

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

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November 28, 2011
Start: 1:05 p.m.
Recess: 1:11 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
SARA M. GONZALEZ
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Fernando Cabrera
Daniel Dromm
James Sanders, Jr.

CHAIRPERSON GONZALEZ: --Levin.

Today's meeting is basically to vote on resolution 1067. Again, I'm chairperson council member Sara Gonzalez to Juvenile Justice Committee. Today's date again is November 28, 2011. We are here today to vote on resolution 1067, which was co-introduced by my colleague Crowley and I.

Resolution 1067 supports New York State chief judge, Jonathan Lippman's call on the New York State Legislature to pass and the governor to sign legislation raising the age of criminal responsibility for a non violent offenses to 18 and permit the cases of 16 and 17 year olds charged with such offenses to be adjudicated in the family court rather than the adult criminal justice system. Before we vote on this resolution, I would like to take a minute to thank all the people I have partnered with over the years that I have chaired this Juvenile Justice Committee, particularly ACS executive deputy commissioner Larry Bushing [phonetic], ex-commissioner John Mattingly [phonetic] for their work in closing Bridge's [phonetic] Detention Center and New York Supreme Court judge Eudaldo

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2 Padro [phonetic] for his role in overseeing ACS'
3 PATH [phonetic] program. In addition, I would
4 like to thank Al Siegel [phonetic] and Judge
5 Calabresi [phonetic] for their work at the Center
6 for Court Innovation in Red Hook, Brooklyn, as
7 well as to all the advocates that have tirelessly
8 fought for the rights of our incarcerated youth.
9 Thank you to chief judge Jonathan Lippman for
10 championing the fair treatment of New York's
11 juveniles by calling for 16 and 17 year olds
12 charged with less serious crimes to have their
13 cases adjudicated by the New York State Family
14 Court. Lastly, I would like to thank Juvenile
15 Justice Committee staff, Peggy Chan [phonetic]--
16 thank you, Peggy--and William Hongach [phonetic]--
17 thank you, William--for their dedication on issues
18 pertaining to New York City's juveniles and their
19 work in drafting resolution 1067. I urge my
20 colleagues to vote yes on resolution 1067 and
21 would now like to ask the clerk to open the roll
22 for vote. And I also just want to say thank you
23 to my colleagues for joining me--Fernando Cabrera,
24 council member and also Dromm. Thank you. Let's
25 vote. Where's the clerk?

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[background conversation]

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I appreciate this opportunity to speak on this piece of legislation. I know that you've worked very hard and this must be a victorious day for you to see this happen. This resolution is particularly important because it is a common sense approach to a problem that has been plaguing our juvenile justice system for a long period of time. It is a much more humane way to treat our juvenile offenders by placing them in family court, and it is a cost saving benefit to it as well. That's why I think that Judge Lippman's decision to support this and to go along with this is so very important. Often times our young people get caught up in a juvenile justice system that treats them as adults and they get lost. They come out worse off than when they went in and I think that with the passage of the legislation on the state level, which we hope will happen soon, we're going to see a reform in the court system that has been long overdue. I'd like to thank you for leadership on this. I look forward to voting on this in a moment.

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CHAIRPERSON GONZALEZ: Thank you.

Also, I would like to just say as Chair of the Juvenile Justice Committee, I do want to thank a few other folks. This is a really big day for the Committee, for the city, for the children. It is important, as you said, that we look at children and understand that they do deviate from their characters and they do make mistakes, and looking at that, we have to prepare and have productive futures--alternatives to incarceration and not put them on the road to a criminal career, I do believe this is a really incredible piece of legislation. I do urge the governor and the legislature to pass on their end so that we can continue to support our children, who are the future of tomorrow. I also want to say to our Speaker, Christine Quinn, thank you for her leadership in this. Thank you to all the staff that prepared this besides my team here, which I already mentioned. I also would like to say that finally juvenile justice is on the map. I want to say to Mayor Bloomberg, thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
Committee Clerk. Roll call vote in the Committee

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2 on Juvenile Justice resolution 1067. Council
3 Member Gonzalez?

4 CHAIRPERSON GONZALEZ: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

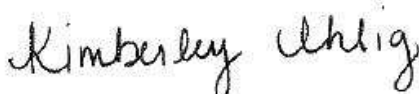
9 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of
10 three in the affirmative, zero in the negative, no
11 abstentions, item is adopted. Members, please
12 sign the Committee Report.

13 CHAIRPERSON GONZALEZ: We're going
14 to keep it open for ten minutes. Thank you.
15 Okay.

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



Date

12/12/11