

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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July 23, 2008
Start: 11:52am
Recess: 12:02pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E: ERIK MARTIN DILAN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Tony Avella
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Lewis A. Fidler
Robert Jackson
Rosie Mendez
James S. Oddo
Joel Rivera
Thomas White, Jr.

2 CHAIRPERSON ERIK MARTIN DILAN:

3 Test, one two. Test, one two. Housing and
4 Buildings Committee.

5 MALE VOICE: Testing one two,
6 testing one two. This is the Committee on Housing
7 and Building. Today's date is July 23, 2008. And
8 it's being recorded by Ibierto Coriasco [phonetic].

9 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Good afternoon
10 everybody. My name is Erik Martin Dilan. I'm the
11 Chairman of the Housing and Buildings Committee.
12 Today the Committee will consider for the purposes
13 of a vote of two bills. The first is Proposed
14 Intro 687-A, local law to amend the administrative
15 code of the City of New York in relation to
16 requiring that certain buildings or structures
17 undergo inspection. As well as Proposed Intro
18 793-A, another local law to amend the
19 administrative code of the City of New York in
20 relation to inspection, maintenance and repair of
21 retaining walls.

22 Brief summary of the bills.

23 Proposed Intro 687-A would require architects and
24 engineers to conduct inspections of potentially
25 compromised buildings or structures. And just

1
2 briefly, the bill was amended from the original
3 version which was a bi-annual inspection to this
4 current version which would be an annual
5 inspection of those buildings.

6 As well as a bill sponsored by
7 Council Member Robert Jackson. Proposed Intro
8 793-A, which would require architects or engineers
9 to inspect retaining walls that front a public
10 right of way. Since he is here at this time, if
11 he would so choose, if Council Member Jackson just
12 wanted to make a brief statement about his bill, I
13 give him the opportunity to do so now. If not, he
14 can decline; it's totally up to him.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROBERT JACKSON: I
16 decline. I'll just do it at the general meeting.
17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Okay. So with
19 that, I'd like to have both of these items coupled
20 for the purposes of a vote and I'd like to ask the
21 clerk to call the roll.

22 MALE VOICE: Dilan.

23 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: I vote aye on
24 both.

25 MALE VOICE: Rivera.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER JOEL RIVERA: I vote
3 aye on all.

4 MALE VOICE: Avella.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER TONY AVELLA: Mr.
6 Chairman may I be given permission to give my
7 little speech again?

8 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Council Member
9 Avella to explain his vote.

10 MR. AVELLA: I'm going to be voting
11 yes on both items. They are good bills but--and
12 stop that. As my previous comments, which
13 unfortunately weren't on the record, there are
14 many other good pieces of legislation that have
15 been held up. Not because of the Chair, who's
16 been doing a great job in this, but because of the
17 Speaker.

18 I think it's a real disgrace that
19 while we're saying we're addressing the issues in
20 the construction industry in the Department of
21 Buildings. Many of the worthwhile pieces of
22 reform that I've introduced and my colleagues
23 introduced languish in this body without moving
24 ahead. While these bills are good, there are many
25 other bills that need to move ahead. I urge the

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2 leadership--no, let me retract that--the Speaker
3 to move ahead on these items.

4 Thank you. And I vote aye on both
5 bills.

6 MALE VOICE: Comrie.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEROY G. COMRIE,
8 JR.: Thanks for the retraction. Aye on both.

9 MALE VOICE: Jackson.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROBERT JACKSON: Aye
11 on all.

12 MALE VOICE: White.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS WHITE, JR.:
14 Aye on all.

15 MALE VOICE: Mendez.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSIE MENDEZ: Aye
17 on all.

18 MALE VOICE: Both stand at seven in
19 the affirmative--

20 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Fidler.

21 MALE VOICE: Sorry. Fidler.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEWIS A. FIDLER:
23 Mr. Chairman, worthwhile is in the eye of the
24 beholder, you know. I vote aye on all.

25 MALE VOICE: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES S. ODDO: Yes.

MALE VOICE: Now vote stands at
nine in the affirmative, no negative, no
abstention. Motion passed.

CHAIRPERSON DILAN: I believe most
members have signed the Committee report. But I
believe Council Member Mendez needs to sign the
Committee Report.

[END AUDIO FILE]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Amber Gibson, 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 _____ Amber Gibson _____

Date _____ 08/22/2008 _____