

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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May 28, 2020
Start: 9:31 AM
Recess: 10:01 AM

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING

B E F O R E: MARK LEVINE
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS: ALICKA AMPRY-SAMUEL
INEZ D. BARRON
ANDREW COHEN
MATHIEU EUGENE
ROBERT F. HOLDEN
KEITH POWERS

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

2 MALE SPEAKER: Sergeant Hope.

3 SERGEANT HOPE: Good morning, and welcome
4 to the Committee on Health. All members and staff
5 please turn on your video and please, place all
6 electronic devices to silence. Chair, we are ready
7 to begin. Thank you. Sergeant. Good morning
8 everybody. I am Mark Levine, Chair of the City
9 Council's Committee on Health, and I'd like to
10 acknowledge my fellow Health Committee Members who
11 are with us this morning including Council Member
12 Andy Cohen, Council Member Bob Holden, Council Member
13 Alicka Ampry-Samuel, Council Member Keith Powers and
14 I believe that Council Member Inez Barron as well,
15 although...Oh, and there she is. Excellent. Thank you
16 all so much for joining us today as we will be voting
17 on Preconsidered Proposed Introduction Number 1961-
18 2020-whose lead sponsor is Council Member Ritchie
19 Torres. This is a Local Law in relation to public
20 reporting on contact tracing. New York City's
21 Contact Tracing Program is by far the largest and
22 most complicated undertaking the city government has
23 had to manage in this crisis. It is also incredibly
24 high stakes. There simply is no safe reopening
25 without this public infrastructure in place. Contact

2 tracing only works if the public buys in. If the
3 public trust, this program is willing to participate.
4 That's why it is critical that we have full
5 transparency and reporting throughout this process.
6 That's exactly what Preconsidered Intro 1961 would
7 do. Specifically, it will require reporting on the
8 number of employees and languages and zip codes of
9 employees in the Contract Tracing Program, the number
10 of people identified by the program who have tested
11 positive for currently having COVID-19, and the
12 context of such people disaggregated by zip code,
13 race, ethnicity, gender, age range, COVID-19
14 symptoms, whether such persons have been referred to
15 wraparound services, occupational setting and co-
16 morbidities, and this reporting will be required on a
17 daily basis. So, I strongly encourage my colleagues
18 to vote in favor of this bill. Thanks again to
19 Council Member Torres for introducing it, and thank
20 you all aging for being here with us today, and I
21 believe now I can...can queue Committee Counsel, Billy
22 Martin to call the roll.

23 WILLIAM MARTIN: Good morning. William
24 Marin, Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on

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2 Health, Preconsidered Introduction. Counsel Member
3 Levine.

4 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: I vote aye.
5 (background comment)

6 WILLIAM MARTIN: Barron.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: (inaudible/off
8 mic)

9 WILLIAM MARTIN: Cohen.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I vote aye.

11 WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member Barron.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: (inaudible/off
13 mic/pause)

14 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Why don't you go
15 through the roll, Billy. We'll come back to Council
16 Member Barron as soon as you...

17 WILLIAM MARTIN: Ampry-Samuel.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY SAMUEL. I vote aye.

19 WILLIAM MARTIN: Holden.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye.

21 WILLIAM MARTIN: Powers

22 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.

23 WILLIAM MARTIN: Barron.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: (distorted audio)

25

2 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: And we..we may have
3 lost the connection with Council Member Barron, but
4 in the meantime, I see we've been joined by Council
5 Member Dr. Mathieu Eugene.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I can't hear.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: We can hear you
8 now.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I can't hear.

10 WILLIAM MARTIN: But we can hear you.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: But she can't hear
12 us telling her that we can hear her.

13 WILLIAM MARTIN: I know. (laughter)

14 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: I'm texting, I'm
15 texting right now.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: (chime) I can't
17 hear. I don't have any audio.

18 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: (chime) Um, Billy,
19 perhaps you'll take the roll--the vote from Council
20 Member Eugene while we try to connect to Counsel
21 Member Barron.

22 WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member Eugene,
23 Preconsidered Introduction.

24 CHIEF SERGEANT: This is the Chief
25 Sergeant-at-Arms, Council Member Eugene does not have

2 audio as well. We are trying to rectify this
3 situation. (pause)

4 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Okay, hello again
5 everybody. For those of you who are here for the
6 Immigration Committee, that will be starting
7 momentarily. We just need to wrap up the vote in the
8 Health Committee, and I want to check if we have Dr.
9 Mathieu Eugene on, and whether he's able to hear us.
10 If you are able to hear us, can you give us a sign?
11 Can you give us a thumbs up, Dr. Eugene? We know we
12 have audio problems. It seems we've lost Dr. Eugene.
13 Dr. Eugene, can you give us a thumbs up or a wave if
14 you can hear me? Okay. It seems we have no audio
15 with Dr. Eugene unfortunately, and we are going to
16 have to wrap up shortly to move onto the Immigration
17 Committee. One more try. Dr. Eugene, can you hear
18 me? If so, can you please raise your hand? Okay, it
19 seems like we're having technical problems with Zoom
20 this morning. So, Sergeant, I'm going to pass it
21 back to you.

22 SERGEANT HOPE: Alright, so we are ready
23 to resume. Again, for those watching on the
24 livestream we are having issues. Committee Clerk,
25 you can take it over.

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2 WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member Eugene is
3 signaling.

4 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Ah-hah, Council
5 Member Eugene is signaling a yes vote by raising his
6 hand. Thank you, Dr. Eugene.

7 WILLIAM MARTIN: Acknowledged. The vote
8 now on Preconsidered Introduction...

9 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: And excellent. Thank
10 you, and on this vote before our next up, we have a
11 vote in the Fire and Emergency Services Committee led
12 by Chair Borelli, and so I think we're now going to
13 wrap up the Health Committee, and, um, I'll pass it
14 back to you Sergeant to, um, bring in Chair Borelli
15 for our next committee. Thank you all for joining us
16 and...

17 WILLIAM MARTIN: One moment, Chair
18 Levine. Committee Clerk Martin. Just for the record
19 the, um, the vote now on Preconsidered Introduction
20 on public reporting on contact tracing is for COVID-
21 19 is now 6 in the affirmative, zero in the negative
22 and no abstentions. The item is adopted by the
23 committee. Thank you. (pause)

24

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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 June 8, 2020