

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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September 26, 2018
Start: 10:54 a.m.
Recess: 11:00 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: COSTA CONSTANTINIDES
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: 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)

2 [sound check][gavel]

3 CHAIR CONSTANTINIDES: Good morning. I
4 am Costa Constantinides, Chair of the Environmental
5 Protection Committee, and today the Environmental
6 Protection Committee will vote on three bills aimed
7 at improving the water quality and eco system of the
8 Jamaica Bay and the surrounding area. Jamaica Bay's
9 future is in severe jeopardy as 50% of the Bay's
10 Marshy Island have vanished from 1,900 to 2,000, and
11 sea levels continue to rise. Further, with increased
12 participation—or precipitation, it is likely that the
13 groundwater table will rise even more in the
14 watershed resulting in a variety of consequences that
15 could potentially affect the 500,000 people who live
16 in Jamaica Bay Watershed adjoining Jamaica Bay. For
17 New York City's waterfront communities adjoining
18 Jamaica Bay this is a life threatening Reality.
19 Furthermore, extreme weather events could cost \$90
20 billion in damages by 2050 compared to the \$19
21 billion caused by Super Storm Sandy. In the future,
22 we can expect increased flooding in New York City.
23 Proposed Intro 628-A will require a map and study
24 that will help identify areas within the city most
25 susceptible to flooding and require the creation of a

mitigation plan to address that flooding. This will enable the city and its residents to better prepare for extreme weather events such as flooding.

Proposed Intro 749-A would require an agency designated by the Mayor to study—install geothermal systems in city-owned buildings including any impediments as well as to undertake an energy modeling analysis. It would also require the development of a pilot program to provide heating, cooling or another beneficial use of discharged waters from dewatering operations I city-owned buildings. Finally, proposed Intro 750-A establishes a Jamaica Bay task force to provide recommendations to the Mayor and the Speaker of the Council as well as the Bay—Jamaica Bay Science and Resilience Institute on the ecological integrity, cleanup and resilience of Jamaica Bay, its surrounding watershed, underground aquifer and groundwater service area. In light of Climate Week, I am thrilled that we are voting on these bills today. I want to thank our Speaker Corey Johnson for his strong environmental leadership. I want to thank my co-sponsor on the bill who represents this area including Donovan Richards, Adrienne Adams and Daneek Miller and, of

2 course, thank staff attorney Samara Swanston, our
3 Policy Analyst Nadia Johnson, our Financial Analyst
4 Jonathan Seltzer, and my Legislative Counsel Nicholas
5 Wazowski. I also want to recognize our colleagues
6 here, our members of the committee Council Member
7 Espinal, Council Member Menchaca and Council Member
8 Richards all environmental advocates and strong
9 proponents in their own right. With that, I recommend
10 a yes vote on all three bills, and Council Member
11 Yeger as well.

12 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,
13 roll call vote Committee on Environmental Protection.
14 All items are coupled. Chair Constantinides.

15 CHAIR CONSTANTINIDES: I vote aye.

16 CLERK: Espinal.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye.

18 CLERK: Menchaca.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I vote aye on
20 all, and if you could please add me to 628-A and 749-
21 A.

22 CLERK: Richards.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye. Thank you.

24 CLERK: Yeger.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

1 COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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2 CLERK: By a vote of 5 in the affirmative,
3 0 in the negative and no abstentions, all items have
4 been adopted by the committee.

5 CHAIR CONSTANTINIDES: We'll leave the
6 vote open for another— Huh?

7 FEMALE SPEAKER: Levin.

8 CHAIR CONSTANTINIDES: For Council Member
9 Levin until such time that the next committee is to
10 be begin. [pause]

11 CLERK: Continuation roll call, the
12 Committee on Environmental Protection. Council
13 Member Levin.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

15 CLERK: The vote now stands at 6 in the
16 affirmative. The final vote Committee on
17 Environmental Protection Introduction 628-A, 749-A
18 and 750-A are adopted by a vote of 6 in the
19 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.
20 [pause]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: The hearing on
22 Environmental Protection is closed. [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 October 15, 2018