

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

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July 27, 2020
Start: 1:03 p.m.
Recess: 1:16 p.m.

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING

B E F O R E: Fernando Cabrera - Committee on
Governmental Operations

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Ben Kallos
Alan N. Maisel
Bill Perkins
Keith Powers
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Kalman Yeger

2 SERGEANT MARTINEZ: Mr. Lugo, you may begin with
3 your opening statement thank you.

4 SERGEANT LUGO: Good afternoon everyone and
5 welcome to today's Remote New York City Council
6 hearing of the Committee on Governmental Operations.
7 At this time, would all panelists please turn on
8 their video.

9 To minimize disruption, please place electronic
10 devices to vibrate or silent. Thank you for your
11 cooperation, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Let me gavel in to this
13 meeting. [GAVEL] Good afternoon, I am Council Member
14 Fernando Cabrera, Chair of the Committee on
15 Governmental Operation. I want to welcome you back
16 this time to a vote on the following legislation.

17 Proposed Intro. Number 1872-A sponsored by myself
18 will require publication of unconsolidated laws
19 enacted by the Council. Unlike consolidated
20 provisions of local law, unconsolidated provisions
21 and I'm not codifying in either the Administrative
22 Code or Charter, for they still carry the force of
23 law.

24 This bill will require the Law Department to
25 publish all unconsolidated local laws enacted after

2 January 1, 1985 that remain in effect.

3 Unconsolidated portions of local laws enacted after
4 that date must be presented as annotations to the
5 relevant amended sections of the Charter or
6 Administrative code.

7 Proposed Intro. Number 1879-A sponsored by
8 Council Member Powers will standardize the process by
9 which the Mayor designates administrating agencies.
10 It will require that the Mayor publish online and
11 notify the Speaker of every designation of an
12 administering office or agency within 10 days. The
13 Mayor would also be required to publish past
14 designations online and submit them to the Speaker.

15 Proposed Intro. 1091-A sponsored by Council
16 Member Koo will require the Law Department to make
17 available on a single page on the city's website a
18 compilation of all executive orders issued by mayors
19 from 1974 to the present. This compilation will be
20 published in a searchable, machine readable format or
21 formats that are capable of being downloaded in bulk
22 and will need to indicate any executive order that
23 has been explicitly superseded or amended by a later
24 executive order with an annotation to the superseded
25 or amended executive order.

2 And finally, Preconsidered of reconsidered Reso.
3 Sponsored by Majority Leader and Council Member Cumbo
4 a resolution called upon Congress to pass and the
5 President to sign the Voting Rights Amendment Act of
6 2019, which would revise and modernize portions of
7 the Voting Rights Act of 1965 struck down in the
8 Supreme Court decision Selby County v. Holder.

9 Before we start, I want to acknowledge that we
10 have been joined by Council Members Rodriguez, Yeger,
11 Maisel, Koo, Cumbo, Kallos, and Perkins.

12 I would like now to turn it over to Council
13 Member Koo to make a statement on his legislation.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you Chair Cabrera and
15 all the members of the Committee. Today, we are
16 voting on my legislation Intro. 1091 which will
17 require the city to create a searchable and machine
18 readable compilation of all mayoral executive orders
19 from 1974 to present.

20 This bill would also require that the compilation
21 of executive orders indicate if they have been
22 amended or superseded by later executive orders.

23 This bill builds off of many of the other government
24 transparency views. This Council has introduced in
25

2 recent years that require city documents to be posted
3 online in a searchable machine readable format.

4 The goal of these efforts are to increase the
5 availability and accessibility of the city laws,
6 moves executive orders. The ability for the public
7 to search executive orders should be no different
8 than what is currently available on the New York City
9 Council website, where the public can view a bill as
10 it moves through the legislative process.

11 Currently the public has access through our City
12 Council documents on the Council website. Executive
13 orders are enormously important to governmental
14 operations as they show that natural decision are
15 made by the Mayor's office. These directives are key
16 to understanding the policies and politics of our
17 great city and by compiling the information into a
18 searchable, machine readable format online. It will
19 increase transparency and promote the best practices
20 of good government.

21 Thank you. I urge all members to vote
22 affirmative on this bill. Thank you. Chair Cabrera,
23 thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Thank you so much Council
3 Member Koo. Let me pass it on now to Majority Leader
4 Cumbo.

5 I don't see her, op, there she is, thank you.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I'm here. Can you hear
7 me?

8 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Perfectly, thank you
9 Majority Leader, it's all yours.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I just want to again,
11 thank you so much for the opportunity to present here
12 today. As I stated earlier, this is critical
13 legislation that's so important that we as a body
14 continue to press forward. As we have seen in the
15 2020 election, we have seen just the level of
16 suppression that so many people faced all across this
17 country.

18 Approximately half our 50 states have tried to
19 suppress the vote through a variety of mechanisms
20 which made it almost impossible for so many people,
21 particularly people of color to vote as a result of
22 the Selby County decision. Some of these include
23 strict voter ID registration, proof of citizenship,
24 purging voter rolls, reducing polling locations which
25 have caused people all across the country to have to

1 wait 8,9,10,11,12 hours in the hot sun, just to have
2 an opportunity to cast a vote and so often after
3 waiting for hours at a time they had been denied
4 their right to vote for a variety of reasons that
5 were just listed.
6

7 This resolution calls upon congress to pass and
8 the president to sign the Voting Rights Advancement
9 Act of 2019. Esteemed civil right icon John R. Lewis
10 was a co-sponsor and stanch advocate for this
11 legislation. He and so many others sacrificed
12 themselves, their bodies, and put their respect,
13 their decency, their lives, that of their families on
14 the line so that we could all have the right to vote.

15 We owe it to his memory to carry the torch and
16 codifying civil rights protections for all, not just
17 a privileged view. Now more than ever we need the
18 federal government to pass the Voting Rights
19 Advancement Act.

20 Thank you so much Chair Cabrera and all of the
21 members of the Committee for your support and this is
22 really the right time to do it in memory of such a
23 great icon and political leader who has carried the
24 torch for so long and now it is our time to pick up
25

2 that torch and bring forward this critical piece of
3 legislation.

4 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Thank you so much Majority
5 Leader and thank you for championing this resolution.
6 I can't think of a better timing to do this and I
7 want to thank all my colleagues for putting forth
8 their bills and I am encouraging everyone to vote aye
9 on all and I'm going to ask the clerk now to call the
10 roll call and clerk, if you would be so kind, if you
11 could start with Council Member Kallos. I know he
12 has an urgent place to go at this moment.

13 Thank you so much.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you Chair Cabrera and good
15 afternoon. This is the Committee on Governmental
16 Operations conducting a vote July 27, 2020 vote on
17 the following four items: Intro.'s 1091-A, 1872-A,
18 1879-A and Preconsidered Resolution on the Voting
19 Rights Advancement Act. We will begin with Council
20 Member Kallos.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Chair Cabrera?

23 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Aye on all.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Maisel?
25 Rodriguez?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Permission to explain
3 my vote?

4 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Absolutely.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: First of all, thank
7 you Chairman and all the colleagues who are carrying
8 this bill today and especially Minority Leader for
9 the resolution that you know, you've been
10 championing. I think that border suppression is a
11 big issue and no doubt, many people they have died
12 defending voter rights and I feel that it is our time
13 to add our voice from the City of New York to
14 [INAUDIBLE 11:20] to say, we will never stand for
15 border suppression and we are ready to pass this
16 resolution. Anyone to be heard loud and clear. At
17 the same time that I support the resolution, I also
18 thank Chairman Cabrera and also Minority Leader for
19 also supporting the municipal voting right of the
20 City of New York. At the city level, we have a great
21 opportunity also to lead by example.

22 So, when we have a bill that we have 33 Council
23 Members that will allow New Yorkers to have working
24 permits and green cards to vote in municipal
25 election, I think that by voting this resolution we

1
2 also embrace a bill that we have 33 Council Members
3 saying, you know, let's lead by example. Like, how
4 we can not address no taxation without
5 representation. How we have millions of New Yorkers
6 here that they pay the taxes and they are not being
7 allowed to vote to elect a Mayor to borough
8 president, the comptroller, and the public advocate.

9 So, I'm happy to vote on all the bills,
10 especially in the resolution that address border
11 suppression but I also call on my colleagues that
12 please join our effort also to move the bill that we
13 have that will allow municipal New Yorkers to vote to
14 elect the leaders here and let's also vote on this
15 resolution. Let's vote together also to take to the
16 crossing line a bill that we have 33 Council members,
17 the City Comptroller, the Public Advocate, the
18 Brooklyn Borough President, the Manhattan Borough
19 President, and NAACP, Hispanics and more than 35
20 institutions saying, let's make the City of New York
21 the first one that we can address border suppression
22 also by allowing New Yorkers that pay their taxes to
23 elect their local leaders.

24 With that, I vote aye on all.
25

2 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Thank you so much Council
3 Member.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Resuming the vote with Council
5 Member Perkins. Council Member Perkins, would you
6 please unmute yourself?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Thank you very much for
8 bringing that to my attention. I vote aye on all.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you Councilman. Council
10 Member Powers?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. I vote aye on
12 all.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Yeger?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: By a vote of seven in the
16 affirmative, zero in the negative and zero
17 abstentions, all items have been -

18 JOHANNA CASTRO: Could you please call Council
19 Member Maisel again?

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Certainly. Council Member
21 Maisel?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you very much. By a vote
24 of seven in the affirmative, zero in the negative and
25

2 zero abstention, Chair Cabrera, all items have been
3 adopted.

4 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Thank you so much and with
5 that, we conclude today's vote. Thank you so much
6 and thank you for all the staff and for all the
7 honorable Council Members here today. Have a great
8 day. [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 August 6, 2020