

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS

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May 20, 2013
Start: 1:47 p.m.
Recess: 1:53 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
MATHIEU EUGENE
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Council Member Fernando Cabrera
Council Member Daniel Dromm
Council Member Lewis A. Fidler
Council Member Vincent J. Gentile
Council Member David G. Greenfield

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2 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [gavel] Good
3 afternoon. I'm Council Member Mathieu Eugene,
4 Chair of the Council Committee on Veterans. I'd
5 like to, before I go any further, let me
6 acknowledge my colleagues, Members of the Veterans
7 Committee. We have Council Member Lew Fidler, my
8 rights side, all the way to the right, Council
9 Member Greenfield, Council Member Gentile, Council
10 Member Dromm and Council Member Cabrera. Today,
11 we will be voting on a bill that will
12 automatically expand the number of the City's
13 employees dedicated to providing services to
14 veterans. Intro 480-A, sponsored by Council
15 Member Gentile, will establish a veteran liaison
16 program involving every agency within the City.
17 Each agency head or Commissioner will be required
18 to appoint an employee as a liaison to veterans.
19 The liaisons would be created by the Mayor Office
20 of Veterans Affairs, MOVA, and we'd work with the
21 Office to ensure that every veterans' needs are
22 addressed, no matter if they reach out to MOVA or
23 any agency directly. MOVA's direct contact with a
24 veteran liaison will allow the Office to expedite
25 services to veterans when needed and to alert

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2 agencies to the most urgent needs of the City
3 veterans. Additionally, veterans liaison will
4 work directly with veterans employed by the City
5 agencies to ensure they're aware of all personal
6 policies and benefits that impact veterans. I'm
7 happy to - - Council Member Gentile in this effort
8 to expand the support services for veterans in
9 government. Let me take also the opportunity
10 commend and thank Council Member Gentile for his
11 dedication, his passion to stand for veterans. We
12 are all dedicated, but he's a very strong advocate
13 for veterans. Thank you, Council Member Gentile
14 and congratulation. And I want to thank and
15 commend also all my colleagues who are cosponsors
16 of this very important bill. And I want thank
17 also Ms. Kelly Taylor, the - - thank you very
18 much. Because as you know, we are all working
19 together to make sure that we improve the quality
20 of life and to make sure that the City provide the
21 best services, first of all, to our veterans.
22 Now, I want to turn it over to Council Member
23 Gentile.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Well,
25 thank you, Councilman, and Chairman, for those

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2 kind words. And I would point out, as you did,
3 that there are 23 other colleagues of ours that
4 are on, that are now sponsors, cosponsors of this
5 Intro 480-A, and it's not often that we can do
6 something on this Council that would expand the
7 reach of an agency, and have it cost no money.
8 And this is one way we can do that, this is a cost
9 neutral, zero, effect on the budget. And yet it
10 expand the reach of the Mayor's Office of Veterans
11 Affairs to every agency in the City government.
12 So, by having these liaisons work with MOVA and
13 take information back to their agencies, it
14 significantly enhances what MOVA can do, and at
15 least with City workers. And so I think this is a
16 common sense right thing to do, that's going to
17 cost us nothing. But yet improve the overall
18 operation of MOVA. So, I suggest a yes vote on
19 the bill. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you,
21 also, and I would urge all our colleagues and what
22 I believe that is going to be done, to vote yes.
23 Any other member? No, all right, will you please
24 call the names, please.

25 CLERK: Kevin Pin, Committee Clerk,

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2 roll call on the Committee on Veterans, Intro 480-
3 A. Council Member Eugene.

4 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Aye.

5 CLERK: Fidler.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

7 CLERK: Gentile.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

9 CLERK: Cabrera.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye, and
11 please add me to the bill.

12 CLERK: Dromm.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I vote aye.

14 CLERK: Greenfield.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I vote
16 aye, and I request that I be added as a cosponsor
17 to this worthy piece of legislation.

18 CLERK: By a vote of six in the
19 affirmative, zero in the negative, no abstentions,
20 the item has been adopted. Members, please sign
21 the Committee report.

22 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very
23 much, and thank you to our - - the meeting is
24 adjourned. [gavel]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Mr. - -

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2 just before we leave, I do want to bring our
3 members attention to the flyers I left on the
4 desk. We're having our library rally on Wednesday
5 with a twist, it's going to be a kids' rally. The
6 kids are going to be out there talking about the
7 need for libraries and they're going to ask
8 Council Members some questions and they're going
9 to be there giving their opinions, also. And part
10 of their rally will be to advocate for baseline
11 funding. And the way they're going to do that is
12 that they're going to blow bubbles on the steps of
13 City Hall, and we're going to call it "Bubbles for
14 Baselineing," "Bubbles for Baselineing." So, come
15 out and help us blow some bubbles on Wednesday
16 afternoon, 1:00 o'clock, steps of City Hall.
17 We'll see you there.

18 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very
19 much. You know, I will be there and I'm sure that
20 our colleagues will be there, because the
21 libraries are so important for all of us. Thank
22 you.

23 [background noise, gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JOHN DAVID TONG 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 that reads "John David Tong". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the printed word "Signature".

Date June 6, 2013