

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

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February 28, 2012  
Start: 1:27 p.m.  
Recess: 1:34 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
GALE A. BREWER  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Inez E. Dickens  
Erik Martin Dilan  
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.  
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.

CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Okay. Today the Committee on Governmental Operations is meeting to vote on Intro 698-A sponsored by Council Member Margaret Chin. This bill seeks to modernize the notice requirements for rulemaking hearings by requiring city agencies to publicize hearings on their websites and via other electronic means. Presently city agencies are required to publish notice of a proposed rule or rule change in the city record at least 30 days prior to a public hearing. The city record however has very limited circulation outside city government. Indeed, the administration estimates that there are only 300 non-government subscribers to city record, yet new technology enables agencies to more actively publicize upcoming rulemaking hearings and to engage interested members of the public in the process. 698-A will modernize the notice requirements for rulemaking hearings by amending CAPA [phonetic] in three ways; first, every city agency will be required to provide information about proposed rules and hearings in a prominent location on the agency's website at least seven days prior to the date of

1  
2 the rulemaking hearing. Although some agencies  
3 currently place information about upcoming  
4 hearings on their website, many do not. For those  
5 agencies that do provide information on their  
6 websites about upcoming rulemaking actions,  
7 information is often difficult to find. Second,  
8 every city agency will be required to provide in a  
9 prominent location on the website a link to NYC  
10 Rules, the city's one stop point of access for  
11 information about rulemaking actions. Finally,  
12 every city agency will be required to the greatest  
13 extent practicable, to publicize upcoming  
14 rulemaking hearings via electronic means that are  
15 likely to reach interested members of the public,  
16 such as via social networks, e-mail, - - and other  
17 new technology sites. Our Committee held a  
18 previous hearing on this bill on December 14<sup>th</sup>,  
19 2011. At that time, the Committee received  
20 testimony from the administration, the New York  
21 technology Council and participatory politics  
22 foundation. Each witness testified in support.  
23 The administration offered one amendment to  
24 require agencies to post a link to NYC Rules. The  
25 bill had been amended to include this requirement.

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2 We will now vote on Intro 698-A, and I'd like to  
3 thank Council Member Vallone, Council Member Dilan  
4 and now Council Member Rodriguez and the entire  
5 staff. Can we call the roll?

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,  
7 Committee Clerk, roll call vote in the Committee  
8 on Governmental Operations. Council Member  
9 Brewer?

10 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: I vote aye and  
11 I thank Council Member Dilan for coming up from  
12 his hearing.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dilan?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: I vote aye,  
15 and I'd like to thank the Chair for allowing the  
16 accommodation.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of  
20 three in the affirmative, zero in the negative and  
21 no abstentions, item is adopted. Members, please  
22 sign the Committee report. Thank you.

23 [pause]

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member  
25 Recchia?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

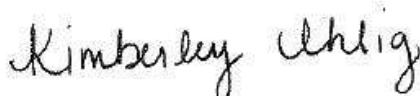
COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote in the  
Committee on Governmental Operations is now four  
in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no  
abstentions.

CHAIRPERSON BREWER: This hearing  
is now 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

Handwritten signature of Kimberley Uhlig in cursive script, written over a horizontal line.Date 3/13/12