

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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April 24, 2013
Start: 10:23 am
Recess: 10:28 am

HELD AT: 250 Broadway
Committee Room, 14th Fl.

B E F O R E:
JAMES VACCA
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Daniel R. Garodnick
Deborah Rose
Peter Koo
Jessica S. Lappin
James G. Van Bramer
Eric Ulrich
Gale A. Brewer
Ydanis Rodriguez
David Greenfield
Darlene Mealy

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2 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Hello. Is the
3 microphone on? Hello? Okay. Can I have your
4 attention everyone? Good morning. I welcome you
5 to the New York City Council Transportation
6 Committee meeting today. I'd like to introduce
7 the members who are present. To my right, Dan
8 Garodnick; Debi Rose; Peter Koo; myself, James
9 Vacca; Jessica Lappin; Jimmy Van Bramer; Eric
10 Ulrich.

11 And today we are voting on Proposed
12 Intro number 1026-A and 103-A. Both bills will
13 make enforcement better against illegal and
14 dangerous motorized vehicles that are not capable
15 of being registered in New York, such as e-bikes
16 and dirt bikes. I want to thank Council Members
17 Garodnick and Lappin for introducing these bills.

18 As I note in the opening of my
19 first hearing on these bills, it has consistently
20 been a priority of this committee to stand up for
21 the rights and safety of one of our most
22 vulnerable groups of road users--pedestrians.
23 These bills that we're voting on today will do
24 just that.

25 Following the first hearing, we

1
2 made some amendments, which I believe make the
3 bills even better. I want to thank the Council
4 Members for their input and assistance at that
5 first hearing.

6 These dirt bikes are called dirt
7 bikes because they should be in the dirt. They
8 should be upstate New York somewhere where there's
9 a lot of dirt and a lot of places to go ride them.
10 They're not legal in the City of New York. They
11 cause havoc when people ride them. Just recently
12 in my own district, about four weeks ago, we had a
13 major dirt bike accident that killed a senior
14 citizen in Pelham Parkway.

15 And these electric bikes are indeed
16 dangerous. They're dangerous; they're illegal;
17 they're illegal because they're dangerous. They
18 should be off the streets.

19 So with these two bills, I think it
20 puts teeth into legislation that was enacted
21 previously that really had big loopholes in it;
22 and I think that by closing those loopholes, we're
23 going to have a safer New York.

24 So I want to thank everyone. And
25 having the hearing conducted and closed, I now

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2 would like the clerk to call the roll. And the
3 chair recommends a yes vote on both bills, and we
4 will couple the bills for the purpose of today's
5 vote. Clerk, would you please call the roll?

6 WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin,
7 Committee Clerk. Roll call vote Committee on
8 Transportation. Council Member Vacca.

9 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: I vote aye on
10 both. And I welcome Council Member Brewer, who
11 has now arrived.

12 WILLIAM MARTIN: Garodnick.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank
14 you, aye.

15 WILLIAM MARTIN: Lappin.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: May I be
17 excused to explain my vote?

18 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: First of
20 all, I want to thank the chair for moving this
21 package forward, and I want to thank Council
22 Member Garodnick for working with me on this issue
23 for many, many years. And just say that I'm very
24 pleased that we're voting on 103 or 1030-A, which
25 will make it illegal for businesses to possess an

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2 e-bike and prohibits businesses from allowing
3 their employees to use e-bikes. And I vote aye.

4 WILLIAM MARTIN: Koo.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye.

6 WILLIAM MARTIN: Rose.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

8 WILLIAM MARTIN: Van Bramer.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

10 WILLIAM MARTIN: Ulrich.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye,
12 and ask that my name be added as a co-sponsor.

13 Yes.

14 WILLIAM MARTIN: Brewer.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye.

16 I do want to say that in addition to the
17 restaurants which often have these illegal bikes,
18 I do want to indicate that I have some concerns.
19 I have some seniors who have been coming to me
20 with bikes that are bicycles with added batteries,
21 and they want to be able to continue them, so I'm
22 not clear if this particular legislation covers
23 them or not. The trouble with the e-bikes is
24 clear is that they are not following often the
25 rules and regulations and they are not the kind of

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2 bicycle that should be delivering, and there's a
3 complete fear factor as to how they operate.

4 So I do wish that we would reach
5 out more to the restaurants so that there is an
6 understanding and education about what the laws
7 are because I do think that so many of them now
8 exist that it's going to be a challenge for the
9 restaurants and the delivery people to make the
10 change. So I hope that the agencies work with the
11 restaurants, that this does not become again a
12 revenue-enhancing opportunity for the City, but a
13 place where the restaurants can continue to
14 operate, I suppose purchase bicycles, get rid of
15 the e-bikes, and figure out a way of still
16 maintaining their source of income, the delivery
17 people still getting their job done. So I do
18 think there is a lot of pieces to this that must
19 be addressed, but I vote aye on both pieces of
20 legislation.

21 WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of eight
22 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, no
23 abstentions, both items have been adopted.
24 Members, please sign the committee reports. Thank
25 you.

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2 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: There being no
3 further business, this--the committee meeting will
4 be adjourned. I will leave the roll open until 11
5 a.m. for members who wish to vote.

6 [Gavel]

7 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Meeting
8 adjourned.

9 [Pause]

10 WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member
11 Rodriguez.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I will
13 like to [off mic] before, but I also would like to
14 call for all my colleagues to find a way of how we
15 look for helping our small businesses. We believe
16 that we have to be sure that we look for the
17 safety of the pedestrian, but there's no doubt
18 that small business, they need to find a way of
19 how to deliver their food. We should work with
20 them to be sure that any future legislation it can
21 work to regulate and find a way of how we take
22 care of both--the safety of our New Yorkers, but
23 also being able to help our small businesses. And
24 I vote yes.

25 WILLIAM MARTIN: The vote now

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stands at nine in the affirmative.

[Long pause]

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I also
would like to be added to this bill.

[Pause]

WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member
Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Vote now stands at
ten in the affirmative.

[Long pause]

WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member
Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye
on this great legislation, and I commend our--my
colleague Oliver Koppell for putting this forth
and I hope the City can progress with this. And I
vote aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Final vote on the
Committee on Transportation is now 11 in the
affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
abstentions.

[Long pause]

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I'm sorry, I

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2 was commending, not Oliver Koppell, but I love
3 him, but I was commend my colleague Garodnick and
4 Jessica Lappin on this great legislation, looking
5 forward to being on this legislation and seeing
6 this go forward. And I vote aye on all. And this
7 Transportation meeting is now adjourned.

8 [Gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Tammy Wittman, 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 *Tammy Wittman*

Date May 8, 2013