

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

-----X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

-----X

November 19th, 2008
Start: 12:23pm
Recess: 12:27pm

HELD AT: Committee Room
City Hall

B E F O R E: PETER F. VALLONE, JR.
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
James F. Gennaro
Melinda R. Katz
David Yassky
Vincent J. Gentile
Daniel R. Garodnick
Anthony Como

1
2 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Okay, quiet
3 please. Take seats. Okay. Welcome everyone to
4 this long awaited public safety hearing. By way
5 of explanation as to why it was supposed to start
6 at 10:00. I was here at 10:00 and so were some of
7 you. But we only have 11 members on the Committee
8 and three of them are out of action today. Erik
9 Dilan's wife is in labor and we wish them well.
10 Joe Addabbo, after his hard fought victory, is
11 celebrating in Disney World and Helen Foster is on
12 her honeymoon. So everybody has good things
13 happening, which means we had to herd cats, in
14 this case literally, Melinda Katz, to get enough
15 people in the room to have this vote. So and so,
16 let me do a short version of this opening
17 statement. We'll be voting on Intro 492-A, which
18 will provide the council with greater insight as
19 to the presence of guns in our communities.
20 Rather than read this finely written opening
21 statement by Oona, which I've looked at. It's
22 basically what we're doing here is providing more
23 transparency as we've done with this Committee
24 many times in the past. We will now know, thanks
25 to this bill, which was put in by Council Member

1
2 Yassky, where gun arrests are being made and where
3 guns are being possessed in this city. And once
4 we have that information we can then use it to
5 continue to make our city safer. An informed City
6 is a safer City. And this Committee has a long
7 history of providing information to the public
8 regarding crime. It was this Committee that put
9 forth the crime in parks bill, which for the first
10 time gave us crime in parks statistics; crime in
11 schools bill, which put school crime on the web
12 and gave us school crime; and there's many others
13 like that and this has been a long tradition of
14 getting more information so that the public can be
15 safer. So, I would recommend an aye vote from
16 everyone. And with that I'd like to turn it over
17 to the bill's sponsor, David Yassky, with no
18 microphone.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Thank you.
20 First of all I would just like to corroborate that
21 indeed the Chair was here at 10:00, ready and
22 raring to go. So thank you, Mr. Chair, for your
23 punctuality. Very simply, this is a common sense
24 bill to add gun trafficking to the list of
25 accountability measurements that the police

1
2 department tracks and makes public so that we can
3 get the most out of the terrific Com Stat system
4 on gun trafficking. And I thank you, Chair
5 Vallone, for not just doing this today, but for
6 all the work you've done in our time here on gun
7 trafficking. Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you,
9 Council Member. With that, does anyone want to be
10 heard before I open up for a vote. We will call
11 the vote. Billy?

12 WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin,
13 Committee Clerk. Introduction 492-A. Council
14 Member Vallone?

15 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I vote Aye.

16 WILLIAM MARTIN: Gennaro.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

18 WILLIAM MARTIN: Katz.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Yes.

20 WILLIAM MARTIN: Yassky.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Yes.

22 WILLIAM MARTIN: Gentile.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Let me
24 just say, Mr. Chair, that this bill mimics one of
25 the bills that I had tried to pass, well, in the

1
2 state senate on a gun tracing effort. That bill
3 never made it to the floor of the state senate.
4 And so I wholeheartedly support Councilman
5 Yassky's efforts and I vote Aye. Congratulations.

6 WILLIAM MARTIN: Garodnick.

7 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Did you want
8 to say something, Yas?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Mr. Chair,
10 I just wanted to comment, I think the chances of
11 legislation like that moving in the state senate
12 has increased dramatically. So I commend you for
13 your foresight.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: All
15 right and with that, I think that was worthwhile.
16 I enjoyed it very much. I vote Aye. Thank you.

17 WILLIAM MARTIN: Como.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER COMO: Aye.

19 WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of seven
20 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
21 abstentions, item is adopted. Members, please
22 sign the committee report. Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: We'll hold
24 the vote open for a half hour for those members
25 who have not shown up. And that adjourns this

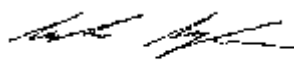
2

meeting.

3

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Erika Swyler certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature  _____

Date December 2, 2008 _____