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COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES  
  
Of the  
  
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

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February 16, 2023  
Start: 10:14 a.m.  
Recess: 10:29 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL  
  
B E F O R E: Pierina Ana Sanchez, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
  
Charles Barron  
David M. Carr  
Eric Dinowitz  
Oswald Feliz  
Crystal Hudson  
Ari Kagan

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Check, check. This is a  
3 prerecorded sound test for the Committee on Housing  
4 and Buildings. Today's date is February 16, 2023.  
5 It's being recorded by Michael Leonardo in the  
6 Committee Room.

7 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: [GAVEL] Good  
8 morning, everyone. I am Council Member Pierina  
9 Sanchez, Chair of the Committee on Housing and  
10 Buildings.

11 We're here today to vote on a bill that  
12 addresses accessory sign violations issued by the  
13 Department of Buildings. The bill was first heard by  
14 the Committee at a hearing on January 24th. Accessory  
15 signs, also referred to as business signs or awnings,  
16 are regulated by both the Construction Codes and the  
17 Zoning Resolution. The enforcement of sign  
18 regulations is entirely complaint-based, and from  
19 2016 to 2017 the DOB received over 2,100 complaints  
20 about signs. This resulted in over 1,700 inspections  
21 and the issuance of nearly 1,000 violations in those  
22 two years. Many of these violations were issued  
23 against small business owners, many of whom were  
24 unaware that their business signs were in violations  
25 of any regulations. To provide relief for these small

2 businesses, the City Council passed Local Law 28 in  
3 2019 which established a temporary program to resolve  
4 outstanding judgements resulting from the accessory  
5 sign violations and created a temporary DOB  
6 Assistance Program. The law also established a two-  
7 year moratorium on the issuance of further awning  
8 violations. The moratorium was extended by an  
9 additional two years through Local Law 29 of 2021.  
10 Today's bill, Intro 886, sponsored by Council Member  
11 Powers extends the existing moratorium and the  
12 temporary DOB Assistance Program by an additional two  
13 years to give small business owners more time to  
14 bring their signs into compliance.

15 I'm joined today by Council Member  
16 Hudson, Dinowitz, Barron, Kagan, Feliz, Carr. Those  
17 are my Colleagues. Thank you for being here. I'd like  
18 to thank the Committee Staff as well as my team,  
19 Chief-of-Staff Sam Cardenas, Legislative Director  
20 Kadeem Robinson, Audrey Son, Taylor Zelony, Jose  
21 Conde, and Charles Kim for their assistance in  
22 preparing for this hearing.

23 I will now ask the Clerk to call the  
24 roll.

1 COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS 4

2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good  
3 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call  
4 vote Committee on Housing and Buildings on  
5 Introduction 886. Chair Sanchez.

6 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Dinowitz.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Feliz.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Aviles.

12 Barron.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Caban.

15 Hudson.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Carr.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Kagan.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote

22 of seven in the affirmative, zero in the negative,

23 and no abstentions, item has been adopted by the

24 Committee.

25

2 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much.  
3 We will hold the roll open.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Final  
5 vote on Housing and Buildings is seven in the  
6 affirmative, zero in the negative, and no  
7 abstentions. Council Member Sanchez.

8 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much.  
9 With that, this hearing is concluded. [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 February 20, 2023