

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY

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July 20, 2015
Start: 12:12 p.m.
Recess: 12:51 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Room
14th Floor

B E F O R E:
MARK TREYGER
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Rosie Mendez
Margaret S. Chin
Donovan J. Richards
Carlos Menchaca
Eric A. Ulrich
Steven Matteo

2 [sound check, pause]

3 [gavel]

4 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Good morning. I am
5 Councilman Mark Treyger, Chair of the Committee on
6 Recovery and Resiliency. We are convened today for a
7 second hearing and vote on Proposed Introduction 425-
8 A. This bill, of which I am the prime sponsor has
9 received the support of a super majority of council
10 members. But it is also a product of the stories and
11 advocacy of many members of this committee as well as
12 many members of the public that we've heard from over
13 the last couple years.

14 During Hurricane Sandy, when there was an
15 emergency situation, we were told to call 9-1-1.
16 Others of us, were worried about loved ones so we
17 tried to use our cell phones or our land lines.
18 Still, others just wanted basic information on storm
19 recovery. Yet, when the power went out and when
20 fallen trees and corrosive saltwater damaged wires,
21 our telecommunications went out, too. We saw then
22 how vital a resilient telecommunications
23 infrastructure is, and that lesson has not been
24 forgotten. With this bill, we will ensure that as
25 the climate changes, we will also have the

2 information needed on how best to adapt or
3 telecommunications infrastructure. And might I add
4 that this Council has acted with regards to the
5 distribution of food post-Sandy, and has also acted
6 on the distribution of fuel. So we're now addressing
7 a third critical areas, the issue of communications.

8 Introduction 425-A will require the New
9 York City Climate Change Adaptation Task Force to
10 evaluate the potential impact of climate change on
11 the city's telecommunications infrastructure. To
12 assist the task force in doing so, the Department of
13 Information Technology and Telecommunications and
14 representatives from the telecommunications industry
15 will be included as members of the task force.
16 Further, outreach will be conducted to
17 telecommunication service providers, including all
18 those with a franchise agreement with the city to
19 request their cooperation in obtaining needed
20 information. Might I add if there are
21 telecommunication companies that are using public
22 infrastructure and have franchise agreements with the
23 City of New York, they have an obligation to make
24 sure that they brief this Council and brief our city
25 on what steps they're taking to protect their

2 communication infrastructure so we can reach our
3 loved ones, or families and friends during critical
4 emergencies. This is of the utmost importance.
5 Finally, the task force's report will now be required
6 to include a short and long-term recommendation for
7 improving the resiliency of existing public and
8 private telecommunications infrastructure, which
9 amounts to a resiliency communications plan.

10 I want to thank my fellow committee
11 members for their support for this committee on this
12 legislation. I'd like to also thank our great staff
13 beginning with Committee Counsel Brad Reed, Laura
14 Popa, Matt Gewolb, Jeff Baker, Ed Atkin, and Bill
15 Murray our Policy Analyst, our Financial Analyst
16 Jonathan Seltzer and Ethan, my Legislation Director
17 for all of their efforts to advance this bill. I'd
18 like to just recognize members that are in
19 attendance, as well. We have Council Member Margaret
20 Chin, Council Member Donovan Richards, Council Member
21 Steve Matteo and Council Member Rosie Mendez, and I
22 will now ask the clerk to call the roll.

23 CLERK: Kevin Penn, Committee Clerk. Roll
24 call on the Committee on Recovery and Resiliency,
25 Intro 425-A. Council Member Treyger.

2 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: I vote aye.

3 CLERK: Mendez.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

5 CLERK: Chin.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

7 CLERK: Richards.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I vote aye, and
9 for all those Rockaway residents who were without
10 phone lines for a year after Sandy, really, this is a
11 huge bill, and we're going in the right direction.
12 So thank you, Chairman. I vote aye. Thank you.

13 CLERK: Matteo.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Yes.

15 CLERK: By a vote of 5 in the
16 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
17 the item has been adopted.

18 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: Thank you and I
19 guess we'll keep the--the vote open for another 15 or
20 20 minutes or so as some members are still coming in,
21 but I want to thank my colleagues. This is again--
22 this committee is represented by--by members who
23 represent districts that were heavily impacted by the
24 storm. So we speak on a personal level, and I thank
25 all of my colleagues for their great work. Now,

2 years after the storm still recovering, still
3 planning, but this is I think a very important step
4 moving forward because certainly as we have to make
5 sure that we distribute food, emergency supplies,
6 fuel, communications is also critical. And I think
7 that now we're setting the groundwork to have a plan,
8 and to have more transparency and cooperation from
9 the telecommunications industry. I might add that
10 after our hearing on the bill, some months back--
11 after our hearing, Time Warner began to speak more
12 with the City about some of its efforts. Because we
13 need to get a sense of where they're at and how we
14 can be working with them to make sure that we don't
15 lose critical access to communications during the
16 most critical times during these emergencies. So
17 again, I thank--I thank this committee. I thank all
18 the staff. This was a product of some team--some
19 great teamwork, and I also want to thank the Speaker
20 for her support as well. Thank you.

21 [pause]

22 CLERK: Ulrich.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye and I
24 want to congratulate the chairman. I know how hard
25 he worked on this issue and all the co-sponsors of

2 the bill, and I look forward to seeing it signed into
3 law. Thank you.

4 CLERK: The vote stands at 6 in the
5 affirmative.

6 [pause]

7 CLERK: The final vote in the Committee
8 on Recovery and Resiliency is 6 in the affirmative, 0
9 in the negative and no abstentions.

10 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: The meeting is
11 hereby adjourned.

12 [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 July 21, 2015