

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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February 25, 2015
Start: 1:22 p.m.
Recess: 1:44 p.m.

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

B E F O R E:
MARK LEVINE
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Darlene Mealy
Fernando Cabrera
James G. Van Bramer
Andrew Cohen
Alan N. Maisel
Mark Treyger

[background comments]

CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Okay. [gavel]

We're gonna get started, everybody. Good afternoon.

My name is Mark Levine, Chair of the City Council
Committee on Parks and Recreation.

Today the Parks Committee will vote on
proposed Int. No. 0074-A, a Local Law to amend the
Administrative Code of the City of New York in
relation to the removal of trees downed or damaged as
a result of a severe weather event.

This bill, sponsored by Council Member
Andy King [cheer] would establish a protocol to help
both agencies and utility corporations quickly remove
trees that have been downed, damaged or entangled
with electrical cables after a severe storm.

The protocol would include coordination
between City agencies, once the status of a downed
tree is ascertained, the assignment of a unique
tracking number to each downed tree, a method for
alerting an electric utility corporation after the
removal of a downed tree and a system for the co-
deployment of City personnel and local electric
corporation personnel to assess and remove downed
trees that have fallen on electric wires.

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2 The bill would also require that DPR
3 publish information on its website instructing city
4 residents how to notify the City of downed or damaged
5 trees or wires after a severe weather event.

6 Finally, it would require that a
7 description of the protocol be sent to the Mayor and
8 the Speaker and be posted on DPR's website.

9 I believe this bill will help alleviate
10 some of the chaos that has emerged after large storms
11 by ensuring a quick coordinated response to removing
12 downed trees. This intern will result in a faster
13 and safer storm recovery by allowing roads to be
14 cleared, safety hazards to be mitigated and
15 electrical power to be restored in a timely manner.

16 I will be voting to support this
17 legislation and I urge all my fellow members of the
18 Committee to vote aye as well. Thank you.

19 And now I would like to invite our
20 colleague, Andy King, the sponsor of this legislation
21 to offer some remarks.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: First I wanna thank
23 you, Mr. Chair, for helping me organize and move this
24 piece of legislation forward to the whole committee;
25 I am inspired, 'cause I know at the end of the day

1
2 everyone will be voting yes so we can get this on a
3 vote for tomorrow's Stated.

4 Of course, the motivation of this has
5 been the challenges that we've had over a number of
6 years in the city when we've had severe weather
7 events and even though we may not have had that
8 conversation wholly publicly, but we know in our
9 communities that we've had challenges going around
10 and trees were always down and I think what has
11 really happened, when Sandy hit, it really brought it
12 out even more that we really do not have a
13 coordinated effort when it comes to how do we deal
14 with trees. I know I was dealing with going out with
15 Parks Department or Sanitation to remove a tree and
16 then all of a sudden find out that it was sitting on
17 top of a power line, so they said, we're not gonna
18 touch that because there's a power line under it;
19 then we'll call ConEd and ConEd says, well you know,
20 we can't touch this power line because there's a tree
21 on it and then they will get there at two different
22 times and the community still will be without
23 electricity for two weeks. So I think this bill
24 makes sense, as we are able to coordinate and
25 organize all those individuals that are responsible

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2 for keeping our communities safe in times of a severe
3 weather event and I'm really grateful that we're able
4 to get this legislation voted on the Committee today
5 and I'm thankful to each and every one of you. Thank
6 you again.

7 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Thank you very much.
8 Okay, I'd like to ask our Clerk, Billy Martin, to
9 please proceed with the roll call vote.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
11 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Parks
12 and Recreation, Int. 0074-A. Chair Levine.

13 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: I vote aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: May I explain my
16 vote? Chair? Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Oh... I mean of
18 course, by all means.

19 [background comments]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I just wanna thank
21 my colleague for this great legislation, 'cause it is
22 true, protocol needs to be in place with downed trees
23 at any time, just a rainstorm or a thunderstorm. So
24 I wanna just let Chair know, please put me on this
25 legislation and I vote aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER:

4 Congratulations to Council Member King. I would like
5 to have my name added to this legislation as well and
6 I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: My name is already
9 on this legislation and... [laughter] and I vote aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the
11 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
12 the item has been adopted.

13 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: We'll hold the vote
14 open for another 15 minutes in case we have some
15 stragglers arriving. [laugh] So I won't gavel out
16 now, but thank you all very much. Congratulations.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you, thank
18 you... [crosstalk]

19 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Alright.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: thank you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER:

22 Congratulation.

23 [background comment]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Appreciate it.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Good job.

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2 [background comments]

3 [pause]

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Treyger.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I vote aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vote now currently
7 stands with 5 in the affirmative.

8 [pause]

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation of roll
10 call, Committee on Parks and Recreation, Int. 0074-A.
11 Council Member Maisel.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote on the
14 Committee on Parks and Recreation is now 6 in the
15 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

16 FEMALE VOICE: This hearing's now
17 adjourned.

18 [gavel]

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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 March 10, 2015