

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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July 23, 2015  
Start: 11:46 a.m.  
Recess: 11:54 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E:  
YDANIS A. RODRIGUEZ  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
James Vacca  
Margaret S. Chin  
Stephen T. Levin  
Deborah L. Rose  
James G. Van Bramer  
David G. Greenfield  
Costa G. Constantinides  
Carlos Menchaca  
I. Daneek Miller  
Antonio Reynoso  
Donovan J. Richards

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

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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

[gavel]

[background comments]

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Good morning.

Daneek Miller... [background comments] Good morning and welcome to today's hearing of the New York City Council Transportation Committee.

Before we begin I would like to thank Mayor de Blasio and The Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito for their great leadership throughout this process; this process was filled with tense moments and today I call for all to always remember that it should be incumbent upon all who come with business before the City to respect this body and all its members and the Mayor too. We saw moments of misinformation and distortion of the truth from Uber [sic] and that will never be tolerated in our city.

Today we will vote on a piece of legislation that has been the subject of widespread and often passionate discussion. After much deliberation we have decided to move forward with Int. 847, a Local Law which I introduced to require the Taxi and Limousine Commission to conduct a study to examine the rapid-changing for-hire vehicle

1 industry. This study will allow us to achieve our  
2 goal to develop the right policy prescriptions to  
3 alleviate the real problem of congestion on our city.  
4 As members of the City Council, it is our  
5 responsibility to ensure that our city takes the best  
6 path forward and I am confident that today we'll do  
7 just that.

8  
9 Corporations should be a part of the  
10 solution to our city problems, not their source.  
11 Uber has agreed to begin conversations around new  
12 streams to revenue for the MTA and increase  
13 protections for drivers, consumers and disabled  
14 community alike. Further, the also agreed to set  
15 their own limit on growth, achieving our goal of  
16 creating a solid baseline for the valid [sic] study.  
17 Once the study is concluded we will have enough  
18 information to work collectively using input from all  
19 industry stakeholders to put forward a new addition  
20 of policy.

21 The committee looks forward to continue  
22 discussion on pending legislation, such as Int. 556  
23 introduced by Council Member Greenfield, limiting  
24 surge pricing; legislation which I'm proud to  
25 sponsor, Int. 740, expanding street record [sic]

1  
2 requirements that will bring transparency regarding  
3 fair collected, pickup and drop-off locations and the  
4 use of accessible vehicle, and Int. 553, requiring  
5 base agreements.

6           Before we vote I would like to thank my  
7 colleague, Stephen Levin and his staff, Rami Metal  
8 and Casey Adams for all their hard work on this  
9 issue; my committee staff, Counsel Kelly Taylor,  
10 Policy Analyst Jonathan Masserano and Russell Murphy,  
11 as well as my own Chief of Staff Carmen de la Rosa  
12 and my Communications and Legislative Director Lucas  
13 Acosta.

14           I want to also acknowledge my colleagues  
15 who are here, Council Members Vacca, Miller, Chin,  
16 Constantinides, Miller, Reynoso, Richards, Van  
17 Bramer, Greenfield, Rose and Levin. And for the  
18 record, we have the numbers to pass both bills; we  
19 have decided to move only on one because Uber,  
20 probably for their own PR, decided to compromise and  
21 make their own changes. With that I now call for the  
22 vote on Int. No. 847 and ask the clerk to call the  
23 roll; the Chair recommends a yes vote.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,  
Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on  
Transportation, Int. 847-A. Chair Rodriguez.

CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin. Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: May I explain  
my vote? Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I  
wanna thank you for your steadfast leadership of the  
committee and for your unwavering commitment to New  
Yorkers who take both public transportation, yellow  
cabs, green cabs and of course, black livery cars as  
well and thank you for the important role that you  
played, and I do just wanna reiterate what you said,  
which is that we were at the brink over here and it

1  
2 was really was thanks to the skilled leadership and  
3 negotiation skills of our Speaker, Melissa Mark-  
4 Viverito, that she was able to quite literally bring  
5 the parties together yesterday in her offices to  
6 reach this agreement and as a council member I know  
7 that myself and many of our colleagues, are very  
8 pleased by this, which will allow us to go forward  
9 with significant concessions from Uber and be in a  
10 much better position down the road to decide exactly  
11 how we continue to appropriately regulate this very  
12 important industry and that's why I'm very proud to  
13 vote aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Permission to  
16 explain my vote. So thank you Chairman for your  
17 leadership and I'm gonna vote aye, obviously. I  
18 think something that obviously came out of this  
19 conversation is something that should be a continuum  
20 conversation and that obviously is congestion and I'm  
21 hoping that we are really going to as this body moves  
22 forward look at the Move New York plan, which I  
23 believe is something that is a necessary factor in  
24 this city right now, so I think that this debate  
25 obviously allowed us to start the conversation on

1  
2 congestion in the city and I think it was a healthy  
3 debate that we should continue as we move forward.  
4 Thank you. I vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I'd like to thank  
9 the Chair for his leadership on this critical matter  
10 and as we move forward on this, but I vote aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Permission to  
13 explain my vote. Just wanna thank the Chair as well  
14 and thank The Speaker for allowing the opportunities  
15 for dialogue and a lot of outlets and forums so that  
16 we can get as much information as possible and always  
17 allowing us to have our opinion and I would proudly  
18 vote aye. Thank you.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 12 in the  
20 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
21 the item has been adopted.

22 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. And a  
23 tip or recommendation to Uber; next time when you  
24 send your negative [sic] mailing to my district, you  
25 should know that almost 50% of my constituency, they



1  
2 are only Spanish speaking; the mailing was only sent  
3 in English and the English-speaking that I represent,  
4 they are very progressive and they work with me all  
5 the time. Thank you and with that this hearing is  
6 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 27, 2015