

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS

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JUNE 26, 2015
Start: 11:14 a.m.
Recess: 11:20 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E:
ERICH A. ULRICH
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Fernando Cabrera
Andrew Cohen
Alan N. Maisel
Paul A. Vallone.

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

2 [sound check, pause]

3 CHAIRPERSON ULRICH: That will get them
4 up faster. That's fine.

5 [background comments]

6 CHAIRPERSON ULRICH: Thank you. All
7 right. Thank you. [gavel] Good morning. I am
8 Council Member Eric Ulrich, Chair of the Veterans
9 Committee. Today we are voting on Proposed
10 Resolution 747-A, which I have co-sponsored along
11 with my good friend and colleagues and a member of
12 this Committee Council Member Andy Cohen of the
13 Bronx. This resolution would declare this and every
14 June to be PTSD Awareness Month in the City of New
15 York. As the committee just heard last week from
16 Commissioner Sutton and other witnesses, veterans
17 groups, service providers and advocates on the front
18 lines of veteran mental health care Post-Traumatic
19 Stress Disorder can have deep and at times
20 debilitating effects on service members returning
21 home from military service not to mention their
22 family members. Thousands of veterans in New York
23 City of all services struggle with PTSD each and
24 every day. Aside from the significant impacts this
25 can have on an individual's health and relationships

2 they have with their friends and family, the stigma
3 surrounding PTSD can affect their financial and
4 professional circumstances as well. We heard how
5 important outreach and support are to letting our
6 veterans know that they are not alone in making the
7 readjustment back to civilian life. Our city must be
8 well informed about PTSD to be able to help veterans
9 recognize symptoms, seek and obtain care and overcome
10 the societal stigma that too often creates barriers
11 when we should be creating opportunities and
12 providing the help that they need. Officially
13 recognizing June as PTS Awareness Month will be an
14 important first step in increasing the public's
15 awareness around PSD--PST--PTSD, thank you, and
16 helping New York City's veterans get the support and
17 care that they need. I'm urging my colleagues to
18 vote in favor of this resolution. I want to thank
19 Council Member Cohen for his advocacy on behalf of
20 mental health issues in New York City, but
21 particularly around helping veterans who suffer from
22 PTSD. I'm going to ask him to say a few words, but
23 before I turn the mic over to him, I want to thank
24 our committee staff, Eric Bernstein, Committee
25 Counsel, Kevin Ryan our Policy Analyst, whose last

2 day is today. I don't know where Kevin is. He was
3 here, but it was Kevin's last day working for the
4 Council, and we wish him nothing but the best. And,
5 of course, John Russell, our Financial Analyst. And
6 before I ask the Clerk to call the roll, I'll ask
7 Council Member Cohen to say a few words, please.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Thank you, Chair.
9 I just really want to thank you for your leadership
10 on this, and the opportunity to work together to get
11 this done. I think that's a very--on a day that's
12 going to be a very good day, this is a cherry on top.
13 So I'm very pleased and I want to go officially on
14 the record as saying I had nothing to do with why we
15 didn't vote on this the other day. [laughter]

16 CHAIRPERSON ULRICH: Thank you Council
17 Member Cohen. We've been joined by the members of
18 the committee. I want the Clerk to record their
19 presence as well as their votes, Council Member
20 Cabrera, who is also a Mental Health expert. It's
21 the right word? And spiritual, and spiritual that's
22 right, and we could use more of that. Council Member
23 Cohen, of course, and Council Member Paul Vallone,
24 myself and Council Member Maisel was here. I'm
25 assuming he's coming back here any moment. We'll

2 leave the roll open. They're calling him. Okay,
3 we're going to leave the roll open until he gets
4 back. So I'll asked our esteemed friend Billy
5 Martin, not the baseball player but the Council
6 staffer to call the roll.

7 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk.

8 Roll call vote Committee on Veterans, Resolution 747-
9 A, Chair Ulrich.

10 CHAIRPERSON ULRICH: I vote aye.

11 CLERK: Cabrera.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

13 CLERK: Cohen.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

15 CLERK: Vallone.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

17 CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the affirmative
18 0 in the negative, and no abstention the item has
19 been adopted.

20 CHAIRPERSON ULRICH: Okay. I will leave
21 the roll open until 11:30 for Council Member Maisel
22 to record his vote.

23 [pause]

24 CHAIRPERSON ULRICH: Council Member
25 Maisel, how do you vote?

1 COMMITTEE ON VETERANS

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: [off mic] I have
3 to say I'm in favor, right? [sic]

4 CLERK: Hit the mic real quick.

5 CHAIRPERSON ULRICH: Hit the mic.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: I have to say I'm
7 in favor, right? I'm in favor.

8 CLERK: Final vote Committee on Veterans
9 is now 5 in the affirmative 0 in the negative and no
10 abstentions.

11 [pause]

12 CHAIRPERSON ULRICH: The Committee is
13 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 July 3, 2013