

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

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January 17, 2017  
Start: 11:05 a.m.  
Recess: 11:36 a.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)

[sound check]

[pause]

CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Okay, can...

[background comment] can I have your attention,  
please? Members in the audience, please take your  
seats.

[gavel]

Good morning. My name is James Vacca and  
I am the Chair of the Committee on Technology and  
we're here today to vote on Proposed Int. 1052-A, a  
bill sponsored by Council Member Levin and myself  
that would codify a City policy to ensure that all  
data is erased from City electronics when we dispose  
of them or transfer them to another agency.

Data breaches are unauthorized  
acquisitions of computerized data that compromise the  
security, confidentiality or integrity of personal  
information and can occur with anything from a single  
record to millions of records. Such breaches are not  
just privacy concerns but can also be used to  
facilitate fraudulent activity, such as identify  
theft; this can have a devastating consequence for  
individuals and has led to annual losses in the tens  
of billions of dollars in the United States alone.

1  
2 In 2015, there were 979 data breach notifications  
3 sent to the New York State Department of State  
4 affecting 5.5 million New Yorkers.

5           Improper disposal of electronic devices  
6 and media that store private data is one of the ways  
7 that a data breach can occur. If a computer hard  
8 disc, thumb drive, mobile phone or optical storage  
9 media is disposed of without properly destroying  
10 either the device or the data through wiping physical  
11 destruction of some other method, then the data  
12 therein may be recoverable. This can cause serious  
13 breaches, such as, just recently, when a 30 gigabyte  
14 hard drive discovered at a recycling depot in Canada  
15 was found to retain the personal information,  
16 including security clearance applications, of defense  
17 personnel in the Canadian military. Locally, a CD  
18 containing the personal information of 15,000 New  
19 York City Transit Authority workers was found inside  
20 a refurbished computer sold by a retailer.

21           The Department of Information Technology  
22 and Telecommunications (DoITT) created a policy to  
23 address concerns about potential data breaches.  
24 Proposed Int. 1052-A will go a step further to ensure  
25 confidential data of our City's residents is kept

1 safe. We have expanded the definition of "disposal"  
2 to include equipment that is transferred from one  
3 agency to another. Further, we will require City  
4 agencies and any third party contacted to erase data  
5 on behalf of an agency to certify that they have  
6 indeed deleted confidential and sensitive  
7 information. We cannot afford any mistakes; one data  
8 breach, no matter how small, can be costly.

9  
10 With that, I call upon my colleagues to  
11 vote aye on Proposed Int. 1052-A to help ensure the  
12 cyber safety of all New Yorkers. As chair of the  
13 Committee, I urge a yes vote and I will ask the... well  
14 first let me introduce the members who are here. In  
15 addition to myself, to my extreme left is Councilman  
16 Barry Grodenchik and to my left, at least today, is  
17 Councilman Joe Borelli, and I will now call upon the  
18 clerk to call the roll.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Committee Clerk Matthew  
20 DeStefano [sp?], Committee on Technology, roll call  
21 vote for Int. No. 1052-A. Chair Vacca.

22 CHAIRPERSON VACCA: I vote aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Grodenchik.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Borelli.

COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 3 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions, the item has been adopted.

CHAIRPERSON VACCA: Thank you. With there being no further business before the Committee and this Intro has passed, I hereby adjourn... I hereby adjourn the meeting.

[gavel]

[background comments]

[pause]

CHAIRPERSON VACCA: I will reopen the vote until 11:25, as one member is on his way.

[pause]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation with roll call, Committee on Technology, roll call vote for Int. 1052-A. Council Member Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you. I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now stands at 4 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Now going to engage in my filibuster of this Committee. Fourscore

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COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

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and seven years ago... no, no; I'm joking. This formally concludes the Technology Committee; this meeting is hereby adjourned.

[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 January 23, 2017