

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND
BUSINESS LICENSING

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November 22, 2021
Start: 11:09 a.m.
Recess: 11:17 a.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing (Virtual Room 4)

B E F O R E: Diana Ayala
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Margaret S. Chin
Ben Kallos
Peter Koo
Karen Koslowitz
Carlos Menchaca
Brad Lander
Justin Brannan
Kalman Yeger

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

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Recording to the PC has
3 begun.

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Recording to the cloud
5 in progress, as well. Stream looks good.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Backup is rolling.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Thank you. Thank you.

8 Good morning and welcome to today's remote New York
9 City Council hearing the Committee on Consumer
10 Affairs. This is a vote. At this time, would all
11 panelists please turn on their video for verification
12 purposes. And to minimize all disruptions, please
13 place all electronic devices on vibrate or silent
14 mode. Thank you for your cooperation. Chair Ayala,
15 we are ready to begin.

16 [gavel]

17 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Good morning. My
18 name is Diana Ayala and I am the Chair of the
19 Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing.
20 Today, we will be voting on a proposed introduction
21 number 2448-A by Council member Gibson in relation to
22 providing paid time to employees who accompany a
23 child to receive a COVID 19 vaccination injection or
24 care for a child with COVID 19 vaccine side effects.
25 The development and efficacy of COVID 19 vaccines

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2 have been miraculous in their prevention of
3 infections, hospitalizations, and deaths from the
4 virus. Epidemiologists at EL University estimated
5 that New York City's vaccination campaign has
6 prevented about 250,000 COVID-19 cases, 44,000
7 hospitalizations, and over 8,000 deaths from COVID-19
8 infections since the start of the vaccination
9 campaign through July 1, 2021. For those vaccinated,
10 life in the city has begun to return to normal. Live
11 theater and arts have reopened, our restaurants are
12 operating at 100percent capacity, and the vibrancy
13 and vitality of our city has reemerged. Unlike this
14 time last year, next week, families will gather for
15 Thanksgiving without-- this week, families will
16 gather for Thanksgiving without the same fear of
17 endangering loved ones. For those that remain
18 unvaccinated, however, COVID-19 has continued to
19 spread the impact and impact their daily lives. This
20 is especially true for children. During the early
21 months of the pandemic, children were considered very
22 low risk of contracting, spreading, and becoming sick
23 with COVID-19. However, as new strains of the virus
24 have developed and as new research has been analyzed,
25 it is clear that children are not only carriers and

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2 spread the virus, but may also fall sick due to

3 COVID-19 even if that happens less frequently than it

4 does for adults. Children's ability to carry and

5 transmit the virus is concerning as well as it will

6 hamper the ability of the city to return to normal.

7 In the past week, two schools in Queens were closed

8 due to COVID-19 outbreaks. The closure of the

9 schools due to COVID-19 outbreaks impede student

10 learning and forces parents to provide childcare on a

11 moment's notice. Thankfully, children can now access

12 safe and effective vaccines. The FDA issued an

13 emergency use authorization and the EUA for children

14 between the ages of 12 and 15 this past May. On

15 October 29th, 2021, the FDA issued a EUA for the use

16 of vaccines for children between the ages of five and

17 11. The vaccine safety was studied in over 3000

18 children ages five to 11 who received the vaccine and

19 no serious side effects have been detected in the

20 ongoing study. The nearly 2 million residents under

21 the age of 18 who can now get vaccinated will be a

22 major boost to the city's recovery from the pandemic

23 and will further protect those most vulnerable to

24 serious illness and COVID-19. Nonetheless, parents

25 accompanying their children to get a vaccine should

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2 not have to choose between the vaccination of their
3 child and having a workday unpaid. More than 1000
4 sites will open this month at schools across the city
5 to offer vaccinations to children. However, there
6 have already been reports of extremely long wait
7 times. Outside Public School 40 on East 19th Street,
8 a child reported waiting six hours in line to get the
9 shot. Not every parent or guardian has the luxury of
10 taking six hours out of the day to accompany their
11 child to get the vaccine. As the Mayor has said, you
12 shouldn't have to choose between your paycheck and
13 the health of your family. We must ensure that every
14 city parent and guardian has the ability to get their
15 child vaccinated. The Mayor has provided the ability
16 for all city employees to receive four hours of sick
17 leave to accompany their children to a COVID-19
18 vaccination. This same right must be extended to
19 private workers, as well. Proposed Intro 2448-A,
20 which we are voting on today, would update the earned
21 [inaudible 00:04:36] and sick time so that employees
22 are required to provide their employees-- employers
23 are required to provide their employees with paid
24 COVID-19 child vaccination time for each child they
25 take to get a vaccination and for any temporary side

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2 effects. I urge my colleagues to also vote yes on
3 this important bill. I will now turn it over to
4 Council member Gibson to deliver a statement on
5 proposed Intro 2448-A.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Well, thank you,
7 Chair Ayala. Good morning, colleagues. The Chair
8 said everything I wanted to say, but I simply am
9 grateful for the committee. I am introducing Intro
10 2448 on behalf of Mayor Bill de Blasio in recognizing
11 the ability to give many New Yorkers private workers
12 the ability to get their children vaccinated and have
13 the actual time to do so and also taking care of
14 those children that may have been affected by COVID.
15 I think as we continue to rebound as a city, and
16 heal, and return to normalcy, we have to continue to
17 look at creative and innovative approaches that
18 really provide access and opportunity for so many New
19 Yorkers to remove any barriers that New Yorkers may
20 be faced with getting their children vaccinated. And
21 although we know when we start these efforts, there
22 are always hitches. There are long lines, this is
23 not the availability that we expect, but as we
24 continue to work with all of our providers, our
25 schools, the Department of Ed, we will continue to

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2 make sure the vaccine is available to New Yorkers for
3 their children. As someone who has a nephew who has
4 debilitating issues-- and underlining issues. That
5 is really important for me on a personal level to
6 make sure that my nephew, my niece, and all the
7 children in my family get the vaccine, but all New
8 Yorkers that really decide to do that for their
9 children. So, thank you, colleagues. I'm hoping
10 that everyone can support this bill, Intro 2448-A, so
11 that we can continue to make progress in our overall
12 effort to get children vaccinated between five and 11
13 and continue to stay safe and healthy as a city.
14 Thank you, Chair Diana Ayala. Thank you to the
15 Committee and the staff for all of your work and I
16 hope that you will vote in favor and I look forward
17 to working with all of you. And, again, during this
18 season, as you can see by my hat-- during this
19 season of Thanksgiving, I wish you and your families
20 a healthy and happy Thanksgiving holiday. Thank you
21 so much, Chair.

22 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Thank you. I want
23 to turn it over to the clerk for the roll.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning. William
25 Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call vote Committee on

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2 Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing. Proposed
3 Introduction 2448-A. Chair Ayala?

4 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: I vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo? You're muted,
10 Council member Koo.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, sir. Lander?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Menchaca?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I vote aye.

16 Thank you.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Brannan?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Council
20 member Yeger?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. By a vote of
23 eight in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and
24 no abstentions, proposed Introduction has been
25 adopted by the committee. That's it, Madam Chair.

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2 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Thank you, all.

3 This vote is now closed.

4 UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you, Chair Ayala.

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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 December 30, 2021