

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

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March 12, 2013
Start: 1:15 p.m.
Recess: 1:20 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway
Hearing Rm, 16th Fl.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Council Member Erik Martin Dilan
Council Member Domenic Recchia, Jr.
Council Member Peter F. Vallone, Jr.

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

William Martin
Committee Clerk
Committee on Governmental Operations

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2 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Oh, so my name
3 is Gale Brewer and I am the Chair of Governmental
4 Operations. I want to welcome everyone here
5 today. I do want to thank Tom Madisoff [phonetic]
6 who's the Policy Analyst and David Seizer
7 [phonetic] who is Counsel to the Committee but at
8 another Committee. But we're delighted to have
9 Shannon Manigold [phonetic] who's here with us
10 today. This afternoon we are considering whether
11 to override the Mayor's veto of proposed number
12 978a and to file the veto message. During the
13 independent expenditure disclosureable making
14 process last year the Campaign Finance Board
15 conducted extensive outreach before finalizing its
16 rules. The vast majority of the rules that
17 emerged from that process are targeted to ensure
18 that voters know the source behind political
19 messages that target them. I thank the Board for
20 these rules which help to improve transparency and
21 clean government, something this Council has
22 worked hard on. During these hearings I testified
23 to express concern that the rules appear to cover
24 member to member communications that are internal
25 through membership organizations. Member to

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2 member communications are not intended to
3 influence the general public so the public's
4 interest in source disclosure is significantly
5 reduced. As the Charter Revision Commission put
6 it in it's final report, independent expenditure
7 disclosure is intended to, quote, help the public
8 evaluate advertising messages aimed at influencing
9 their votes, unquote. In the end, the Campaign
10 Finance Board chose to exempt some types of member
11 to member communication but not others. The bill
12 being considered today would exempt all member to
13 member communications as well as company to
14 shareholder communications from independent
15 expenditure requirements. This bill will lighten
16 the regulatory load on membership organizations
17 and protect their first amendment rights of
18 association while ensuring that the public remains
19 aware of who is trying to influence their votes.
20 This Committee on Governmental Operations
21 previously heard this bill on January 16th, 2013
22 and voted it out on January 22. The bill was
23 passed by the full Council on the following day.
24 The Mayor vetoed the bill on February 22 and the
25 veto message was accepted by the Council at our

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2 stated meeting of February 27. The question
3 before the Committee today is whether proposed
4 intro 978a should be repassed, notwithstanding the
5 Mayor's veto and I think it should be. And I want
6 to thank Council Member Dilan and Council Member
7 Domenic Recchia. Can we call the roll?

8 MR. WILLIAM MARTIN: William
9 Martin, Committee Clerk, roll call vote on
10 Government Committee of Operations. Council
11 Member Brewer?

12 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: I vote aye.

13 MR. MARTIN: Dilan?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

15 MR. MARTIN: Recchia?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: And we've been
18 joined by Council Member Vallone.

19 MR. MARTIN: Vallone?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Thank you.

22 MR. MARTIN: By vote of four in the
23 affirmative, zero in the negative and no
24 abstentions, M1048 has been adopted to file and
25 introduction 978a has been readopted. Members,

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COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

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please sign the Committee Reports. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Thank you.

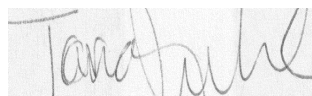
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This Committee hearing is concluded.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Tara Juhl 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

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tara Juhl".

Date 3/28/13