

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

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May 8, 2017
Start: 10:21 a.m.
Recess: 10:45 a.m.

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

B E F O R E:
JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Rosie Mendez
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Mark Levine
Helen K. Rosenthal
Ritchie J. Torres
Barry S. Grodenchik
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Eric A. Ulrich

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

[sound check]

[pause]

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Good morning

everyone. I'm Council Member Jumaane Williams, chair of the Committee on Housing and Buildings. We have today Council Members Salamanca, Grodenchik, Espinal, Torres, Ulrich, Cornegy, Rodriguez, and Mendez.

The first bill, Proposed Intro 823-A, sponsored by Council Member Rodriguez, would require the Department of Buildings to submit an annual report to the Council on illegal conversions of dwelling units for other than permanent residence purposes.

The second bill, Into No. 1218, sponsored by Council Member Gentile, would increase the penalties for illegally converting residential space so that it contains three or more dwelling units above the amount legally allowed. This was also submitted by myself and the Borough President of Brooklyn, Eric Adams.

The third bill, Intro No. 1568, sponsored by Council Member Torres, would extend, until June 2, 2019, the limitations placed on the conversion of

2 certain hotel space for purposes other than use as a
3 hotel, as imposed by Local Law 50 for the year 2015
4 which restricted hotels in Manhattan having 150 units
5 or more from converting more than 20% of the floor
6 area used for sleeping accommodations to a different
7 use.

8 Did any of the sponsors want to make any
9 statements? You don't have to. Yes? [background
10 comment] Council Member Rodriguez.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Well first of
12 all, thank you Chairman and the rest of my
13 colleagues; we know that in New York City, in the
14 last couple of years, there have been large numbers
15 of illegal conversions of units happening throughout
16 the city. Basically, many of them used by those
17 people running illegal hotels, and I think it is
18 important that we put everything in place so that if
19 anyone is doing any illegal conversion, they should
20 be reported and we should be able to use that data
21 and make a decision based on those information.
22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Council Member
24 Torres.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: The legislation
3 speaks for itself, so. But I do want to thank our
4 sole republican on the Housing Committee for adding
5 as much comedic enjoyment as our president in the
6 White House, so thanks.

7 [background comments, laughter]

8 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Thank you and
9 thank you for the go live [sic] shaving; you missed a
10 couple spots; you've gotta go back there.

11 I'd like to thank my staff for the work
12 they did to assemble this hearing, including Mike
13 Twomey, my Legislative Director; Megan Chen and
14 Guillermo Patino, Counsels to the Committee; Jose
15 Conde, Policy Analyst to the Committee; and Sarah
16 Gastelum, the Committee's Finance Analyst. With
17 that, I'd like to ask the Clerk to please call the
18 roll, starting with Mr. Grodenchik, who was here
19 bright and early. Thank you.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
21 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Housing
22 and Buildings; all items are coupled. Council Member
23 Grodenchik.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye on all.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

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2 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Aye on all.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Salamanca.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye on all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 10 in the
20 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
21 all items have been adopted by the Committee.

22 [pause]

23 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Thank you; we'll
24 leave the... we'll leave the hearing open for 15
25 minutes.

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2 [pause]

3 [background comments]

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation, Committee
5 on Housing and Buildings, Council Member Levine.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I vote aye and
7 this... [crosstalk]

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Fi... fi... final vote on
9 the Committee on Housing and Buildings; all items
10 have been adopted on today's agenda by a vote of 11
11 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no
12 abstentions. Thank you.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you and
14 this will conclude our hearing.

15 [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 June 7, 2017