

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

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December 18, 2012  
Start: 10:36 a.m.  
Recess: 10:45 a.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

CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Good morning.

I'd like to call this hearing to order. My name is Erik Martin Dilan, and I am the chairperson of the City Council's Committee on Housing and Buildings. Today the Committee will meet to conduct a vote on one item, proposed Intro 977-A, which is in relation to the waivering of certain permit inspection fees for demolitions and alterations or for the rebuilding or repair of certain buildings and systems damaged by Hurricane Sandy. Intro 977-A would provide relief to owners of buildings who were forced to undertake certain repairs or are supposed to or want to rebuild their properties as a result of the damage brought on by the hurricane. Owners whose properties were severely damaged or destroyed under this legislation will have two years from the time the storm hit to apply for construction document approval or a permit fee from the Department of Buildings. Owners who have had property damaged that requires electrical or plumbing work to be done to the house will have six months from the time the storm hit to receive a waiver of fees related to such work. The Committee heard this

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2 bill last week on December 13<sup>th</sup>, and since that  
3 hearing, the bill was amended to extend the  
4 deadline for the waiver of the electrical and  
5 plumbing fee from January 31<sup>st</sup> of 2013 in the  
6 original version to April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in the version  
7 that is before us today. After hearing from  
8 public testimony and council members who represent  
9 the affected areas, we all felt that this change  
10 and the extension of the time was greatly needed.  
11 It has become evidence that more time would allow  
12 as many people who have been affected to  
13 reconstruct their homes and can access this fee  
14 waiver opportunity. This legislation has the  
15 potential to save thousands of dollars for many  
16 homeowners throughout New York City on  
17 departmental fees that they would otherwise pay,  
18 and I want to acknowledge the Department of  
19 Buildings for not taking advantage of this  
20 opportunity to raise revenue. They said for the  
21 record that it is revenue that they wouldn't have  
22 gained otherwise as a result of the storm, so I'd  
23 like to thank them for all of their efforts  
24 helping New Yorkers get back on their feet. And  
25 with that, I'd like to ask all my colleagues to

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vote in favor and ask the clerk to call the roll.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kevin Pin,  
committee clerk. Roll call in the Committee on  
Housing and Buildings intro 977-A. Council Member  
Dilan?

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Fidler?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Jackson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: James?

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley?

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote  
aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [no  
audible response]

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Comrie?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of ten in the affirmative, zero in the negative, no abstentions, the item has been adopted. Members, please sign the committee report.

CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Okay. We will keep the roll for the vote open for a few minutes to allow some members who are in leadership to come up and vote and want to publically thank the bill's sponsor, Council Member Vinny Ignizio for bringing this item before the Committee today, and to credit him and Council Members Oddo and all the other affected Council Members for the great work that they are doing not only in Staten Island, but in the affected areas of the city as well. Oh, and for the benefit of the members, this will be—I just want to announce Ben Goodman's last hearing. He will be leaving us to go to the Board of Education. He will be the Manhattan borough rep, so all the Manhattan members, Ben will be your guy. He served with us here for about seven years, and I certainly will miss him, and just look forward to seeing him grow in his new

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endeavor, so thanks for all the work, Ben.

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[applause]

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote stands

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at 11 in the affirmative.

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[long pause]

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CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Can I have

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Council Member Oddo recognized for the purpose of

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his vote?

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Oddo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote stands

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at 12 in the affirmative.

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CHAIRPERSON DILAN: This hearing of

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the Housing and Buildings Committee is now

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adjourned.

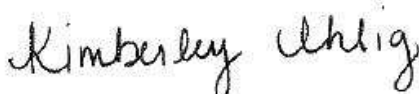
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[gavel]

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

1/1/13