

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FIRE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

----- X

December 09, 2013
Start: 12:12 p.m.
Recess: 12:43 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm,
14th Fl.

B E F O R E:

ELIZABETH S. CROWLEY
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MATHIEU EUGENE
VINCENT J. GENTILE
ROSIE MENDEZ
YDANIS A. RODRIGUEZ
PETER F. VALLONE, JR.

2 [sound check]

3 CHAIRPERSON CROWLEY: Okay my name's

4 Elizabeth Crowley. I'm the chair of the Fire and

5 Criminal Justice Committee here at the City

6 Council. Today we'll be voting on three bills. The

7 first Intro 43-A sponsored by Council Member Lew

8 Fidler would require the fire department to include

9 the call processing time in its emergency response

10 time reporting. The call processing time represents

11 the time that an NYPD call taker spends collecting

12 incident information. This bill was first heard by

13 the committee on June 21st, 2013 and at that

14 hearing Deputy Mayor Cas Holloway agreed to include

15 this time in future management reports in order to

16 gain a truly accurate emergency response time. This

17 bill will require all future mayor administrations

18 to, mayoral administrations to include the call

19 processing time and therefore the fire department,

20 the mayor's office, and the council will have more

21 accurate information to ensure that the scarce

22 resources are allocated efficiently. Since the June

23 hearing this bill has been amended to be named

24 after Ariel Russo the four year old girl who was

25 struck and killed by an SUV on the corner of West

2 97th Street and Amsterdam Avenue this past June.

3 The bill was named after Ariel so that we could all
4 remember the importance and significant,

5 significance of fast and accurate emergency

6 response time reporting. The committee will vote on

7 two bills pertaining to Hart Island which is the

8 city's Potter's Field. Intro 803-A will require the

9 Department of Correction to post and maintain a

10 free, searchable, electronic database of all

11 burials on Hart Island since 1977 on the

12 department's website. And Intro 804-A will require

13 department to create a written visitation policy,

14 post the policy on the DOC's website, and make it

15 available to anyone who requests a copy. These

16 bills which I introduce were first heard by the

17 committee on September 27th, 2012. The committee

18 notes that the department has already created a

19 searchable database of burials since 1977 and that

20 it has a, a written visitation policy on its

21 website in the form of a frequently asked questions

22 document. The, the committee also notes that the

23 department has made Hart Island open to the public

24 and that no documentation such as a death

25 certificate is needed in order to schedule a visit.

2 These bills will ensure that future mayoral
3 administrations adhere to these reforms. I
4 recommend a yes vote but before we take a vote I'd
5 like to ask Council Member Lew Fidler to talk about
6 his bill.

7 [pause]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: First I want to
9 turn on the microphone. And second I want to thank
10 Chairwoman Crowley and the committee staff Rob
11 Colanger[phonetic] and Will Hungatch[phonetic] and
12 my counsel Brad Reed for the work on this bill. You
13 know it's often been said that information is
14 power? We have the information. We have the ability
15 to have the information so we'll know what kind of
16 job we're doing and how we can do it better. And
17 when we talk about response time we're talking
18 about life threatening situations and if we can do
19 that better the life that we save could be yours,
20 could be anyone's. And I am very grateful that this
21 bill is moving forward and I want to also note as
22 the Chairwoman mentioned the bill is being named
23 after Ariel Russo who was tragically struck down in
24 June of this year. And there were certainly
25 questions about response time that needed to be

2 answered right after the new 911 system went into
3 effect. It's probably no better time to check out
4 how something is working than when you're trying
5 something new. And there's been a lot of issues, a
6 lot of discussion about what's going on and the
7 efficacy of our 911 system. This will help us
8 determine hopefully a few years to come whether or
9 not it's working properly or we can make it work
10 better. So I urge a yes vote and I thank Chairwoman
11 again and all the members of this committee.

12 CHAIRPERSON CROWLEY: I would like to
13 ask the clerk to call the committee vote.

14 WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin
15 Committee Clerk. Roll call vote in Committee on
16 Fire and Criminal Justice Services. Council Member
17 Crowley.

18 CHAIRPERSON CROWLEY: Aye on all.

19 WILLIAM MARTIN: Vallone.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

21 WILLIAM MARTIN: Gentile.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

23 WILLIAM MARTIN: Mendez.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

25 WILLIAM MARTIN: Rodriguez.

1 COMMITTEE ON FIRE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES 7

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

3 WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of five in
4 the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
5 abstentions items are adopted. Members please sign
6 the committee reports.

7 [pause]

8 CHAIRPERSON CROWLEY: Okay I'd like to
9 have the committee kept open for at least another
10 half an hour or until Council Member Eugene gets
11 here to vote. Thank you.

12 [background comments, pause]

13 WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member Eugene.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

15 WILLIAM MARTIN: Final vote in the
16 Committee on Fire and Criminal Justice Services is
17 now six in the affirmative, zero in the negative,
18 and no abstentions.

19 [background comments, pause]

20 CHAIRPERSON CROWLEY: This concludes the
21 Fire and Criminal Justice hearing of December 9th,
22 2013.

23 [gavel]

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date _____ December 12, 2013_____