

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

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Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Start: 12:02 p.m.

Recess: 12:21 p.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Selvena N. Brooks-Powers,
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Joann Ariola
- David M. Carr
- Amanda Farías
- Ari Kagan
- Linda Lee
- Farah N. Louis
- Mercedes Narcisse
- Lincoln Restler
- Carlina Rivera
- Althea V. Stevens
- Nantasha M. Williams
- Julie Won
- Kalman Yeger

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

1 <INSERT TITLE OF MEETING>

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2 ZOOM HOST: This is a sound check for the
3 Committee on Transportation. Today's date is
4 December 7, 2022, being recorded by Danny Huang in
5 the Chambers.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Hello everyone. Welcome to
7 today's hybrid New York City Council hearing of the
8 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. To
9 minimize disruption, everyone please place all
10 electronic devices to vibrate mode. Thank you for
11 your cooperation. Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIR BROOKS-POWERS: [GAVEL]

13 Good morning and welcome to this hearing of the
14 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I am
15 Selvena Brooks-Powers, the Chair of the Committee.

16 Today, we will be voting on proposed Resolution
17 number 292 A, a Resolution that I am co-sponsoring.
18 Proposed Resolution 292 A calls on the New York State
19 Legislature to pass, and the New York State Governor
20 to sign Senate Bill 5320, Assembly Bill 9731, which
21 would amend the Administrative Code of the City of
22 New York to allow commuter vans to accept hails from
23 prospective passengers in the street, and would
24 repeat certain provisions of law relating thereto.

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2 As many know, commuter vans provide an integral
3 transportation service to New Yorkers throughout the
4 city. Commuter vans fill gaps in our public transit
5 system, particularly in outer borough neighborhoods
6 underserved by the MTA, and allow for people to
7 travel to areas of the city where they may otherwise
8 not be able to get to. While the commuter van
9 service's business model depends on accepting street
10 hails, current law prohibits TLC-licensed commuter
11 vans from accepting hails from passengers in the
12 street, and limits service to only prearranged trips.
13 That is why we are voting on proposed Reso number 292
14 A, as it calls on this date to adopt Senate Bill
15 5320, introduced by New York State Senator, Kevin
16 Parker, and Assembly Bill 9731, introduced by New
17 York State Assemblymember Khalil Henderson, which
18 would allow commuter vans to accept hails from
19 prospective passengers in the streets, and would
20 repeat related provisions that provide for penalties
21 for doing so in city law.

22 At the first hearing on this resolution on
23 10/13/2022, the TLC testified in support of
24 Resolution 292, and the state legislation, and
25 highlighted the current work with the state regarding

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2 technology and safety improvements that could help
3 advance the commuter van sector. Also, at that
4 hearing, we heard from New York State Assemblymember
5 Khalil Anderson, and the Commuter Van Association of
6 New York. Both voiced their support for this
7 Resolution and the State Legislation.

8 It is my hope that adopting this resolution will
9 spur action on the state bills, as it could potential
10 improve services for customers in transit deserts,
11 and ensure that existing law that do not account for
12 actual conditions in the industry are never
13 arbitrarily enforced.

14 I will now ask the Committee Clerk to conduct a
15 roll call vote on proposed Resolution number 292 A,
16 and recommend that my colleagues vote yes on this
17 important piece of legislation.

18 CLERK: Good afternoon. William Martin,
19 Committee Clerk. Roll call vote of the Committee on
20 Transportation and Infrastructure. Chair Brooks-
21 Powers?

22 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: I vote aye.

23 CLERK: Thank you. Rivera?

24 COUNCILMEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

25 CLERK: Yeger?

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2 COUNCILMEMBER YEGER: No.

3 CLERK: Louis?

4 COUNCILMEMBER LOUIS: Permission to explain my
5 vote?

6 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Go ahead.

7 COUNCILMEMBER LOUIS: Thank you so much Chair.

8 So first I just wanted to thank you for your
9 leadership, Chair, on this bill as well as Senator
10 Parker and Assemblymember Anderson for supporting the
11 community van industry. This industry has been very
12 good to my community and communities in Brooklyn that
13 are transit deserts, so I am very happy that we are
14 voting on this today. I want to thank the industry
15 for supporting New Yorkers as they seek to travel
16 safely in our communities to get to work, school, and
17 leisure. I vote Aye.

18 CLERK: Thank you. Farias?

19 COUNCILMEMBER FARIS: I vote aye.

20 CLERK: Lee?

21 COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes.

22 CLERK: Thank you. Narcisse?

23 COUNCILMEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.

24 CLERK: Restler?

25 COUNCILMEMBER RESTLER: Aye. Sorry, aye.

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2 CLERK: Thank you. Stevens?

3 COUNCILMEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

4 CLERK: Williams?

5 COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

6 CLERK: Thank you. Councilmember Won?

7 COUNCILMEMBER WON: Aye.

8 CLERK: Thank you. Carr?

9 COUNCILMEMBER CARR: Aye.

10 CLERK: Ariola?

11 COUNCILMEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye.

12 CLERK: Kagan?

13 COUNCILMEMBER KAGAN: Aye.

14 CLERK: By a vote of 11... excuse me.

15 Councilmember Rivera?

16 COUNCILMEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

17 CLERK: Councilmember Rivera votes aye. Thank
18 you. By a vote of 12 in the affirmative, 1 in the
19 negative, and no abstention, the Resolution has been
20 adopted by the Committee.

21 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: With that, this vote
22 is recessed, pending attendance of other Committee
23 members. Thank you.

24 COUNCILMEMBER NARCISSE: Thank you.

25 CLERK: Councilmember Narcisse, one moment.

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2 COUNCILMEMBER NARCISSE: Sure.

3 CLERK: Continuation of roll call of the
4 Committee on Transportation on resolution 292,
5 Councilmember Narcisse? Councilmember Narcisse your
6 vote please?

7 COUNCILMEMBER NARCISSE: Did you hear me? Yes.

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Yes we can hear you.

9 CLERK: Thank you. Final vote now on
10 transportation now is 13 in the affirmative, 1 in the
11 negative, and no abstentions. Madam chair...

12 COUNCILMEMBER NARCISSE: I vote aye. Yes.

13 CLERK: This is a full committee. Thank you
14 Councilmember Narcisse.

15 COUNCILMEMBER NARCISSE: Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: This Committee
17 hearing is officially closed.

18 [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 December 13, 2022