

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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DECEMBER 4, 2015  
Start: 1:18 P.M.  
Recess: 1:44 P.M.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: VANESSA GIBSON  
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ROBERT CORNEGY  
CHAIM DEUTSH  
RAFAEL ESPINAL  
JULISSA FERRERAS-COPELAND  
VINCENT GENTILE  
VANESSA GIBSON  
RORY LANCMAN  
STEVEN MATTEO  
RITCHIE TORRES  
JUMAANE WILLIAMS

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

DAVID GREENFIELD  
COUNCIL MEMBER

2 CHAIR GIBSON: Good afternoon ladies and  
3 gentlemen. Welcome to City Hall, I am Council Member  
4 Vanessa Gibson of the 16<sup>th</sup> district in the Bronx and  
5 I am proud to Chair the City Council Committee on  
6 Public Safety. I'd like to thank all of my  
7 colleagues who are here, members of the Public Safety  
8 Committee and my colleagues and certainly want to  
9 thank the prime sponsor of today's legislation,  
10 Council Member David Greenfield for being here and  
11 for sponsoring today's legislation on the agenda.  
12 Certainly I'd like to recognize my Public Safety  
13 staff who are here, Legislative Counsel Deepa Ambekar  
14 and Legislative Council Beth Golub, Laurie Wen, Ellen  
15 Eng, Regina Pereto-Ryan (sp), Rachel Coderro (sp).  
16 I'd like to welcome the finance team our newest  
17 staffer who will be handling education matter, Ms.  
18 Elizabeth Hoffman and my staff Dana Wax, thank you  
19 all for your work in bringing today's hearing to the  
20 for front.

21 Today we are voting on Intr. 65-A, which  
22 will amend the administrative code in relations to a  
23 program to reimburse non-public schools for the cost  
24 of security guard services. We previously heard and  
25 earlier version of this bill, this Committee on April

2 14, 2015 at a joint hearing of the Committee on  
3 Public Safety, Education and Subcommittee on Non-  
4 Public Schools. The earlier version of this bill  
5 required the NYPD to assign school safety agents to  
6 both public and non-public schools upon the request  
7 of such school. The NYPD was required to assign at  
8 least one school safety agent within 10 days of that  
9 request or as many SSAs as the NYPD thought  
10 necessary. The current version of the bill today on  
11 the agenda does not require the placement of school  
12 safety agents, instead this bill will authorize  
13 reimbursement to non-public schools for expenses  
14 related to hiring unarmed security guards.  
15 Qualifying non-public schools include; nonprofit  
16 schools with 300 or more students enrolled that are  
17 not New York City public schools. To obtain  
18 reimbursement the security guard must be registered  
19 by the State of New York from a qualified provider  
20 list paid the prevailing wage, provide only security  
21 services and report criminal incidents to local law  
22 enforcement. The total amount of reimbursements  
23 authorized by the bill is a maximum of \$19.8 million  
24 per school year. This is an important piece of  
25 legislation that would assist in proving security to

2 non-public schools. I before I turn this over to the  
3 primes sponsor to provide opening remarks, I want to  
4 recognize the members of the Committee who are here.  
5 Thank you for being here colleagues on a Friday  
6 afternoon I really appreciate it. We have Council  
7 Member Julissa Ferraras-Copeland, Council Member  
8 Jumaane Williams, Council Member Robert Cornegy,  
9 Council Member Chaim Deutsch, Council Member Rafael  
10 Espinal, Council Member Rory Lancman, Council Member  
11 Richtie Torres, and Minority Leader Council Member  
12 Steve Matteo. Thank you all for being here and we  
13 also have the prime sponsor of this legislation and I  
14 will ask him to make opening remarks. Council  
15 Member David Greenfield.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you  
17 Chair Vanessa Gibson, I want to thank you for all the  
18 hard work that you do leading this Committee and to  
19 set the Public Safety agenda for New York City.  
20 More specifically I want to acknowledge Chair that  
21 you made immense contribution of development to this  
22 legislation, thanks to your feedback and support.  
23 The bill that we're voting on today will bring  
24 unarmed prevailing ways security officers to the  
25 majority on non-public schools in the City and

2 protect 70% or nearly 200,000 non-public school  
3 children from harm. The program authorize by Intr.  
4 65-A offer security officers to schools of 300 or  
5 more students to accommodate larger schools, the  
6 program will equip schools an additional guard for  
7 every 500 students in grades pre-k thru 12. These  
8 officers will be trained to protect the unique  
9 student bodies at each of these schools and to be  
10 sensitive to the profound threats they face including  
11 from many frequent bias attacks. These security  
12 officers will be State licensed and employed by State  
13 licensed security companies. The companies will be  
14 screened and prequalified by the administrating  
15 agency.

16           Today we're voting to create as many as  
17 500 prevailing wage jobs and we are giving several  
18 hundred New York City parents the peace of mind they  
19 desire when they send their children off to school  
20 each morning. I thank you Chair Gibson for making  
21 this possible. The City thanks you as well. The  
22 fundamental concept is that every child deserves to  
23 be safe while in school. I just want to thank the  
24 historic coalition that joined together to support  
25 this legislation. Foremost I want to thank my

2 colleagues on this Committee and throughout the  
3 Council from all Boroughs. Intr. 65-A has 45 co-  
4 sponsors, more than any other bill in the City  
5 Council as this Committee heard last April 14<sup>th</sup>, this  
6 legislation enjoys it's support of a broad spectrum  
7 of advocates including; The Muslim Community Network,  
8 The Islamic School Association, The Catholic  
9 Community Relations Council, The Rolling Catholic  
10 Archdiocese of New York, The Archdiocese of Brooklyn  
11 and Queens, The UJA Federation, The Good of Israel of  
12 America, (inaudible), The Orthodox Union. I want to  
13 thank those organization, they're leaders, the  
14 organizers, the parents groups and students for  
15 turning out and making it voice, voice is heard  
16 loudly and clearly throughout this legislative  
17 process. (inaudible) I want to thank Labor  
18 Advocacy, worked hard to bring this bill to the  
19 Council floor. Everyone knows that the building  
20 service workers, Local 32BJ of the service employee  
21 international unions is an incredibly important  
22 organization who's members make our buildings run.  
23 I'm very proud to have them as part of this coalition  
24 and want to thank them for their critical role in  
25 passing this bill. Non-public schools will be

2 honored to receive a protection from properly trained  
3 security officers earning a prevailing wage and  
4 excellent benefits.

5           Finally, I want to thank our Speaker  
6 Melissa Mark-Viverito and Mayor Bill de Blasio for  
7 recognizing the safety need of all children  
8 regardless of whether they go to public or non-public  
9 schools. The speaker met with me a ½ dozen times to  
10 give me feedback and assisting with passage of this  
11 bill. The Mayor personally negotiated the details of  
12 this bill with me. I'm grateful for their  
13 leadership. Every single public school has security  
14 officers regardless of their size, location or risk  
15 factors and as a result of a very lengthy detailed  
16 and productive negotiation with our Speaker, the  
17 Mayor and their respected staff, Intr. 65 will close  
18 the security gap for most non-public school students  
19 helping achieve our Speaker and Mayor's clear vision  
20 of a City that serves all New Yorker with dignity and  
21 respect and to my dear colleagues on the Public  
22 Safety Committee, I want to thank each and every one  
23 of you, thank you in alphabetical order; Council  
24 Member Robert Cornegy, Chaim Deutsch, Rafael Espinal,  
25 Julissa Ferreras, Vincent Gentle, Vanessa Gibson who



2 we mentioned of course is the Chair, Rory Lancman,  
3 Steve Matteo, Ritchie Torres, Jimmy Vacca and Jumaane  
4 Williams. All of you gave me support, all of you co-  
5 sponsored this bill, all of you gave me advice and  
6 all of you gave me gave me encouragement and feedback  
7 in the last 21 months since I introduced this  
8 legislation and I really want to thank all of you,  
9 could not have done it without each and every one of  
10 your support. Thank you so much.

11 CHAIR GIBSON: Thank you very much  
12 Council Member Greenfield and I to want to thank you  
13 for your leadership, your commitment and certainly  
14 the Mayor of this City and the Speaker of the City  
15 Council. This was a long process and as the Chair of  
16 this Committee working hand in hand with the prime  
17 sponsor and with my colleagues, we wanted to ensure  
18 that this bill struck the necessary balance.  
19 Recognizing that children in our city deserve to be  
20 safe when they're in school regardless of what school  
21 they go to and we know that there is a national  
22 conversation around safety in our Country and  
23 certainly in our schools and it was extremely  
24 important to this body to make sure that children who  
25 got to Parochial, Muslim and Jews schools are also

2 given the same security services as well. So it was  
3 a pleasure to be a part of this process though  
4 lengthy but certainly productive and warranted for  
5 all the right reason and the investments that were  
6 making are going to have a significate impact and I  
7 know on behalf of the residence in my district,  
8 district 16 in the Bronx, many students who are in  
9 Muslim and Catholic schools, I know that they are  
10 excited at what lies ahead because they truly deserve  
11 to be safe just like any other student across this  
12 City. So thank you Council Member for never giving  
13 up, for being not only consistent but persistent as  
14 well in making sure that this issue always remain at  
15 the forefront and certainly all of my colleagues on  
16 the Public Safety Committee, thank you for your  
17 leadership, thank you for your work and it's truly  
18 been a pleasure working with all of you as well, so  
19 thank you so much. And now does any of my  
20 colleagues, does anyone have any questions about the  
21 bill that's before you today? Before we call the  
22 Clerk for a vote? Ok great. So now I'll have Billy  
23 Martin call the roll.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,  
3 Committee Clerk, roll call vote, Committee on Public  
4 Safety, Intr. 65-A, Chair Gibson.

5 CHAIR GIBSON: I proudly vote yes.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: I vote  
8 I.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I please  
11 explain my vote? Thank you. First I guess I must  
12 say as my colleague has worked on this for quite some  
13 time. As a colleagues I say congratulations to see a  
14 project to completion. I don't want to suspenseful  
15 so I am voting I but I do want to register some  
16 concerns that I have. There aren't too many bills  
17 that I've had this many concerns about and that I  
18 voted I anyway. But I'm going to do so but I am  
19 concerned that you maybe opening a path that maybe  
20 troubling, that we have to watch for of where we're  
21 spending public funds. I know that a church is  
22 across the country, our concerns about security at  
23 well, how we may have to deal with when churches come  
24 and ask for security based on very real risks,  
25 particularly black churches across the country that

2 are going on, but given that these same schools  
3 mandate to be provided busing, nurses, books, it's  
4 really hard to mount an argument of why not security,  
5 but there is a question of when, where is the line  
6 and when we will have to stop doing this so I want to  
7 make sure that we can consider that as we go forward.  
8 I do have some constituency that very much wanted me  
9 to support this both Shibia and Catholic schools so  
10 again congratulations Council Member Greenfield and I  
11 vote I.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I'd like to  
14 explain my vote please.

15 CHAIR GIBSON: Yes.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I want to  
17 congratulate my colleague on being diligent about  
18 this and just say that me who's a father of six  
19 children, my children safety is a primary concern to  
20 mine and I imagine that all parent across the City  
21 and State of New York feel the same way, so thank you  
22 for taking those parents into consideration  
23 especially at this very sensitive time in this  
24 country.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: May I explain my  
3 vote.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I'm sorry I vote  
5 I.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Deutsch.

7 CHAIR GIBSON: Yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Ok. Since I  
9 created community safety patrol over 25 years ago.  
10 The security of our children in our community has  
11 been a top priority for not just me, for all of us.  
12 We in the Council are mindful that now more than ever  
13 we have to focus on the safety of all our children  
14 and this is very, very extremely vital. As chairman  
15 of the Non-Public School Subcommittee and member of  
16 the Public Safety Committee I have been intimately  
17 involved with improving the safe and security of our  
18 schools and been involved in our community and  
19 knowing firsthand how vulnerably our children are in  
20 non-public schools. Today is really a great day,  
21 today is a special day and I thank my colleague  
22 Councilman David Greenfield for his persistence, his  
23 dedication and (inaudible) and amendment of this  
24 vital bill and I thank you, I thank you on behalf of  
25 all the children in my district and non-public

2 schools and I'm extremely grateful to our Mayor Bill  
3 de Blasio and Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito for their  
4 commitments on this vital bill and their support.  
5 Finally I have a tremendous amount of gratitude to my  
6 Chair of the Public Safety Committee and my esteem  
7 colleague Vanessa Gibson for your unwavering  
8 leadership on this Committee and it was really an  
9 honor for me to Chair Intr. 55-A with you and to be  
10 part of this extremely important safety measure, so  
11 obviously I am voting yes, I.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: With a big  
14 congratulation to my colleague, I vote I.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Permission to  
17 explain my vote.

18 CHAIR GIBSON: Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I'm so obviously  
20 the passage of this vote bill was anything but  
21 inevitable. It was obviously the result of probably  
22 the most impressive grassroots campaign I've even  
23 seen in my two years in the City Council. So I'm a  
24 great admirer of your organizing skill David. I do  
25 want to address some severe criticism that I've

2 receive. I have dear friends of mine in the LGBT  
3 community who are deeply disappointed with me and  
4 with my vote but I just see it very differently.  
5 Even though I find the content that might be taught  
6 in some or many of these schools to be offense and  
7 deeply contrary to what I believe and who I am, that  
8 does not mean that the children who go to those  
9 schools are not entitled to some basic standard of  
10 some school safety. I think every school to the  
11 existent possible should have at least one dedicated  
12 person who's monitoring the flow of traffic in  
13 buildings. Who preventing trespassing. So  
14 ultimately I do not see this as a matter of LGBT  
15 concern, I see it as a matter of universal school  
16 safety so with that I vote I.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: (inaudible) to  
19 explain my vote?

20 CHAIR GIBSON: Yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: I just briefly  
22 just want to state that what we're doing here  
23 collectively is ensuring that the safety of our  
24 children is paramount and with that I want to thank  
25 David Greenfield for his leadership, persistence, and

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2 your willingness to go the extra mile to make sure  
3 that our children are safe and I join you in that and  
4 I thank you and I vote I.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 8 in the  
6 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
7 item has been adopted.

8 CHAIR GIBSON: Thank you colleagues and  
9 were going to keep the role open for the next 10  
10 minutes. Thank you again, congratulations Council  
11 Member Greenfield.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call  
13 Committee on Public Safety, Council Member Lancman.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: I.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Current vote now stands  
16 at 9 in the affirmative.

17 [pause]

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call  
19 Committee on Public Safety, Intr. 65-A, Council  
20 Member Gentle.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTLE: I vote I.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote, Committee  
23 on Public Safety now stands at 10 in the affirmative,  
24 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

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2 CHAIR GIBSON: This hearing of the  
3 Committee on Public Safety is hereby adjourned.

4 [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 December 15, 2015