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COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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December 21, 2022
Start: 10:51 a.m.
Recess: 10:59 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Shekar Krishnan, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- David M. Carr
- Robert F. Holden
- Linda Lee
- Julie Menin
- Francisco P. Moya
- Mercedes Narcisse
- Lincoln Restler
- Sandra Ung
- Marjorie Velazquez

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a soundcheck on
3 the Committee on Parks and Recreation. Today's date
4 is December 21, 2022, being recorded by Danny Huang
5 (phonetic) in the Chambers.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Hello, everyone.
7 Welcome to today's New York City Council hearing of
8 the Committee on Parks and Recreation.

9 Please place all electronic devices to
10 vibrate or silent mode. Thank you for your
11 cooperation.

12 Chair, we're ready to go.

13 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: [GAVEL] Good
14 morning, everyone. I'm Shekar Krishnan, Chair of the
15 Committee on Parks and Recreation, and I'd like to
16 welcome all of you to this hearing where we will be
17 voting on three pieces of legislation before the
18 Committee that I am proud to sponsor. Two of the
19 bills relate to improving the efficiency of the
20 Parks' capital process, and one focuses on increasing
21 our City's available green space.

22 I want to thank all of my Colleagues on
23 the Parks Committee who are cosponsors to this
24 legislation, and we'll proceed to each bill now.

2 The first bill is Proposed Intro 174-A,
3 which would require the Parks Department to expand
4 its Capital Projects Tracker to include more detailed
5 information regarding its capital projects including
6 the reasons for delays, the date projects were fully
7 funded, the total number of projects in its
8 portfolio, projected and actual cost overruns,
9 individual sources of funding, and the length of time
10 it took to complete each project.

11 Second is Proposed Intro 842-A, which
12 would require the Parks Department to coordinate with
13 other agencies as appropriate to prepare a strategic
14 document to reduce the duration of capital projects
15 by at least 25 percent. The strategy would review at
16 a minimum early completion incentives,
17 standardization of processes, timelines, and forms,
18 and coordination with utility companies with the goal
19 of lessening the duration of capital projects.

20 Last, but certainly not least, we'll
21 consider Proposed Intro 680-A, which has been on the
22 Council's radar for years and was a focus of Speaker
23 Adams' State of the City address this past May. This
24 bill would require a city agency or office to conduct
25 a survey of streets with dead-ends located in

2 residential zones in each borough, parcels of vacant
3 land owned by the City, and land that abuts highway
4 entrances and exit ramps to examine the feasibility
5 at these sites for the planting of trees or other
6 vegetation, installation of bioswales, or conversion
7 into small parks. Sites located in environmental
8 justice communities would be prioritized for this
9 survey, and the survey itself would have to be
10 submitted to the Council no later than April 1, 2024.

11 I'd like to welcome all of my Colleagues
12 to this hearing, and I urge all of you to vote in
13 favor of these bills.

14 I'd like to acknowledge all our
15 Colleagues who have joined today, Council Member
16 Holden, Council Member Moya, Council Member Menin,
17 Council Member Narcisse, Council Member Restler,
18 Council Member Ung, Council Member Velazquez, and
19 Council Member Carr.

20 I now call the Clerk to take the roll,
21 please.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
23 you. Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk.
24 Roll call vote, Committee on Parks and Recreation.

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2 Proposed Introductions 174-A, 680-A, and 842-A. Items
3 are coupled. Chair Krishan.

4 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Aye on all.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Holden.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
8 you. Moya.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
11 you. Dinowitz. Lee. Marte. Menin.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye on all and
17 congratulations to our Chair on these great bills.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
19 you. Ung.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:
22 Velazquez.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VELAZQUEZ: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Carr.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote
3 of nine in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and
4 no abstentions, all items have been adopted by the
5 Committee.

6 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: I'd like to ask the
7 Clerk to keep open the vote for the remaining Council
8 Members to come in. Thank you, everyone.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:
10 Continuation roll call, Committee on Parks. Council
11 Member Lee.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Vote is
14 currently at 10 in the affirmative. Still open.

15 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Parks Committee
16 hearing is now adjourned.

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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 December 27, 2022