

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

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November 29, 2016
Start: 10:49 a.m.
Recess: 11:56 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Antonio Reynoso
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Andy L. King
Vanessa L. Gibson
Costa G. Constantinides
Steven Matteo

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Good

3 morning. I'm Council Member Costa Constantinides.

4 I'm filling in for my good friend and Chair of the

5 Sanitation Committee, Antonio Reynoso, and welcome to

6 this vote on Proposed Introduction 300A sponsored by

7 Council Member Andy King. Currently New York City

8 Law requires that property owners keep snow and other

9 material from accumulating near fire hydrants

10 fronting their property. Proposed Intro 300A, if

11 enacted, would clarify the bounds of this area by

12 doing the following things: One: It would require

13 the fire hydrant itself be cleared. Two: It would

14 narrow the area around the fire hydrant to a size

15 that corresponds to what the Fire Department needs to

16 access the hydrant. And Three: It would remove the

17 requirement that property owners actively clear snow

18 and other material from the street itself. The bill

19 also makes penalties for failing to clear snow from

20 such area consistent with the penalties for failing

21 to clear snow from a sidewalk. It also removes

22 criminal penalties for failing to remove snow and ice

23 from a sidewalk. At this time, I'll turn it over to

24 Council Member Andy King for a statement on his bill.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I want to thank you
3 Council Member Constantinides for filling in for our
4 Chair, Antonio Reynoso. I just want to urge the
5 Committee to vote yes on today's legislation Intro.
6 300. The purpose is just for safety. As we get into
7 the holiday season and the weather starts changing,
8 we just want people to be a little bit more
9 responsible to understand that fire hydrants aren't
10 one place that you should be dumping snow on. In any
11 given emergency-- actually Empanada Mama Restaurant
12 had a real challenge in early January 2016 because
13 the hydrants were covered with snow because
14 homeowners and owners thought it was a good idea to
15 dump snow on top of a fire hydrant, and sadly to say
16 apartments and store fronts were burnt down due to
17 the time loss uncovering the fire hydrants. So this
18 bill is about safety, it's about being practical and
19 being able to remove some of the harsh punishment,
20 but just adding a civil component to help us
21 understand that we are responsible for keeping New
22 York City safe. So all that being said, I'm asking
23 all my colleagues to vote yes on today's bill. Thank
24 you.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Thank you
3 Council Member King. We're also joined by Council
4 Member Matteo from Staten Island and Council Member
5 Vanessa Gibson from the Bronx, and with that we'll
6 ask the clerk to call the roll, please.

7 WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin,
8 Committee Clerk, roll call vote, Committee on
9 Sanitation and Solid Waste Management, Introduction
10 300A. Council Member Constantinides?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

12 WILLIAM MARTIN: King?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.

14 WILLIAM MARTIN: Gibson?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye.

16 WILLIAM MARTIN: Matteo?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: I'm going to vote
18 yes on the bill. There is a little bit of a
19 discrepancy between time frames in the bill in terms
20 of the difference between what is allowed in Queens
21 and Staten Island. So I'm going to introduce my own
22 legislation just to clear that up, because in Queens
23 Staten Island, you can begin within the four hours
24 and a reasonable time after. So, I think that in
25 terms of equality that we make sure that this issue

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2 corresponds to that for Queens and Staten Island as

3 already in the books for snow removal on sidewalks.

4 So, with that, I will introduce that bill and I will

5 vote yes.

6 WILLIAM MARTIN: By vote of 4 in the
7 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
8 Introduction 300A has been adopted by the Committee.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: We will
10 leave the vote open for another member to come and
11 vote for about half an hour or so. Thank you.

12 [Pause]

13 WILLIAM MARTIN: Final vote now Committee
14 on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management,
15 Introduction 300A has been adopted by a vote of 4 in
16 the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no
17 abstentions.

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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, 2016