

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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September, 23, 2013

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E: JIM GENNARO
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Council Member Vallone
Council Member Crowley
Council Member Levin

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

William Martin
Committee Clerk

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2 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: [Off mic]

3 Sergeant, just say when. We good? We're getting a
4 reverb. Wow, it feels like we're in... feels like
5 we're in Abbey Road or something like that with the
6 reverb there. Okay, so we're going.

7 Good afternoon and welcome. I'm
8 Councilman Jim Gennaro, Chair of The Committee on
9 Environmental Protection. Today the committee will
10 vote on Intro 1105-A, a local law to amend the New
11 York City Charter in relation to planning for
12 resiliency to climate change as a responsibility
13 with The Office of Long-Term Planning and
14 Sustainability.

15 Superstorm Sandy hit New York City with
16 intensity unparalleled by any coastal storm in
17 recent history. In the aftermath of Hurricane
18 Sandy, the Department of Buildings Housing Recovery
19 Operations team surveyed one to two-family homes
20 and multi-family residential buildings and found
21 that upwards of 30,000 housing units located in
22 9,000 plus buildings suffered damage as a result of
23 Sandy. In order to address the ways that the
24 city's existing building stock could be made more
25 resilient and survivable, in November 2012, Mayor

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2 Bloomberg and City Council Speaker Quinn announced
3 the formation of the Building Resiliency Task
4 Force. The task force, overseen by the Urban Green
5 Council; the Urban Green Council is kind of like
6 the local chapter of the U.S. Green Building
7 Council. They've done a lot of stuff for us and
8 they've been great partners. Okay, the task force,
9 overseen by the Urban Green Council, is a
10 collection of over 200 experts from a variety of
11 fields, such as mechanical engineering, real estate
12 development and that were charged with making
13 recommendations to improve building resiliency and
14 maximize preparedness for future weather
15 emergencies, including coastal flooding, heat
16 waves, high winds and extended utility outages.
17 After considering dozens of specific
18 recommendations, on June 13th, 2013 the task force
19 issued a report containing 33 actionable proposals
20 for improving building resiliency in New York City
21 for both new and current buildings. The above
22 referenced planning process... the above referenced
23 planning processes represent important first steps
24 in preparing for future events such as Sandy, but
25 the wide variety of potential natural disasters and

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2 the possible far ranging impacts from them, ranging
3 from potential loss of life, destruction of homes
4 and businesses, damage to the city's infrastructure
5 and the like, points to the need for a more
6 permanent effort. The proposed legislation would
7 require... that is 1105-A. The proposed
8 legislation would require the city to take action
9 to create a permanent and ongoing planning and
10 preparation effort to make the city more resilient
11 against future natural disasters. The bill amends
12 The New York Charter to add various duties for The
13 Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability
14 regarding planning to make the city more resilient
15 to natural disasters. Paragraph one of subdivision
16 B of the proposed bill would add resiliency of
17 critical infrastructure to built environment,
18 coastal protection and communities to the list of
19 subjects that The Office of Long-Term Planning and
20 Sustainability must develop policies, programs and
21 actions to address. In short, we're making the
22 office bigger. We're giving them more stuff to do;
23 very important stuff and so that's okay. Next
24 page, the proposed bill would add a requirement
25 that a deputy director shall be appointed by OLTPS,

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2 particularly to coordinate matters related to
3 resiliency planning, programs and actions. The
4 deputy director would report to the director of The
5 Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability.

6 The proposed bill would require the city's plan on
7 sustainability to be update with plans, programs
8 and actions related to making the city more

9 resilient by no later than 2015 and every four

10 years thereafter. Finally, the proposed bill

11 would require that experts in fields related to

12 resiliency, such as architects and engineers, be

13 added to the sustainability advisory board that

14 advises The Office of Long-Term Planning and

15 Sustainability and by extension plan YC on planning

16 relating to sustainability. Today's hearing and

17 vote is the first step towards a more sustainable

18 future and I wish to call a vote. I'm going to

19 recognize the council members here. Of course it's

20 a bill that was introduced by me, so certainly I

21 support it and ask for a yes vote and we're joined

22 by Council Members Vallone, Crowley and Levin and

23 with that said, I would... and if anyone wishes to

24 make a statement at this time, I'm you know, happy

25 to entertain a statement or statements or remarks,

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2 but we have no witnesses and seeing no one coming
3 forward to ask to make a statement, I would ask the
4 clerk to call the roll and once again, I urge a yes
5 vote on this important bill, Intro 1105-A.

6 Clerk... Bill, please call the roll.

7 WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin,
8 Committee Clerk. Roll call vote Committee on
9 Environmental Protection. Council Member Genarro.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GENARRO: Yes.

11 WILLIAM MARTIN: Vallone.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

13 WILLIAM MARTIN: Crowley.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Yes.

15 WILLIAM MARTIN: Levin.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

17 WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of four in
18 the affirmation, zero in the negative and no
19 abstentions, item has been adopted. Members,
20 please sign the committee report.

21 CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Thank you. I
22 want to thank everyone for coming here and also if
23 we have another member coming... do we? Do we have
24 another member coming? Okay, why don't we
25 establish that and if that's the case, that Council

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Member Lander is on the way, we can hold the record open, but why don't we establish that while people are signing the committee report because I have to know whether or not to gavel the hearing closed, okay? But for now we'll hold the committee in recess and leave the vote open for the next 30 minutes.

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Okay, this hearing is adjourned.

[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 there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is no interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date 09/30/2013