

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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August 21, 2012  
Start: 1:15 p.m.  
Recess: 1:25 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
MARIA DEL CARMEN ARROYO  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Inez E. Dickens  
Mathieu Eugene  
Julissa Ferreras  
Helen D. Foster  
Rosie Mendez  
Joel Rivera  
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.  
Albert Vann  
Deborah L. Rose  
James G. Van Bramer

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay. Good  
3 afternoon. My name is Maria del Carmen Arroyo. I  
4 chair the Committee on Health in the Council.  
5 Today we will be voting on pre-considered  
6 Introduction sponsored by Council Member Jessica  
7 Lappin, which would require the Department of  
8 Health to post on their website links to groups  
9 performing trap, neuter, return TNR [phonetic]  
10 activities and services and would repeal the  
11 requirement that the Department promulgate rules  
12 related to TNR activities in the city. TNR is a  
13 strategy to humanely and effectively manage feral  
14 cat populations and colonies. The Committee  
15 previously heard testimony on this legislation on  
16 August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Multiple animal advocacy  
17 organizations attended and testified in favor of  
18 this amendment and we received testimony for the  
19 record from the Department of Health in favor of  
20 the legislation. In September of 2011, the  
21 Council passed Local Law 59, which included a  
22 provision requiring the Department of Health to  
23 promulgate rules to register individuals and  
24 groups performing TNR activities; however, based  
25 on discussions with animal advocates involved in

1  
2 TNR services it became clear that the animal  
3 advocacy community generally supports the way TNR  
4 activities are currently performed in the city and  
5 that there was no need for the Department to  
6 create a registration system, but rather the  
7 Department should simply post links to TNR groups  
8 on its website. Thus, this pre-considered bill  
9 would ensure that TNR will continue to be done by  
10 private entities with no involvement from the  
11 Department of Health. I know that there is  
12 another vote going on right now and Council  
13 Members will be going and coming and I will now  
14 ask the clerk to call the roll and ask that it be  
15 held open until we can get the other members of  
16 the Health Committee an opportunity to vote. Call  
17 the roll.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Kevin Pin,  
19 Committee Clerk. Roll call in the Committee on  
20 Health. Council Member Arroyo?

21 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: I recommend an  
22 aye vote. Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I know  
25 that our Chair said with no involvement from the

1  
2 Department of Health and I think that pretty much  
3 symbolizes most of animal rights stuff. There's  
4 no involvement from the Department of Health, but  
5 I applaud the Committee for doing this, and vote  
6 aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vann?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of six  
16 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no  
17 abstentions, the item has been adopted. Members,  
18 please sign the Committee Report.

19 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: And again, we  
20 will hold the vote open for a little bit to give  
21 members an opportunity to come and vote and we  
22 will try to round them up as quickly as possible  
23 and we're going to sign. Okay. Thank you.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote stands  
at seven in the affirmative.

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[pause]

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CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: I adjourn the  
Committee on Health.

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[gavel]

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CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay. Okay.

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Let me know when you're ready. Okay. Committee

11

on Health adjourned.

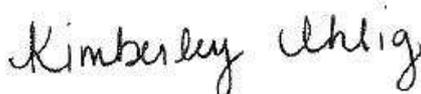
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[gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kimberley Uhlig 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 8/28/12 \_\_\_\_\_