

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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August 14, 2019
Start: 10:37 a.m.
Recess: 10:40 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS

B E F O R E: Donovan J. Richards
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Justin Brannan
Chaim M. Deutsch
Carlos Menchaca
Rory I. Lancman
Paul Vallone
Keith Powers
Adrienne E. Adams
Andrew Cohen

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

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2 PEDRO LUGO: Mic check, mic check. This
3 is the Committee on Public Safety, at 10:00 a.m. in
4 the Council Chambers, recording done by Pedro Lugo on
5 August 14, 2019.

6 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: All righty, good
7 morning, good morning everyone. I'm Council Member
8 Donovan Richards from the 31st District in Queens,
9 and I'm chair of the Public Safety Committee. I want
10 to acknowledge my colleagues. We are joined by
11 Council Members Brannan, Deutsch, Menchaca, Lancman,
12 Vallone, Powers, Adams, Cohen. All righty, I got it
13 right. Today we are voting on a very important bill,
14 Introduction 1349-A, a Local Law in relation to
15 requiring the police department to implement child-
16 sensitive arrest policies. Part of the goal of this
17 bill is to prevent what we all saw happen to Jazmine
18 Headley. We saw the video. I don't need to say much
19 more than this. It was terrible to watch and we want
20 to make sure that never happens again. This bill is
21 about properly training officers to handle one of the
22 most difficult situations they can face, what to do
23 with a child of an arrested caregiver. Being a
24 police officer is not just about making arrests and
25 enforcing the law, it's about doing that work

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2 compassionately and with respect for the humanity of
3 the people they deal with every day, even the people
4 they are arresting. And especially the children, who
5 have done nothing wrong, but who are faced with the
6 trauma of watching a parent or loved one taken away
7 in handcuffs, sometimes with no one to care for them
8 other than the officers who arrested them.

9 Minimizing that trauma is an important goal and this
10 bill outlines clear steps the department should be
11 training its officers to take in order to achieve
12 that goal. Ultimately, this bill is about doing
13 things better, not just keeping us safe but treating
14 our citizens and our children how they deserve to be
15 treated. It also contains important provisions
16 making sure that that we are involving the
17 Administration for Children's Services in the
18 appropriate situations and only in the appropriate
19 situations, so that being arrested doesn't lead to
20 needless interference in family relationships and the
21 communities where we have seen too much law
22 enforcement activity. I want to thank Council Member
23 Dromm for sponsoring this bill, and I know he's out
24 to vote and it's an exciting day for him to pass this
25 bill. But, more importantly, I want to acknowledge

2 Jazmine Headley for her continuous work to ensure
3 that children and their parents could be treated in a
4 just fashion. With that being said, I'm going to
5 first before we call the vote ask for a moment of
6 silence. There was an NYPD officer unfortunately who
7 committed suicide, just one yesterday, that was, this
8 is the eighth suicide this year and I want us to just
9 have a moment of silence for him and his family and
10 for the NYPD. [moment of silence]. Thank you. With
11 that being said, I ask the council to call the roll.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: William Martin,
13 committee clerk, roll call vote, Committee on Public
14 Safety, Introduction 1349-A. Chair Richards.

15 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: I vote aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Cohen.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Deutsch.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: No.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Lancman.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Menchaca.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Vallone.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Adams.

COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Brannan.

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Powers.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: A vote of 8 in
the affirmative, 1 in the negative, and no
abstention. The item has been adopted by the
committee.

CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: All right. Thank
you all for coming out today. This vote is now
closed. [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 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 August 15, 2019