

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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May 11, 2015
Start: 10:36 a.m.
Recess: 11:15 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway- Committee Rm, 14th Fl.

B E F O R E:
DONOVAN J. RICHARDS
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
COSTA G. CONSTANTINIDES
ERIC A. ULRICH
RORY I. LANCMAN
STEPHEN T. LEVIN

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

2 [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Alrighty good
4 morning. First I would like to acknowledge
5 committee members that have joined us; Council
6 Member Eric Ulrich and also Council Member Costa
7 Constantinides Queens, both from Queens. Good
8 morning I am Donovan Richards Chair of the
9 Environmental Protection Committee and today to the
10 Environmental Protection Committee will hold a
11 hearing ad vote on Intro number 240-A, a local law
12 to amend the administrative code of the city of New
13 York in relation to filing semiannual reports on
14 catch basin inspection, maintenance and repair of
15 catch basins and proposed resolution 549 which
16 calls on Governor Andrew Cuomo to veto the
17 application by Liberty Natural Gas LLC to construct
18 the Port Ambrose LNG terminal off the coast of New
19 York. Storm water is a major cause of flooding in
20 New York City. Another common cause of flooding is
21 the blocking of catch basin grates in streets.
22 According to the mayor's management report of the
23 148,000 catch basins citywide the city receive
24 50,000, 53,350 catch basin complaints from fiscal
25 year 2010 through fiscal year 2014. DEP's own

1
2 report indicates that their responses to clogged
3 catch basin complaints are slower in Queens and
4 Manhattan than they are in other boroughs even
5 though we have the most flooding. This bill would
6 require NYCDEP to submit semiannual reports to the
7 mayor and city council regarding the inspection,
8 maintenance and repair of catch basins desegregated
9 by community district. The bill would also require
10 NYCDEP to inspect every catch basin at least once
11 per year, EPA recommended and to unclog and repair
12 a catch basin within nine days from when a
13 complaint is filed and we'll be watching that.

14 Proposed resolution 549 calls on Governor Andrew
15 Cuomo to veto the application by Liberty Natural
16 Gas LLC to construct the Port Ambrose LNG terminal
17 off the coast of New York. Liberty Natural Gas LLC
18 has proposed a construction of a deep water port
19 facility called the Port Ambrose Liquefied Natural
20 Gas LNG terminal which would be used to import
21 liquefied natural gas approximately 19 miles off
22 the coast of New York City. Liquid natural gas is a
23 fossil fuel, the combustion of which produces
24 greenhouse gases. The federal deep water port act
25 of 1974 created a licensing system for the

1 ownership construction operation and
2 decommissioning of deep water ports located in
3 waters beyond the territorialcy [phonetic] of the
4 United States. Governors of it, governors of
5 adjacent coastal states have the authority to
6 improve or disapprove of a project. It may notify
7 the United States Maritime Administration of the
8 approval, approval with conditions or disapproval
9 of the application. This resolution calls on
10 Governor Andrew Cuomo to disapprove the application
11 by, by Liberty Natural Gas LLC to construct the
12 Port Ambrose LNG Terminal off the coast of New York
13 because the construction and operation of the Port
14 Ambrose LNG Terminal could threaten and have
15 adverse impacts on environmental quality and
16 ecological habitat of the New York bite and the
17 location of the Port Ambrose project may also
18 substantially interfere with the development and
19 operation of an offshore wind farm which produces
20 sustainable energy proposed at the same location. I
21 support these proposed local laws and this proposed
22 resolution and I recommend a yes vote on both
23 items. With that being said we will now allow the
24 clerk to call the vote.
25

2 COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Kevin Penn

3 Committee Clerk Roll Call on the Committee on
4 Environmental Protection intros 240-A and Reso 549.
5 Council Member Richards.

6 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Just would like
7 to say thank you to all of the committee members
8 and all of our colleagues who have supported both
9 of these, Council Member Ulrich as well, you know I
10 think we crossed aisles on both of these items and
11 it shows that it is you know an issue that whether
12 you're democrat, republican, white, black, yellow,
13 green that these issues are the environmental
14 issues of the day and we should be moving towards a
15 more sustainable city and nation and world. So with
16 that being said I vote yes on all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Okay.

18 Constantinides.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye on
20 both.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Ulrich.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I, I vote aye on
23 both bills and I want to congratulate the chairman.
24 I know how hard he worked on these pieces of
25 legislation. And we do work very closely together

2 in a bipartisan way on issues that impact the
3 common good and the constituents that we represent
4 and I'm honored to work very closely with him not
5 only in the Rockaways but here at city hall so I
6 vote aye on all. Thank you.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: By a vote of
8 three in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and
9 no abstentions the item has been adopted.

10 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay I'll leave
11 the vote open for a half an hour. Thank you.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Levin.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye on
14 all.

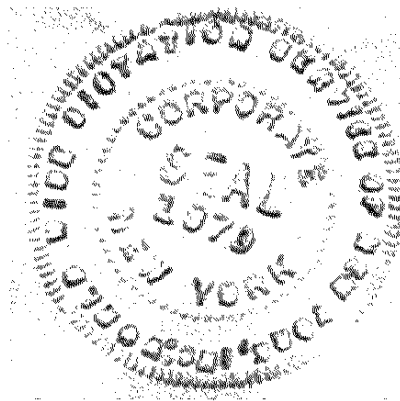
15 COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Vote stands at
16 four in the affirmative. Final vote in the
17 Committee on Environmental Protection; four in the
18 affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
19 abstentions.

20 [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 May 14, 2015