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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE
AND LABOR

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May 13, 2014
Start: 10:16 a.m.
End: 10:36 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room
 City Hall

B E F O R E: I. DANEEK MILLER
 Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ELIZABETH S. CROWLEY
DANIEL DROMM
COSTA G. CONSTANTINIDES
ROBERT E. CORNEGY, JR.

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2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Good morning. I am
3 Councilman I. Daneek Miller, and I am Chair of
4 Committee on Civil Service and Labor. And, I would
5 like to thank everyone for coming out this morning.
6 Today, we have a second hearing in voting on the
7 Resolution that Council Member Dromm and I
8 introduced at the most recent stated council
9 meeting. Resolution 189, I would call upon the
10 State of New York to pass legislation, authorizing
11 local governments to establish and enforce higher
12 minimum wages. Today, we vote on whether to send
13 this Resolution to the full Council.

14 We held our first hearing on April 29th.
15 There were advocates, workers and experts, all
16 testifying on the necessity for New York City to
17 have the power to raise its own minimum wage. It
18 is evident that for too long the State's Wage Law
19 acted as a ceiling rather than the floor for hard
20 working New Yorkers in a high cost area. With that
21 in mind, I urge my colleagues today on this
22 Committee, to vote yes, on this Resolution. So,
23 before we take the vote, we have Council Member,
24 Costa... (laugh) don't look at me like that..
25 Constantinides and Daniel Dromm, and the pressure

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2 is on, but I got it right. I nailed it again. So,
3 before we take a vote, we do have a quorum. I
4 would like to hear from the bill's sponsor, Council
5 Member Dromm.

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7 MR. DROMM: Well, thank you very much,
8 Chair Miller. I really appreciate all you have
9 done to work with me very, very closely on this. I
10 feel like we are partners on this bill. And, um,
11 you know, I look forward to moving it forward.
12 And, as you said in your opening statements, being
13 able to determine our own minimum wage is very
14 important to the City. In general, having control
15 over issues in our own city is an important issue
16 to me as well. But, in particular, on this issue,
17 of the minimum wage, we need to raise that minimum
18 wage and, ultimately, that's what I hope will come
19 from this Resolution. It is a clear message to
20 Albany that we want, not only to have the ability
21 to raise our own minimum wage, but to actually
22 raise it. And, so, with that, I also want to say,
23 you know, I am going to vote positively on this,
24 when we call it. Thank you.

25 (pause)

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CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Call for
vote.

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CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk.
(background noise) Excuse me. Roll call vote,
Committee on Civil Service and Labor, Resolution
189.

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Council Member Miller?

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I vote yes.

CLERK: Dromm.

MR. DROMM: Yes.

CLERK: Constantinides?

MR. CONSTANTINIDES: Yes.

CLERK: By a vote of three in the
affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
abstentions, item has been adopted. Members,
please sign the Committee report. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And, just as
a side note, we are going to hold the vote open
for the next thirty minutes for the other members
of the Committee to have an opportunity to vote on
this important legislation.

(recess)

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CLERK: Council Member, Crowley.

MS. CROWLEY: I vote, aye.

CLERK: Current vote now stands at four in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no abstentions.

(background noise/talking)

CLERK: Council Member, Cornegy.

MR. CORNEGY: I vote, aye.

CLERK: Final vote on Committee on Civil Service and Labor, Resolution 189, is now five in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no abstentions.

(unidentified speaker): And, this hearing is adjourned.

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 05/19/2014