

COMMITTEE ON FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FIRE AND EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

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December 18, 2025
Start: 12:56 p.m.
Recess: 1:00 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING
ROOM 2

B E F O R E: Joann Ariola, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Carmen N. De La Rosa
Oswald Feliz
James F. Gennaro
Kevin C. Riley
Lynn C. Schulman

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good afternoon. Welcome
3 to the Committee vote on Fire and Emergency
4 Management.

5 At this time, we ask that you please
6 silence all electronics, and at no point please do
7 not approach the dais.

8 Madam Chair, you may begin.

9 CHAIRPERSON ARIOLA: Good afternoon. I am
10 Council Member Joann Ariola, Chair to the Committee
11 on Fire and Emergency Management.

12 Today, the Committee will be voting on
13 four pieces of legislation sponsored by myself and
14 many of my Colleagues.

15 Proposed Introduction 1140-A in relation
16 to annual reporting on firehouse vehicles and
17 equipment; Proposed Introduction 1229-A in relation
18 to reporting on emergency medical service units;
19 Proposed Introduction 1452-A in relation to notice
20 and provision to Fire Department personnel of
21 firefighting personal protective equipment containing
22 parafluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, known
23 as PFAS; Proposed Introduction Number 1453-A in
24 relation to a collection exchange and disposal
25 program for firefighters with personal protective

equipment containing PFAS substances and reporting on such a program.

The Committee heard earlier versions of this legislation on November 17th, 2025, and received testimony from representatives of the New York City Fire Department, Fire Emergency Service Workers Union and other interested parties. The two bills related to PFAS are commonsense measures that seek to address potential health safety and harms caused to firefighters due to PFAS chemicals that are used in their bunker gear.

Additionally, we'll be voting on reporting requirements that will provide transparency regarding FDNY operations and equipment and assist in the Council's ongoing oversight of the department emergency process. And I urge all my Colleagues for the support and the enactment of these bills.

I now ask the Clerk to conduct the vote.

COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

Matthew DiStefano, Committee Clerk. Committee On Fire and Emergency Management, roll call vote. All items are coupled.

Chair Ariola.

CHAIRPERSON ARIOLA: Aye on all

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Riley.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

5 Gennaro.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote aye, and

7 I'd like to say that those folks that are not

8 familiar with PFAS and PFOS and that whole family of

9 chemicals, so-called forever chemicals are coming

10 into their own in terms of being investigated, in

11 terms of being mitigated in whatever way possible.

12 They affect drinking water systems and many other

13 things. And it's terrific that the Council through

14 the leadership of the Chair is taking decisive action

15 on curbing the threats from PFAS, PFAS and that whole

16 family of forever chemicals. I wish to be added as a

17 sponsor if I'm not already. Am I on these, Josh? Oh,

18 I am. Okay. But I proudly vote aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Feliz.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: I vote aye on all

21 and just want to congratulate everyone passing bills

22 today.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: De La

24 Rosa.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye on all.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

3 Schulman.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye on all, and
5 congratulations on these bills because it's really
6 important to protect our firefighters.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

8 Zhuang. Felder.

9 By a vote of six in the affirmative, zero
10 in the negative, and no abstentions, the items have
11 been adopted.

12 CHAIRPERSON ARIOLA: Thank you so very
13 much.

14 Before I close the vote and the hearing
15 today, I just would like to say that this is the last
16 vote that we will take with Fire and Emergency
17 Management for this session. I've been proud to be
18 the Chair of Fire and Emergency Management during the
19 2021 and 2023 sessions, and I've worked with so many
20 wonderful people on this Committee, some who have
21 been on from the beginning and some who changed into
22 it during 2023. I've also had the honor of working
23 with Josh Kingsley and William Hongach, who I could
24 not have done this job without those two people. They
25 have guided me through a labyrinth of muddy waters.

We've passed legislation to help our first responders, to keep the City accountable, to keep agencies accountable, to make sure that everyone was getting their fair share. And also, I want to thank our Staff. My Staff here at City Hall, Peter Spencer, who is our Executive Director, my Comms Director who's here today, Raymond Van, and of course, I would be remiss if I ever left out the formidable Phyllis Inserillo, who could not be here today because her daughter is not feeling well. But it has been an honor and a privilege to be your Chair.

Thank you so much. [GAVEL]

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 29, 2025