

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FIRE AND CRIMINAL
JUSTICE SERVICES

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MARCH 7, 2016

Start: 10:16 A.M.

Recess: 10:25 A.M.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - COMMITTEE RM, 16TH FL.

B E F O R E: ELIZABETH CROWLEY
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

FERNANDO CABRERA
MATHIEU EUGENE
RORY LANCMAN
PAUL VALLONE

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

1 COMMITTEE ON FIRE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES 3

2 CHAIR CROWLEY: Good morning, my name is
3 Elizabeth Crowley, I am the Chair of the Fire and
4 Criminal Justice Services Committee. Today the
5 Committee will hold a vote on proposed Introduction
6 763-A.

7 Year after year violence on Rikers Island
8 continue, continues to increase. We have held
9 numerous hearings regarding violence within DOC and
10 this Committee and Council is committed to working
11 the department to improve the safety conditions by
12 holding DOC accountable for the violence rates.
13 Quite clearly the public reporting of violence is
14 essential for the Council and public to monitor and
15 understand the conditions that both staff and inmates
16 at Rikers and DOC facilities face every day. Local
17 law 29 of 2009 required the DOC to issue detailed
18 quarterly reports on violence for adolescence inmates
19 which has provided valuable insight into conditions
20 for adolescence at Rikers Island. This coupled with
21 the Federal Government investigation to the treatment
22 of adolescence has led to reforms that have brought
23 about fewer incidents of violence. Introduction 763-
24 A will expand on these recording, reporting
25 requirements. Brining detailed reporting on violence

2 at DOC facilities to all inmates, adults and
3 adolescence alike. In fact 763-A will not only show
4 key violence rates for all DOC inmates, it will also
5 break down these rates for adolescences, adults and
6 critically young adults aged 18-21. The DOC has
7 recently made significant efforts to address the 18
8 to 21 year old population who unfortunately account
9 for a disproportionate amount of violence in DOC
10 facilities. This bill will allow all of us to
11 monitor the DOC's efforts to address this crucial
12 inmate population.

13 Introduction 763-A will also require
14 monthly reporting on 7 crucial violence indicators.
15 Allowing the Council and the public to see violence
16 trends as they develop and respond accordingly and
17 the DOC will be required to compare each report to
18 previous reporting periods so the trends will be
19 immediately apparent, moreover, these reports will be
20 required to be permanently stored on the DOC website
21 allowing a wide range of historic analyst. Finally
22 while the Federal Government has focused on the issue
23 of unwarranted use of force by staff on inmates, this
24 Council has maintained an equal focus on the
25 wellbeing of DOC staff. As rates of inmates violence

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2 against correction officers and other DOC staff
3 continues to rise. This bill will require regular
4 reporting on not only assaults on staff and how many
5 of these assaults lead to serious injuries and
6 hospitalizations and will also require reports on
7 inmates splashing officers. A disturbing recent
8 trend that cannot be tolerated. I look forward to
9 voting to pass this bill through this Committee today
10 and I would like to thank Council Member Julissa
11 Ferreras-Copeland for sponsoring this bill and
12 helping the Council address the critical violence at
13 Rikers Island and DOC facilities. I also want to
14 thank my staff and the Committee staff and the staff
15 who helped draft this bill. Now I would like to call
16 Committee clerk William Martin to take the vote.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
18 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Fire and
19 Criminal Justice Services. Introduction 763-A, Chair
20 Crowley.

21 CHAIR CROWLEY: I vote aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the
5 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions,
6 item has been adopted.

7 CHAIR CROWLEY: Now I'd like to keep the
8 vote open for an additional 30 minutes or until the
9 very last Committee Member has the opportunity to
10 vote.

11 [pause]

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call,
13 Committee on Fire and Criminal Justice Services,
14 Council Member Cabrera.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I vote aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote now on
17 Committee on Fire and Criminal Justice Services is 5
18 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no
19 abstentions.

20 [pause]

21 UNKNOWN IDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This
22 concludes today's meeting and vote.

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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 March 24, 2016