

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, 2019

Start: 1:30 p.m.

Recess: 1:38 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: COSTA G. CONSTANTINIDES
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Stephen T. Levin
Carlos Menchaca
Donovan J. Richards
Eric A. Ulrich
Kalman Yeger

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

2 [sound check] [pause]

3 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: Alright.

4 [gavel]

5 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet please.

6 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: Alright,
7 good afternoon, I am Costa Constandinides, Chair of
8 the Environmental Protection Committee. This is the
9 first of our two hearings. First we're going to have
10 hearing on the bills we're voting out of committee
11 this morning and then we will have our hear-our
12 regular scheduled air quality hearing. Today, we'll
13 be hearing and voting on three bills related to
14 energy storage, energy aggregation, and thermal
15 energy systems. This committee has led the city's
16 efforts to respond to the climate change enaster-
17 disaster by enacting legislation to required the
18 installation of solar PV and geothermal systems on
19 city buildings. We've also been driving the
20 initiatives based on our greenhouse gas reductions.
21 We have passed 80/50 what feels like a very long time
22 ago in 2014, and then most recently passed the
23 Climate Mobilization Act, which was 1253-A and others
24 calling for reductions in large buildings but we have
25 a lot more to do. Multiple studies have shown that

2 environmental stressors and benefits are inequitably
3 distribute across the city often saddling low-income
4 and majority minority communities with far more than
5 their fair share of consequences for the modern
6 conveniences enjoyed by all. Even small fluctuations
7 in airborne pollutants can have vastly consequential
8 effects on public health and why our city's air
9 quality has been steadily improving. There are still
10 communities breathing dirtier air than their
11 neighbors. Renewable energy sources are clean and
12 exhaustible and increasingly cost-effective. They
13 differ from fossil fuels and they are diversity,
14 abundance and potential for use anywhere on the
15 planet, but above all they produce neither greenhouse
16 gases, which cause climate change nor polluting
17 emissions that cause respiratory illness. The
18 combustion of fuel oil whether for energy production,
19 indoor climate control. The production of hot water
20 is one of the city's greatest sources of greenhouse
21 gas and particulate emissions. It is our moral
22 imperative to break our addiction to burning fossil
23 fuels as soon as possible not only to reduce
24 greenhouse gas output but also steps to mitigate the
25 worst effects of climate change. That means we have

2 to cut our particulate emissions and render immediate
3 tangible health benefits to the residents of New York
4 City. Battery storage is one of the key solutions
5 for the misalignment between the supply and demand
6 curves of solar energy, and further implementation
7 will allow us to increase reliance on locally
8 produced emissions-free renewable energy production.
9 Community aggregation models allow participants to
10 bundle the purchasing power of various municipalities
11 or entities in order to purchase bulk energy at fixed
12 prices. By bargaining collectively as a block,
13 participants are able to negotiate for rates that
14 would not be available to individual actors
15 maintaining transmission and distribution services
16 while with-from existing utilities. Climate control
17 and hot water production accounts for 57% of the
18 citywide energy-energy consumption, and city studies
19 have shown that buildings where hot water production
20 is decoupled from the space heating boilers had
21 substantially lower rates of fuel consumption than
22 buildings where those two functions were serviced by
23 the same equipment. Similarly, other thermal energy
24 systems such as ground or air source heat exchangers
25 use the ambient temperature of the air or ground to

2 reduce the energy that must be expended on indoor
3 climate control. These technologies allow us to
4 perform these necessary functions without relying so
5 heavily on the combustion of fuel oils. Proposed
6 Intro 49-A would require the Department of Citywide
7 Administrative Services, DCAS, to conduct a full
8 feasibility study on the installation of utility
9 scale battery storage systems on city buildings
10 including installation and use of each available type
11 of utility scale, energy storage systems in each city
12 building and submit to the Mayor and the Speaker a
13 copy of such study. Following the study, the
14 department or any other authorized agency is required
15 to install utility style energy storage systems in
16 all city buildings where the energy study determines
17 the installation is cost-effective. Intro 140-A
18 would the city to conduct a feasibility study and
19 plan on community choice aggregation for energy
20 purchasing. If the city recommends implementation-
21 implementing such programs, the office shall on or
22 before December 31, 2021 develop and make publicly
23 available online a plan for implementing such
24 programs. Intro 426-A would require that DCAS
25 conduct a feasibility on the cost of installing solar

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2 water heating and thermal energy systems on city-
3 owned buildings and mandate the installing when
4 identified as cost effective. These bills respond
5 from the calls from transition we've heard so
6 powerfully for our youth this Friday. I recommend a
7 yes vote on this legislation and happy to Climate
8 Week to all as we begin a week of focusing on all
9 these issues and how we can make our communities more
10 sustainable and more resilient. So, with that, I
11 will turn it over to the clerk for a vote.

12 CLERK: Matthew DiStefano, Committee
13 Clerk, Committee on Environmental Protection. Roll
14 Call Vote on Proposed Intro Nos. 49-A, 140-A and 426-
15 A. Chair Constantinides.

16 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: I vote aye.

17 CLERK: Espinal

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye.

19 CLERK: Levin.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye

21 CLERK: Yeger.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

23 CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the
24 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions the
25 items have been adopted.

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2 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: Thank you to
3 our Legislative Attorney Samara Swanston, our Poly
4 Policy Analyst Nadia Johnson and Nicky Chola, my own
5 Legislative Counsel and Nick Wizowski. I think we
6 have a few minutes to turn over the tape. I know
7 that—can we give Donovan Richards or Council Member
8 Richards says he's walking over. So, I'm going to
9 give him five minutes and then we're going to switch
10 the tapes. Thank you. [pause]

11 CLERK: Continuation of roll call vote,
12 Council Member Richards.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I happy vote
14 aye.

15 CLERK: The final vote is 5 in the
16 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

17 CHAIRPERSON CONSTANTINIDES: So, with
18 that, I will gavel this part of our hearing closed
19 and we'll switch the tapes so we can begin our
20 hearing on air quality. Thank you. [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 September 26, 2019