

COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

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February 13, 2025
Start: 11:24 a.m.
Recess: 11:57 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Jennifer Gutiérrez

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Erik D. Bottcher
Robert F. Holden
Vickie Paladino
Julie Won

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Selvena N. Brooks-Powers

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Hello, good morning.
3 This is a sound check on the Committee on Technology.
4 Today's date is the 13th of February being recorded
5 by Tavell King (phonetic) in the Committee Room.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. Welcome
7 to the New York City Council vote on the hearing on
8 Technology.

9 At this time, please silence all
10 electronics and do not approach the dais. I repeat,
11 please do not approach the dais.

12 If you need any assistance, please
13 contact the Sergeant.

14 Chair, you may begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON MENIN: [GAVEL] Good morning,
16 everyone. I'm Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez,
17 Chair of the Committee of Technology.

18 Today we'll be voting on two bills aimed
19 at improving accessibility to City services. I also
20 want to acknowledge the ASL and CART services are
21 available for this hearing. Intro. 138-A, sponsored
22 by Council Member Brooks-Powers, in relation to
23 public service announcements in American Sign
24 Language for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing
25 on advertising structures. And Intro. 646-A,

2 sponsored by Council Member Riley, in relation to
3 reporting on the implementation of Next Generation 9-
4 1-1, or NextGen. This Committee heard both bills on
5 November 25, 2024, and received and evaluated
6 testimonies from the Administration and advocates.
7 The testimonies enriched our understanding of the
8 issues at hand. Approximately 44.1 million people,
9 around 13.4 percent of the U.S. population,
10 experience some form of disability. In New York City
11 alone, nearly 1 million residents self-identify as
12 having a disability. In today's digital age,
13 accessibility encompasses both physical and digital
14 realms. It means ensuring that every individual can
15 fully engage with the City's resources, information,
16 and services. This commitment to accessibility
17 includes individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing,
18 and deaf plus. I also want to acknowledge the deaf
19 and hard of hearing advocates present with us today
20 and recognize their invaluable contributions to this
21 legislation.

22 I also would like to thank the Committee
23 Staff, Policy Analyst Erik Brown, Leg Council Irene
24 Byhovsky, and my Chief-of-Staff and Senior Advisor
25 Anya Lehr for their hard work on those bills. I'd

2 also like to recognize the Technology Committee
3 Members who have joined us, Council Member Won and
4 Council Member Erik D. Bottcher.

5 I will now turn it over to Council Member
6 Brooks-Powers, the sponsor of Intro. 138-A, for her
7 statement.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you,
9 and good morning. I'd like to start by thanking you,
10 Chair Gutiérrez, for your leadership in advancing
11 this important legislation through the Committee on
12 Technology. I am proud that the Council is moving
13 forward today with Intro. 138, a crucial step to
14 ensure that our deaf and hard of hearing neighbors
15 are fully included in the City's communication and
16 public safety infrastructure. Every New Yorker,
17 regardless of ability, must have equal access to
18 vital public information and emergency services.
19 While progress has been made, too many members of the
20 deaf and hard of hearing community remain unaware of
21 essential resources like text to 9-1-1 and video
22 relay services. This bill ensures that these services
23 are prominently promoted through public service
24 announcements on LinkNYC kiosks, using American Sign
25 Language and captions to make the information truly

2 accessible. By ensuring all communities are included
3 in our public messaging, we are making our city
4 safer, more connected, and more equitable. I am
5 deeply grateful to the deaf and hard of hearing
6 community and the many advocates who have worked
7 tirelessly on this issue. Together, we are taking a
8 meaningful step forward toward a more inclusive city.
9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you. I will
11 now turn it over to the Clerk to call the roll.
12 Giving him a minute. Double duty. All right. No, no,
13 no worries.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
15 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
16 vote Committee on Technology. Both items are coupled.
17 Chair Gutiérrez.

18 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Aye. Congrats.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Holden.
20 Bottcher.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Won.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Paladino.

25 With a vote of three in the affirmative, zero in the

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2 negative, and no abstentions, both items have been
3 adopted by the Committee. The roll will be held open
4 at request of the Chair.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: William
6 Martin, Committee Clerk. Continuation roll call,
7 Committee on Technology on Proposed Introductions
8 138-A and 646-A. Council Member Holden.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Paladino.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: I vote aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Final
13 vote is five in the affirmative, zero in the
14 negative, and no abstentions. Council Member Holden
15 to close.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: [GAVEL] This
17 hearing is adjourned.

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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 14, 2025