

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

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May 3, 2016

Start: 1:06 p.m.

Recess: 1:37 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E:

JAMES VACCA  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Annabel Palma  
David G. Greenfield  
Barry S. Grodenchik  
Joseph C. Borelli

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

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Everyone please take  
3 your seats; I'd like to start this committee hearing.

4 Good afternoon, my name is James Vacca  
5 and I'm chair of the Committee on Technology and  
6 today we're here to discuss my bill, Int. 0564-2014,  
7 which would expand online permits, applications and  
8 licenses. It's only fitting that today's hearing  
9 will serve as the New York City Council's pilot of a  
10 reduced paper hearing; this means that I, along with  
11 all the other members of the committee, who I'm sure  
12 will be here shortly, will have tablets with today's  
13 committee report and other documents loaded onto  
14 them.

15 Today anyone attending may scan the QR  
16 code displayed in this room to access today's  
17 documents digitally -- got that right, digitally. I  
18 didn't get it right, but I know what I meant. This  
19 initiative, announced by Speaker Melissa Mark-  
20 Viverito and I during Earth Week, will save a lot of  
21 paper, while bringing more technology into the  
22 hearing process. I want to thank the Speaker for  
23 allowing my committee to be the guinea pig, I guess  
24 you could say for this pilot and I hope it's  
25 successful enough to be expanded to other committees.

1  
2 And I wanna thank the Speaker's staff, my staff;  
3 everyone who put this together; I think it sets a  
4 role model of things to come here at the Council as  
5 we all try to be more environmentally sensitive.

6 I believe that paper and paper-pushing  
7 can be reduced on a citywide scale, which is why I'm  
8 the prime sponsor of the bill that we're considering  
9 today. My bill, Int. 0564-2014, would require all  
10 agencies' permits, licenses and applications to be  
11 available for online submission through a special web  
12 portal.

13 New York City's agencies offer and  
14 require hundreds of permits, applications and  
15 licenses for everyday New Yorkers, business owners  
16 and event planners; most of these are available on  
17 each agency's website in varying degrees of  
18 accessibility. For example, some agencies have all  
19 their forms in one place, such as the Department of  
20 Buildings or the Department of Health and Mental  
21 Hygiene.

22 Additionally, the administration  
23 announced last year a small business portal called  
24 "Small Business First," to be completed next year  
25 that will create a one-stop-shop for all small

1  
2 business related permits and applications across  
3 agencies. While this portal will be extremely  
4 helpful to small business owners navigating the  
5 regulatory process, it would still exclude a large  
6 swath of permits, applications and licenses that a  
7 typical New Yorker might seek out.

8           This committee has found that although  
9 the Department of Parks and Recreation has its own  
10 permits and services webpage, not every permit can be  
11 applied for online. For example, one may renew a  
12 tennis permit online, but new tennis permits must be  
13 applied for either in person or by mail.  
14 Additionally, a special event permit in a park may be  
15 applied for online, but if that event includes  
16 amplified sound or the sale of food or merchandise,  
17 two other permits, both of which cannot be applied  
18 for online, would be required. These are just a few  
19 examples.

20           What can and cannot be applied for online  
21 is seemingly arbitrary; increasing online  
22 applications would not only make it easier for the  
23 applicant, but it would reduce the amount of  
24 paperwork in need of processing on the agency's end  
25 as well. I look forward to hearing why certain

1  
2 applications are not available online and what the  
3 administration will do to make these processes  
4 easier.

5 I wanna stress that although the City can  
6 and should reduce paper as much as possible, it is  
7 understood that there are gonna be certain permits,  
8 applications and licenses that must be done by mail  
9 or in person, because proof of identity or  
10 fingerprints are required. Handgun licenses, for  
11 example, which require fingerprints, absolutely need  
12 to be done in person.

13 Additionally, electronic methods should  
14 not fully supplant paper methods, since we still have  
15 a senior citizen population that prefers paper and  
16 many New Yorkers that do not have access to the  
17 internet. With that, I want to turn it over to the  
18 administration; we look forward to hearing the  
19 administration's testimony. We've been joined by  
20 Council Member Borelli and I want to introduce Don  
21 Sunderland, Deputy Commissioner for Application  
22 Development Management at DoITT; would you please  
23 come up? And I want to administer the oath to you.

24 Do you affirm to tell the truth, the  
25 whole truth and nothing but the truth in your

1 testimony before this committee and to respond  
2 honestly to council members' questions? Thank you,  
3 sir; would you proceed.. [crosstalk]

4 DON SUNDERLAND: Is this on? Okay.  
5 Okay, sure.

6 Good afternoon, Chairman Vacca and the  
7 member of the Committee on Technology. My name is  
8 Don Sunderland and I'm Deputy Commissioner for  
9 Application Development Management at the Department  
10 of Information Technology and Telecommunications  
11 (DoITT).

12 May I be the first to congratulate you on  
13 your evolution to a paperless environment; I guess  
14 next time I'm gonna have to bring my iPad..

15 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: I'm following you on  
16 my iPad right now. [laughter] I just want you to  
17 know I'm following you.

18 DON SUNDERLAND: Okay. Thank you for the  
19 opportunity to testify today on Int. 0564 regarding  
20 the online submission of City business permits,  
21 licenses and applications.

22 Int. 0564 is the bill sponsored by  
23 Council Member Vacca; would require that all City  
24 permits, licenses and registrations be available for  
25

1  
2 online admission to the applicable city agency via a  
3 single web portal located on the City's website. We  
4 agree with the bill's intention to centralize  
5 application resources for the small businesses and  
6 appreciate the opportunity to discuss the general  
7 direction we are heading as a city.

8           Since the bill was first drafted in 2014,  
9 both DoITT and the City have made great progress in  
10 how we do business and deliver services and we hope  
11 to partner with the Council as we continue to map out  
12 wide-reaching solutions to increasingly complex and  
13 unique challenges.

14           In recent years there are been  
15 significant developments in how we use the web to  
16 streamline government services and improve access to  
17 vital information. DoITT's role here is  
18 multifaceted; we are committed to modernizing  
19 government technology and to steward to the  
20 foundational information technology infrastructure  
21 and systems that touch every aspect of city life; we  
22 are diligently to foster a more transparent and open  
23 government. Further, facilitating greater access to  
24 the full spectrum of governmental operations and  
25



1  
2 technology for all New Yorkers is central to our day  
3 to day business.

4 To this end, DoITT is contributing to  
5 efforts to make city data and agency services more  
6 transparent and accessible to the public, expand  
7 high-speed broadband access for all communities and  
8 hold telecommunications providers accountable for  
9 providing high-quality services.

10 Our 2015-2017 Strategic Plan issued in  
11 April 2015 included a blueprint for becoming a more  
12 customer-centric service provider to empower and  
13 better support city agencies; some of these efforts  
14 include:

15 Expanding open data. We are working with  
16 the Mayor's Office of Data Analytics and city  
17 agencies to better leverage open data as a tool to  
18 problem-solve collaboratively with the public.  
19 Making city data on the open data portal available to  
20 everyone reflects the City's commitment to good  
21 government and it is a great example of a forward-  
22 thinking approach to how a city can increase  
23 opportunity by increasing online access.

24 Installing Wi-Fi in city parks. We  
25 worked with Parks to install Wi-Fi access points in

1  
2 city parks through a \$10 million commitment from  
3 cable providers to bring affordable internet access  
4 to the public.

5 Implementing LinkNYC. We are working to  
6 replace an aging network of public pay phones with up  
7 to 10,000 Link kiosks to provide free high-speed  
8 public Wi-Fi and communications access across all  
9 five boroughs.

10 In addition, last year this  
11 administration announced the launch of the City's  
12 Government Publication Portal, a portal that enables  
13 New Yorkers to easily search and download thousands  
14 of city agency reports from a single source. Also  
15 last year, the Department of Small Business Services  
16 and DoITT announced the launch of the NYC Online  
17 Certification Portal, an online tool available for  
18 businesses looking to apply for, maintain or  
19 recertify as minority- and women-owned business  
20 enterprises, locally-based enterprise or emerging  
21 business enterprise.

22 All of this is to say we're not only  
23 eager to utilize new and existing technology to  
24 improve and enhance service offerings; we are making  
25 progress every day. But we are up against

1  
2 significant challenges and the complexity to the  
3 solutions we propose should not be understated; we  
4 need to carefully consider a pragmatic approach as we  
5 move forward.

6           Small Business First. DoITT's efforts,  
7 along with the efforts of the Mayor's Office of  
8 Operations and SBS on the Small Business First  
9 initiative to reduce the regulatory burden on small  
10 businesses in New York City is a strong foundation  
11 for achieving the goals of Int. 0564.

12           Small Business First includes 30  
13 initiatives developed as a direct result of  
14 conversations with stakeholders, advocates, small  
15 business owners, neighborhood and community leaders,  
16 and elected officials representing a diverse slate of  
17 city neighborhoods.

18           Included among the initiatives are being  
19 developed our efforts to centralize a business'  
20 access to applications, permits and information  
21 across agencies, both in person and online. Small  
22 Business First will build on the City's existing  
23 online resources for business to create a new state-  
24 of-the-art online business portal that provides a  
25 central resource that businesses need and we believe

1  
2 this is where and how to accommodate the spirit of  
3 Int. 0564.

4           We agree that centralizing online city  
5 services for businesses will alleviate some of the  
6 administrative burdens small business owners  
7 currently face. Building on the City's existing  
8 online resources for businesses, Small Business First  
9 will create an online business portal that will allow  
10 a business owner to create an account to access  
11 personalized information from city records about its  
12 business, including licenses, permits,  
13 certifications, inspections, and violations. The  
14 account will also allow a business owner to conduct  
15 all available online transactions with city agencies,  
16 including paying and applying for or renewing  
17 licenses and permits and checking the status of the  
18 applications.

19           In addition, the business owner will be  
20 able to receive information distributed by city  
21 agencies, such as updates on the law and renewal  
22 notices.

23           Small Business First and Int. 0564.  
24 While Int. 0564 proposes requiring that all city  
25 permits, licenses and registrations be available for

1  
2 online submission to the applicable city agency by a  
3 single web portal, we would want to further discuss  
4 this or any related legislation to ensure that its  
5 requirements align with a significant process that is  
6 already underway. We believe that the Small Business  
7 First initiative encompasses the desired  
8 functionality and intended spirit of Int. 0564.

9           The new online business portal will  
10 contain the relevant permit, license and registration  
11 information tools that are specifically being sought  
12 out by entrepreneurs and businesses across the city  
13 and we look forward to further examining how to make  
14 it easier for residents to find information on city  
15 permits, licenses and registrations through the  
16 portal.

17           There are also non-business-related  
18 permits and licenses that New Yorkers want to apply  
19 for online; many agencies have worked to make more  
20 applications for permits, licenses and registrations  
21 available online and are continuing to make efforts  
22 towards this, but there may be some applications  
23 where online application may not make the most sense  
24 or where an approval might involve a more significant  
25 review and discussion with the applicant or where

1  
2 there are currently additional security measures to  
3 account for.

4           It is also worth noting that 311 is an  
5 additional tool to leverage and promote; anyone can  
6 call 311 and ask how and where to find the relevant  
7 information and practically any city permit, license  
8 or registration.

9           Looking forward. We see a great  
10 opportunity here for collaboration and partnership  
11 across the agencies as we move forward and DoITT's  
12 role is clear; DoITT must help government improve the  
13 availability and efficiency of key public services  
14 and we stand ready to do that. The discussion raised  
15 by this proposed bill is helpful in the ongoing  
16 conversation and while the Small Business First path  
17 is clear, we need to think ahead and prepare a  
18 practical and workable plan for more advanced  
19 technology solutions.

20           We thank Council Member Vacca for his  
21 leadership on these issues and thank the Council for  
22 being a key partner as we look forward to the future.  
23 We look forward to answering any questions you might  
24 have.

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Thank you, sir.

3 We've been joined by Council Member Grodenchik; thank  
4 you.

5 Some questions I wanted to go through.  
6 Is there any written general policy that agencies  
7 follow about what applications should be online and  
8 which ones are not online; is there a general policy  
9 that dictates that or... [interpose]

10 DON SUNDERLAND: Not that I'm aware of,  
11 no.

12 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: So agencies have  
13 discretion to determine what is going to be online  
14 and what is not going to be online, and what's going  
15 to be through paper and not through paper?

16 DON SUNDERLAND: To the best of my  
17 knowledge, yes.

18 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Have you given  
19 consideration to looking at those policies to see if  
20 we can be more uniform; that agencies could have  
21 guidance; do you give agencies guidance on what they  
22 should be making available online to people?

23 DON SUNDERLAND: In general, what we do  
24 is; we give agencies guidance as to what is  
25 technologically sound and feasible; the uses that

1  
2 they choose to put technology to becomes really a  
3 business decision, so it's something that would  
4 probably no emanate from DoITT if we were to make  
5 such a pronouncement.

6 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: I mentioned in my  
7 opening statement that certain applications involving  
8 fingerprints and other matters certainly need to  
9 continue to be on paper, but we need an agency, and I  
10 think it would fall to DoITT, to inventory what can  
11 be on paper; what should be on paper, as a continuing  
12 policy and what can be online, with the intent of  
13 maximizing what we could put online. So has that  
14 been done; have we inventoried all city applications,  
15 determining what can be paperless?

16 DON SUNDERLAND: Yeah, we haven't and in  
17 truth, that's a fairly massive task; we couldn't  
18 begin to tell you what all the city applications are  
19 of any sort; I mean the agencies, as you well know,  
20 have the applications that they deploy under their  
21 own control; we aren't necessarily privy to the  
22 information when they choose to deploy an  
23 application, so we don't have a means of researching  
24 that information, other than contacting the agencies  
25 immediately.



1  
2 If such a survey were to be done, I think  
3 it might focus around business players, for instance,  
4 the Small Business First Initiative; SBS is looking  
5 specifically to business users and doing a  
6 significant job of cataloging precisely those things  
7 within that space.

8 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Well I'm gonna get  
9 into that and I would certainly agree that the Small  
10 Business Initiative is very important, because small  
11 business people need to know where to go and how to  
12 get there and having that type of inventory, at least  
13 for that sector of the community, is very important,  
14 but I also think that we need to have a census of all  
15 applications in the City of New York; we need to have  
16 an inventory of all these applications and then we  
17 need to determine what can we say can be done online.  
18 So it bothers me that we don't even have a census --  
19 I mean people are always complaining about government  
20 being too big and being too bureaucratic and here we  
21 have a city of eight million people plus and we have  
22 no knowledge of how many applications exist for  
23 various activities within our own city, so one would  
24 think that we perhaps have too much paper out there;  
25 we have too much bureaucracy out there; once perhaps

1  
2 we do the census we can begin to reduce how much  
3 paper is out there, but I don't even see the census  
4 to begin with, so how do we start to make government  
5 more efficient; there seems to be an efficiency issue  
6 first, and then I do wanna get to the paperless  
7 component of my statement.

8 DON SUNDERLAND: So on just the  
9 practicality of the census, I mean as I said, it's  
10 not only daunting; it's probably impossible for an  
11 outside entity to do that for every agency within the  
12 city, but there are approaches that you could take,  
13 which would be self-registration by the agency to the  
14 applications that they have. At this point, DoITT  
15 actually hosts a CIO portal for all the CIOs of all  
16 the agencies within the city and that might be an  
17 appropriate local for us to have agencies register  
18 the applications that they have so that we can start  
19 creating such a list.

20 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: As a legislator and  
21 as someone who was -- I've been in government now  
22 many, many years, before I was in the Council -- it  
23 would seem to be logical to ask every agency head to  
24 submit to an agency like DoITT a listing of their  
25 required applications. So if you call the Parks

1  
2 commissioner, you say to the Parks commissioner,  
3 designate someone in our agency who can give me a  
4 listing of all your required applications; then  
5 separate the listing based on what can be done online  
6 and what is not now able to be done online; I don't  
7 think that's a mammoth job; I think it's something  
8 that's very -- if we give them a timeline and we tell  
9 them exactly what we want, if we're very clear, I  
10 think that that's the beginning of what we wanna do  
11 there in this legislation.

12 DON SUNDERLAND: You know, I think so  
13 long as the onus is upon the agency to comply, that's  
14 a workable solution; what we can't be, we can't be  
15 detectives and we can't be research... [crosstalk]

16 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: I agree; I don't want  
17 you to be detectives; I would assume that if --  
18 especially if the Mayor's office is involved, if the  
19 Mayor's office says we want to know from you,  
20 commissioner and your agency what applications are  
21 required and permits, what's paperless and what's  
22 not; I don't think that's a ridiculous request; I  
23 would think that every commissioner would comply with  
24 a memo from the Mayor that requires that information;  
25 I just think it's a question of putting it together

1  
2 and getting ourselves together. So this is what my  
3 legislation aims to do; we really can't determine  
4 what should be paperless and what should not be  
5 paperless until we determine how many damn permits  
6 are required in the city and for what.

7 DON SUNDERLAND: That's a pretty  
8 legitimate concern, yes.

9 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: We don't have an idea  
10 of how many -- we're a city so big, but how could  
11 this be something that's so difficult to do? I just  
12 think we don't have the will to do it; we think maybe  
13 it's overwhelming, but that speaks to the bureaucracy  
14 that the city is and imagine what the average person  
15 goes through.

16 DON SUNDERLAND: I know; I've actually  
17 been such an average person.

18 [laughter]

19 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Yes, I'm average too.  
20 So just like... [laughter] thank... I appreciate that.  
21 Alright, so this is the first step; so your agency  
22 cannot commit to get that... is your agency in a  
23 position to commit to get that underway or is this  
24 something that the Mayor's office has to commit to?

1  
2 DON SUNDERLAND: I think it would have to  
3 come from an executive level in order for agencies to  
4 comply; we have no power over the agencies regarding  
5 this.

6 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: You have no power,  
7 but yet the Mayor's office would have to determine  
8 what agency oversees the effort, so if the Mayor  
9 determined that it was DoITT that was going to do it,  
10 so to speak...

11 DON SUNDERLAND: Yeah...

12 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: would you do it?

13 DON SUNDERLAND: then it would be done.

14 [laugh]

15 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: It would be done.

16 DON SUNDERLAND: Yeah.

17 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Okay. Alright, I  
18 appreciate this discussion, I think. Alright.

19 Also, we need to develop a list and that  
20 list has to be inclusive also of non-mayoral  
21 agencies; I'm thinking of DOE, I'm thinking of Health  
22 and Hospitals Corporation, NYCHA; when you start to  
23 think what's required, it's overwhelming.

24 DON SUNDERLAND: Yeah, that's the  
25 reaction you were just getting from me, so.

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Yes. No, it's  
3 overwhelming, but I think if we decentralize the call  
4 to order, so to speak; if we decentralize getting  
5 that list agency by agency, it shouldn't be that  
6 overwhelming, and if these agencies don't know what  
7 permits are required for what, then shame on them and  
8 somebody has to be held to account. And perhaps we  
9 can eliminate many redundancies that may exist that  
10 people face and go through as part of this inventory  
11 that I'd like to see created.

12 Okay, I'll go to my committee members;  
13 any questions? Yes, council member.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I just wanna  
15 thank the chair for introducing this legislation,  
16 which I'm happy to join, and you know, we all  
17 represent very large areas and where mass transit is  
18 often not an issue because there is no mass transit  
19 to speak of and in Queens we have successfully, in  
20 certain agencies, such as Buildings and City Planning  
21 and HPD and DEP, we have centralized some of that so  
22 that people don't have to schlep all over the borough  
23 or come into Manhattan, but the amount of savings  
24 that would be wrought for the environment on this  
25 would be just tremendous because we are a city that

1  
2 stretches from Fort Totten in Queens to Tottenville  
3 in Staten Island and over 300 square miles and a lot  
4 of people just don't have the time; literally, it's a  
5 half-a-day or more to come into Manhattan or even to  
6 reach parts of Queens from where my constituents  
7 live, so I just wanted to say that I don't really  
8 have any questions, but I would hope that you would  
9 carry back a message to DoITT and we will certainly  
10 carry a message to the administration that this is  
11 something that is long overdue; I know we can apply  
12 for certain things online, but this is really  
13 something that -- there shouldn't be a single permit,  
14 barring some technical detail; you know, maybe maps  
15 that would need to be submitted or something, that  
16 really shouldn't be done, Mr. Chairman, so thank you;  
17 thank you for being here today.

18 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Thank you, Council  
19 Member; I think that's the general consensus.

20 Do you have any statistics that tell us  
21 what amount of applications are done online versus  
22 done in person?

23 DON SUNDERLAND: I don't actually; I mean  
24 we... [interpose]

25

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: We don't keep track  
3 of that... [crosstalk]

4 DON SUNDERLAND: Well I'm sure...

5 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: we don't...

6 DON SUNDERLAND: I'm sure the agencies  
7 may and we have a number of them here today if you  
8 wanted to question them on that.

9 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: When an application  
10 is submitted online, is there any ability for the  
11 intake system to report data on those applications to  
12 the Open Data Portal?

13 DON SUNDERLAND: One can create feeds to  
14 open data from virtually any system; at this point I  
15 don't know how many of the permitting systems  
16 themselves have actually contributed open data sets,  
17 but we could find that out.

18 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: I'd like to make sure  
19 that that information is transmitted.

20 DON SUNDERLAND: Okay.

21 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: It seems to me  
22 ridiculous; we did some research on this and we found  
23 that you can basically get a Parks Department tennis  
24 permit renewed online, but a new tennis permit must  
25 be applied for in person. It doesn't make sense to



1 me. There's not even a consistency within the tennis  
2 department of the Parks Department. I don't know how  
3 that could happen, and I think that that speaks to  
4 the inconsistencies across the board here; why is one  
5 required with paper, one without; why is one allowed  
6 to be online and one not? So I think that we have a  
7 problem that we have to address and that's what my  
8 legislation seeks to correct.

9  
10 Now you're speaking today on behalf of  
11 DoITT and the administration; is DoITT in favor of my  
12 legislation or is the administration in favor; what  
13 is your position on the legislation?

14 DON SUNDERLAND: We favor the direction  
15 of the administration; believe it's a direction we  
16 need to go as a city and we need to provide better  
17 service to our citizens. I mean, the legislation's  
18 rather brief, so there's a lot of detail that's not  
19 -- and that's probably the level in which DoITT would  
20 become involved, is just the practical details of  
21 making these things happen, but we're absolutely  
22 aligned with your legislation in its intent.

23 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: But that doesn't tell  
24 me; are you in favor of it or you think that this has  
25 to be -- are there revisions to it that you're

1 recommending or do you see any problems with it or --

2 I know you're aligned with it in principle...

3 [crosstalk]

4  
5 DON SUNDERLAND: I think... I think... Yeah,  
6 I think the principal problem we see with it is the  
7 idea of offering a single portal for all applications  
8 and permits; there are multiple, multiple systems  
9 around the city and to be able to have a single  
10 portal experience where you don't have to leave those  
11 pages to do it implies that you have one system that  
12 serves all those agencies and we don't have that. So  
13 I mean the idea of taking kind of an SB1 approach  
14 where you have a user portal that will map you to the  
15 appropriate places to do that on existing systems is  
16 probably a much more practicable approach.

17 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: When paper  
18 applications are received by agencies, do they scan  
19 them or enter them into databases?

20 DON SUNDERLAND: I think it's a  
21 combination, but once again, that's more of a  
22 business, you know question we can ask individual  
23 agencies.

24 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: It would appear to me  
25 that you would save time on both the agency and the

1  
2 public's part if the application submitted the data  
3 online in the first place, so we're talking about  
4 saving time or we're talking about the productivity  
5 of our city's workforce as well if we maximize what  
6 we can have online.

7 DON SUNDERLAND: No argument.

8 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Alright, so you're  
9 not arguing with me, so I'm gonna... [laughter] I'm  
10 gonna move the bill, right; is that... is that..

11 [crosstalk]

12 DON SUNDERLAND: Right. Yeah. No, I  
13 mean, we... as we said, we believe in the direction of  
14 the bill; it's the details that become interesting,  
15 but yes.

16 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: What details are you  
17 specifically concerned about again?

18 DON SUNDERLAND: The idea of creating  
19 uniform ways of doing all of the permits. The  
20 analysis you're talking about, as far as collecting  
21 all of this information regarding which applications  
22 are out there now, which of them are currently  
23 available online, which have to be submitted by  
24 paper; that's a good place to start; when you do the  
25 analysis of that, you're gonna have a very complex

1  
2 universe of different systems, different  
3 methodologies; different processes that don't  
4 necessarily align in a way that allows you to  
5 implement a completely uniform mechanism. Right now  
6 what we would need to do is leverage the existing  
7 infrastructure that's already there, as far as the  
8 agencies that are already providing online  
9 application capabilities and provide a single map  
10 into all of those individual processes that exist.  
11 The idea of creating a consolidated system that does  
12 this all in a uniform way across the city is just...  
13 it's enormous and probably unattainable in the long  
14 run, but the idea of bringing the city into a  
15 standardized way of connecting from a central point  
16 so that users could be directed to the various agency  
17 systems to do their applications is something that's  
18 doable.

19 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Well administratively  
20 we have to begin first to get a census...

21 DON SUNDERLAND: Agree; no argument.

22 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: that is important.

23 Don't you see a cost savings for the city if we do  
24 things online as opposed to all the paper and the...

25

1  
2 DON SUNDERLAND: Absolutely. I mean  
3 yeah, we're... yeah, we're in **[inaudible]** agreement.

4 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Okay and there's a  
5 cost savings that we're also anticipating as part of  
6 this bill. We in the Council are concerned with the  
7 environment and we're also concerned with efficiency  
8 and it seems to me to be very inefficient where we  
9 can do it online and we're not and it's also an  
10 imposition on people who have to be running around  
11 with all these permit applications and agency people  
12 that are spending so much time processing when it  
13 could be done much more efficiently online.

14 DON SUNDERLAND: We agree.

15 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: 'Kay. Okay, any  
16 further questions? Yes, Council Member Borelli.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: I don't have a  
18 question; I just want to really comment Chairman  
19 Vacca on this bill. Living in a progressive city as  
20 we do and one that prides itself on certain  
21 positions, and even the democratic candidates for  
22 president are citing some of the progressive models  
23 of Scandinavia and one of the things that we don't  
24 often hear about countries in Scandinavia are  
25 essentially the Nordic model of business, which is

1  
2 extremely efficient and it prides itself on making  
3 things easier for entrepreneurs and small businesses  
4 to start up and to retain and grow, and this is  
5 something that's done in a number of countries  
6 already and I just wanna commend you for bringing  
7 this to our attention and I think it's a wonderful  
8 bill.

9 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Thank you, council  
10 member. Okay, without further questions, I thank you  
11 for your testimony and we look forward to proceeding  
12 on this bill and I want the administration to know  
13 that we'll be looking for their support so we can  
14 finalize a version that can be passed by the Council  
15 soon. Okay, it is now 1:35; there being no speakers  
16 from the public and no further questions from council  
17 members, this hearing is now adjourned.

18 [gavel]

19 Thank you for coming to the first  
20 paperless hearing, or paper... paper-light hearing.  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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 May 18, 2016