

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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October 30, 2017
Start: 2:56 p.m.
Recess: 3:20 p.m.

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

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ROBERT E. CORNEGY, JR.
MARK LEVINE
HELEN K. ROSENTHAL
ERIC A. ULRICH
ROSIE MENDEZ
YDANIS A. RODRIGUEZ
BRAD S. LANDER
RITCHIE J. TORRES
RAFAEL SALAMANCA, JR.
BARRY S. GRODENCHIK
RAFAEL L. ESPINAL, JR.

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

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[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Good afternoon everyone. My name is Jumaane Williams, Chair of the Housing and Buildings Committee. I'm joined today by Council Members Mendez, Salamanca, Espinal, Levin... sorry, Levin, Crowley, Ulrich, Torres and Grodenchik. We're here... I skipped you, my bad... I said Cornegy, I didn't say Cornegy?

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: No, you did not.

CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: That was on purpose, no, sorry, Cornegy. We are here to hold a vote on two bills. The first bill proposed Intro Number 1307-A specifies qualification for the Department of Building inspector. We heard this bill on January 13th... I'm sorry, we heard this bill on June 13th and received testimony from the Plumbing Foundation, the American Council of Engineering Companies and the American Institute of Architects. The original version of this bill loosened requirements for all inspectors and in response to the feedback we received we kept the current most stringent requirements for inspectors who inspect medical and natural gas piping systems, back flow prevention and electrical work and loosening

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2 qualifications for inspectors who conduct other types
3 of inspections. This was due to the DOB's inability
4 to fill all of the, the positions they had available
5 to move forward with the safe and health and well-
6 being of the whole city when we're going... putting
7 buildings up. The second bill proposed Intro Number
8 1436-A sponsored by Council Member Matteo would
9 require DOB to report on safety site managers... sorry,
10 on site safety managers and coordinator certificates
11 including the number of certificates, the number of
12 sites which required a site safety manager or
13 coordinator. The number of certificates issued, the
14 number of applicants filed... the number of
15 applications filed, I'm sorry, the average time of..
16 for approval of an application and the average time
17 for completion of the background check. I'd like to
18 thank my staff for the work they did to assemble this
19 including Mike Toomey, my Legislative Director; Megan
20 Chin, Council to the Committee; Jose Conde, Policy
21 Analyst to the Committee and Sarah Gastelum the
22 Committee's Finance Analyst. I do want to just
23 mention, mention there has been some question about
24 1307-A and we did do some thoughtful analysis on this
25 and changed the bill based on what we heard back from

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2 the industry and making sure that we had the most
3 stringent requirements where needed. With that I
4 would like to ask the clerk to please call the roll,
5 I recommend an aye vote on all.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: William Martin,
7 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Housing
8 and Buildings, items are coupled, Chair Williams?

9 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Mendez?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I, I abstain on
12 1307-A and I vote yes on 1436-A.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Grodenchik?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Cornegy?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Espinal?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Levin?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Just to... may I
21 very briefly explain my vote Mr. Chair... [cross-talk]

22 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Absolutely.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Very, very
24 briefly. I will be voting aye on all, but I want to
25 note that I think it's important that we be extremely

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2 sensitive about weakening the requirements on those
3 jobs which are directly related to health and safety
4 matters in those cases qualified engineers really
5 should be doing the work but I, I do believe that the
6 Chair had this concept in mind in fashioning this
7 bill and, so I will be voting aye on all. Thank you.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Torres?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote aye on
10 all.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Salamanca?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Ulrich?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I am voting no on
15 Proposed Intro 1307-A because I think it lowers the
16 qualifications and puts New Yorkers at risk, I'm
17 voting yes on 1436, I will explain more about my vote
18 at tomorrows stated. Thank you.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: By a vote of
20 nine in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
21 abstentions Introduction 1436-A has been adopted by
22 the committee and by a vote of seven in the
23 affirmative, one in the negative and one abstention
24 Introduction 1307-A has been also adopted by the
25 committee.

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CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: We'll leave the
vote... the vote open for 20 minutes.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Continuation of
roll call, Committee on Housing and Buildings,
Introductions 1307-A and 1436-A, Council Member
Rosenthal?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye on
both, thank you. This committee has called..

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: By a vote of ten
in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
abstentions, Introduction 1436-A is adopted by the
committee and Introduction 1307-A has now been
adopted by a vote of eight in the affirmative, one in
the negative and one abstention, thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: This committee
is called.. this hearing is called to a close.

[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

November 15, 2017