

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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January 29, 2014  
Start: 1:24 p.m.  
Recess: 1:42 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm,  
16th Fl.

B E F O R E:  
VANESSA L. GIBSON  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Robert Cornegy  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Rafael Espinal  
Julissa Ferreras  
Vincent Gentile  
Rory Lancman  
Steven Matteo  
Ritchie Torres  
James Vacca  
Jumaane D. Williams

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

Regina Poreda Ryan  
Deputy Director  
Finance Division  
New York City Council

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2 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Good afternoon,  
3 ladies and gentlemen. My name is Councilwoman  
4 Vanessa Gibson and I am proud to be here presiding  
5 over my very first hearing [cheers, applause] as  
6 the chair of the New York City Council's Committee  
7 on Public Safety. I'm incredibly honored that I  
8 represent the 16 District of Bronx County and I  
9 want to welcome each and every one of you and to  
10 all of my colleagues who are here today. Before we  
11 begin, I would like to quickly thank our new  
12 speaker, Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, and all of  
13 my colleagues in the City Council for giving me the  
14 wonderful and distinct opportunity to lead this  
15 very important committee. I am looking forward to  
16 working very closely with all of my colleagues and  
17 the members of this committee and the New York City  
18 Police Department to ensure that our great city  
19 remains the safest big city in America. I'd like  
20 to quickly just introduce all of the members of the  
21 Public Safety Committee so you know who is here.  
22 We have with us Council Member Robert Cornegy of  
23 Brooklyn; Council Member Chaim Deutsch of Brooklyn;  
24 Council Member Rafael Espinal, Jr. of Brooklyn;  
25 Council Member Julissa Ferreras of Queens; Council

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2 Member Vincent Gentile of Brooklyn; Council Member  
3 Rory Lancman of Queens; Council Member Steven  
4 Matteo of Staten Island; Council Member Ritchie  
5 Torres of the Bronx; Council Member James Vacca of  
6 the Bronx and Council Member Jumaane Williams of  
7 Brooklyn. I'd like to thank all of my colleagues  
8 for first being here today and I'm looking forward  
9 to working with each and every one of you.

10 [background voice] And while we do not have Council  
11 Member Williams here right now, he is on his way  
12 and will be here momentarily.

13 Today, we will be hitting the ground  
14 running as we consider whether to recommend that  
15 Intro 859-A should be re-passed by the council  
16 notwithstanding the objections of former Mayor  
17 Michael Bloomberg and whether to recommend that the  
18 Mayor's veto message M-0006-2014 should be filed.  
19 Intro 859-A was passed by the full council on  
20 December 16th, 2013 and vetoed by Mayor Bloomberg  
21 on December 27th, 2013. It is an important piece  
22 of legislation that would provide the council and  
23 the residents of New York City with much needed  
24 information related to crime occurring in our city  
25 parks. Back in 2005, the council passed Local Law

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2 114, which required the New York Police Department  
3 to report crime data for certain city parks. At  
4 enactment, the NYPD was to report data on the 20  
5 largest parks and they were to increase this  
6 reporting on a graduated basis. By now, pursuant  
7 to Local Law 114, the NYPD should be providing the  
8 council with statistics from all city parks one-  
9 acre or more in size. However, at the time of the  
10 law's passage, this committee took into  
11 consideration the fact that there were some hurdles  
12 for the NYPD to overcome to be able to do this and  
13 the language was included in our local law to  
14 reflect this understanding. Unfortunately, it is  
15 now over seven years since the law went into effect  
16 and the NYPD is only providing data for 31 out of  
17 approximately 850 parks that this law accounted  
18 for. After multiple correspondences with the NYPD  
19 either through written letters or testimony before  
20 the committee, it has become clear that the NYPD  
21 was not doing all that it could to inform this body  
22 and the public of this very important data. For  
23 that reason, the council unanimously passed Intro  
24 859-A, which would amend the administrative hold to  
25 remove the language that makes NYPD's compliance

1 subject to the availability of resources and the  
2 introduction of the necessary technology and  
3 provide the NYPD with an adequate amount of time to  
4 properly comply with the legislation. In the past,  
5 the Public Safety Committee has taken the issue of  
6 crime occurring in our city parks very seriously.  
7 Under my leadership, this committee will continue  
8 to do so and the very best way to start by ensuring  
9 that the NYPD provide this very important data to  
10 the council. With that, we will now vote on  
11 whether to recommend that Intro 859-A should be re-  
12 passed by the council notwithstanding the  
13 objections of former Mayor Michael Bloomberg and  
14 whether to recommend that Mayor Bloomberg's veto  
15 message M-0006-2014 should be filed. And let me  
16 also add that in the absence of any representation  
17 from the New York Police Department, we do have  
18 counsel staff here prepared and able to answer any  
19 questions that any committee members may have and I  
20 do want to take a quick chance and acknowledge Alex  
21 and Robert, Carmine, Peggy, Salvador, as well as  
22 our Finance Division staff, Regina and Ellen for  
23 their work, their leadership and certainly helping  
24 me as a new member; as a chair of this committee to  
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2 move this committee forward in the best way  
3 possible and to make sure that this partnership is  
4 going to move New York City in a right direction to  
5 provide the safety that is truly needed and  
6 deserved by every resident that is a New Yorker in  
7 this great city. So I thank you so much for the  
8 honor. Thank you to my colleagues and if anyone  
9 has any questions we will undertake those as we  
10 speak. Council Member Torres.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: [off mic] Thank  
12 you, Madam Chairwoman and I want to congratulate  
13 you. Thank you. And I want to congratulate you on  
14 chairing one of the most important committees in  
15 the council; arguably one of the most important  
16 pieces of legislation that we've passed over the  
17 last five years came from this committee, so I'm  
18 happy to know that it's in capable and talented  
19 hands.

20 CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Thank you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I have a  
22 question about the Fiscal Impact Statement. It  
23 indicates zero expenditures, but according to the  
24 Commissioner, he said that an in-depth cost  
25 analysis had to be done regarding reconfiguring the

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existing infrastructure to accommodate Local Law 114. Can you reconcile those two things for me? is there a fiscal cost that comes with reconfiguring?

REGINA POREDA RYAN: Yeah, my name's Regina Poreda Ryan.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Yeah.

REGINA POREDA RYAN: I'm a Deputy Director. The police department in the past explained that they would undertake an analysis of the work it would... the requirements that this legislation would impose. When we inquired as to whether or not they had done such analysis, we did not get an answer, but our understanding of the process by which the police department would have to go through to comply with the legislation we believe they could do it without any additional resources. Each arrest form is reviewed by a senior officer, so while there's no database necessarily or easy electronic way to track crime that occurs in parks, arrests are recorded and reviewed. If an arrest is made in a park, it should be noted on the arrest forms, so a senior officer in their ordinary course of reviewing



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arrest forms could make a checklist to indicate whether or not a crime occurred in a park. And the police department also suggested that a better way to come up with this information would be to ask precinct commanders, so in effect, precinct commanders have the information. It's just a matter of them passing it along centrally and providing a report, which is not something that the police department's not capable of doing in our estimation.

[Pause]

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I'm sorry. I'll get used to this. Don't worry about it. Because it seems like the NYPD is only providing reporting for 30 out of 870 parks?

REGINA POREDA RYAN: Right.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Something over a nine-year period and then in the last five years there's been no expansion of reporting. so is that just willful non-compliance or is there a technical issue here?

REGINA POREDA RYAN: I don't believe I'm in a position to answer that question.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Okay.

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REGINA POREDA RYAN: But we just looked at the immediate bill on what it would take to begin complying at this...

[crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Okay.

[crosstalk]

REGINA POREDA RYAN: Point.

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Okay.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Can I answer the question?

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Absolutely.  
Council Member Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I say it was non-compliance. I can say that.

REGINA POREDA RYAN: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: That's how I...

REGINA POREDA RYAN: I agree.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: That's it.  
Thank you. [laughter]

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: Colleagues, any other questions upon this before we take a roll call? Okay and now I'll ask the clerk to call the roll call.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,  
Committee Clerk. Roll call vote Committee on  
Public Safety. Council Member Gibson.

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote in the  
affirmative, zero in the negative and no

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abstentions, Items have been adopted. [background voices]

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: And I will... I... and I would just ask the clerk to keep the roll call available for Council Member Williams upon his arrival, and without any further ado, I call this meeting adjourned of the Committee on Public Safety. In recess, in recess. Thank you.

[background voices]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Contrary to popular belief, I am not chairing this hearing [laughter] and I proudly vote aye, and say congratulations to Vanessa Gibson.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote from the Committee on Public Safety is now 11 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions.

CHAIRPERSON GIBSON: The meeting is adjourned.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you very much.

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. 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.



Date: 01/30/2014