

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS

----- X

July 12, 2016
Start: 01:25 p.m.
Recess: 01:37 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway- Committee Rm, 16th Fl.

B E F O R E:

RAFAEL L. ESPINAL, JR.
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

JULISSA FERRERAS-COPELAND
KAREN KOSLOWITZ
RORY I. LANCMAN
VINCENT J. GENTILE

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

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON ESPINAL: Good afternoon.

Happy summer. My name is Rafael Espinal and I am the Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee. I am joined by other members of the committee. We have Rory Lancman from Queens, Karen Koslowitz from Queens, Vinny Gentile from Brooklyn. We have two bills on today's agenda and I will hold a committee bill on both. The first bill is proposed Intro 697A, a local law to amend the administrative code... city of New York in relation to regulation of laundries. Laundries have been regulated by the city of New York since the early 20th century. On June 18th, 2015 in response to concerns raised by advocates that the law was unclear and much of the industrial laundry sector operated outside the city's regulations the committee held a hearing on Intro 697 which sought to update and modernize the city's laundry licensing scheme. At that hearing the committee heard from the Department of Consumer Affairs, laundry workers, their union, labor advocates, a health professional, a restaurateur, and the industrial laundry industry. After much review and consultation with all interested

1
2 stakeholders the committee's prepared to call a
3 vote on the amended intro 697A. Proposed six...
4 Intro.. proposed intro 697A is a consumer protection
5 legislation that seeks to protect all consumers who
6 come in contact with linens laundered for
7 commercial clients such as hotels and restaurants.
8 The bill would create a tire.. a tiered lease
9 licensing scheme to capture three distinct
10 activities of the.. the laundry industry as it
11 operates in the city today. One; for retail
12 laundries that serve the general public, a license
13 for laundries that serve commercial clients such as
14 hotels and restaurants, and a third category for
15 industrial laundry delivery license for businesses
16 that transport laundry between a commercial client
17 and industrial laundry if either of these
18 businesses is located in the city. The bill will
19 create additional requirements related to
20 cleanliness and hygiene for industrial laundries
21 and industrial laundry delivery to ensure that all
22 laundry is hygienically cleaned and that industrial
23 laundries implement procedures to maintain
24 functional separation between clean and dirty
25 laundry. The bill would also create a taskforce

1 that will review plans and procedures submitted to
2 DCA as well as any complaints received by the
3 agency. The taskforce will make recommendations to
4 the council and the mayor on any updates to these
5 standards. The bill will not alter the regulatory
6 landscape for retail laundries as they were already
7 sufficiently regulated prices or legislation.

8
9 Second, on today's agenda is the bill related to
10 the licensing of ticket sellers on June 20th 2016
11 the council passed a bill requiring that anyone
12 selling tickets for any place or entertainment,
13 mode of transportation, or sightseeing tour in a
14 public space must have a ticket seller license
15 issued by the Department of Consumer Affairs. A
16 provision creating an exemption to the rebuttal
17 presumption that if business is responsible for the
18 bad acts of a person vending their tickets was
19 inadvertently omitted. This preconsidered intro
20 would correct that error by amending the tickets to
21 the law to provide that a business is not
22 responsible for a violation by a ticket seller if
23 the ticket being sold is counterfeit or the
24 circumstances of the vending was not authorized or
25 subject to the business's control. The Department

1
2 of Consumer Affairs has submitted testimony that my
3 committee counsel... will now read into the record.

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Okay. This is the
5 testimony of the Department of Consumer Affairs.
6 Local Law 80 of 2016 was enacted on July 28, 2016.
7 The law added a new requirement that ticket sellers
8 operating in New York City's public spaces obtain a
9 license from the Department of Consumer Affairs.
10 Under the law ticket vendors would be... will be
11 required to wear their licenses openly in addition
12 to an outer garment that make their profession
13 clear. The license is valid for one year and the
14 Commissioner of Department of Consumer Affairs will
15 be able to revoke licenses if an applicant has
16 unanswered summons or unsatisfied fines or
17 penalties or if the commissioner determines that
18 the seller's continued position of a license poses
19 an exigent danger to the public. The law is
20 intended to provide tools needed to keep consumers
21 safe without jeopardizing the tours, transportation
22 modes, and entertainments or attractions that help
23 the city's tourism industry and economy thrive.
24 Local Law 80 provided a rebuttable presumption that
25 the place of entertainment, mode of transportation,

1
2 or guided tour whose ticket is vended or on whose
3 behalf a ticket is vended is responsible for
4 violations of the law by those who vend tickets on
5 their behalf. However, this presumption was
6 intended not to apply in cases where the ticket
7 vendor sells counterfeit tickets that were not
8 issued by the establishment on the ticket or the
9 ticket is vended by a seller who is not authorized
10 or controlled by the establishment that issued the
11 ticket. This exemption was intended to be the last
12 sentence of Section 20-559D in Local Law 10 but was
13 unintentionally omitted. Preconsidered Introduction
14 T2016-4736 restores this exemption which strikes a
15 fair balance by providing an important enforcement
16 tool by ensuring that only parties responsible for
17 illegal vending bear responsibility for violations
18 of the law. The administration looks forward to the
19 enactment and implementation of pre-considered
20 Intro T2016-4736 at the earliest possible date.
21 That's the end of that testimony.

22 CHAIRPERSON ESPINAL: Thank you Lobony
23 [sp?]. Thank you DCA. Anyone have any further
24 questions or comments or testimony? Hearing none

1 the chair recommends a yes vote on these bills.

2 Billy can you please call the roll?

3
4 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: William Martin,
5 Committee Clerk. Roll call vote Committee on
6 Consumer Affairs. Items are coupled. Chair Espinal.

7 CHAIRPERSON ESPINAL: I vote aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Gentile.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: [off mic] ...vote
10 aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Koslowitz.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic]
13 ...vote aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Lancman.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: By a vote of
17 four in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and
18 no abstentions both items have been adopted.

19 CHAIRPERSON ESPINAL: Let's keep the
20 roll open for another five to ten minutes.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Continuation
22 roll call. The Committee on Consumer Affairs.
23 Council Member Ferreras-Copeland.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: I
25 vote aye.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Final vote now
Committee on Consumer Affair stands at five in the
affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
abstentions.

[background comments]

CHAIRPERSON ESPINAL: Okay. 100 percent
attendance. I will like to adjourn this meeting.

[gavel]

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 14, 2016