

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON AGING

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September 15, 2010  
Start: 10:32 am  
Recess: 10:37 am

HELD AT: Hearing Room  
250 Broadway, 16th Floor

B E F O R E:  
JESSICA S. LAPPIN  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Maria del Carmen Arroyo  
Gale A. Brewer  
Vincent J. Gentile  
Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Margaret S. Chin  
Karen Koslowitz  
Deborah L. Rose  
Peter A. Koo  
David G. Greenfield

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2 CHAIRPERSON LAPPIN: Good morning  
3 everybody, and happy anniversary to Council  
4 Members Chin and Rose on their big primary wins  
5 last year. It's the anniversary of their  
6 victories.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Well, me  
8 too.

9 CHAIRPERSON LAPPIN: And Karen  
10 Koslowitz. That's true, you had a primary. And  
11 Peter?

12 FEMALE VOICE: No, Peter didn't  
13 have a primary.

14 CHAIRPERSON LAPPIN: Oh, that's  
15 right. You didn't have a primary.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: - - .

17 CHAIRPERSON LAPPIN: Well good  
18 morning, I'm Jessica Lappin, chair of the Aging  
19 Committee, joined today by Council Members Peter  
20 Koo, Margaret Chin, Debbie Rose, Melissa Mark-  
21 Viverito, Karen Koslowitz, Vinnie Gentile, Gale  
22 Brewer and Maria del Carmen Arroyo.

23 Today we are going to vote on  
24 Proposed Intro 270-A, which would establish a  
25 Silver Alert program in the city to help find

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2 older adults with cognitive impairments who go  
3 missing. Really, I can't think of anything more  
4 terrifying as a caregiver than watching your  
5 parent or grandparent who has Alzheimer's or  
6 dementia and having them wander off and being  
7 worried for their safety.

8                   We held a hearing on this bill back  
9 in June and all who came to testify voiced their  
10 strong support for this legislation. Just a very  
11 quick recap, Intro 270-A, which Council Member  
12 Maria del Carmen Arroyo and I have introduced  
13 together, would require the mayor to designate a  
14 specific city agency to implement a Silver Alert  
15 program.

16                   The administering agency would be  
17 responsible for issuing an alert within 24 hours  
18 of a senior with cognitive impairments being  
19 reported missing to the police department. It  
20 would develop a protocol to notify organizations  
21 like the media, senior centers, senior service  
22 providers, medical facilities and community  
23 organizations that a senior with dementia or  
24 Alzheimer's has been reported missing.

25                   The information would be conveyed

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2 through means such as email, phone calls, TV or  
3 radio broadcasts. The alerts would also have to  
4 be issued repeatedly until the missing person is  
5 found or the agency determined that it would no  
6 longer be appropriate to continue.

7           We amended the bill, and this is  
8 something I wanted to note. This is something  
9 that came up at the hearing. It's to make the  
10 program a little bit more flexible because we  
11 heard testimony that people who can have  
12 Alzheimer's or dementia may not be 65 or older and  
13 we would still want it to apply to them, so it  
14 will.

15           I think this bill is a very sound  
16 way for New York to take another step towards  
17 improving its age friendliness. Silver Alerts are  
18 a lot like Amber Alerts. They have been proven to  
19 be successful in many other parts of the country.  
20 I think 26 other jurisdictions, city or states,  
21 have already enacted them. I have no doubt that  
22 it will be a success here as well.

23           Now, I'd like to ask Councilwoman  
24 Arroyo if you would like to say anything in regard  
25 to the bill.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: I think  
3 you've said it all. Thank you for your leadership  
4 and support on this bill. It's been a long time  
5 in the works.

6 CHAIRPERSON LAPPIN: You worked on  
7 this for a long time. It's very exciting. With  
8 that, I would ask for a vote and recommend a  
9 favorable vote on this legislation.

10 WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin,  
11 Committee Clerk, roll call vote in the Committee  
12 on Aging. Council Member Lappin?

13 CHAIRPERSON LAPPIN: Aye.

14 WILLIAM MARTIN: Brewer?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

16 WILLIAM MARTIN: Gentile?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

18 WILLIAM MARTIN: Arroyo?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

20 WILLIAM MARTIN: Mark-Viverito?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

22 WILLIAM MARTIN: Chin?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

24 WILLIAM MARTIN: Koslowitz?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of nine in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions, item is adopted. Members, please sign the committee report. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON LAPPIN: I'd like to thank the staff who have worked on this legislation. Chris Sotori [phonetic] and Shauneequa who is no longer here, but I wanted to mention her as well for all of her work on this. And Pakhi, I could never forget Pakhi. Billy, are there any other members who have not yet voted?

WILLIAM MARTIN: Three members.

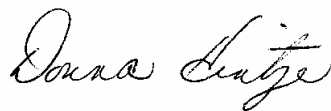
CHAIRPERSON LAPPIN: We'll hold the vote open for ten minutes. This meeting is adjourned.

[Pause]

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: David Greenfield, I vote aye.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Donna Hintze 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\_\_\_\_\_

Date September 30, 2010\_\_\_\_\_