

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

-----X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

-----X

December 16, 2011
Start: 1:47 p.m.
Recess: 2:05 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
ERIC MARTIN DILAN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Gale Brewer
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Elizabeth Crowley
Lewis A. Fidler
James F. Gennaro
Robert Jackson
Letitia James
Brad S. Lander
Melissa Mark-Viverito
Rosie Mendez
Joel Rivera
Jumaane D. Williams
Eric A. Ulrich
James S. Oddo

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Name
Position
Organization

E.g. Joel I. Klein
Chancellor
NYC Department of Education

E.g. Geri Palast
Executive Director
Campaign for Fiscal Equity

1
2 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: If I could ask
3 the chamber to come to order, we will begin this
4 afternoon's hearing. Good afternoon. My name is
5 Erik Martin Dilan, and I'm the Chair of the City
6 Council's Housing and Buildings Committee. Today
7 the Committee will be conducting a hearing for the
8 purposes of a vote on two legislative items. Two
9 bills before the Committee today are proposed
10 Intro 585-A, which is a local law to amend the
11 Administrative Code of the City in relation to
12 establishing limits on the missions of volatile
13 organic compounds in carpet and carpet cushions.
14 The second is a pre-considered Intro that we heard
15 earlier this week to amend the Administrative Code
16 of the City of New York in relation to carbon
17 monoxide alarms.

18 Regarding proposed Intro 585,
19 volatile organic compounds or VOCs are known to
20 cause acute and chronic health effects according
21 to the Environmental Protection Agency, including
22 eye, nose and throat irritation, headaches, loss
23 of coordination, nausea, liver damage, kidney and
24 central nervous systems. Additionally some VOCs I
25 won't read them all, but they're attached are also

1
2 suspected or known to cause cancer. The goal of
3 proposed Intro 585 is to limit New Yorkers'
4 exposures to VOCs and their adverse health effects
5 by establishing a prohibition of sale and
6 installation of non-compliant carpet cushion,
7 limiting to the emissions of VOCs found in carpet.
8 I just wanted to just state as a matter of
9 background, the majority of the caret sold in the
10 U.S. market is compliant. The concern here is
11 some carpet that is being imported into New York
12 City as well as the United States, but 99% of the
13 supply just for the knowledge of the general
14 public is compliant with the legislative item that
15 we're passing today. We've initially heard this
16 bill on June 21st of this year, and some of the
17 major amendments made to the bill since the
18 initial hearing are in the Committee Report. I
19 won't read them all, but they're attached in the
20 Committee Report, and they can be referenced in
21 the Committee Report.

22 In a different vain, the pre-
23 considered Intro on carbon monoxide detectors
24 would require property owners to replace carbon
25 monoxide detectors that are currently required to

1
2 be installed by law when they exceed the
3 manufacturer's suggested use for life with devices
4 that are equipped with an audible warning chip.
5 That does not exist in the equipment in homes
6 today and it's good that these chips will be now
7 included into the new apparatus, so individuals
8 while at home will indeed know that their carbon
9 monoxide detector is not functioning and they can
10 replace it. On this bill, the city may contain
11 carbon monoxide detectors that have passed a use
12 for life since the industry average use for life
13 of these products is six years from the date of
14 installation and many carbon monoxide detectors
15 were installed as a result of this Committee's
16 passage of similar legislation in 2004, which
17 first mandated the installation of these carbon
18 monoxide detectors in dwelling units are not
19 indeed equipped with the most up to date
20 technology, which includes the audible warning
21 chip that I mentioned earlier. As I said earlier
22 this Committee heard testimony on this on December
23 13th and I would like to ask my colleagues to vote
24 in favor of the two items today. If the members
25 are in agreement as a matter of time, we can skip

1
2 introductions and go right into the vote. If I
3 have any objections, I'll introduce. Seeing no
4 objections, I'd like to ask the clerk to couple
5 the vote and I suggest an aye vote on all.

6 CLERK: William Martin, Committee
7 Clerk. Roll call vote in the Committee on Housing
8 and Buildings. Council Member Dilan?

9 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: I vote aye.

10 CLERK: Brewer?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye.

12 CLERK: Comrie?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I vote aye.

14 CLERK: Fidler?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yes.

16 CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: I
18 vote aye.

19 CLERK: Crowley?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote
21 aye.

22 CLERK: Lander?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I have to
24 say I'm disappointed with the amendment removing
25 the word chirp from the bill and apparently

1
2 replacing it with audible notification, but I
3 nonetheless vote aye and ask to be added as a
4 sponsor to the bill as well.

5 CLERK: Ulrich?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

7 CLERK: Oddo?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: May I be
9 excused temporarily to explain my vote? I vote yes
10 and both I would just ask that the Chair and the
11 press office fully explain the vote on the carpets
12 so that I don't have to read somewhere that the
13 City Council doesn't have anything better to do
14 than to ban certain carpets. I say this as the
15 guy that was the lead sponsor of banning metal
16 bats, but I can just picture how the media will
17 couch this unless we do a good job, and I think
18 Laura - - did a great job of explaining this in
19 detail to my staff in the last 24 hours. I think
20 the bill is a worthy goal here, but I could just
21 see how the media could spin this as if the
22 Council's got nothing better to do than banning
23 carpets, so I just ask the press people to... Thank
24 you. I vote yes on both.

25 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: As I said in my

1
2 opening statement about 99% of the carpet in the
3 U.S. market is compliant with the legislation
4 that we're voting on today.

5 CLERK: By a vote of nine in the
6 affirmative, zero in the negative, no abstentions,
7 items are adopted. Members, please sign the
8 Committee Report.

9 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Thank you. We
10 will leave the vote open for as long as the rules
11 allow, which is about a half an hour and at which
12 time, the Committee will be adjourned.

13 CLERK: Council Member Williams?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye on
15 all.

16 CLERK: The vote now currently
17 stands at ten in the affirmative.

18 [pause]

19 CLERK: Council Member James?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.

21 CLERK: The vote now stands at 11
22 in the affirmative.

23 [pause]

24 CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes and

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

yes.

CLERK: The vote now stands at 12
in the affirmative.

[pause]

CLERK: Council Member Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye
on all.

CLERK: The vote now currently
stands at 13 in the affirmative.

[pause]

CLERK: Council Member Jackson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I vote aye
on all.

CLERK: Final vote in the Committee
on Housing and Buildings is now 14 in the
affirmative, zero in the negative and no
abstentions. Thank you.

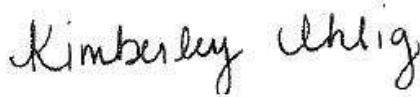
MALE VOICE: This Committee is
adjourned.

[gavel]

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 _____1/8/12_____