

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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June 5, 2018

Start: 1:21 p.m.

Recess: 1:34 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm.
14th FL

B E F O R E: MARK LEVINE
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Inez D. Barron
Mathieu Eugene
Keith Powers

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

2 [sound check]

3 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Good afternoon,
4 everyone. I'm Mark Levine, Chair of the City
5 Council's Committee on Health. I'm pleased to be
6 joined by two stalwart committee members, Council
7 Member Ampry-Samuel and Council Member Dr. Mathieu
8 Eugene. They get extra points for making this forum
9 possible, more discretionary for you guys. We are
10 going to be considering today a bill that has been
11 sponsored by Council Member Vallone, which will
12 require a full service shelter be maintained in each
13 borough of New York City. In 2000, the City Council
14 passed Local Law 26, the Animal Shelters and
15 Sterilization Act, which required that a full service
16 animal shelter exist in each of the five boroughs.
17 After a decade of non-compliance and litigation with
18 a non-profit volunteer organization, the Bloomberg
19 Administration and the New York City Council came to
20 an agreement in 2011 to repeal the requirement that
21 there be full service shelters—animal shelters in
22 every borough and instead focus on improving the
23 existing shelter system. As part of this agreement,
24 the Bloomberg Administration committed to increasing
25 its investment in animal shelters by nearly \$10

million over three years to greatly improve the quality of care for animals at the shelters. This increased funding has served to drastically increase staff, improve adoptions, provide much needed veterinary services and expand rescue response and transport services. As part of these recent reforms, ACC has grown and strengthened its executive staff under the leadership of its Executive Director Lisa Weinstein. At a City Council hearing in 2015, DOHMH Commissioner Dr. Mary Bassett testified that there is a commitment on the part of this Administration to full service shelters in all boroughs. Since then, DOHMH has dedicated \$98 million in its Capital Plan for the construction and renovation of the city's animal care centers. On January 23, 2018, the de Blasio Administration announced the location of the new full service animal shelter in the Baychester neighborhood of the Bronx. While we are encouraged by this new commitment, we must remain vigilant and ensure that full service shelters are available to every New Yorkers in every borough, and Proposed Intro 401-A will do just that by ensuring that each borough including Queens has a full service shelter by July 2024. This has been a long, long-standing

2 priority of Council Member Vallone and many other
3 members of the Vallone family and we congratulate
4 them on getting this to the finish line, and I'm now
5 going to ask our Committee Clerk Billy Martin to call
6 the vote.

7 CLERK: William Martin [mic squawking]
8 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Health,
9 Introduction 401-A, Chair Levine.

10 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: I vote aye.

11 CLERK: Eugene.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

13 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel:

14 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: I vote aye.

15 CLERK: By a vote of 3 in the
16 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions,
17 the item is adopted by the committee.

18 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Can we keep the vote
19 open for-[applause]-you can still applaud, though.
20 [laughter] We-we-we-we have now reached the majority.
21 So, we have 3 out of 5, and at least one more en
22 route. So, we'll keep the vote open. Thank you,
23 colleagues. [pause]

1 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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2 CLERK: Continuation roll call the
3 Committee on Health. Council Member Barron.
4 [background comments, pause]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I
6 vote aye. [background comments, pause]

7 CLERK: Continuation roll call the
8 Committee on health, Introduction 401, Council Member
9 Powers.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I vote aye.

11 CLERK: Final vote Committee on Health,
12 Introduction 401-A is now adopted by a vote of 5 in
13 the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no
14 abstentions. [pause]

15 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Okay, this concludes
16 our very successful Committee hear, and I will gavel
17 out now. Thank you. [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 June 17, 2018