

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

-----X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE & LABOR

-----X

February 10, 2009

Start: 01:26 pm

Recess: 01:31 pm

HELD AT: Committee Room
City Hall

B E F O R E:
LARRY B. SEABROOK
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Michael C. Nelson
James F. Gennaro
Melissa Mark-Viverito
Robert Jackson
Darlene Mealy

2 CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: Good

3 afternoon. Today, the Committee on Civil Service
4 and Labor will vote on Introduction 837. This
5 proposed law will amend the Administrative Code of
6 the City of New York in relation to the residency
7 requirement for city employees. Specifically,
8 this modification will allow certain employees,
9 after two years of city service, to reside outside
10 of New York City in the counties of Nassau,
11 Westchester, Suffolk, Orange, Rockland or Putnam.
12 On Tuesday, December 16, 2008, the Committee
13 adopted this legislation by a vote of four in the
14 affirmative, zero in the negative and no
15 abstentions. Accordingly, the Committee
16 recommended its adoption. Subsequently, Intro.
17 837 was approved by the Council and sent to the
18 mayor. On January 16, 2009, this item was
19 disapproved by the mayor. If approved by the
20 committee today, Introduction 837 will return to
21 the Council and possibly override the mayor's
22 disapproval. I would like to thank my colleagues
23 for being here today. I'd like to introduce them.
24 We have Councilman Gennaro from Queens,
25 Councilwoman Mark-Viverito from Manhattan and the

1
2 Bronx, Councilman Mike Nelson from Brooklyn, and
3 Councilman Robert Jackson from Manhattan. We will
4 have a statement from Council Member Robert
5 Jackson from Manhattan.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,
7 Mr. Chair. Even though I'm not a member of this
8 committee, the bill that is being reconsidered for
9 override, Intro 837, which is commonly known as
10 the residency bill, is a bill in which I'm the
11 primary sponsor, along with many of our
12 colleagues. Clearly, this is an issue that has
13 been outstanding for such a long time. In fact,
14 the leaders of DC37 and the Speaker and members of
15 the City Council have reached agreement on this.
16 As you indicated in your opening statement, it was
17 voted on by the City Council and is now being
18 considered for an override. I strongly suggest to
19 all of my colleagues that when you reach a
20 consensus with one of the largest unions in this
21 great city of ours, they expect us to continue
22 with our commitment to move forward on this
23 agreement. As a lead sponsor of this, I ask all
24 of the committee members to vote in favor of this
25 particular bill, which is called the residency

1
2 bill, that will allow members of DC37 the
3 opportunity, if they so desire, to relocate
4 outside of New York City in order to live.

5 Currently, members that are impacted by this bill
6 cannot move outside of New York City, even if they
7 wanted to, in order to continue their employment.

8 This bill, as I indicated, will give those members
9 that are covered by this bill the opportunity, if

10 they so desire and if they can afford, to reside
11 within the six counties that have been specified

12 in this particular bill, which is Nassau, Suffolk,
13 Rockland, Westchester, Orange and Putnam Counties.

14 They can live outside of New York City and then
15 commute to work in New York City. I ask all of my
16 colleagues to vote in favor of Intro. 837.

17 CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: Thank you.

18 We have been joined by Councilwoman Darlene Mealy
19 from Brooklyn as well. Any other statements?

20 First of all, I'm very pleased that we are doing
21 this bill. I've always felt that this should have
22 been done a long time ago. We have lived with
23 this too long and done too little about it. It is
24 our hope that we will do what has to be done with
25 this vote and the vote tomorrow in making sure

1
2 that it becomes a reality for those workers who
3 need this to happen. Thank God it's about to
4 happen. Thank you very much. We're going to have
5 two votes. The first is the mayor's veto message.
6 Shall the committee accept and file the mayor's
7 veto message? This is a roll call vote.

8 WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin,
9 Committee Clerk, roll calling the Committee on
10 Civil Service and Labor on M 1288. Council Member
11 Seabrook?

12 CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: I vote aye.

13 WILLIAM MARTIN: Nelson?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

15 WILLIAM MARTIN: Gennaro?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

17 WILLIAM MARTIN: Mark-Viverito?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Yes.

19 WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of four
20 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
21 abstentions, M 1288 is adopted.

22 CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: And the
23 second vote, Intro 837, shall the committee re-
24 pass Intro. 837, notwithstanding the mayor's veto
25 message?

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22

WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member
Seabrook?

CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: I vote aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Nelson?

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: To be
excused to explain my vote. It's fair and
equitable and it's just humane, given the non-
abundance of affordable housing in this city.
It's a bill whose time has come. I vote aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Mark-Viverito?

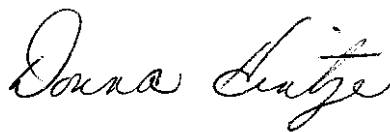
COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: I
vote aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of four
in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
abstentions, Introduction 837 is readopted.
Council Members, please sign the committee
reports. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: Thank you
all so very much for coming. We are adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Donna Hintze 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 February 17, 2009