

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND ETHICS

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December 14, 2016
Start: 11:02 a.m.
Recess: 11:07 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway-Committee RM, 14th Fl.

B E F O R E:
ALAN N. MAISEL
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
JULISSA FERRERAS-COPELAND
BRAD S. LANDER
CARLOS MENCHACA
STEVEN MATTEO

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

1
2 CHAIRPERSON MAISEL: Welcome to this
3 hearing on... of the committee on Standards and Ethics.
4 I am the Chair with the committee, Councilman Member
5 Alan Maisel. Today we will be holding a second
6 hearing and vote on 14 bills. These bills were first
7 heard by this committee in November of this year. The
8 first of these bills is proposed introduction 1345A
9 sponsored by the Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito in
10 relation to conflicts of interest and organizations
11 affiliated with elected officials. This bill directly
12 addresses the concern that organizations affiliated
13 with elected officials could raise unlimited funds
14 even from persons doing business with the city and
15 even when the ultimate use of these funds is for the
16 promotion of the... that elected official. The city's
17 campaign finance laws contribute contributions from
18 persons doing business with the city to protect
19 against potential influence of that money and to
20 prevent any appearance of corruption but under
21 current law those limitations could not be applied to
22 the contributions received by affiliated
23 organizations like the campaign for one New York.
24 That is why today we are voting on the law with the
25 same goal to protect against potential attempts to

1 influence an elected official and to prevent even the
2 appearance of corruption through unlimited donations
3 to an affiliated organization that promotes that
4 elected official. We will also be voting on 13 other
5 bills relating to campaign finance which will be
6 discussed in more detail by their sponsors however I
7 do want to highlight two of those bills in
8 particular. The first is Introduction 1358 sponsored
9 by Council Member Brad Lander in relation to an
10 expenditure of non-public funds to assist public
11 officers in the performance of their duties. I want
12 to make it clear that under state laws such
13 expenditures are already permissible and it has been
14 argued such expenditures to support the duties of
15 public officers should also be considered permissible
16 under existing city law, however that is not how the
17 campaign finance board has interpreted our laws,
18 therefore today we will vote to clarify that
19 situation. The second is proposed introduction 1355A
20 sponsored by Council Member David Greenfield in
21 relation to requiring documentation for
22 contributions. There has been some public discussions
23 about this bill as well as discussions between
24 stakeholders and this bill has been amended to
25

1 address the concerns raised in those discussions.

2 Among other requirements the bill now specifies that

3 while candidates may complete contribution cards for

4 contributors they could also do so after a

5 contribution has been made and provided that the

6 contributor then signs the completed card.

7 Alterations or changes to the contribution card after

8 it has been signed will not be permitted. This

9 amended bill that we are voting on today is a

10 reflection of the input the many stakeholders we have

11 heard from. I want to thank the sponsor of these

12 bills, Council Member Garodnick, Council Member

13 Greenfield, Council Member Lancman, Council Member

14 Lander, Council Member, Member Salamanca and Council

15 Member Van Bramer. I will now call on the Sponsors

16 present if there are any to read an opening statement

17 and I think we are just in the nick of time.

18 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [off mic] No sponsor
19 statements.

20 CHAIRPERSON MAISEL: No sponsor
21 statements.

22 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [off mic] You can
23 call the roll.
24

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2 CHAIRPERSON MAISEL: Okay and therefore I
3 will now ask the clerk to call the roll.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: William Martin
5 Committee Clerk roll call vote Committee on Standards
6 and Ethics, Chair Maisel?

7 CHAIRPERSON MAISEL: In favor.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Ferreras-
9 Copeland?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
11 you Chair and I vote aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Menchaca?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Matteo?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: No on 1358, aye
16 on the rest.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: By a vote of
18 four in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
19 abstentions all items have been adopted with the
20 exception of introduction 1358 being adopted by a
21 vote of three in the affirmative, one in the
22 negative, and no abstentions, thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON MAISEL: Alright, I'm asking
24 that the roll be kept open for the next 15 minutes,
25 is that reasonable and I thank everybody for their

1 participation, have a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah,
2 Kwanzaa and Happy New Year.

3 [gavel]

4 CHAIRPERSON MAISEL: To reopen, to take
5 an additional vote.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Council Member
7 Lander?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you Mr.
9 Chair, I vote aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Final vote, all
11 items on today's agenda for the Committee on
12 Standards and Ethics have been adopted by a vote of
13 five in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
14 abstentions with Introduction 1358 being adopted by a
15 final vote of four in the affirmative, one in the
16 negative, and no abstentions, thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON MAISEL: Alright, the... we
18 still going to keep this open for 15 minutes, I think
19 that we still have... that, that's it, okay. Alright,
20 in that case thank you very much everybody.

21 [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 January 3, 2017