

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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July 17, 2018
Start: 10:07 a.m.
Recess: 10:12 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: KEITH POWERS
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Robert F. Holden
Rory I. Lancman
Carlina Rivera

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

2 [sound check] [pause] [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Good morning for
4 those who are here. I'm Council Member Keith Powers
5 and chair of the Committee—I'm the Chair of the
6 Committee on Criminal Justice. I'm joined here today
7 by Council Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel, Council Member
8 Bog Holden, Council Member Rory Lancman, and we will
9 be soon joined by Council Member Carlina Rivera as
10 well. We are here to vote on two pieces of
11 legislation related to the operations of the
12 Department of Correction, which were heard earlier
13 this year. The first proposal, the first bill is
14 741-A sponsored by Speaker Corey Johnson that
15 requires the Department of Correction to provide
16 telephone service and make all domestic telephone
17 calls free of charge to individuals in Department of
18 Correction's custody, and anyone they call.
19 Additionally, the legislation prohibits the city from
20 collecting revenue through the provision of telephone
21 calls, a practice that had in previous years enriched
22 the city's coffers at the expense of some of the
23 poorest and most vulnerable New Yorkers. This piece
24 of legislation will end that practice, and ensure
25 that incarcerated New Yorkers in city jails the vast

2 majority of whom are incarcerated merely because—
3 because they cannot afford to post bail, can afford
4 to regularly maintain contact with family and
5 friends, which is essential to promoting effective
6 rehabilitation. Next up we will hear and vote on
7 Proposed Introduction 779-A sponsored by Council
8 Member Donovan Richards, which amends the Department
9 of Correction's Use of Force Reporting to require
10 additional information regarding the use of devices
11 capable of administering electric shocks. As the
12 department has recently expanded the provision of
13 electronic shock devices commonly known as Tasers to
14 department personnel, we believe that increased
15 transparency and oversight is necessary to ensure
16 that these potentially harmful devices are used
17 sparingly and to give us more information about
18 their—their use. I'd like to now add—we know that
19 the sponsors are not with us, but I'd like to ask if,
20 but I'd like to ask if any members have any
21 statements to make prior to voting on the—doing the
22 vote? No? Okay. Yep.

23 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,
24 roll call vote Committee on Criminal Justice. Both
25 items are coupled. Chair Powers.

2 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Aye.

3 CLERK: Lancman.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: [off mic] Aye.

5 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye.

7 CLERK: Holden.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

9 CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the
10 affirmative, 0 in the negative and not abstentions,
11 both items have been adopted.

12 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: [interposing] And I
13 would just ask to leave the vote open for Council
14 Member Rivera as well. Thank you. Yeah, okay.
15 Well, not for me. (sic)

16 COUNCIL MEMBER: It's a pleasure.

17 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Yes, it's always.

18 [pause] [background comments]

19 CLERK: Continued roll call on Committee
20 on Criminal Justice. Council Member Rivera.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye on all.

22 CLERK: The final vote on Introduction
23 741-A and 779-A now stands at 5 in the affirmative, 0
24 in the negative and no abstentions. [pause]

1 COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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2 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Thank you. That
3 concludes our hearing. [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 July 30, 2018