

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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September 26, 2017
Start: 09:57 a.m.
Recess: 10:24 a.m.

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

B E F O R E:
HELEN K. ROSENTHAL
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Peter A. Koo
Costa G. Constantinides
Chaim M. Deutsch
Corey D. Johnson
I. Daneek Miller

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

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COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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[background comment]

[sound check]

[pause]

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON ROSENTHAL: Good morning, my name is Helen Rosenthal; I'm the chair of the Committee on Contracts. Today the Committee will be voting on Proposed Int. No. 1292-A, sponsored by Council Member Costa Constantinides. Hang on one second, actually.

[pause]

[background comment]

CHAIRPERSON ROSENTHAL: We'll be vo... oh he raced [sic]... oh... [background comment] [pause]

Alright, today the Committee will be voting on Proposed Int. No. 1292-A, sponsored by Council Member Costa Constantinides, which would cut down on paper waste and improve the relationship between vendors and City agencies; it would do so by requiring all City agencies and departments to, where feasible, develop and implement programs to accept vouchers by electronic means. Welcome to the 21st century.

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2 The environmental impact of this
3 legislation, in terms of the number of trees saved by
4 reducing the number of paper, is notable in and of
5 itself. On top of that, Int. 1292-A is another
6 critical step toward a modern and dynamic procurement
7 process; this is exactly the approach we need to take
8 as we reform the procurement process to make it
9 easier for firms to do business with the City and to
10 make it easier for the City to stretch its resources.

11 I'd like to thank Council Member
12 Constantinides for this important piece of
13 legislation; I'd also like to thank the Contracts
14 Committee staff -- Legislative Counsel Alex Paulenoff
15 and for today, Rachel Cordero; Policy Analyst Casey
16 Addison; Finance Analyst John Russell, as well as my
17 Legislative Director Sean Fitzpatrick -- for all of
18 their hard work preparing for the vote today.

19 I'll now turn the floor over to Council
20 Member Constantinides to share a few words.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Thank
22 you, Chair Rosenthal and thank you for your great
23 leadership on contracts; you know, bringing us into
24 that 21st century, kicking and screaming sometimes
25 [laugh, background comment]. But thank you for all

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2 the great work that you do around procurement and
3 contracts in general; really making a difference for
4 the businesses that interact with us and how we do
5 business in the City of New York. Thank you.

6 As a Council Member, my main focus has
7 been on making our city more green and more
8 sustainable; this Council has achieved a great deal
9 this session, from 80 by 50, a revamping of the air
10 code, groundbreaking environmental justice
11 legislation, but there's a lot more we can do to
12 ensure that even the smallest of government
13 transactions are green as well. Every day the City
14 agencies interact with hundreds of contractors from
15 dozens of different fields; many, if not most times
16 that they do, they generate a receipt, a procurement
17 invoice or some other document for that transaction;
18 that means that in the age of smartphones; tablets,
19 hundreds of thousands of pieces of paper are still
20 generated by City activity every week; there is
21 simply no reason that we should still be doing this
22 as a way of business; that's why 1292 is so
23 important; it simply directs all City agencies accept
24 vouchers and invoices electronically and instructs
25 the Procurement Policy Board to promulgate rules to

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2 assist them in doing so. As the Mayor's Office of
3 Contract Services has already made great progress --
4 with the help of Chair Rosenthal making all these
5 things work -- via the HHS Accelerator and other
6 initiatives, we are already prepared to move to such
7 system. As the Federal Government has already moved
8 electronic procurement, there is simply no reason
9 that the City of New York is not ready to take the
10 same leap. With this simple bill we can save
11 hundreds of trees over the course of each year and
12 when each of those trees can absorb up to 48 pounds
13 of carbon per year, we've made another big step
14 towards meeting our 80 by 50 goal. Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSENTHAL: If the Committee
16 Clerk could now call the roll.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
18 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on
19 Contracts, Introduction 1292-A. Chair Rosenthal.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSENTHAL: I vote aye, with
21 delight, and congratulations to my colleague.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye and I
24 request my name to be added to this bill, and
25 congratulations, Costa. Thank you.

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COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I vote
aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Well if Costa
votes aye, I'll vote aye and if you could please sign
me onto the bill.

[background comment]

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the
affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
the item has been adopted by the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON ROSENTHAL: Thank you very
much. Unless we're holding this vote open -- does
anyone know? [background comments] Okay, we're
gonna... [background comments] [pause] [background
comment] Okay, we're gonna hold the vote open for
another 15 minutes. Thank you.

[pause]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call,
the Committee on Contracts, Introduction 1292-A.
Council Member Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote currently
stands at 5.

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COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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[pause]

[background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote, Committee
on Contracts, Introduction 1292-A has been adopted by
the Committee 5 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative
and no abstentions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ROSENTHAL: Hearing is
closed.

[gavel]

[background comments]

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 October 9, 2017