

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

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APRIL 23, 2018
Start: 12:09 P.M.
Recess: 12:31 P.M.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY, COMMITTEE ROOM 14TH
FLOOR

B E F O R E:

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Costa G. Constantinides, Chair
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Stephen T. Levin
Carlos Menchaca
Donovan J. Richards
Eric A. Ulrich
Kalman Yeger

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

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(This is a microphone check. Today's date is April 23, 2018. Committee on Environmental Protection, being recorded by John Biando.)

CHAIR COSTA CONSTANTINIDES: Alright good morning, actually afternoon, just, uhm just missed that but good afternoon and welcome. I am Council Member Costa Constantinides, Chair of the Environmental Protection Committee, joined today by Council Member Donovan Richards, Council Member Carlos, Menchaca and Council Member Kalman Yeger. Thank you all for being here. So a vote a Legislation that will advance wind energy technology applications and Legislation to enhance greater use of renewable wind energy particularly in urban areas. We will also hear Legislation that requires implementation of energy efficiency measures. In 2014, we enacted local law 66 of 2014 which calls for an 80% reduction in emissions by 2050, 80 by 50, relative to such emissions for the base year of 2005 for citywide emissions to reduce our citywide emissions that dramatically we will have to use all possible renewable energy technologies. Wind energy projects are currently the mass and stage of development in New York City but that does mean that

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2 these projects are not a worthwhile adventure for the
3 city. Several wind projects have already started
4 here with enthusiasm for more. New small turbine
5 technologies are emerging that can make residential
6 wind power more feasible. Streamlining regulations
7 would make wind power more assessable and less
8 arduous option for city residents and businesses.
9 Further, the city could enact and implement a
10 strategy to assess its capacity for onshore wind
11 energy along our city waterfronts in order to create
12 more informed decision makings on wind energy
13 potential in the city's plan for renewable energy
14 expansion. The future of energy use in America as
15 renewable energy including wind power and there is no
16 way to achieve our aims of good environmental quality
17 and abundant energy for our lifestyles with continued
18 fossil fuel use. The Legislation that we are voting
19 on day will help the city progress toward a cleaning
20 energy future, proposed Intro 48 A and proposed Intro
21 50 A promote onshore wind energy, proposed Intro 48A
22 requires each long term sustainability plan required
23 by the charter to contain a wind resource assessment
24 that would identify and map the areas of the city
25 where wind resources are available for effective

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2 utilization of a wind turbine. Proposed Intro 50A
3 would authorize the installation of wind turbines
4 designed to generate no more than 100 kilowatts of
5 electricity along with supporting structures.
6 Proposed Intro 96A would allow residential
7 cooperatives to file a single consolidant energy
8 efficiency report where the cooperative covers
9 multiple buildings on different tax lot numbers.
10 Proposed Intro 598A requires all city owned buildings
11 to be completely powered by green energy sources by
12 2050 and finally proposed Resolution 176 gives
13 support to the New York State's Government Commitment
14 to and facilitation of large scale off shore wind
15 projects. I recommend a yes vote on Intro 48A, 50A,
16 96A, 598A and proposed Resolution 176. We are also
17 joined by Council Member Rafael Espinal from Brooklyn
18 if the clerk could call the roll.

19 LEO MARTIN: Leo Martin, Committee Clerk
20 roll call book Committee on Environmental Protection.
21 All items are coupled, Chair Constantinides.

22 COSTA CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

23 LEO MARTIN: Epinal.

24 RAFAEL ESPINAL: I proudly vote aye with
25 many congratulations to the Bill sponsor.

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LEO MARTIN: Menchaca.

CARLOS MENCHACA: I vote aye. Want to be added to the Bills as we move out of Committee. Thank you so much to our Chair who keeps us focused, motivated and accountable.

LEO MARTIN: Richards.

DONOVAN RICHARDS: Am I suppose to speak on my Resolution? I'm so sorry you know what Jordan wrote this so sometimes I feel bad when he writes all of this stuff and then I'm like don't read it. but I will read it because he did work on it.

CHAIR COSTA CONSTANTINIDES: Absolutely, absolutely.

CARLOS MENCHACA: As I said, first all congratulations Mr. Chair on this ground breaking Legislation uhm and I'm happy to just be a part of it with a Resolution. As a city, state and nation we must get serious in our efforts to combat climate change immediately. Tomorrow is too late, Resolution 1720, 7, 1 7 6 calls on Governor Cuomo to continue to be a leader in the fight to save our future. He came through on the fight to keep fracking out of New York in 2014 and in 2018 the City Council is calling on him again to commit to and facilitate the development

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2 of large scale, off shore, off shore wind projects by
3 2030 and let me just add that the advocates really
4 played a key role in that. This would align with his
5 own new clean energy standard which required that 50%
6 of New York's Electricity come from renewable energy
7 sources like wind and solar by 2030, not only will
8 these projects provide us with clean energy but they
9 will also generate economic activity and create
10 quality jobs for local communities. It is clear that
11 the Federal Government won't be answering this call
12 anytime soon so it is imperative that we make bold
13 decisions now to tap into mass amounts of renewable
14 energy. I would like to ask my colleagues to support
15 this Resolution and I thank Chair Constantinides for
16 his leadership in fighting against climate change.
17 Thank you and Sanara congratulations as well. I vote
18 aye on everything.

19 LEO MARTIN: Yeger?

20 KALMAN YEGER: Briefly to explain my vote
21 Mr. Chair.

22 CHAIR COSTA CONSTANTINIDES: Absolutely,
23 absolutely.

24 KALMAN YEGER: Thank you um I would like
25 to commend the Chair and this committee and the

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2 Council for these incredibly wise Bills that are
3 designed to make it easier to breath in our
4 communities, make it easier to raise our children and
5 look forward to the future. Uhm these Bills not only
6 impose no physical impact on the city which is very
7 important to me as I look to the things that we can
8 do to make our city cleaner and greener uhm but it
9 also makes it easier for the private sector to comply
10 with the laws that we have set forth which are
11 designed to make our city cleaner. So I probably
12 vote aye on all. Uhm I congratulate the Chair, I
13 congratulate Council Member Koo who proposed the
14 Intro 96A which I have co-sponsored with him and I
15 congratulate Council Member Donovan Richards for his
16 very wise Resolution. Thank you I vote aye on all.

17 LEO MARTIN: By a vote of five in the
18 affirmative, zero in the negative and no extensions
19 all items have been adopted by the Committee.

20 CHAIR COSTA CONSTANTINIDES: I would like
21 to leave the roll open for about 15 minutes and with
22 that I will gavel this Committee hearing closed.
23 Okay leave it open, okay, alright. Alright.

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LEO MARTIN: Continuation roll call of the Committee on Environmental Protection. Council Member Levin?

STEPHEN LEVIN: I vote aye on all.

LEO MARTIN: Final vote in the Committee on Environmental Projection, all items have been adopted by the committee, six in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no extensions.

CHAIR COSTA CONSTANTINIDES: Uhm this hearing on the Environmental Protection Committee is adjourned. (gavel, 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 May 21, 2018