

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

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April 6, 2011
Start: 10:58 am
Recess: 11:19 am

HELD AT: Committee Room
250 Broadway - 14th Fl.

B E F O R E:

LETITIA JAMES
PETER F. VALLONE
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Maria del Carmen Arroyo
James F. Gennaro
Robert Jackson
Michael C. Nelson
Erik Martin Dilan
Helen D. Foster
Daniel R. Garodnick
Vincent J. Gentile
Daniel J. Halloran III
Eric A. Ulrich
David G. Greenfield

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Good morning and welcome to this joint hearing of the Committees on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management and Public Safety. I am Letitia James, Chair of the Sanitation Committee. Today we will be voting on a series of bills comprising the Council's legislative response to the City's flawed handling of the December blizzard, which seems months ago. These bills are the result of a long and thorough process undertaken by these two Committees in conjunction with the Committees on Transportation, Fire and Criminal Justice and Oversight and Investigations. I thank the Chairs of each of these Committees, Council Members Vacca, Crowley and Williams and the Speaker for her leadership. In all we held some eight different oversight hearings, six of which were borough specific to allow us to learn about what transpired during the blizzard and to learn from residents directly. Every single Council Member attended at least one of those hearings. This process which started literally the day of the storm, December 26, concludes today, culminating a series of bills that will ensure that our city is

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2 more prepared and responsive to future snow and
3 other related emergencies. Today we will be
4 voting on six bills and one resolution. Three of
5 those bills are in my Committee and three bills
6 plus the resolution are in Council Member
7 Vallone's Committee, who is joining us now. I
8 will briefly describe the three bills in the
9 Sanitation Committee.

10 Bill 1, proposed Intro 508-A, I am
11 the sponsor. It would require the Office of
12 Emergency Management to annually review the
13 previous year's snow response, including
14 identifying all city and state agencies and
15 offices involved in snow preparation and response
16 and defining the responsibility of each agency or
17 office; b) accessing the performance of each such
18 agency or office in reviewing interagency
19 coordination; c) listing any snow-related
20 emergency warnings issued by the City; d)
21 establishing an inventory of city and privately
22 owned snow management equipment; and e)
23 recommending improvements to city snow preparation
24 and response.

25 The next bill is proposed Intro

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2 511, sponsored by Council Member Koo, which would
3 require the Department of Sanitation to assist
4 non-profit and volunteer organizations to
5 establish registries of snow removal volunteers
6 and locations where volunteer snow removal is
7 needed.

8 And the next bill is proposed Intro
9 517-A, sponsored by Council Member Palma, which
10 would require the Department of Sanitation to
11 establish borough based snow removal plans that
12 would include 1) defining, designating and
13 publishing a breakdown of primary, secondary and
14 tertiary streets for snow plowing and making this
15 information available online; b) would also
16 improve snow removal at bus stops and curb cuts
17 located at primary street intersections; and c)
18 improve communication between residents, elected
19 officials, on the ground workers and appropriate
20 sanitation personnel.

21 These bills in conjunction with the
22 rest of the bills we are voting on today present
23 an important step towards greater transparency,
24 improve preparation and enhance communication at
25 all levels for future snow events. I urge my

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2 colleagues to vote yes on all bills, and thank
3 everyone involved for their outstanding work on
4 this legislative package. We have joined all the
5 way to my far right: Council Member Vinny Gentile,
6 to his left, Council Member Dilan, Council Member
7 Carmen del Arroyo from the Bronx, obviously,
8 Council Member Vallone, Council Member Garodnick
9 is all the way to my far left, followed by his
10 very good friend and pal, Council Member Robert
11 Jackson and of course, the Chair of Solid Waste,
12 Council Member Gennaro of Queens. Council Member
13 Vallone?

14 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you,
15 Public Safety Committee is also called to order
16 and we have a quorum on that Committee also and to
17 briefly mention the bills that are coming out of
18 that Committee today as our co-chair said result
19 of a long series of hearings and a lot of work by
20 staff; proposed Intro 498-A would create weather
21 emergency protocols by the Office of Emergency
22 Management. One of those things would be to set
23 up protocols as to when their emergency center
24 would actually open, which as we all know was
25 probably the start of the problems we faced during

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2 the snowstorm. Proposed Intro 528-A involves
3 improvements to the 311 system. Proposed Intro
4 505-A involves communication of changes to
5 government services to the public, which would
6 require the City to notify the public through
7 media about changes to public services, such as
8 garbage collection, parking rules, transportation
9 services. And Reso 701 is about strengthening our
10 inability to response and call for greater
11 participation of volunteer and private ambulances.
12 Again these bills, many have been consolidated
13 from bills that we've discussed. Some are still
14 being negotiated and others are no longer being
15 moved forward, but this is the result of a lot of
16 work by all these committees and these council
17 members and the staff and I'm proud to call a vote
18 on them today.

19 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Clerk, can we
20 call the roll?

21 CLERK: Kevin Pin, Committee Clerk,
22 roll call in the Committee on Sanitation and Solid
23 Waste Management. Council Member James?

24 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: I vote aye on
25 all.

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CLERK: Gennaro?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

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CLERK: Jackson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

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all.

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CLERK: Arroyo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye on all.

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CLERK: By vote of four in the

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affirmative, zero in the negative, no abstentions,

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all items have been adopted. Roll call in the

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Committee on Public Housing. Council Member

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Dilan? Oh, I have the wrong sheet. Roll call in

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the Committee on Public Safety. Council Member

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Vallone?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on

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all.

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CLERK: Dilan?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye on all.

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CLERK: Foster?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [No

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response].

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CLERK: Gennaro?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

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CLERK: Gentile?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Maybe I be
3 excused to explain my vote? I don't really need to
4 explain my vote. I'm voting aye on all. I just
5 want to remind everybody that Council Library Day
6 in the park is right now from 11 to 2, so after
7 the vote, come on out and join the fun.

8 CLERK: Garodnick?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

10 CLERK: By vote of five in the
11 affirmative, zero in the negative and no
12 abstentions, all items have been adopted. Members
13 please sign the Committee reports.

14 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: The Public
15 Safety Committee is actually going to be held open
16 for as long as legally allowable for Council
17 Member Greenfield, who is attending a funeral.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank
19 you, Mr. Chair. I just want to say I'm proud to
20 sponsor Intro No. 528-A, which is improvements to
21 the 311 system. As we noticed during this
22 blizzard, 311 system was not adequate to respond
23 to the services and needs and I believe that this
24 bill will greatly improve that for future not only
25 blizzards, but all emergencies. Thank you.

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[background conversation]

CLERK: Greenfield?

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye on
all.

CLERK: Final vote in the Committee
on Public Safety, six in the affirmative, zero in
the negative and no abstentions.

FEMALE VOICE: The Committees are
adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kimberley Uhlig certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature

Kimberley Uhlig

Date April 15, 2001