

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

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April 27, 2015  
Start: 12:52 p.m.  
Recess: 12:59 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Room  
14th Floor

B E F O R E: JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Rosie Mendez  
Ydanis A. Rodriguez  
Karen Koslowitz  
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.  
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.  
Mark Levine  
Antonio Reynoso  
Helen K. Rosenthal  
Ritchie J. Torres  
Eric A. Ulrich

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

2 [background comments, sound check, pause]

3 [gavel]

4 FEMALE SPEAKER: Are we good?

5 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Good afternoon,  
6 everyone and thank you for coming. I'm Jumaane  
7 Williams, the Council--the Chair of the Committee on  
8 Housing and Buildings. We've been joined by Council  
9 Member Reynoso, Espinal, Ulrich, Koslowitz, also  
10 Levine, Rosenthal, Ferreras and Rodriguez was here.  
11 Today, we'll be voting on Intro 181-A. This bill  
12 will require that when the Department of Buildings  
13 receives an application either for the new  
14 construction of or for the converse--conversion of a  
15 building to a transit hotel, the DOB must provide  
16 written notice to the borough president, the  
17 Councilman of the district where the construction is  
18 located, as well as the relevant community board. If  
19 the construction will straddle two or more districts,  
20 the borough board must also be notified.

21 I believe this bill will inform and  
22 empower the community as well as local elected  
23 officials about the changes occurring in their  
24 community, and ask that my colleagues support this  
25 bill. It happens to be a bill that I sponsored.

2 This is exciting to me. I think this is where  
3 personal experience can help inform the rest of the  
4 city. This came after my community successfully  
5 fought back to what I believe would have been a hot,  
6 cheap motel in my district. And we found out very,  
7 very late and realized that they had no legal right  
8 to have to inform the community. And so, hopefully  
9 this bill will help in my members in my district, but  
10 other communities that are dealing with things  
11 similarly.

12 I would like to thank my staff for the  
13 work they did to assemble this hearing including Nick  
14 Smith my Deputy Chief of Staff; Jim Wilcox and  
15 Shydrode--Shy--I was good before--Shydude Khadree--  
16 sorry--Counsel to the Committee. Guillermo Patino  
17 and Jose Conde, Policy Analysts to the Committee and  
18 Sarah Gastelum, the Committee's Finance Analyst. With  
19 that, I ask all my fellow colleagues to vote aye on  
20 181.

21 CLERK: Kevin Penn, Committee Clerk.  
22 Roll call in the Committee on Housing and buildings.  
23 Intro 181-A. Council Member Williams.

24 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Aye.

25 CLERK: Rodriguez.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

3 CLERK: Koslowitz.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

5 CLERK: Espinal.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

7 CLERK: Levine.

8 [background comments]

9 CLERK: Reynoso.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

11 CLERK: Rosenthal.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

13 CLERK: Levine.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

15 CLERK: Ulrich.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye, and I

17 ask that my name be added as a co-sponsor to the

18 bill.

19 CLERK: By a vote of 8 in the

20 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,

21 the item has been adopted.

22 [background comments]

23 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Thank you to my

24 colleagues. Unfortunately, we may also have a

25 hearing tomorrow on another bill. This was actually-

1 COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS 6

2 -we thought we were going to be doing two bills. One  
3 of them was pulled because they're still working on  
4 it. So colleagues, please pay attention. We have to  
5 have another committee hearing to vote another bill  
6 out. And we'll hold the roll open for about 10  
7 minutes to see who, if anyone else, is coming. Thank  
8 you.

9 CLERK: Cornegy.

10 [background comments, pause]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I abstain.

12 CLERK: The vote stands at 8 in the  
13 affirmative, 0 in the negative and 1 abstention.

14 [pause]

15 [background comments]

16 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Quiet please.

17 Quiet please.

18 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Quiet down.

19 [gavel]

20 CLERK: Torres.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote aye.

22 CLERK: The vote stands at 9 in the  
23 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and 1 abstention.

24 [pause]

25

2 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Cornegy, if he  
3 wants to review his vote.

4 CLERK: Cornegy.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Upon further  
6 understanding, I would like to change my vote,  
7 please.

8 CLERK: Uh-huh.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I vote aye.

10 CLERK: The vote stands at 10 in the  
11 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

12 [background comments]

13 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Thanks again.  
14 This vote is now closed.

15 [gavel]

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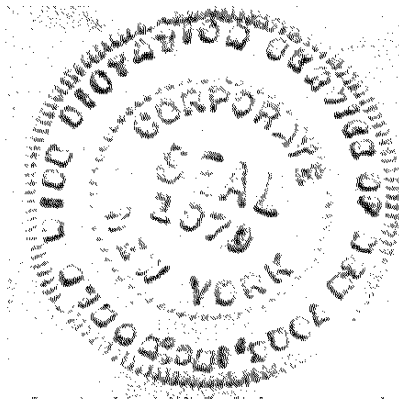
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COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS



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 May 5, 2015