

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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May 1, 2025

Start: 12:02 p.m.

Recess: 12:13 p.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Shekar Krishnan, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

David M. Carr  
Robert F. Holden  
Linda Lee  
Julie Menin  
Mercedes Narcisse  
Sandra Ung

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Mic check, mic check,  
3 this is a mic check for the Committee on Parks and  
4 Recreation. Today's date is May 1, 2025 in the  
5 Committee Room, recorded by Walter Lewis.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good afternoon, good  
7 afternoon. Welcome to the New York City Council vote  
8 on the Committee on Parks and Recreations.

9 At this time, please silence all  
10 electronics and do not approach the dais.

11 Chair, you may begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: [GAVEL] Good  
13 morning, everyone. Thank you so much. It's good to  
14 see you all here. My name is Shekar Krishnan, Chair  
15 of the City Council's Committee on Parks and  
16 Recreation. Today, the Committee will vote on a bill  
17 that I am proud to have sponsored, Proposed Intro.  
18 Number 1185-A, which was first considered by the  
19 Committee on January 30th, 2025. I'm glad we've been  
20 joined by Members of the Committee, Council Member  
21 Ung, Council Member Lee, Council Members Menin, Carr,  
22 Narcisse, and Holden.

23 During the fall of 2024, the city  
24 experienced an unusually long period without  
25 significant rain that resulted in extremely dry

weather that contributed to a drought and a large number of brush fires that spread throughout the park system. It was a wake-up call to all that wildfires are unfortunately a rising challenge that the City must be prepared to deal with. Since then, areas with trees and vegetation are often where wildfires start and are increasingly at risk. These fires spread quickly. Because of that, this bill that I've proposed would require the Department of Parks and Recreation, in consultation with the Fire Department and other appropriate City agencies, to develop a plan to mitigate the occurrences of brush fires in parks by March 1st, 2026. We must be prepared. It would require the Parks Department and other agencies to do an analysis of how they can all be better equipped to prevent these fires and contain them. The plan would also require an analysis of how relevant agencies can increase response times, increase fire prevention training for more City workers, conduct better surveillance over fire-prone areas of parkland, and improve enforcement against activities in parks that contribute to fires. The plan would have to be posted on the Department of Parks and Recreation website and be updated regularly with

relevant data on any recent fires that have occurred. I'd like to urge all of my Colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation. We are facing a climate emergency and we must take decisive action.

Thank you, and I'll now call on our Clerk... Oh, we're going to hold for a minute before taking the vote for technical difficulties.

[GAVEL] All right. Due to technical difficulties, we are going to go through this again, and because it's such a great bill, you all should hear about it twice.

Good morning, everyone. My name is Shekar Krishnan, Chair of the City Council's Committee on Parks and Recreation. Today, the Committee will vote on a bill that I am proud to have sponsored, Proposed Intro. Number 1185-A, which was first considered by the Committee on January 30th, 2025.

During the fall of 2024, the city experienced an unusually long period without significant rain that resulted in extremely dry weather and contributed to a drought and large number of brush fires that spread throughout the park system from Brooklyn to the Bronx. It was a wake-up call to all of us that wildfires are unfortunately a rising

challenge that the City must be prepared to deal with. Areas with trees and vegetation are where wildfires often start and quickly spread. Because of that, this bill would require the Department of Parks and Recreation, in consultation with the Fire Department and other appropriate City agencies, to develop a plan to mitigate the occurrences of brush fires in parks by March 1st, 2026. It would require an analysis of how agencies can be better equipped to prevent these fires and contain them. The plan would also require an analysis of how relevant agencies can increase their response times, increase fire prevention training for more City workers, conduct better surveillance over fire-prone areas for parkland, and improve enforcement against activities in parks that contribute to wildfires. The plan would have to be posted on the Department of Parks and Recreation website and be updated regularly with relevant data on any recent fires that occurred.

I'd like to urge all of my Colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation. We are facing a climate emergency and we must be prepared and take decisive action. Thank you.

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2 I now call on the Clerk to take a roll  
3 call vote.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:  
5 Greetings. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call  
6 vote, Parks and Recreation, on Proposed Introduction  
7 1185-A. Chair Krishnan.

8 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Holden.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Lee.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Menin.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye, and  
15 congratulations.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Thank you,  
18 Chair. Congratulations. And I had my share in the  
19 wildfire, so totally aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ung.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Carr.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Paladino.

25 With a vote of seven in the affirmative, zero in the

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2 negative, and no abstentions, item has been adopted  
3 by the Committee.

4 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much.  
5 This vote is now closed. [GAVEL]

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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 26, 2025