

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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July 26, 2011  
Start: 11:30am  
Recess: 11:40am

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
DARLENE MEALY  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Robert Jackson  
Letitia James  
Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Michael C. Nelson

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2 CHAIRPERSON MEALY: Good morning.  
3 We're going to start our Committee on Contracts.  
4 I serve as the Chair of the New York City  
5 Committee on Contracts. It is my pleasure to  
6 welcome you today. Thank you all for attending.  
7 Before we proceed, I would like to recognize the  
8 Council Members who are present today from the  
9 Committee; Council Member Jackson, Council Member  
10 Leticia James.

11 Today the Committee will vote on  
12 two Introductions and two Resolution concerning  
13 the procurement of local food and the reduction of  
14 packaging materials for food and other goods.  
15 These pieces of legislations are proposed Intro  
16 No. 452-A sponsored by Council Member Gale Brewer,  
17 proposed Intro No. 461-A sponsored by Council  
18 Member Annabel Palma, Resolution 627 sponsored by  
19 Council Member Debbie Rose, Resolution 628  
20 sponsored by Council Member James Sanders. In  
21 November of last year, Council Speaker Christine  
22 Quinn released Food Works, a comprehensive plan  
23 that set forth a vision for a more sustainable  
24 food system in New York City. The Food Works plan  
25 proposed reform and addressing the agriculture

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2 production processing, distribution and  
3 consumption of food, as well as post consumption  
4 opportunities to reduce waste. The four bills and  
5 resolutions that we will vote on today are pieces  
6 of legislation arising from the Food Works vision  
7 that - - on city procurement.

8 Proposed Intro No. 452-A will  
9 require the City to establish guidelines to  
10 encourage agencies to make best efforts to produce  
11 food grown, produce harvest or process in New York  
12 State. The legislation would also require the  
13 City to monitor agencies' implementation of these  
14 guidelines.

15 Proposed Intro No. 461-A will  
16 require the City to establish packaging reduction  
17 guidelines for us and all City agencies' contracts  
18 in order to minimize the waste and connection with  
19 the city's procurement of goods.

20 Resolution No. 627 calls upon the  
21 State to expand its law allowing New York City to  
22 preference food originating from New York State to  
23 include a preference for original food from nearby  
24 states, including New Jersey, Connecticut,  
25 Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire.

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2 Resolution No. 628 calls upon the  
3 State to regulate the amount and type of packaging  
4 used to incase foods, goods produced by the state  
5 and its localities, including New York City.

6 Council Member Brewer could not attend today's  
7 hearing, but she sent her statement, and she asked  
8 me to read it aloud.

9 Statement in support of 452a, local  
10 food procurement, Gale A. Brewer, City Council,  
11 July 26, 2011. I thank Speaker Christine Quinn  
12 and her staff who have long advocated for  
13 healthier, locally sourced food for all New  
14 Yorkers and who have supported Intro 452-2011. I  
15 also thank Renea Cavolick [phonetic] from my  
16 staff, who is an expert of food of local source  
17 and healthier foods, as well as Contracts  
18 Committee Chair, Darlene Mealy.

19 This bill, which is an outgrowth of  
20 Speaker Quinn's Food Works report, would require  
21 the City's chief procurement officer to encourage  
22 city agencies to make best efforts to purchase New  
23 York State food. It would also require the chief  
24 procurement officer to report on city's efforts to  
25 purchase New York State food as well as provide

1 tracking information related to food procurement.  
2 The bill does not advocate more costly food and it  
3 would not apply to emergency or small purchases.  
4 Most importantly, by procuring locally grown food,  
5 the city would reduce transportation costs, reduce  
6 its vulnerability to short term price - - and the  
7 international food market, help improve the  
8 environment and support regional farms by  
9 improving their sustainability. Thanks to Renea  
10 Cavolick, I have organized several meetings with  
11 the Department of Education on healthier food for  
12 students, and together we were working on a plan  
13 to purchase locally within the DOE budget. Thanks  
14 to Speaker and Education Chair Jackson. We also  
15 held a hearing on the topic. Although 452-A  
16 cannot legally include DOE purchasing, it does  
17 focus on all other city agencies, such as the  
18 Department of Homeless Services, the Department of  
19 Correction and others who purchase in coordination  
20 by the Department of City-Wide Administration  
21 Services.  
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23 Because we want to help local farms  
24 and New York City agencies become partners in  
25 meeting the city's demands for fresh, local foods,

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2 we organized a New York State farm and  
3 infrastructure tour on July 7, 2011. Working with  
4 Cornell University, we toured farms and processing  
5 facilities all of which have the volume to become  
6 viable partners with the city agencies. I was  
7 delighted that the chief procurement officer from  
8 DCAS joined us. He is a new member of the senior  
9 staff and was very impressed with our local farm  
10 and packaging capacity and he will be returning to  
11 the upstate area for more discussions. In  
12 conclusion, I thank Chair Mealy for this hearing,  
13 and I urge you to vote for 452-A, so that we can  
14 be successful in bringing locally sourced food to  
15 city agencies.

16 We want to thank Gale Brewer for  
17 this lovely letter. We can acknowledge now Mark-  
18 Viverito. We would like to have in hearing  
19 American Chemistry Council urges support for  
20 proposed Intro 461-A, packaging reduction. We  
21 thank them. Again, thank you all for attending.  
22 Would you like to have anything to say? Council  
23 Member Jackson? Any members? With nothing further,  
24 let's move on to our vote. We will begin with  
25 proposed Intro No. 452-A, Council Member Brewer's

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2 local food procurement bill, I will ask the clerk  
3 to call the roll call.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Kevin Pin,  
5 Committee Clerk, roll call in the Committee on  
6 Contracts. Councilwoman Mealy?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Jackson?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on  
10 all.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: James?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye  
15 on all.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of four  
17 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no  
18 abstentions, the item has been adopted. Members,  
19 please sign the Committee reports.

20 CHAIRPERSON MEALY: Now proposed  
21 Intro No. 461-A. On 461-A, Council Member Palma's  
22 package and waste reduction bill, the Resolution  
23 No. 627, Council Member Rose's regional food  
24 procurement resolution and Resolution 628 Council  
25 Member Sanders' package and waste reduction

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solution. I vote aye on all, and everyone call the roll vote. Thank you.

We will hold the vote open our colleagues. Until then, this meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Nelson?

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote in the Committee on Contracts, five in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions.

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MEALY: We adjourn this Contracts Committee hearing. Thank you.



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 UhligDate July 30, 2011