

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION,  
ALCOHOLISM, DRUG ABUSE AND DISABILITY SERVICES

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September 24, 2012

Start: 9:39 a.m.

Recess: 9:42 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
G. OLIVER KOPPELL  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Gale A. Brewer  
Daniel J. Halloran II  
David G. Greenfield  
Ruben Wills

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON KOPPELL: Good morning.  
3 I'm Council Member Oliver Koppell, chair of the  
4 Council's Committee on Mental Health, Mental  
5 Retardation, Alcoholism, Drug Abuse and Disability  
6 Services. We are here today to vote on proposed  
7 Introduction 797, a local law to amend the  
8 administrative code in relation to requiring a  
9 sign at inaccessible building entrances, public  
10 toilets and elevators, giving directions to the  
11 nearest available accessible entrance or facility  
12 for persons with disabilities when such entrance  
13 or facility exists. In New York City, there are  
14 over 880,000 individuals with disabilities;  
15 estimated 60,000 New Yorkers are wheelchair users.  
16 The proposed Intro 797-A will make it easier for  
17 these New Yorkers to gain access to groceries  
18 stores, hotels, department stores, and cultural  
19 icons it says. I might say that this bill arose  
20 out of a hearing we held on accessible facilities  
21 in New York and I think it's the way legislation  
22 should develop. We will also vote on proposed  
23 Resolution 1229, a resolution recognizing  
24 September as Suicide Awareness Month in New York  
25 City and calling upon government agencies and non-

1  
2 governmental organizations to focus on teen  
3 suicide. I talked about this at our hearing on  
4 Friday. I won't repeat that. I am pleased to say  
5 that at this early morning we have Council Member  
6 Gale Brewer and Council Member Daniel Halloran to  
7 join me and David Greenfield is here as well, so  
8 we have a quorum. I want to thank the staff,  
9 Jennifer Wilcox and Michael Benjamin for arranging  
10 for the meeting this morning, and does anyone have  
11 any comments? Hearing none, we will call the  
12 roll. Jennifer can do it.

13 JENNIFER WILCOX: We're voting  
14 today on proposed Intro number 797-A and proposed  
15 Reso number 1229-A. Council Member Koppell, how  
16 do you vote?

17 CHAIRPERSON KOPPELL: Aye.

18 JENNIFER WILCOX: Council Member  
19 Brewer?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I want to  
21 add my name to the 797-A. I want to thank Edith -  
22 - for all of her amazing advocacy. Thank you, Mr.  
23 Chairman. I vote aye on both.

24 JENNIFER WILCOX: Council Member  
25 Greenfield?

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I too  
3 will add my name to 797-A, and I vote aye.

4 JENNIFER WILCOX: Council Member  
5 Wills? Council Member Halloran?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: I vote  
7 aye on all and join the Committee in being present  
8 on 797.

9 JENNIFER WILCOX: That is four  
10 yeses, no nos.

11 CHAIRPERSON KOPPELL: I will leave  
12 the roll open for 15 minutes in case our last  
13 member joins us, but thank you again for coming.  
14 I'm sorry we made the meeting early, but it was  
15 the only time they could give me. Thank you.

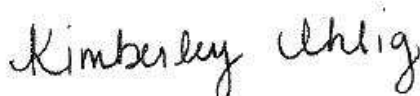
16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote in the  
17 Committee on Mental Health, Mental Retardation,  
18 Drug Abuse, Alcoholism and Disability Services  
19 four in the affirmative, zero in the negative and  
20 no abstentions. The meeting is adjourned.

21 [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

10/7/12