

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

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April 8, 2013  
Start: 2:13 p.m.  
Recess: 2:20 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway  
Committee Rm, 14<sup>th</sup> Fl

B E F O R E:  
Diana Reyna  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Mathieu Eugene  
Letitia James  
Margaret S. Chin  
Peter A. Koo  
Ruben Wills  
Andy King

CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Good afternoon.

My name is Diana Reyna. I am Chair of the Committee on Small Business. Today's hearing is on two bills Proposed Introduction Number 942a and Proposed Introduction Number 949a. Both of which were first considered in a joint hearing with the Committee on Governmental Operations on February 28<sup>th</sup> of this year. These bills implement recommendations of the regulatory review panel first convened by the council in 2009. To find ways to make it easier to own and to operate small businesses in New York City.

I often hear from small business owners who want to obey the laws but who nonetheless question whether the goal of city regulations is to improve public safety or to impose fines to cover budget shortfalls. They complain that navigating the bureaucracy of regulations and the agencies that enforce them is an onerous burden for small businesses that lack a dedicated government relation staff.

The regulatory review panel was convened in response to such concerns and intent in these bills to address them. I'm very pleased

1  
2 to see that these pieces of legislation to drive  
3 home a very clear message from the City Council.  
4 We will educate our small businesses before we  
5 punish them, finding compliance to be the  
6 priority. Proposed Introduction Number 949 would  
7 require the Department of Buildings, Consumer  
8 Affairs, Health and Mental Hygiene, Environmental  
9 Protection, Sanitation, Fire and Transportation to  
10 conduct a review of the violations they each  
11 enforce under the New York City administrative  
12 code, the rules of the city of New York and their  
13 New York City health code and recommend to the  
14 Council and the Mayor violations that should be  
15 given cure periods or periods of time in which a  
16 small business can correct any existing violation  
17 without incurring a fine.

18 The report would be due 120 days  
19 from the effective date of the legislation. As we  
20 consider this bill it is important to note that it  
21 is only a first step. Once the agencies report  
22 their findings, it will be up to the Council on  
23 the administration to take further action to  
24 change the regulations for which there should be  
25 opportunities to cure. When we finally do we will

1  
2 save businesses time and money and foster a more  
3 productive relationship between small business  
4 owners and city agencies. Proposed intro number  
5 942a creates a mechanism for small businesses to  
6 present their regulatory issues and concerns to  
7 agencies on an ongoing basis. Recognizing that  
8 Chambers of Commerce can play a significant role  
9 in representing their members' interest before the  
10 city, the bill would require specific agencies  
11 responsible for regulating small businesses to  
12 appoint liaisons who report to the city's Chief  
13 Business Operations Officer Tokumbo Shobowale and  
14 be responsible for maintaining open communication  
15 between local chambers of commerce and other  
16 stakeholders.

17 I would like to acknowledge my  
18 colleagues, members of this Committee on Small  
19 Business. We have been joined by Council member  
20 Peter Koo, Council member Ruben Wills, Council  
21 member Andy King, Council member Mathieu Eugene,  
22 and I want to thank our staff to this committee,  
23 counsel Jeffrey Campagna as well as our policy  
24 analyst Faith Corbett and Ralph Hernandez, our  
25 finance analyst. We would also like to thank the

1  
2 speaker who was very supportive in turning this  
3 bill around, these bills around and for her  
4 leadership in the Council and Tokumbo Shobowale,  
5 Chief Business Operations Officer for his  
6 leadership and agreeing with the importance of  
7 these bills in the regulatory reform. I'd like to  
8 ask any members if they have any questions?

9 MALE VOICE: Not at this time.

10 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: And hearing no  
11 questions we would like to call the roll for a  
12 vote.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,  
14 Committee Clerk, roll call for Committee on Small  
15 Business. Introductions 942a and 949a. Council  
16 member Reyna?

17 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: I vote aye and  
18 I wanted to just also thank my staff, Malcolm  
19 Sandborn Hamul has been working hand and hand with  
20 me on this. Thank you.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Can I  
23 explain my vote?

24 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Yes.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Yes. Thank

1  
2 you very much. I just want to thank and commend  
3 our Chair Reyna for this very important bill and I  
4 want to thank and commend my colleagues for  
5 supporting on this bill and I think this is very  
6 important that we have the small business owners  
7 because we know that they are very hard working  
8 people contributing so much to our economy but one  
9 of the difficult thing for them and you know they  
10 have so many challenges because of the rule and  
11 regulations of the city. And I think this is a  
12 very important bill that will demonstrate that we  
13 care about small business and we want to have them  
14 overcome the difficulties and continue to be a  
15 part of our economy. And I vote aye and I want to  
16 add my name to this bill. Thank you.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote yes on  
19 all.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye on all.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: King.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all  
24 and if I may, Madam Chair.

25 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Yes.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I just want  
3 to thank you for putting this and leadership on  
4 this piece of legislation. I think it signifies  
5 as when we come together as elected officials and  
6 we do right by all New Yorkers that we can get  
7 things done and as a district that has many small  
8 businesses who go through many challenges of  
9 navigating the system. I think this is a great  
10 step in moving forward and I would definitely like  
11 to add my name to this piece of legislation.  
12 Thank you and I vote aye on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 5 in  
14 the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no  
15 abstentions. All items have been adopted.  
16 Members please sign the committee reports.

17 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you  
18 Billy. And I just want to mention and thank the  
19 leadership of Leroy Comrie, the author of  
20 legislation proposed intro number 942a. I failed  
21 to mention that. Thank you so much. This meeting  
22 is adjourned.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council member  
24 James.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Yes.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now stands at 6 in the affirmative.

CHAIRPERSON REYNA: This hearing is adjourned.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call. Committee on Small Business. Council member Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye.  
Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote on the Committee on Small Business is now 7 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

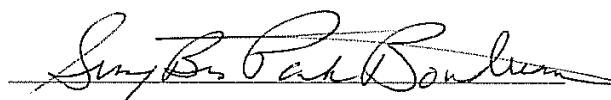
CHAIRPERSON REYNA: I would like to thank Ralph Hernandez our Chief Sargent-at-Arms.  
Thank you very much. This meeting is adjourned.



C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Sung Bin Park 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 handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sung Bin Park", written over a horizontal line.

Date \_\_April 13, 2013