21 updates to the electrical code.

22 On September 21<sup>st</sup>, this Committee  
23 considered an earlier version of this legislation  
24 and received testimony from representatives of the  
25 Department of Buildings, the New York Electrical

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2 Contractors, the Joint Industry Board of the  
3 Electrical Industry from Verizon, Time Warner,  
4 Cablevision, various labor unions and industry  
5 associations. Amendments were made to the bill  
6 before the Committee today and they were made  
7 following the initial hearing.

8           The proposed principal  
9 administrative amendments to the code include  
10 outlining licensees' business requirements,  
11 authorizing the suspension of electrical permits  
12 without notice in cases of imminent peril to life  
13 or property, adopting enforcement provisions of  
14 Title 28, including the authority to have the  
15 Environmental Control Board adjudicate violations  
16 for infractions of the electrical code and  
17 authorizing the commissioner of Buildings to  
18 impose certain disciplinary actions under certain  
19 conditions and granting the commissioner certain  
20 rule-making authority. I believe there is a great  
21 amount of consensus from the administration, the  
22 Council and the electrical industry on these  
23 matters. They maintain the technical amendments  
24 to the electrical code that are being proposed  
25 relate to the transmission of electricity for

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2 heat, light and power, signaling communication,  
3 alarm and data transmission. Now those amendments  
4 include defining the arrangement of circuit wiring  
5 to prevent or minimize short circuiting and arc  
6 volts, adopting fire alarm system requirements for  
7 power and wiring, which were previously in the  
8 building code, requiring the sidewalk shed  
9 lighting installations must comply with electrical  
10 requirements to take into account the outdoor use  
11 and other relevant conditions, removing the  
12 requirement that solar voltaic system must be  
13 approved for use by a nationally recognized  
14 testing laboratory, rather than requiring that a  
15 detailed diagram of such be available to the  
16 Department of Buildings.

17           Additionally, this bill proposes  
18 that the 2008 NEC together with these local  
19 amendments are to be known as the electrical code  
20 technical standards and will apply to work  
21 performed on or after July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2011; however,  
22 through December 31<sup>st</sup> of 2011 electrical work may  
23 be performed either in accordance with the ECTS  
24 adopted pursuant to Section 27-3024 and the New  
25 York City amendments to such standards enacted by

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2 Section 27-3025 of the Administrative Code of the  
3 City of New York. For the list of amendments on  
4 Intro 64 for anyone interested, please see pages 5  
5 through 7—I believe it's now 6-8 of the Committee  
6 Report and I would like to ask my colleagues to  
7 vote in favor of this proposal. This is the only  
8 item on the Committee's agenda and at this time,  
9 if the clerk is ready, I'd ask the clerk to call  
10 the roll.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,  
12 Committee Clerk, roll call vote in the Committee  
13 on Housing and Buildings proposed Introduction 64-  
14 A. Council Member Dilan?

15 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: I vote aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gennaro?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Jackson?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Yes.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: James?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of

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eight in the affirmative, zero in the negative and

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no abstentions, items adopted. Members, please

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sign the Committee report. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON DILAN: We'll keep the

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vote open for as long as the rules permit or as

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long as possible. There are some members on this

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Committee, who are on leadership meeting and/or

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other committees. We will give them some time to

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get here and we'll close the Committee as soon as

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practically possible.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member

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Oddo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes. Yes.

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Yes.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now

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stands at nine in the affirmative.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member

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Mendez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I vote aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now  
3 stands at ten in the affirmative. Roll call  
4 continuation, Committee on Housing and Buildings.  
5 Council Member Rivera?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Comrie?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Fidler?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote in the  
12 Committee on Housing and Buildings is now 13 in  
13 the affirmative, zero in the negative and no  
14 abstentions. The Committee hearing on Housing and  
15 Buildings is now adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kimberley Uhlig certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature

*Kimberley Uhlig*

Date            June 22, 2011