

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

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June 9, 2015

Start: 1:16 p.m.

Recess: 1:27 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Room
16th Floor

B E F O R E:

BEN KALLOS
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

David G. Greenfield
Mark Levine
Ritchie J. Torres
Steven Matteo

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

2 [sound check, pause]

3 [background comments]

4 [gavel]

5 CHAIRPERSON KALLOS: Good afternoon.

6 Thank you for joining us for this hearing of the
7 Committee on Governmental Operations. I'm Ben
8 Kallos, Chair of the Committee. You can Tweet me at
9 Ben Kallos. Today, I am joined by Council Member
10 Matteo, Council Member Greenfield, who both served on
11 the committee, as well as Council Member Mark Levine,
12 as well as bill sponsor, Robert Cornegy, hopefully as
13 well, Council Member Helen Rosenthal. Those are the
14 two bills we'll be voting on today, which will
15 improve the regulatory climate for small businesses.
16 The bills aim to increase educational opportunities
17 for business owners to learn about the city's
18 regulatory system while also protecting consumers and
19 enhancing customer service provided by agencies to
20 business owners particularly by agency inspectors.

21 First, we will vote on Introduction 456-A
22 sponsored by Council Member Rosenthal. This bill
23 will require the Office of Administrative Trials and
24 Hearings, OATH, to conduct an annual assessment of
25 OATH tribunal dismissals. Next, we will vote on

2 Introduction 725-A sponsored by Council Member Robert
3 Cornegy. This bill will positively impact agency
4 services by expanding the existing practice of
5 allowing business owners to fill out a survey about
6 their experience when they have been inspected by
7 city agencies.

8 I'd like to thank my staff for their work
9 they did to assemble this hearing including Paul
10 Westrick [sp?], my Legislative Direct and Shijuade
11 Kadree, Counsel to the committee, Laurie Wenn, Policy
12 Analyst to the committee, and John Russell, Finance
13 Analyst for the committee, as well as David Seitzer
14 our former counsel to the committee who couldn't help
15 but coming back. [coughs] With that said, I'd like
16 to invite Council Member Cornegy to open with a few
17 words on Introduction 725-A.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you, Chair
19 Kallos. Thank you for allowing me to speak briefly
20 to Intros 456-A and 725-A being voted on here today.
21 These bills were a part of a package initially
22 considered at a joint hearing of the Committee on
23 Small Business, Consumer Affairs and Gov Ops in
24 April. And, I think they both moved the city in a
25 positive direction with respect to how we deal with

2 small businesses. I sponsored 725-A to ensure that
3 the city does not--does the outreach needed to get
4 business owner feedback on the inspections they
5 undergo. We've taken previously such a---such as
6 creating a business owner's bill of rights and
7 implementing customer service training for inspectors
8 to have achieved the goal of reforming our business
9 inspection system to be supportive rather than
10 punitive. But, unless we hear from business owners
11 who are going through inspection after those reforms,
12 we really can't know if those changes were effective.
13 We don't know it at all. We have to ask, and ask in
14 a way that shows we're truly interested in the
15 answers. This bill would give business owners the
16 power to shape how our inspection regime evolves in
17 the future. I'm proud to sponsor it and urge the
18 members of the committee to vote on it.

19 I'd also like to add myself as a co-
20 sponsor of Intro 456-A. I believe that OATH does a
21 great job of officially adjudicating the summonses
22 business owners receive, and look forward to that
23 agency taking on more of this work in the coming
24 months. Council Member Rosenthal's bill will ensure
25 that the agencies and the Council are focused on the

2 ultimate disposition of business summonses so that we
3 can advocate for policy change as needed. As we're
4 able to act on this information, fewer business
5 owners will waste time and lose money defending
6 summonses that--that do not stick. I also urge my
7 colleagues on the committee to vote in favor of this
8 bill. Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON KALLOS: Thank you very much.
10 I'd now like to call upon the committee Clerk to call
11 the roll.

12 CLERK: [off mic] Do you want it as one
13 vote. How do you want it. [sic]

14 CHAIRPERSON KALLOS: Please couple the
15 items as one vote.

16 [pause]

17 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk.
18 Roll call vote Committee on Governmental Operations.
19 Chair Kallos.

20 CHAIRPERSON KALLOS: Aye on both.

21 CLERK: Greenfield.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [off mic]

23 Aye.

24 CLERK: Levine.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: [off mic] Aye.

2 CLERK: By a vote of 3 in the
3 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
4 the items have been adopted.

5 CHAIRPERSON KALLOS: We will hold the
6 vote open as well as the committee hearing open in
7 case another member would like to make opening
8 statements for at least another 15 minutes.

9 [pause]

10 CLERK: Council Member Matteo.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Yes.

12 CLERK: The vote now stands at 4 in the
13 affirmative.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: [off mic] Thank
15 you.

16 [pause]

17 CLERK: Council Member Torres.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: [off mic] I vote
19 aye. [on mic] I vote aye.

20 CLERK: The final vote in Committee on
21 Governmental Operations is now 5 in the affirmative,
22 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

23 CHAIRPERSON KALLOS: I hereby adjourn the
24 shortest meeting of the Governmental Operations
25 Committee since I started chairing it.

1 COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

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2 [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 June 11, 2015