

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

----- X

February 28, 2017
Start: 9:58 a.m.
Recess: 10:21 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: VANESSA L. GIBSON
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Vincent J. Gentile
James Vacca
Julissa Ferreras-Copeland
Jumaane D. Williams
Robert F. Cornegy, Jr.
Chaim M. Deutsch
Rafael Espinal, Jr.
Rory I. Lancman
Ritchie J. Torres
Steven Matteo

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

2 [sound check, pause]

3 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Good morning and
4 welcome to the City Council. I am Council Member
5 Vanessa Gibson of the Sixteenth District in the
6 Bronx. I welcome you to our hearing of the Committee
7 on Public Safety. I want to thank all of my
8 colleagues for being here, our Minority Leader
9 Council Member Steve Matteo, Council Member James
10 Vacca, Council Member Rory Lancman, Council Member
11 Robert Cornegy and Council Member Chaim Deutsch.
12 This morning we are voting on important legislation
13 Proposed Intro 1280-B in relation to requiring the
14 New York Police Department to share collision reports
15 digitally. I want to thank Council Member Chaim
16 Deutsch for his leadership in introducing this
17 legislation because we know that public safety is
18 paramount importance to our city, and while Vision
19 Zero was announced three years ago, just last month
20 we heard at a joint hearing between the Committee on
21 Public Safety and the Committee on Transportation the
22 Administration along with the support of the Council
23 continues to make progress towards reducing and
24 elimination traffic fatalities by the year 2024. But
25 as we all know, accidents do happen. This bill will

2 work to support the victims of car accidents by
3 making it easier for them to get the information they
4 need after the accident has occurred. Historically
5 it's been difficult for many victims to obtain
6 information following a crash. Requiring the Police
7 Department to make collision reports available
8 digitally is an important step towards making traffic
9 crash reports more readily available to the public.
10 This legislation will enable victims of accidents to
11 recover more quickly and simply move forward with
12 their lives. Intro 1280-B will require the NYPD to
13 make automobile collision reports available online to
14 all interested parties. Collision reports will be
15 made available to people who are named on the report,
16 and will also provide their driver's license number,
17 date of birth, license plate number and license plate
18 of the state of issuance to the NYPD for preparation
19 of the report. Reports will be made available for a
20 single web portal located on the department's
21 website. Thank you once again to all of the members
22 of the Public Safety Committee who are here.
23 Promoting public safety in our city also means
24 supporting victims, and for this reason I hope you
25 will join me in voting favorably for this

2 legislation, which will require the Police Department
3 to make collision reports available digitally.

4 Before we get to the vote and before I get to the
5 prime sponsor, does any member have any questions on
6 the bill before us today? Okay, and now I turn to
7 the prime sponsor of Intro 1280-B, Council Member
8 Chaim Deutsch.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you, Chair
10 Gibson and members of the Public Safety Committee.
11 This morning we are voting on Intro 1280-B, my bill
12 that would codify into law access to collision
13 reports due to NYPD's online system. Prior to the
14 online system's launch in December, obtaining a copy
15 of an accident report could often make a stressful
16 situation even more aggravating. Those involved in a
17 vehicle collision will need to physically go into the
18 precinct to order-to coordinate through the officers
19 in order to pick up a report. In today's age of
20 technology, this online portal makes it easy and
21 convenient for our constituents to obtain a copy of
22 the accident report, which is often needed in order
23 to file a claim. In addition, it frees up local
24 officers at precincts who can instead focus on other
25 matters. So I urge my colleagues to vote in support

1 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

6

2 of Intro 1280-B, a common sense right to save
3 unnecessarily waste of time of energy in our already
4 busy daily lives, and help improve the quality of
5 life of all New Yorkers. Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Thank you very much,
7 Council Member Deutsch and I also want to thank the
8 staff for their work on this bill. Our committee
9 counsel Deepa Ambekar, Legislative Counsel Beth
10 Golub, our Policy Analyst, Casey Addison, and our
11 Finance Analyst Steve Riester, and with that, I will
12 turn to our Committee Clerk to being call the roll.
13 Thank you, colleagues.

14 CLERK: Committee Clerk Matthew DiStefano
15 Committee on Public Safety. Roll call on Intro No.
16 1280-B. Chair Gibson.

17 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: I vote aye.

18 CLERK: Vacca.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [off mic] Aye.

20 CLERK: Cornegy.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

22 CLERK: Deutsch.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Can I explain my
24 vote?

25 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Yes.

1 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY 7

2 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye. [laughter]

3 CLERK: Lancman.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: [off mic] Aye.

5 CLERK: Matteo.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.

7 CLERK: By a vote of 6 in the
8 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
9 the item has been adopted.

10 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Thank you very much
11 colleagues, and we will keep the rolls open for the
12 next half hour. Thank you colleagues. [pause]
13 [background comments]

14 CLERK: Continuation of roll call Intro
15 1280-B. Council Member Torres.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote aye.
17 We're voting this one today, but I would also vote
18 against. [laughter] Jimmy Vacca said I should vote
19 again. Okay.

20 CLERK: The vote now stands at 7 in the
21 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

22 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Alright.

23 [pause][background comments, pause]

24

25

1 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

8

2 CLERK: Committee on Public Safety,
3 continuation of roll call on Intro No. 1280-B.
4 Council Member Espinal.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye.

6 CLERK: Council Member Williams.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

8 CLERK: The vote now stands at 9 in the
9 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.
10 [background comments, laughter, pause][background
11 comments]

12 CLERK: Committee on Public Safety
13 continuation of roll call, Intro 1280-B, Council
14 Member Gentile.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote aye.

16 CLERK: The vote now stands at 10 in the
17 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions.
18 [pause] [background comments]

19 CLERK: Committee on Public Safety
20 continuation of roll call, Intro 1280-B. Council
21 Member Ferreras-Copeland.

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Chair,
23 thank you very much for your patience and for waiting
24 for my vote. I vote aye. Thank you.

25

2 CLERK: The final vote stands 11 in the
3 affirmative, 0 in the negative [background comments]
4 and no abstentions. Thank you. [pause]

5 CHAIRPERSON BARRON: This concludes the
6 hearing of the Committee on Public Safety. We are
7 now adjourned. [gavel]

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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 March 11, 2017