

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH, DISABILITIES AND
ADDICTION

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June 5, 2018
Start: 12:10 p.m.
Recess: 12:14 p.m.

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

B E F O R E: DIANA AYALA
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Fernando Cabrera
Robert F. Holden
James G. Van Bramer

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

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

CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Good evening,
everyone. Good afternoon. I'm Council Member Diana
Ayala, Chair of the Committee on Mental Health,
Disabilities and Addiction. I would like to thank
all of you for joining us today. Today, we will be
voting on a package of bills designed to combat our
city's opioid crisis. More New Yorkers die of drug
overdoses than homicides, suicides and motor vehicle
accidents combined. According to the Center for
Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 64,000
Americans died from drug overdoses in 2016. Three-
fourths of those were caused by opioids and that
represents a 21% increase from the previous year.
Although there is no silver bullet, each bill in this
package is a step in the right direction. Intro No.
614-A, which I sponsored alongside Council Member
Reynoso, Ampry-Samuel and Holden will require the
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to provide
overdoses-opioid overdose reversal drugs such as
Naloxone to all syringe exchange programs operating
in the city. It would also require DOHMH to ensure
that all syringe exchange staff members are properly

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1 trained in overdose prevention and reversal. Intro
2 618-A sponsored by Council Member Brannan would
3 require DOHMH to develop age-appropriate educational
4 materials on drug and opioid awareness prevention,
5 and would also require the Department of Youth and
6 Community Development and the Department of Education
7 to distribute these materials to youth, programs and
8 students respectively. Council Member Brannan also
9 sponsored Resolution 197, a resolution calling on DOE
10 to develop a comprehensive drug awareness curriculum
11 in all city public schools. Intro 623-A sponsored by
12 Council Member Cohen and Intro 717-A sponsored by
13 Council Member William, would require reports from
14 the Council about the administration of opioid
15 antagonists from Fire and Police Departments
16 respectively. Intro 667-A, 667-A-668-A, 669-A, all
17 sponsored by Council Member Torres, would expand
18 treatment options and reporting requirements. Intro
19 667-A would require the Department of Social Services
20 and the Department of Homeless Services to refer
21 individuals receiving opioid antagonists for
22 additional services. Intro 668-A would require DOHMH
23 to provide opioid overdose prevention and reversal
24 training to the public, and Intro 669-A would require
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municipal drug strategy advisory council, which consists of healthcare professionals, advocates and individuals suffering from substance abuse, misuse disorders to report on the number of opioid overdose reversal drugs that are distributed to city agencies.

As you can see, we want attack this problem from every possible angle. In order to prevent young people from getting hooked and ease the means by which individuals can act as treatment, we will need a combination of more comprehensive education, enhanced referrals for services and better data collection from agencies, and that is exactly what this package establishes. This is not the last time that we will be addressing this problem as a committee or as a city, but I hope that things will be better the next time that we do them. I would like to thank the staff of the Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities and Addiction, Counsel Sylvester Yavana, Policy Analyst Michael Kurtz and Finance Analyst Janette Merrill, and my Legislative Director Bianca Almedina for their work on making this hearing possible. Finally, I would like to recognize committee members that have joined us Council Member Holden, Ampry-Samuel and Fernando Cabrera. Anyone

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2 else? Okay, and now we will be voting. [background
3 comments] Council Member Van Bramer. Yeah, you can
4 call.

5 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,
6 roll call vote Committee on Mental Health, Chair
7 Ayala.

8 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Aye on all.

9 CLERK: Cabrera.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

11 CLERK: Van Bramer.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

13 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye.

15 CLERK: Holden

16 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

17 CLERK: By a vote of 5 in the affirmative
18 0 in the negative and no abstentions, all items have
19 been adopted by the committee.

20 CHAIR AMPRY-SAMUEL: Okay, we will call
21 this committee to an end, but before we do that, we
22 will leave open the vote until 12:30. [background
23 comments] Oh, okay. So we will—we will adjourn. We
24 have enough votes. 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 25, 2018