

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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November 25, 2013
Start: 12:01 p.m.
Recess: 12:10 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Hearing Rm,
16th Fl.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
INEZ E. DICKENS
MATHIEU EUGENE
JULISSA FERRERAS
ROSIE MENDEZ
JOEL RIVERA
DEBORAH L. ROSE
PETER F. VALLONE, JR.
JAMES G. VAN BRAMER
ALBERT VANN

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Good morning

everyone. I'm sorry for the delay. My name is Maria Del Carmen Arroyo I chair the Committee on Health and today the Health Committee is conducting a vote on proposed resolution number 1260 A sponsored by council member Oliver Koppell. Calling on the US congress to pass and the president to sign the state's medical marijuana patient protection act which seeks to reclassify marijuana as other than a schedule A, 1 or schedule 2 substance. Currently the federal government puts marijuana in the same category as heroine defining it as a dangerous and illegal drug with no medical value and a high likelihood of abuse and dependence. Meanwhile there is evidence that medical marijuana can be used to alleviate patient suffering from several medical conditions such as cancer and multiple sclerosis. Consequently even though 20 states as well as the District of Columbia have enacted laws legalizing medical use of marijuana their citizens are put at, in a precarious situation given the potential for federal prosecution. The state's medical patient protection act currently pending in the United

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2 States House of Representative fixes this
3 inconsistency so that medical marijuana patients
4 and their providers are protected from federal
5 criminal penalties in states that have legalized
6 marijuana for medical use. This isn't just some
7 policy, it's just common sense. And before I turn
8 over to the prime sponsor of the legislation I want
9 to thank the committee staff who will to the 11th
10 hour have been working very very hard to get us to
11 where we're at today. Dan Hafetz council to the
12 committee, Crytal Golpon[phonetic] policy analyst
13 and Crillian[phonetic] Francisco who is the fiscal
14 analyst for the committee. And now I turn it over
15 to here from the prime sponsor council member
16 Koppell.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [off mic] Thank
18 you madam chair. I don't want to delay people. I
19 appreciate. I know it's both the holiday season and
20 the end of our session and I know, I appreciate the
21 members coming strictly for this today. I don't
22 want to belabor... indicated why this makes imminent
23 sense.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: We have a
25 completely anomalous situation in this country and

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2 this would at least correct it in part. It would
3 not have any direct effect on New York. Although
4 both I am a sponsor, a supporter of medical
5 marijuana use in New York as New Jersey has just
6 allowed and the state assembly has passed it. State
7 senate has not but this, this particular resolution
8 doesn't affect the law in New York but it something
9 that I hope our congressional representative will
10 support. Thank you and again thank you to the
11 members for gathering.

12 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Can you call the
13 role?

14 WILLIAM MARTIN: William martin,
15 committee clerk. Roll call vote Committee on
16 Health. Resolution 1260-A. Council member Arroyo.

17 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Aye and I urge my
18 colleagues to vote aye on.

19 WILLIAM MARTIN: Vallone.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Oh may I be
21 excused to explain?

22 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Yes.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I'm not going
24 to vote against this because it doesn't legalize
25 marijuana and I understand what the former attorney

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2 general is trying to do here when it comes to
3 making laws match. But this has absolutely nothing
4 to do with anyone who lives in New York City. It
5 basically we're deciding, we're voting on whether
6 someone is California is violating a federal law.
7 And this is now the third time I'm down here on
8 this and, and I'm very busy. And I don't like when
9 we get involved in things that have nothing to do
10 with New York City so I'm going to abstain on this.

11 WILLIAM MARTIN: Dickens.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

13 WILLIAM MARTIN: Mendez.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

15 WILLIAM MARTIN: Eugene.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: AYE.

17 WILLIAM MARTIN: Rose.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

19 WILLIAM MARTIN: Van Bramer.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

21 WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of six in the
22 affirmative, zero in the negative, and one
23 abstention item is adopted. Members please sign the
24 committee report and thank you.

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COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Congratulations Mr. Koppell.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you madam chair. I'm sorry to tax everybody.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Hold the roll open, confirm council member Rivera's arrival and Dan. Five minutes.

[background comments]

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: With that the Health Committee hear, Monday November 25th is now adjourned.

[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 December 04, 2013