

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

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June 26, 2014

Start: 9:30 a.m.

Recess: 9:48 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E:

CARLOS MENCHACA
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mathieu Eugene
Daniel Dromm
Peter A. Koo
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.

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

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2 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Buenos dias
3 everyone. Good morning. We're about to start this
4 hearing, so I remind everyone to turn off your phones
5 or put them on silent mode.

6 MALE VOICE: Committee on Immigration,
7 June 26, 2014, the meeting is recorded by James
8 Preston.

9 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: [background
10 comments] So I'm Carlos Menchaca, Chair of the New
11 York City Council's Committee on Immigration. This
12 morning the Committee will vote on proposed
13 Introductory Bill No. 253-A, a Local Law to amend the
14 administrative code of the city of New York in
15 relation to the creation of a New York City identity
16 card program. I am proud to have co-sponsored this
17 bill with my colleague and form chair of the
18 Immigration Committee, Council Member Daniel Dromm.

19 The creation of a New York City identity
20 card, or NYC ID, is not only important to me, but to
21 many of the people living in my district; to my
22 colleagues as well, like Speaker Melissa Mark-
23 Viverito and our Mayor, Bill de Blasio.

24 I'm happy that this initiative has wide
25 support from both City Hall and at City Council. The

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2 Committee on Immigration received testimony in
3 support of the bill from the Commissioner of the
4 Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, the Director of
5 the Mayor's Office of Operations, advocates,
6 immigration practitioners, and affected individuals.

7 Throughout the hearing we kept hearing
8 the same sentiment; that the creation of a municipal
9 ID card would greatly benefit various New York City
10 communities, including disconnected youth, seniors,
11 unbanked immigrants, transgender, homeless, and the
12 recently incarcerated. Then there are people like me
13 who bike everywhere and don't have a driver's license
14 that could benefit from a municipal ID card. I look
15 forward to being one of the first people to apply for
16 and use NYC ID card and really what this says and the
17 message for today is that this is a card for all.

18 Now for the record I would like to walk
19 through the details of proposed Introductory Bill
20 253-A.

21 Under the bill, the New York City
22 identity card program would be administered by an
23 agency designated by the Mayor. The NYC ID would be
24 available to any resident of New York City who can
25 establish identity and residency. Applicants will

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2 prove identity by providing a range of documents,
3 including a U.S. or foreign passport, military ID,
4 visa, etc. These documents will be weighted by the
5 administering agency and an applicant may be required
6 to provide more than one document to establish his or
7 her identity. Applicants would prove residency by
8 providing documents that show both their name and
9 address located within the City. These documents can
10 be utility bills, a lease, a bank account statement,
11 proof that a child is enrolled in a City school, or
12 an employment pay stub. These documents will be
13 weighted by the administering agency and an
14 applicant may be required to provide more than one
15 document to establish their identity. It is also
16 important to note that the administering agency will
17 be required to create alternative methods by which
18 homeless individuals can establish residency in the
19 City, even though they may not have a fixed address.

20 Each NYC ID card will include, at a
21 minimum, the cardholder's photograph, name, date of
22 birth, self-designated gender, address and an
23 expiration date. The bill also requires that the
24 card be designed in a manner to deter fraud. Under
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2 the bill, applications will be made available for
3 pickup and drop-off at sites throughout the City.

4 The bill requires that there would be at
5 least one site in each borough; additionally,
6 applications are to be made available online. The
7 bill requires the administering agency to establish a
8 reasonable fee for card applicants and come up with
9 rules for those who cannot afford the fee to receive
10 a full or partial waiver. The bill establishes
11 confidentiality guidelines and protections for
12 applicants and recipients of the NYC ID. The City
13 will seek to expand the benefits associated with the
14 NYC ID by promoting the acceptance of the card by
15 banks and other public and private institutions, like
16 cultural institutions, libraries and the list
17 continues to grow as ideas continue to come.

18 The proposed Introduction 253-A requires
19 the administering agency to submit quarterly reports
20 to the Mayor and to the Speaker of the City Council
21 beginning March 31st, 2015 regarding various metrics
22 pertaining to the New York City identity card
23 program.

24 As you can all see, there was a lot of
25 thought put into this bill to encourage widespread

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2 use and acceptance of the card, as well as
3 protections for cardholders. I would like to thank
4 my colleagues who are here with me today and I
5 encourage everyone to vote yes to the proposed
6 Introductory Bill 253-A. With that, I would like
7 give Council Member Daniel Dromm, the prime sponsor
8 of the bill, an opportunity to speak and before he
9 does that, I wanna sincerely thank him, our
10 incredible staff here, both on our individual
11 district staff, but also Jolene [sp?] and Jennifer,
12 who have been... and Rob and so many people at the
13 Speaker's office who have been spending hours and
14 hours in conversation and negotiation. This bill
15 came out of a session for the first time in this
16 progressive City Council that allowed members to be
17 driving the negotiations and the construction of this
18 bill and I so am proud to be standing next to, or
19 sitting next to our Council Member, Danny Dromm.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very
21 much, Mr. Chair and I too want to echo your
22 sentiments on behalf of the work that everybody did
23 to make this a possibility and to thank you for your
24 persistent, strong efforts to see this through to the
25 very end; without you, this could not have been done

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2 and I am very proud to have worked with you so
3 closely on this; it's really been a pleasure.

4 And to also say that this has been
5 something that I've been dreaming about since I was
6 Chair of this committee and it's almost five years of
7 work that we've put into this to see this day happen
8 and my legal counsel was Julie Bedford, my policy
9 analyst was Jennifer Montalvo [sp?] as well and I
10 wanna thank them for the work that they've done, I
11 know you were up many late nights working on this as
12 well. I also wanna thank my counsel, Sebastian
13 McGuire, for his wonderful negotiating strategies and
14 for all the work that he did; I am so happy and so
15 pleased to have an attorney like him, an immigration
16 attorney working on these issues. And also to thank
17 the Speaker and the Mayor, because I think you're
18 right, the climate in this city has changed, the fact
19 that we have elected progressive people to office has
20 made this day a reality. So I also wanna thank Rob
21 Newman for the work that he did and for his
22 negotiating skills with the administration as well;
23 very impressed with that. It was just an overall
24 dedicated effort on behalf of everybody here in the
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2 Council and even on the Mayor's side as well to make
3 sure that we got this.

4 So the New York City ID for all, and I'm
5 calling it an ID for all, will in many ways make the
6 lives of all New Yorkers easier, from the homeless
7 family in Sunset Park to the transgender youth in
8 Jackson Heights. Most notably, this program
9 reaffirms the Council's commitment to helping
10 immigrant New Yorkers integrate into the life of our
11 city. Having a widely accepted ID card will only
12 strengthen relations between our immigrant
13 communities and schools, police and other City
14 agencies. Beyond the access to City services, this
15 card will facilitate the exciting possibilities for
16 additional benefits to be added. The program
17 outlined in the legislation raised the foundation for
18 such growth. Together with the Mayor's stated
19 commitment to dedicating resources to its success,
20 the New York City ID for all is poised to become the
21 must-have accessory for all New Yorkers.

22 I look forward to lining up with my
23 colleagues here to apply for an ID once the program
24 is launched. Thank you very much and this is a very
25 proud and historic day for New York City. Thank you.

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2 CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: Thank you so much
3 Council Member Dromm. And I just wanna echo the work
4 that both our staffs did for this work and I wanna
5 mention by name Miss Lee Wellington, my counsel and
6 chief of staff, who had been working on this as well.
7 The level of I think work that came from our... just
8 our offices as well was I think an incredible
9 component to this whole thing and both Sebastian and
10 Lee have I think just shown us the level of work that
11 needs to be happening at the member level and so I'm
12 just really proud to have you on the team. Ivan
13 Luevanos might not be here in the room... yes he is..
14 but he is another one out of the Speaker's staff who
15 I think added so much value to this conversation.
16 The work that needed to happen was not just in the
17 legal work, but also in the outreach and the outreach
18 was... the entire outreach department, community
19 engagement was such an important part. And so thank
20 you so much to all of the rest of the Speaker's
21 staff.

22 So now we're gonna do roll call.

23 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: We're gonna start the
24 vote of proposed Introductory Bill No. 253-A.
25 Council Member Carlos Menchaca.

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COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

CHAIRPERSON MENCHACA: **00:10:40**

[Spanish], I vote yes.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member Daniel Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Before I vote I wanna say thank you very much Chair Menchaca and former Chair Danny Dromm for pushing this bill through the City Council. This is a really important bill; being an immigrant myself, I understand the difficulty for all of the immigrants without ID, you know they have a hard time to go to the library or to pick up the kids, to allow them things we can do. So I wanna congratulate the Chairman and the former Chair for doing a wonderful job for the immigrant community and for that I vote aye.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member Espinal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Before I vote I just wanted to say congratulations guys, you know, this is a battle I think we've been fighting for many years, I've been following this for a long time, Danny Dromm, so congratulate you and all your hard

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2 work and Carlos, good job in taking the lead and
3 making sure this passes through our Committee and I
4 vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: By a vote of 4 in the
6 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
7 this vote passes. We will leave the record open for
8 30 minutes for remaining members of the Committee.

9 [background comments]

10 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member
11 Eugene.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

13 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: By a vote of 5 in the
14 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
15 this vote passes. [background comment] This hearing
16 is now adjourned.

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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 June 27, 2014