

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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June 22, 2023
Start: 11:56 a.m.
Recess: 12:03 p.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Kamillah Hanks, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joann Ariola
Erik D. Bottcher
Justin L. Brannan
Tiffany Caban
Carmen N. De La Rosa
Robert F. Holden
Rita C. Joseph
Darlene Mealy
Althea V. Stevens

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a sound check
3 for the Committee on Public Safety. Today's date is
4 June 22, 2023. Being recorded by Danny Huong
5 (phonetic) in the Committee Room.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
7 welcome to the New York City Council vote of the
8 Committee on Public Safety.

9 At this time, can everyone please silence
10 your cell phones? Thank you for your cooperation.

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: [GAVEL] I have four
13 minutes left so good morning. I am Council Member
14 Kamillah Hanks and Chair of the Committee on Public
15 Safety.

16 I want to thank the Members of the Public
17 Safety Committee that are here today, Council Members
18 De La Rosa, Brannan, Bottcher, Ariola, and Stevens,
19 and we have Council Member Holden joining us
20 virtually.

21 Today, the Public Safety Committee will
22 be voting on legislation that aims to assist...

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Council Member
24 Mealy.

2 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Hi, Council Member
3 Mealy. Thank you.

4 Today, the Public Safety Committee will
5 be voting on legislation that aims to assist the
6 City's efforts in addressing the ongoing
7 proliferation of unlicensed smoke shops.

8 Introduction 1001 sponsored by Council
9 Member Lynn Schulman will prohibit owners of..

10 Can we silence?

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Council
12 Member Mealy, I believe you're unmuted.

13 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Council Member Caban
14 is also joining us.

15 Again, sponsored by Council Member Lynn
16 Schulman will prohibit owners of commercial premises
17 from knowingly leasing a commercial premise to
18 unlicensed sellers of cigarettes, electronic
19 cigarettes, tobacco products, or illicit cannabis.
20 The legislation will also require a quarterly
21 reporting on enforcement relating to such unlicensed
22 sellers.

23 Council Member Schulman has asked me to
24 read her opening statement so.

2 "As many of you know, we have seen a
3 proliferation of illegal weed shops throughout the
4 City. These shops are unregulated. They're selling
5 adulterated products and selling to minors and
6 evading sales tax, and they are oversaturating the
7 market for legal cannabis shops, many of whom who are
8 impacted by the prohibition of cannabis make it
9 nearly impossible for the legal shops to flourish.
10 That is why I'm extremely proud that the Council will
11 be voting on Intro. 1001 this afternoon which will
12 create a penalty structure to hold landlords
13 accountable for leasing commercial premises to
14 illegal businesses such as unlicensed weed shops and
15 e-vaping shops. Landlords will receive a warning on
16 the first offense and, upon a second inspection, it's
17 determined that the business is still operating in
18 the commercial premise, the landlord will be issued a
19 fine of 5,000 dollars and a 10,000 dollar fine for
20 each subsequent offense. Our hope is that this
21 legislation will incentivize landlords to do the
22 right thing and keep our communities safe by only
23 leasing commercial space to legal licensed
24 businesses. I want to thank the Public Safety Chair,
25 Kamillah Hanks, for holding today's vote, Speaker

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2 Adrienne Adams for her leadership on this issue,
3 Committee Staff, advocates, and many community
4 members who have brought this issue to my attention.
5 Thank you.”

6 With that said, I will ask the Clerk to
7 call the roll.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
9 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
10 vote Committee on Public Safety. Proposed
11 Introduction 1001B. Chair Hanks.

12 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: I vote aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brannan.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Holden.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Thank you.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Caban.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABAN: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
20 you. Bottcher.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: De La
23 Rosa.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Joseph.
3 Mealy.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
6 you. Stevens.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ariola.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote
11 of nine in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and
12 no abstentions, item has been adopted by the
13 Committee, and the roll will be left held open by
14 request of the Chair.

15 CHAIRPERSON HANKS: Thank you all.
16 Congratulations Council Member Lynn Schulman.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:
18 Continuation roll call Committee on Public Safety.
19 Council Member Joseph.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: I vote aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Final
22 vote now is 10 in the affirmative, zero in the
23 negative, and no abstentions. Council Member Joseph
24 to close, please.

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2 William Martin, Committee Clerk. This
3 hearing is now closed. [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 June 26, 2023