

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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February 5, 2013
Start: 11:44 a.m.
Recess: 11:52 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
MARIA DEL CARMEN ARROYO
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Inez E. Dickens
Mathieu Eugene
Julissa Ferreras
Helen D. Foster
Rosie Mendez
Joel Rivera
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.
Albert Vann
Deborah L. Rose
James G. Van Bramer

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2 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Good morning.
3 Thank you all for being here. My name is Maria
4 del Carmen Arroyo, chair of the Committee on
5 Health. Today the Committee will be voting on
6 proposed resolution 982-A, sponsored by Council
7 Member Mathieu Eugene, which calls upon the United
8 States Congress and the President of the United
9 States to increase funding for research on stroke
10 prevention and treatment. Thank you. The
11 Committee previously held a hearing on this
12 resolution on December 12th, 2012, and I'd like to
13 thank my colleague, Council Member Eugene, for his
14 leadership, his tenacity and for bringing this
15 important public health issue to the forefront.
16 According to the United States Center of Disease
17 Control and Prevention, stroke is the fourth
18 leading cause of death in the country accounting
19 for approximately 130,000 deaths annually.
20 Additionally every year nearly 800,000 people in
21 the United States have a stroke with 610,000 of
22 these individuals experiencing a stroke for the
23 very first time. Having a stroke can lead to
24 debilitating and life altering changes, and these
25 consequences can take a major toll on families of

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2 those who suffer a stroke. Stroke does not just
3 have a significant personal impact; it also has a
4 significant economic impact. Shockingly the
5 annual cost of stroke in the United States is an
6 estimated \$54 billion when we factor in the cost
7 of healthcare services, medications and missed
8 days of work. Death rates from strokes have
9 dropped 70 percent since 1940 due in large part to
10 the National Institute of Health (NIH) funded
11 research, yet the NIH dedicates a mere 1 percent
12 of its budget towards research on stroke
13 prevention and treatment. Given the tremendous
14 impact that stroke has on the United States, it is
15 necessary to invest in developing prevention and
16 treatment options to improve the health of all
17 Americans. I'd like to first recognize my
18 colleagues who are here today and thank them for
19 joining us; Council Member Debbie Rose, our
20 sponsor of the resolution today, Council Member
21 Mathieu Eugene, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer,
22 Council Member Al Vann, Councilwoman Inez Dickens,
23 Rosie Mendez, Julissa Ferreras, and Council Member
24 Rivera. I want to thank the staff for all of your
25 hard work and preparing for this hearing and all

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2 of the research that has gone into preparing us
3 for this vote today, and before I call for a vote
4 I'd like to give our sponsor an opportunity to say
5 a few words. Council Member Eugene?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you
7 very much, Madam Chair. I just want to first and
8 foremost thank you for your leadership and also
9 for your support to this legislation, and I want
10 to also thank all my colleagues and the co-signers
11 also for their support and all the staff, your
12 staff and all of the staff members who have worked
13 hard to make this possible, and I just want to add
14 that stroke a very devastating disease as we all
15 know. This is very sad to see so many people
16 suffering from stroke. We are talking about
17 productive people—people who have been working
18 hard to sustain their family and sustain
19 themselves, people who have been contributing to
20 the system paying taxes, helping the government,
21 so I think this is very important that we in the
22 City Council, we take the necessary steps to see
23 if we can decrease the incidents of stroke, the
24 morbidity and also the mortality. When somebody
25 is suffering from a stroke, not only that person

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2 is suffering, but the whole family is going
3 through the challenges because if it's about
4 somebody who is the head of the family working to
5 sustain the family, that means the whole family is
6 going to be in trouble and the government is
7 obliged to put some money to - - to support all
8 the members of the family. We do know that we can
9 prevent stroke to happen. We know that. It - -
10 the studies that say that by research, by
11 prevention we can decrease the incidence, the
12 morbidity and mortality after a stroke, and I'm
13 asking all of my colleagues to vote yes and thank
14 you very much. Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Thank you,
16 Council Member, and I join my colleague in urging
17 a yes vote. We have been joined by Council Member
18 Peter Vallone, and now I will ask the clerk to
19 call the roll.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
21 committee clerk. Roll call vote, Committee on
22 Health Resolution 982-A. Council Member Arroyo?

23 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vann?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras?

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of ten

in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
abstentions, item is adopted. Members, please
sign the Committee Report. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: I'd like to
remind my colleagues that the Committee is holding
an oversight hearing at one o'clock joint with
Aging, Mental Health, General Welfare on the

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2 shelter issues related to the storm Sandy, so we
3 will be back here at one o'clock.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Excuse me,
5 just to all my colleagues. We are going to have a
6 press conference tomorrow at ten before the Stated
7 Meeting. We will Maimonides Hospital and I think
8 also American Health Associate and Stroke
9 Association. You are all welcome to participate
10 tomorrow at ten before the Stated Meeting. We
11 will have also expert - - to testify tomorrow
12 also. Thank you very much.

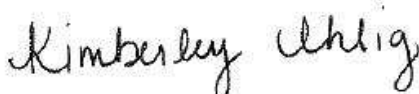
13 CHAIRPERSON ARROYO: Okay, and with
14 that, this hearing is adjourned.

15 [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 _____2/19/13_____