

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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August 22, 2017
Start: 10:33 a.m.
Recess: 11:06 a.m.

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

B E F O R E:
ANTONIO REYNOSO
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Andy L. King
Vanessa L. Gibson
Costa G. Constantinides
Steven Matteo
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.

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

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 3

2 [sound check]

3 [pause]

4 [gavel]

5 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Good morning, I am
6 Council Member Antonio Reynoso; I am the Chair of the
7 Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management.
8 Welcome to this vote on Proposed Intro No. 1439-A,
9 which I am a sponsor of and would require any City
10 agency, when confiscating food deemed safe for human
11 consumption by the Department of Health and Mental
12 Hygiene to notify at least one food resource
13 organization that may retrieve it before disposing of
14 the food, and Proposed Intro No. 1514, co-sponsored
15 by Council Member Espinal, which I am also a co-
16 sponsor of, that would require the Department of
17 Sanitation in conjunction with the Department of
18 Information Technology and Telecommunications to
19 create and maintain a web portal that would allow
20 prospective food donors and recipients to post
21 notifications concerning the availability of food,
22 including food that would otherwise go to waste, and
23 to arrange for the transportation and retrieval of
24 that food.

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1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 4

2 The Committee held its first hearing on
3 these bills on April 26, 2017; we discussed at that
4 time that approximately 40 percent of all food grown
5 in the United States is thrown away. I am hopeful
6 that these bills will not only reduce hunger in New
7 York City by encouraging and facilitating more food
8 donations, but also reduce food waste.

9 I want to thank my colleague, Council
10 Member Rafael Espinal, for his leadership on this
11 important issue and invite him to make an opening
12 statement at this time.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Thank you.
14 Thank you, Chair Reynoso for taking the necessary
15 steps to bring this bill to a vote in a timely
16 manner.

17 Intro 1514-A will require the Department
18 of Sanitation along with the Department of
19 Information Technology and Telecommunications to
20 maintain a web portal that will connect potential
21 food donors with food recipients, like that Craig's
22 List of food donation. This digital solution will
23 help feed our hungry New Yorkers by allowing small
24 businesses that would normally dump uneaten food to

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1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 5

2 seamlessly donate that food to nonprofits and food
3 banks whose goal is to feed hungry New Yorkers.

4 Approximately 1.4 million New Yorkers
5 rely on food pantries or soup kitchens to get some of
6 their meals, yet 40 percent of the food in our
7 country goes uneaten; not only is this wasteful, but
8 it also contributes to global climate change when the
9 food ends up rotting in our landfills.

10 As I have stated before, food waste is
11 bad for the environment, bad for the hungry and bad
12 for business owners who could otherwise be receiving
13 tax breaks. This legislation is a win for our local
14 businesses, City resources, environment, and most
15 importantly, for New Yorkers in need of a helping
16 hand.

17 Thank you again all for your support and
18 for voting favorably for this bill. Thank you,
19 Chairman.

20 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: Thank you, Council
21 Member Espinal. Do any committee members have any
22 comments or questions? I'll call on the clerk to
23 call the roll.

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1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 6

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
3 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on
4 Sanitation; both items are coupled. Chair Reynoso.

5 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: I vote aye on all.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I vote
8 aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 3 in the
12 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
13 both items have been adopted by the Committee.

14 CHAIRPERSON REYNOSO: And I would like to
15 keep the roll open until 10:53 for Council Member
16 Andy King. Thank you.

17 [pause]

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call,
19 the Committee on Sanitation. Council Member King.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote Committee on
22 Sanitation; both items have been adopted 4 in the
23 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

24 [background comments]

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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 August 26, 2017