

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS LICENSING

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August 7, 2018
Start: 10:43 a.m.
Recess: 10:45 a.m.

HELD AT: <INSERT MEETING LOCATION>

B E F O R E:

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

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

4 CHAIRPERSON ESPINAL: Good morning. My
5 name is Rafael Espinal. I am the Chair of the
6 Consumer Affairs Committee. I'm joined today by
7 other members of the Committee. We have Karen
8 Koslowitz from Queens. We have Margaret Chin from
9 Manhattan. We have Peter Koo from Queens. Today the
10 committee will vote on Proposed Intro 965-A, a bill I
11 sponsored that will address the administrative issue
12 for tobacco retail licenses. Last year changes were
13 made to the licensing for tobacco retailers.
14 Previously, only sellers of cigarettes required
15 licenses, but as the city continues its push to
16 reduce the harms of smoking, we passed a bill to
17 change the licensing requirements for tobacco
18 retailers. The rollout of the changes meant a new
19 application process for some small businesses that
20 were unaware of the process. Intro 965-A will
21 address some of the administrative issues that arose
22 after these changes were put in place. The bill
23 creates a time extension that would permit pre-
24 existing tobacco retailers to continue the license
25 registration process with the city. The Council

1 COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS LICENSING
2 remains committed to reducing the number of tobacco⁴
3 retail dealers in the city, and this bill simply
4 avoids putting already existing tobacco retailers out
5 of business. I recommend a yes vote on this bill and
6 call on the clerk to call the roll.

7 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,
8 roll call vote Committee on Consumer Affairs and
9 Business Licensing. Introduction 965-A, Chair
10 Espinal.

11 CHAIRPERSON ESPINAL: I vote aye.

12 CLERK: Chin.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [off mic] I vote
14 aye.

15 CLERK: Koo.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: [off mic] I vote
17 aye.

18 CLERK: Koslowitz.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic] I
20 vote aye.

21 CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the
22 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
23 the item has been adopted by the committee. [pause]

24 CHAIRPERSON ESPINAL: This meeting is
25 adjourned. [gavel] [background comments]

1 COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS LICENSING

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: They're missing

3 me on the video? How is that nice. (sic) [laughs]

4 [background comments, pause]

5 CHAIRPERSON ESPINAL: I am reopening the

6 hearing on Consumer [gavel] Affairs. Billy, will you

7 call the roll?

8 CLERK: Vote on Introduction 965-A.

9 Council Member Lander.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Um, I-I vote aye.

11 I'm grateful to the chair for reopening the hearing

12 and to the staff for making it possible. I had some

13 questions about this bill because, of course our goal

14 has been to reduce the number of people that are

15 selling tobacco and tobacco products, but I

16 appreciate the staff's work to identify we're talking

17 about a small category of people and a set of people

18 that we just want to make sure have a fair

19 opportunity the way that others have, and I

20 appreciate the time of the staff to get me that

21 information, and to make it possible for me to cast

22 this vote. I vote aye.

23 CLERK: Final vote stands at 5 in the

24 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

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1 COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS LICENSING

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2 CHAIRPERSON ESPINAL: Thank you, and with

3 that, this meeting is adjourned. [gavel] Thank you.

4 [background comments]

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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 August 10, 2018