

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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November 29, 2017  
Start: 2:33 p.m.  
Recess: 2:43 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: DANIEL R. GARODNICK  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Vincent J. Gentile  
Julissa Ferreras-Copeland  
Karen Koslowitz  
Donovan J. Richards  
Inez D. Barron  
I. Daneek Miller  
Joseph C. Borelli

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

2 [sound check, pause] [background  
3 comments] [gavel]

4 CHAIRPERSON GARODNICK: Good afternoon,  
5 everyone, and welcome to the Economic Development  
6 Committee of the New York City Council. Today is  
7 November 29. My name is Dan Garodnick and I had the  
8 privilege of chairing this committee. I want to  
9 thank the members of the Committee for coming  
10 together today to hold a vote on Intro 1400, and  
11 we're joined by Council Members Gentile, Koslowitz,  
12 Richards, Miller, and even Vacca for a moment who is  
13 not a member of this committee, but we're delighted--  
14 Oh, there he is--but we're delighted to have him  
15 visiting us. I also want to thank Council Member  
16 Helen Rosenthal for her leadership in sponsoring the  
17 legislation before the committee today. The bill  
18 that we are voting on is Intro 1400. It relates to  
19 the participation of Minority and Women Owned  
20 Businesses and construction projects that receive tax  
21 benefits in accordance with the Industrial and  
22 Commercial Abatement Program, also known as ICAP.  
23 The ICAP Program provides abatements for property  
24 taxes for construction contracts for periods of up to  
25 25 years, and Intro 1400 will require the developers

2 who apply for the ICAP program to submit  
3 certifications of compliance with the MWBE program  
4 requirements to the Department of Small Business  
5 Services and to the Department of Finance. Intro  
6 1400 would also reduce the project cost threshold  
7 requiring ICAP applicants to directly solicit  
8 certified MWBEs to work on a given project from the  
9 current threshold of \$1.5 million to \$750,000. This  
10 bill would essentially require construction  
11 contractors to at the very least make a good faith  
12 effort to consider Minority and Women Owned Business  
13 Enterprises before moving on to other businesses.  
14 Intro 1400 will ensure that certified MWBE firms get  
15 a first look from the construction industry on  
16 smaller projects with the hope that more qualified  
17 MWBEs ultimately become employed as construction  
18 subcontractors in the city. For these reasons, I am  
19 certainly voting in favor of Intro 1400 today, and I  
20 encourage my colleagues on the committee to do so as  
21 well. Are there any questions or comments? Seeing  
22 none, I'm going allow the-

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: [off mic] Can I?

24 CHAIRPERSON GARODNICK: Yes, please

25 Council Member Miller.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Mr.  
3 Chair. So, I'm—I'm also proudly going to be voting  
4 yes on this legislation not just because it is  
5 something that was originally introduced by my mentor  
6 and mentor of many others, Council Member Tom—the  
7 late Tom White, but we know the special impact that  
8 it now has throughout the city with the renaissance—  
9 the road development that is going on, and  
10 communities of color and communities throughout the  
11 city that—that this legislation and its amendments  
12 now keep up with what goes on to ensure that the MWBE  
13 contractors and others have a level playing field and  
14 an opportunity to participate in this development.  
15 So, I thank you for your leadership here, as well as  
16 Counsel Member Rosenthal for introducing this bill  
17 and I will be proudly voting aye. Thank you, Mr.  
18 Chair.

19 CHAIRPERSON GARODNICK: Thank you very  
20 much. Other comments? Seeing none, I will call the  
21 Council to call the role.

22 CLERK: Committee Clerk Matthew  
23 DiStefano, Committee on Economic Development, roll  
24 call vote on Intro No. 1400. Chair Garodnick.

25 CHAIRPERSON GARODNICK: I vote aye.

2 CLERK: Gentile.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote aye.

4 CLERK: Koslowitz.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic] I  
6 vote aye, and I would like my name to be added to  
7 this bill.

8 CLERK: Richards.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Please add my  
10 name to the bill as well, and I vote aye.

11 CLERK: Miller.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye.

13 CLERK: By a vote of 5 in the  
14 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
15 the item has been adopted.

16 CHAIRPERSON GARODNICK: Thank you very  
17 much. We're going to hold the vote open for five  
18 minutes. After that time, we'll be adjourned.

19 [gavel] [background comments, pause]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I am better  
21 than-better looking than Council Member Garodnick.  
22 It is an honor to now chair this committee. I will  
23 re-open the vote, and ask the Counsel to call the  
24 role.

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1 COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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2 CLERK: Continuation of roll call,  
3 Committee on Economic Development, roll call on Intro  
4 No. 1400. Council Member Barron.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.  
6 Thank you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Thank you,  
8 Council Member Garodnick. Hope you forgive me.

9 CLERK: I do. The final vote 6 in the  
10 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.  
11 Thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Is this hearing  
13 now closed? This hearing is--

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWTIZ: [off mic] No,  
15 you have--

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Oh, wait. We  
17 have one more vote. Economic Development.

18 [background comments] Oh, he's not on Economic  
19 Development. I think he got confused. Alright, this  
20 hearing is now closed. [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 December 18, 2017