

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES
Of the
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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July 19, 2017
Start: 12:10 p.m.
Recess: 12:19 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm.
16th Fl.

B E F O R E: YDANIS A. RODRIGUEZ
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Stephen T. Levin
Deborah L. Rose
Jams G. Van Bramer
David G. Greenfield
Costa G. Constantinides
Carlos Menchaca
I. Daneek Miller
Antonio Reynoso
Donovan J. Richards

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

2 [sound check, pause] [background
3 comments] [gavel]

4 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon
5 and thank you everyone for attending to his hearing
6 of the City Council Transportation Committee. My
7 name is Ydanis Rodriguez, and I am the Chair of the
8 Committee. We are joined today by my colleague
9 Council Members Garodnick, Vacca, Chin, Rose,
10 Constantinides and Menchaca and my great friend and
11 colleague Council Member Salamanca who also his bill
12 will be voted in this committee today. First before
13 I read my opening statement, we're also joined by our
14 great colleague and leader in our city Council Member
15 David Greenfield. Before opening—reading my opening
16 statement, I want to welcome my Nephew Eric Janos
17 (sic) Rodriguez who is visiting us from Orlando and
18 like doing a two-week summer camp in D.C. Internship
19 program now he's trying to learn as much as possible
20 how we do policy in New York City. Today, we will be
21 voting on three bill aim at—aimed at improving the
22 safety and wellbeing of New Yorkers as well as adding
23 transparency in communities across the city. To
24 start, we will vote on Intro 7-671-A, which will
25 require the DOT to install pedestrian countdown

2 clocks at all intersections near schools and parks.

3 This bill introduced by Council Member Vallone will

4 provide a new layer of safety for kids hit heading to

5 and from school and their local parks. I'm proud to

6 support this bill, and I encourage a yes vote as we

7 will be voting this together with the others.

8 Next, we will vote on Intro 1234-A

9 introduced by Council Member Salamanca, which will

10 require notice community-notice to community boards

11 before meter parking is installed in the new

12 neighborhood. This will provide greater transparency

13 to decision making and allow for community input on

14 metered parking. Council Member Salamanca will

15 address this bill in a moment, and I also encourage a

16 yes vote on this bill.

17 Finally, we will vote on Intro 1646-A

18 introduced by myself and-and other council members,

19 which will require all for-hire vehicle company to

20 include a tipping option on whatever million (sic)

21 riders choose to book a car. For a long time, some

22 of the largest companies operating in our city did

23 not include an ability for passengers to tip the

24 drivers in the app they used to book their ride.

25 Meanwhile taking-I'm sorry-taxis and green cab drives

2 have long enjoyed the ability to receive tips for
3 their work on the passengers facing payment options
4 using the taxi TV screens. Thanks for the others app
5 services including Lyft have also employed this
6 practice to the benefit of the drivers. This bill
7 not only helps to bring parity to the industry, it
8 helps to restore dignity to drives who have
9 experienced a race to the bottom of the wage and
10 working conditions in the industry. As a former
11 livery driver myself, I know the value of earning a
12 few extra dollars for-for every ride. This money
13 soon stacks up and helps all those working to make a
14 living and support their family. At the end of the
15 day, we don't want driving a car in New York City to
16 be a game where workers are left to the whims of the
17 market. We want to ensure that this remains a
18 profession for all those who want to make a career
19 out of driving a car and raising their family to be
20 the next middle-class. With this law, we will-
21 ensuring a new standard for the industry and become a
22 model for the rest of the country on this measure.
23 Drivers deserve the dignity of being able to earn a
24 living through driving, and I'm proud to support this
25 effort. I want to thank the Independent Drivers

2 Guild, and—and all those who have pushed to make this
3 a reality. I also want to thank the staff who worked
4 on this bill, as well as my committee staff Counsel
5 Faiza Malik; Policy Analyst Jonathan Masserano; and
6 Emily Rooney. Finance Chima Obichere and Brandon—
7 Brandon West as well as my staff Jose Lewis and Rosa
8 Murphy, and Stephanie Milliano. I now would like to
9 call my colleague Council Member Menchaca to speak
10 about on his bill. I'm sorry, Salamanca.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you.
12 [background comments] Yes, he's got my vote, too.
13 (sic) [laughter] Thank—thank—than you Mr. Chair for
14 the opportunity and for the support. I wan to thank
15 my colleagues as well. I just wanted to speak
16 briefly. You know, this bill it's—it's a year in the
17 making. Prior to be a Council Member I was a
18 District Manager, and we saw many times when the city
19 of New York, the Department of Transportation would
20 just come up, would just pop up and install a muni
21 meter without properly advising the local community
22 board or the community as a whole. When I first
23 became a Council Member, I experienced that as well
24 where we did get notice about a muni meter being
25 installed. I gave opposition. The Borough

2 Commissioner guaranteed me that that muni meter would
3 not be installed, but the following week, the muni
4 meter was installed. So, immediately I-I-we needed
5 to bring some type of transparency to this process,
6 and that's exactly what this bill does. It-it gives-
7 it requires that the Department of Transportation
8 properly notify the local community board and the
9 Council Members. Now, this bill does not give us
10 veto power, but it gives us an opportunity where if
11 requested, the Department of Transportation has to
12 come to that local community board, and make a formal
13 presentation, and recommendations will be put in, and
14 that gives the community the power or it gives them
15 the opportunity to object to the muni meter if-if
16 necessary. So, I urge my colleagues to please vote
17 in favor of this bill. Thank you. [pause]

18 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: And I would now
19 like to call our Committee Clerk to call the roll,
20 and I recommend a yes vote on all the bills.

21 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,
22 a roll call vote Committee on Transportation. All
23 items are coupled. Chair Rodriguez.

24 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

25 CLERK: [coughs] Excuse me. Garodnick.

1 COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [off mic] Aye.

3 CLERK: Vacca.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye and I
5 would like to be added to 1234.

6 CLERK: Chin.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye, and I
8 would like to be added to Intro 671-A. Thank you.

9 CLERK: Rose.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I vote—vote aye,
11 and I would like to be added to Intro 1646-A.

12 CLERK: Greenfield.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [off mic] I
14 vote aye and I would like to be added to 1234 and
15 1546. Thank you.

16 CLERK: Constantinides.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I vote
18 aye.

19 CLERK: Menchaca.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: By a vote of 8 in the
22 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
23 all items have been adopted by the committee. [pause]

24 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Okay, and this
25 hearing is adjourned. [gavel]

1 COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: If I may. I'd
3 like to explain my vote. [laughter]

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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 31, 2017