

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

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December 17, 2013
Start: 10:55 a.m.
Recess: 11:03 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Hearing Room
16th Floor

B E F O R E: Albert Vann
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Vincent Gentile
G. Oliver Koppell
Melissa Mark-Viverito
Diana Reyna
Donovan Richards

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

CHAIRPERSON VANN: Okay, we have called together our meeting of Community Development, and I'm Council Member and Chairman Al Vann. And to my extreme left, Council Member MV, Melissa Mark-Viverito, Gentile, Council Member Gentile, Council Member Richards, and again, Al Vann. I'd like to take a moment to first commend Mayor Bloomberg for his leadership in responding to the poverty crisis in our city by creating the Center for Economic Opportunity. Since its inception in 2006, I have tracked the Center's efforts. At times I have served as both a critic and supporter. Intro 891A is a good bill that will codify aspects of CEO's efforts, namely, the CEO poverty measure, which has been praised for its comprehensive and detailed method of measuring poverty in New York City. Intro 891A creates a permanent mechanism whereby New York City will consistently assess, make plans, and initiate policies to reduce the poverty rate. The overriding significance of this legislation is that there will now be a legal requirement for the City to one, detail its poverty

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2 reduction efforts and assess the effectiveness
3 of those efforts. Two, provide a data-rich
4 measurement of the City's poverty rate, and
5 three, require the submission of both a short
6 term and long term plan to continue poverty
7 reduction. The law lays the ground work upon
8 which future leaders of our city can begin to
9 develop a blueprint towards reducing poverty.
10 Without effective measures and evaluation of
11 what has worked or not worked, future
12 administrations are doomed to reinvent the
13 wheel and/or adopt ineffective policies. This
14 annual poverty report will make transparent the
15 City's poverty reduction efforts for good or
16 bad, setting the stage for large scale
17 comprehensive programs that can be effective.
18 Council Member Lander, thank you for your
19 leadership in sponsoring this bill, your
20 insight and passion for community development
21 work are exemplified through this legislation.
22 I am pleased to join you in moving this bill
23 which I feel confident will positively impact
24 low-income communities across our city for many
25 years to come. Given this committee's focused

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oversight on poverty related matters over the years, I am very pleased that our final hearing will conclude with a vote on a bill such as this one. Anyone have any comments? Seeing and hearing none--sure, of course.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: First of all, I know that--I believe, Council Member, that this is the last hearing of the session, so I do want to thank you for your outstanding leadership in chairing this committee that has focused on the issue of poverty and it really has been exemplary the work that we've done under your leadership, and obviously, your long trajectory around these issues is always an inspiration. So, knowing that this is the last session and that due to term limits we will not have you in the next session, I want to thank you very much personally because you are a mentor. You are a model, a role model, and your work is one that speaks for itself and will continue to have an imprint in this council. So thank you very much.

[applause]

2 CHAIRPERSON VANN: Thank you for your
3 kind--

4 CLERK MARTIN: William Martin, the
5 Committee Clerk. Roll call vote Committee on
6 Community Development. Council Member Vann?

7 CHAIRPERSON VANN: Aye.

8 CLERK MARTIN: Gentile?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: [off mic] I
10 just want to state-- Professional and a friend
11 and someone that we're going to miss. They miss
12 you in Albany, and now we're going to miss you
13 at City Hall. So I wish you well in the
14 future. Come back say hello and stay involved,
15 and I vote aye. Thank you.

16 CLERK MARTIN: Mark-Viverito?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: I
18 vote aye.

19 CLERK MARTIN: Richards?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Permission
21 to explain my vote? I just want to thank the
22 Chair of Community Development, Al Vann. I just
23 wanted to say that when I grow up I hope to
24 look just like you and to be just like you. But
25 you, it's been great to watch you maneuver over

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2 the years, and I've been here for 10 years, but
3 obviously elected for a few months, but you've
4 always carried yourself with a distinction and
5 dignity and I hope, you know, certainly to keep
6 up with you. So God bless you, and I vote aye.

7 CLERK MARTIN: By a vote of four in
8 the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
9 abstentions, item has been adopted. Members,
10 please sign the Committee Report. Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON VANN: We will keep the
12 rolls--we will keep the rolls open for a few
13 moments for those who are on their way here.
14 I'd like to thank Council Staff. Brother
15 Thomas, you've been an excellent staff person,
16 very professional, very thorough. You guys
17 have to support several committees. I don't
18 know how you do it, but I--whenever I come
19 here, I mean, everything is laid out. You've
20 done an excellent job. Few people realize the
21 work that the staff does behind the scene
22 because the members obviously take all the
23 credit, and we read the words, but imagine what
24 it would be without support of our great staff.
25 Same for Donnie Lebron [phonetic] for my

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2 personal staff, very involved in these issues
3 around poverty, poverty reduction, and we've
4 been able to air and get the discussion going
5 because of your work as well. So I've been
6 blessed to have a very good staff and I thank
7 you for that, and I hope they will continue in
8 the new administration and under the new
9 speaker whoever that may be. Having said that,
10 our meeting is adjourned. Well, we won't
11 adjourn because there are still people coming
12 to vote, so we'll delay for a few moments.
13 Thank you. Enjoy your holiday. [off mic]

14 CLERK MARTIN: Council Member Reyna?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I vote aye.

16 CLERK MARTIN: Vote now stands at
17 five in the affirmative, no negatives, no
18 abstentions.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I just wanted
20 to take a moment to say thank you to our Chair
21 for being a very creative, innovative
22 individual when it comes to social services and
23 making sure that our communities are being paid
24 attention to, where many programs have existed
25 and failed. We wanted to make sure that we

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were able to think outside the box, to address what have been issues that have plagued communities like ours, and so I thank you for that and your leadership and your legacy.

CLERK MARTIN: Final vote, Committee on Community Development on regarding Intro 891A is now five in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no abstentions.

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 there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is no interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date 01/02/2014