

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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July 28, 2009
Start: 11:32 am
Recess: 11:38 am

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
JOHN LIU
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
John Liu
Diana Reyna
Gale A. Brewer
G. Oliver Koppell
Larry B. Seabrook
Daniel R. Garodnick
Darlene Mealy
Vincent Ignizio
Eric Ulrich
David Yassky

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CHAIRPERSON LIU: Good morning.

Welcome to today's hearing of the City Council's Committee on Transportation. My name is John Liu. I have the privilege of chairing this committee. We've convened for the purposes of hopefully passing Intro 871-A. This is a piece of legislation designed to ease bicycle access into office buildings, specifically commercial office buildings that have freight elevators. We'll see you in a second, Councilman Seabrook. This is a bill that was last heard in the Transportation Committee on June 15th. This is a bill that has been worked on by the prime sponsor Councilman Yassky, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Buildings and numerous advocates for a lengthy period of time. It has been adapted substantially. At the last hearing on June 15th, I had voiced some specific concerns about the fact that the bill no longer allowed the department to deny exemptions to building owners who claimed that they should be exempt from the requirements of this bill. The teeth have been added back into the bill. The other deficiency I had laid out on June 15th was that for the very first time,

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2 inexplicably, the Department of Transportation was
3 being charged with inspecting the inside of a
4 building when in fact it had plenty of work to do
5 on sidewalks and streets. That has also been
6 corrected so that the jurisdiction for enforcing
7 the building interior provisions of this bill now
8 rests once again with the Department of Buildings.
9 And with that, colleagues, I believe that this
10 bill sponsored by Council Member Yassky is
11 substantive and is ready for a vote. I turn the
12 floor to the prime sponsor, Councilman Yassky.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Thank you,
14 Chairman. I don't want to take the committee's
15 time. I just want to thank you and commend you for
16 your work on this bill. The bill is improved
17 significantly from the original version. As you
18 point out, the freight elevator thing was more in
19 the nature of a compromise to get it done. But
20 the improvements that you have made are real and
21 genuine. I just want to thank you for that. I
22 thank you very much for pushing it forward. I
23 think it's a terrific bill.

24 CHAIRPERSON LIU: Thank you,
25 Council Member Yassky. Council Member Brewer for

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2 very brief comments.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I want to thank particularly Transportation Alternatives. Somebody asked earlier what made the difference because this discussion has been taking place for 20 years about how to store our bicycles when we commute and I would say Transportation Alternatives. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON LIU: Thank you, Council Member Brewer. With that, let's call the roll. I recommend a yes vote on this bill.

CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yes, thank you.

CLERK: Council Member Koppell?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Just briefly Mr. Chairman, if I may explain my vote. I'm delighted to be a co-sponsor of this measure. As you know, tomorrow, hopefully, we'll be voting in the Council on this measure another measure which I introduced which would require garages to park bicycles. I think the two measures together make it far more likely that people will be able to commute by bicycle. Therefore, I'm delighted

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2 that this is before us, along with the bill that
3 has been moved previously with respect to garages.
4 I withdraw my request and vote aye.

5 CLERK: Council Member Seabrook?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: I vote
7 aye.

8 CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

10 CLERK: Council Member Ignizio?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

12 CLERK: Council Member Liu?

13 CHAIRPERSON LIU: Yes.

14 CLERK: So the vote is six to
15 nothing in favor.

16 CHAIRPERSON LIU: Let's keep the
17 roll open for a few moments as colleagues join us
18 to cast their ballots. With that, we'll keep the
19 vote open for a few minutes as members of the
20 committee join us. With that I want to thank
21 everybody for participating in this morning's
22 hearing.

23 [Pause]

24 CLERK: This hearing of the
25 Committee on Transportation on Intro 871-A is

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2 reopened to take the vote of Council Member Reyna.
3 Council Member Reyna?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I vote aye.

5 CLERK: Thank you.

6 [Pause]

7 CLERK: This hearing of the
8 Committee on Transportation on Proposed Intro 871-
9 A has been reopened to take Council Member
10 Garodnick's vote. Council Member Garodnick?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: I
12 appreciate it and I vote aye. Thank you.

13 CLERK: Thank you.

14 [Pause]

15 CLERK: This hearing of the
16 Committee on Transportation on Intro 871-A has
17 been reopened to take the vote of Council Member
18 Ulrich.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye
20 on all.

21 CLERK: Thank you.

22 [Pause]

23 CLERK: This hearing of the
24 Committee on Transportation on Intro 871-A has
25 been reopened. The vote on Intro 871-A, it passes

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by a vote of nine in the affirmative, zero against

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and no abstentions.

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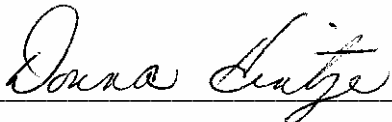
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: This meeting

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is adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Donna Hintze certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature 

Date August 18, 2009