

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

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November 25, 2013  
Start: 01:55 p.m.  
Recess: 02:06 p.m.

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

B E F O R E:  
GALE A. BREWER  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
INEZ E. DICKENS  
ERIK ARTIN DILAN  
DOMENIC M. RECCHIA, JR.  
PETER F. VALLONE, JR.



2 [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Good afternoon. I'm  
4 Gale Brewer. I'm chair of Governmental Operations.  
5 I'm here with council member Dickens and council  
6 member Vallone. As we know we'll be voting on two  
7 pieces of legislation related to elections and  
8 voting. The first bill is Intro 764 A. I introduced  
9 this. It would allow candidates running for office  
10 to accept campaign contributions via text  
11 messaging. Although contributions and payments via  
12 text messaging have already been in use by non  
13 profits and other organizations for some years this  
14 is a new and innovative area for political  
15 campaigns. The first use was during the 2012  
16 presidential elections when both presidents,  
17 president Obama and the Romney campaigns used it to  
18 raise money in California, Maryland, and Texas have  
19 all allowed text message contributions in state  
20 elections was in the last two years. The promise of  
21 text message contributions is that by making it  
22 easier to give money in this way elected officials  
23 would become more reliant on smaller contributions  
24 especially from younger voters, they think that the  
25 rest of us don't know how to text but we do, who

1  
2 are more accustomed to this type of technology  
3 instead of having to go to big donors. Although  
4 people will still do that. Indeed the bill  
5 prescribes that the cap on such contributions will  
6 be 99 dollars per candidate per contributor per  
7 year. It will be interesting to see how text  
8 message contributions change the political  
9 landscape and, or if they do. I think they will and  
10 I'm very proud that New York City's at the  
11 forefront of this combination of good government  
12 and technology and it should be noted that this  
13 legislation will make New York City the first  
14 jurisdiction to match text message contributions  
15 and I want to thank the campaign Finance Board. I  
16 want to thank Will Colegrove from my office, the  
17 Legislative Director David Seitzer and Tim Maschoff  
18 from the speaker's office particularly on this  
19 legislation.

20           The second bill was Intro 488 which  
21 would codify the Board of Election's existing,  
22 their existing practice of posting sample ballots  
23 on their website. It's a great practice that allows  
24 voters to check who their candidates are ahead of  
25 time as well as understand what the ballot will

2 look like. Obviously their hope is to reduce  
3 confusion on election day. I have been asking the  
4 Board of Elections to post this information for  
5 years and to their credit, working with DoITT they  
6 began posting sample ballots last year online. This  
7 service has been a huge hit with the public and  
8 Intro 488 will guarantee that it is in perpetuity.  
9 So thank you everyone and we look forward to this  
10 vote and to these both bills being helpful to the  
11 public. Thank you very much.

12 WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin,  
13 committee clerk roll call vote Committee on  
14 Governmental Operations. Council member Brewer.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye.

16 WILLIAM MARTIN: Vallone.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [off mic] I  
18 vote aye. I want to thank Gale for her leadership  
19 on this.

20 WILLIAM MARTIN: Dickens.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic] I vote  
22 aye and I too... council member Brewer for being the  
23 forefront of most of the technology issues that  
24 we've had in the city council.  
25

2 WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of three in  
3 the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no  
4 abstentions item is adopted. Members please sign  
5 the committee report thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Thank you.

7 [pause]

8 WILLIAM MARTIN: Dilan

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [off mic] I vote  
10 aye.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye on both.

12 WILLIAM MARTIN: Final vote in the  
13 Committee on Governmental Operations is now four in  
14 the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no  
15 abstentions.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Committee on  
17 Governmental Operations is now adjourned.

18 [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 04, 2013\_\_\_\_\_