

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL RIGHTS

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April 1, 2009
Start: 12:15pm
Recess: 12:25pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
LARRY B. SEABROOK
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Council Member Mathieu Eugene
Council Member Julissa Ferreras
Council Member Darlene Mealy
Council Member Michael C. Nelson

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

None

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[pause]

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CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: Oops. Wow,

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that's bouncy. Good afternoon, I'm Councilman

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Larry B. Seabrook, Chair of the City Council's

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Committee on Civil Rights. I would like to thank

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everyone for attending this afternoon's vote on

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proposed introduction number 826-A, a local law to

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amend New York City's administrative code in

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relation to the prohibition of activities to

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prevent access to reproductive health care

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facilities. In preparing the legislation to be

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voted on today, the Council had to consider the

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rights of New Yorkers as protected by city, state

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and federal law. The first area is the right to

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access reproductive health services. This is an

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important personal right, recognized by the City

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and protected by both state and federal law.

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There's also the right to peaceable protest and

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express one's views as established and protected

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by the First Amendment. Proposed introduction

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826-A will strengthen the protection afforded to

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those seeking and providing reproductive health

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services, while preserving opportunities for

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expression of opinion protected by the First

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2 Amendment. Because of the rights at issue, the
3 Council worked with the broad coalition of civil
4 liberties and reproductive right groups. I would
5 like to thank those organizations as well as my
6 colleagues and Council staff for their hard work
7 on this legislation. For that we will commence
8 with the Committee on Civil Rights, voting on the
9 proposed introduction 82-A. Thank you, I'd like
10 to introduce the members of the Committee who are
11 here this morning: Dr. Mathieu Eugene from
12 Brooklyn; Councilman Mike Nelson from Brooklyn;
13 and Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras from Queens, our
14 new member to the Committee, and welcome on board.
15 And so, without any further ado, we're going to
16 take a vote on this proposed Intro 826-A.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
18 Committee Clerk. Roll call to Committee on Civil
19 Rights. Council Member Seabrook.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: I vote
21 aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Nelson.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: I may be
24 excused to explain my vote? I like to say this,
25 one's right to protest is, is as American as peach

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2 cobbler pie, but so is [laughs] alright, you want
3 to go cliché, I should say apple pie, Simcha?
4 [off mic] [laughs] I lived in the South for a
5 while. Pecan pie. And so is respecting private
6 property rights and individual privacy rights, and
7 the cliché, if we're on clichés, that your right
8 to swing out ends where the tip of my nose begins,
9 has never been more appropriate. I vote aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote
14 aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of four
16 in the affirmative, zero the negative, and no
17 abstentions, item's adopted. Members please sign
18 the Committee report. Thank you.

19 [pause]

20 CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: We're going
21 to keep, we're going to keep the roll open for 20
22 minutes, for Councilwoman Mealy 'cause she had
23 indicated that she was on her way. Okay.

24 [pause, background noise]

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Committee on

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Civil Rights, Council Member Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye.

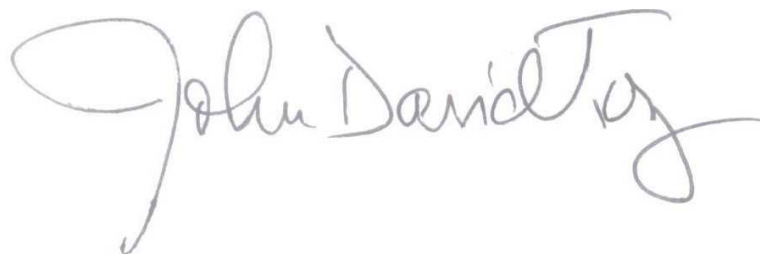
COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote on the
Committee on Civil Rights is now five in the
affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
abstentions. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Committee on
Civil Rights officially over, April 1st, now
adjourning.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JOHN DAVID TONG 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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John David Tong". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Date April 16, 2009