

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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December 7, 2017
Start: 2:45 p.m.
Recess: 3:24 p.m.

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

B E F O R E: RITCHIE J. TORRES
Acting 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)

2 [background comments, laughter] [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I just want to say
4 for the record that I—I confidently predicted all of
5 my colleagues would be within a half an hour late
6 rather than an hour late of the hearing, but good
7 afternoon, everyone. I'm City Councilman Ritchie
8 Torres, acting as Chair of the Committee on Housing
9 and Buildings today since Council Member Williams
10 couldn't join us. He was sadly the victim of a coup
11 d'etat. We are here holding to hold a vote on three
12 bills:

13 Proposed Intro No. 1241-A, sponsored by
14 Council Member Espinal, would require diaper changing
15 stations in assembly and mercantile occupancies for
16 both male and female occupants.

17 Proposed Intro No. 1678-B, sponsored by
18 Council Member Koo, would expand the definition of
19 harassment to include threats based on a person's
20 actual or perceived status in a protected class
21 including threats to report immigrant tenants to ICE.
22 The bill will also add to the definition of
23 harassment requests for identifying documentation
24 that would disclose a person's immigration status

2 when the person has already provided the owner with a
3 current form of personal identification.

4 The final bill we will be voting on,
5 Proposed Intro No. 1764-A in relation to J-51 benefit
6 eligibility would increase the assessed value
7 limitation for eligibility and J-51 improvements to
8 \$32,000 per dwelling unit, and I believe that's
9 Council Member Grodenchik? Okay. He's not in that
10 bill.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: [off mic]

12 Another bill altogether.

13 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: I'd like to thank
14 Council Member Williams' staff for the work they did
15 to assemble this hearing including Mike Toomey his
16 Legislative Director; Megan Chin, Counsel to the
17 committee; Jose Conde, Policy Analyst to the
18 Committee and Sarah Gastelum, the Committee's Finance
19 Analyst as well as my staff, including Raymond
20 Rodriguez, and Daniel Wagner. With that, I would
21 like to ask the clerk to please call the roll.

22 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,
23 roll call vote Committee on Housing and Buildings.
24 All items are coupled. Council Member Torres.

25 [background comments]

2 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote aye.

3 CLERK: Rodriguez.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

5 CLERK: Cornegy.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

7 CLERK: Espinal.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye.

9 CLERK: Rosenthal.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye on
11 all.

12 CLERK: Grodenchik.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Mr. Chairman,
14 Mr. Acting Chairman, permission to explain my vote.

15 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Permission granted.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you,
17 Mr. Chair. I just want to thank the committee staff
18 here. I'd like to thank Chair Williams, my Counsel
19 Steve Becht, and my Chief of Staff, and Assemblyman
20 Ed Bronstein, State Senator Tony Avella who
21 shepherded this legislation, which will provide
22 relief for middle income co-ops in every borough of
23 the city of New York. At one time the exemption for
24 J-51 was \$40,000 per unit. It got dropped to \$30.
25 This will provide modest relief and also includes a

2 COLA clause, which will eventually get the
3 eligibility back to \$35,000. So, I thank you all for
4 voting yes as you have done, and I proudly vote aye
5 on all.

6 CLERK: Salamanca.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: By a vote of 7 in the
9 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
10 all items have been adopted by the committee.

11 [background comments]

12 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: And we will keep it
13 open to allow the rest of my punctual colleagues to
14 vote, and do not interpret my chairmanship as it
15 comes to the future so-- [background comments]

16 CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: So let's way 20
17 minutes.

18 FEMALE SPEAKER: Thank you for that.
19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: Oh, no. No.

21 [background comments, pause]

22 CLERK: Continuation Roll Call the
23 Committee on Housing and Buildings. Council Member
24 Ulrich.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye.

1 COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

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2 CLERK: The vote now stands at 8 in the
3 affirmative for all bills. [pause] Continuation roll
4 call Committee on Housing and Buildings. Council
5 Member Levine.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I vote aye.

7 CHAIRPERSON TORRES: It was eloquently
8 done, eloquently done. Thank you. [cheering]

9 CLERK: The vote currently stands at 9 in
10 the affirmative. [pause] Continuation Roll Call the
11 Committee on Housing and Buildings, Council Member
12 Mendez.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I vote aye.

14 CLERK: The final vote in Committee on
15 Housing and Buildings all items have been adopted by
16 a vote of 10 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative
17 and no abstentions. Thank you. [pause] [background
18 comments] [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 21, 2017