

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

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December 19, 2013  
Start: 10:56 a.m.  
Recess: 11:06 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Hearing Room  
16<sup>th</sup> Floor

B E F O R E:  
Diana Reyna  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mathieu Eugene  
Letitia James  
Margaret S. Chin  
Peter A. Koo  
Ruben Wills  
Andy King

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Good morning.

My name is Diana Reyna, and I'm Chair of the Small Business Committee. Today the Committee will consider proposed introduction 1213A, a local law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York in relation to replacing certain fines with opportunities to cure, for which I am the primary sponsor joined by my colleagues, Gale Brewer who is not here with us but had to go across the street to Finance, as do so many of us, Council Member Chin, Council Member Dickens, Eugene, King, Koo, Mendez, Rose, Wills, Gennaro, and Vallone. Today's hearing is a continuation of the regulation review process that started in 2009 with the creation of the regulation review advisory panel, the purpose of which was to simplify the regulations effecting the City's small business so they could focus more on doing business and less on the burdens of dealing with government bureaucracy. This is an ongoing process of reviewing regulations at the next council and next administration will have to continue to ensure that New York City

1 continues to be a place that is conducive to  
2 entrepreneurship. Today, we take a step in a  
3 right direction, codifying recommendations of  
4 various agencies to provide small businesses  
5 the opportunity to cure violations before  
6 incurring fines, an education process we must  
7 all take part in and participate in educating  
8 our small businesses saves them money. Before  
9 we turn our attention to this bill, however, I  
10 would like to take a moment of personal  
11 privilege. This is the last hearing I will  
12 preside over as Chair of the Small Business  
13 Committee. I want to extend my thanks to all my  
14 colleagues on this committee who have worked so  
15 hard to make sure this city does all it can to  
16 help small business owners to realize their  
17 dreams. I know that this committee will  
18 continue in the most able of hands and I also  
19 like to thank the members of the small business  
20 community, the chambers of commerce, and all  
21 the advocates who have shared their stories and  
22 ideas with us and who have really been  
23 essential in making this council more  
24 responsive to their needs. It has been an honor  
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and a privilege to serve this constituency and to work with all of you. I also like to take a moment to thank the Bloomberg administration for the times that we perhaps saw things differently but respected each other's point of views and made sure that we were able to do more for our small business community together. Specific thanks to the small business, Department of Small Business services under the leadership of Commissioner Walsh. My best to everyone at the Department and we wish everyone a merry Christmas and a wonderful new year. To my Committee Staff, Geoffrey Compana [phonetic] and Peter Drivus [phonetic] and my Committee members who I will acknowledge right now, Council Member Peter Koo, Council Member Margaret Chin, Council Member Mathieu Eugene, and with that I'd like to call the roll.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member

Reyna?

CHAIRPERSON REYNA: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member

Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member  
Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye,  
but also just like to add, you know, it's been  
an honor serving with you, Diana, for the past  
four years, and thank you for your strong  
advocacy for the small business, and hopefully  
we will continue that after you leave City  
Council. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member  
Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye, and  
I also wanted to say thank you to Chairwoman to  
Diana Reyna for doing a wonderful job for our  
Committee and also for the New York City  
Council. Well done. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Madam Chair,  
with your permission, I would be remiss if I  
didn't take a moment or so or the opportunity  
to thank you for your leadership, for your  
dedication to serve the small business and New  
York City. That was a great experience and I  
learned so much from you, and I think that, you  
know, the business owners in New York City they

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are doing better because of your dedication and your leadership. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON REYNA: We will leave this vote open. I wanted to just thank the division supervisor Tiersa Nasa [phonetic] for all of her work, working with her for the last 12 years. This is quite an amazing journey and making sure that in this Council we continue to work with the industrial business zones and their industrial providers who make sure that we are protecting what would be the industrial areas where space is a premium. I just wanted to take that moment to say thank you to all who are present and not, and also to thank David from the Government Operations Committee. Thank you so much for the regulation review. Your team, for all of their efforts to getting us this final bill to action.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King?

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vote stands at five in the affirmative. Council Member James?

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: [off mic]

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Six in the affirmative, zero abstentions, zero in the negative.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I think this piece of legislation is just a testimony to your leadership in the Small Business Committee, and I just want to thank you for the privilege of having the honor of listening to your information and your schpeal [phonetic] your positions and just your leadership in helping me understand as a Council Member what small businesses mean to the City of New York. I'm going to miss you. We're going to miss you, and the City Council will never be the same without Council Member Reyna. We'll just be in search of a Council Member Diana Reyna. So God bless you and we love you and thank you again.

CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you. Thank you very much, Council Member King, and I just wanted to share with the committee there is this advisory board where the Council will have four names to be vetted and there's an opportunity to recommend small business association leaders, advocates, small business



1 owners. So please take advantage. Make sure  
2 that you submit that to Robert Newman so that  
3 we are able after the first of January in  
4 conjunction with the Mayor's appointees as  
5 well, to have the advisory board begin their  
6 process in vetting through what would be the  
7 administrative code, which we have no say in,  
8 but working with the administration we will be  
9 able to continue our efforts beyond my term and  
10 making sure that there is a regulation review  
11 process that will continue to be reviewed and  
12 rules are meliorated so that small businesses  
13 are not continued to be the burden of bearing  
14 what would be revenue cash cow as they say.  
15 Thank you very much. This hearing is adjourned.

17 [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 there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is no interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date 01/07/2014