

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

October 30, 2018
Start: 12:06 p.m.
Recess: 12:17 p.m.

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

B E F O R E: FERNANDO CABRERA
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

BEN KALLOS
ALAN N. MAISEL
BILL PERKINS
KEITH POWERS
YDANIS A. RODRIGUEZ
KALMAN YEGER

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

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

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Good afternoon and welcome to this hearing of the Committee on Governmental Operations. Today we will be holding a second hearing and a vote on Proposed Introduction Number 899-A sponsored by Council Member Keith Powers in relations to permitting the use of campaign funds for certain child care expenses. This bill was previously heard in a joint hearing with the Committee of... on Women in June of this year. Whenever a person runs for elected office there's a tremendous demand for their time. They're expected to raise funds, to organize their campaign, to knock on doors, to shake hands at train stops and to speak to voters at community meetings but if a candidate has a young child at home and if they can't afford to pay for child care to give their campaign the, the time it needs then either... then either the campaign will suffer or they simply won't run for office. This bill removes that difficult choice and eases the way for parents to run for office. Proposed Intro 899-A will permit campaign funds but not public money to be used for childcare services for children under 13 years of age when the, the need for such childcare services

1
2 will not exist but for the campaign. Such funds could
3 be spent in the year of election or the year
4 immediately proceeding the year of election. Since
5 introduction, the bill has been amended in several
6 ways; it now provides greater specificity when such
7 expenditures can be made. It also provides an
8 extension from the expenditure limit for the first
9 20,000 dollars spent on childcare in the election
10 year. It now requires information to be provided to
11 candidates on how to make such expenditures. In
12 addition, although this has been... already been the
13 practice of the campaign finance board it makes clear
14 that candidates who obtain childcare without using
15 campaign funds should not be considered as receiving
16 an in-kind contribution. I would like to thank the
17 sponsor of this bill and member of the... this
18 committee, Council Member Keith Powers for advancing
19 this issue. I would also like to thank our Committee
20 Staff; Council Brad Reid; Policy Analyst Elizabeth
21 Kronk; Finance Analyst Zachary Harris; Deputy
22 Director Rachel Cordero and Counsel to the Speaker
23 Rob Newman, New... Newman as well as my own Legislative
24 Director Claire McLeveighn for all their hard work
25

1
2 and with that I'm going to turn it over to the
3 sponsor of this wonderful bill

4 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you...

5 [cross-talk]

6 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Keith Powers...

7 [cross-talk]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you

9 Chairman Cabrera. I'm excited to be here to, today to
10 vote on Intro 899-A, a bill I introduced with
11 Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo to allow candidates to
12 use campaign funds to cover certain childcare
13 expenses. It follows a landmark unanimous ruling from
14 the Federal Election Commission to allow
15 congressional candidate, Liuba Grechen Shirley to use
16 campaign funds for childcare expenses as well as a
17 recent decision from the New York State Board of
18 Elections to allow for the same on a state level. The
19 aim of this bill is to eliminate some of the finance,
20 financial barriers that hold people especially women
21 back from running for office in New York City. A 2013
22 peer research center survey found that 42 percent of
23 working mothers have to reduce their working hours to
24 care for a child or other family member while only 28
25 percent of working fathers do the same. Furthermore,

1
2 in over half of New York households the woman is the
3 breadwinner. I will note though that we also have
4 many men in this body who are also caretakers and
5 fathers, I noticed Council Member Kallos who's here,
6 Council Member Levin, Reynoso and many others who
7 have to find a balance between being an elected
8 official, running for office and being a, a, a
9 caretaker. We have to realize that for many New
10 Yorkers childcare costs may be a necessary expense in
11 a campaign and this particular expense can be
12 significant enough to discourage candidates
13 particularly female candidates from running for
14 office. This becomes even more important when we talk
15 about the conversation around representation in the
16 City Council with only 11 women in the body... in the
17 body today. This bill has gained support from Planned
18 Parenthood NYC, She Will Rise, 21 and 21, Now NYC and
19 many more. In passing I believe we can better serve
20 parents especially women as they fight to serve in
21 New York City and just from some personal experience
22 having gone through this last year I can tell you,
23 you have to make a sacrifice to do this one way or
24 the other, whether it is quitting your job, whether
25 it is putting yourself out there, night meetings,

1
2 weekend events and to be able to offset some of the
3 burden for people who decide that public service is
4 something they want to pursue I think is a great... is
5 a great... is a great piece of legislation and a great
6 task for us to take up here in the City Council. I
7 just want to also note... I wanted to thank the staff
8 here for working on this bill and helping to put it
9 into final form, it took a lot of back and forth and
10 negotiations. And I also want to just recognize one
11 of the members of this committee, Council Member
12 Kalman Yeger who also worked with us and raised I
13 think points and, and Council Member Kallos that we
14 helped address I think in the final version and to
15 make it a better bill at the end and lastly, while I
16 am available for babysitting, I cannot make outside
17 income so I'll do it for you Ben Kallos, I'll babysit
18 when you need me to. Thank you to the, the Committee
19 for taking this up, thank you to the Chairman.

20 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Well thank you so
21 much and I will now ask the Clerk to call the roll.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: William Martin,
23 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on
24 Governmental Operations, Introduction 899-A, Chair
25 Cabrera?

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Kallos?

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you for the offer of babysitting, I, I will on it regardless I know you've been a great uncle so anyone would be lucky as a, a new parent who, who is dealing with a, a... the simple reality that if childcare falls through that that on your calendar as... is cancelled this will be very helpful as somebody who has done my best to recruit women of color to run for the City Council because we are underrepresented by women and, and parents in general, I think that this goes a long way towards making sure that we really open up government to parents, I proudly vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Maisel?

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: [off mic] Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Rodriguez?

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic] Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Perkins?

COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Powers?

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Yeger?

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Mr. Chairman may I
3 be excused to briefly explain my vote?

4 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Absolutely.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you. I, I
6 will be voting for this bill proudly, I think this
7 is... this is a wise idea by Council Member Powers and
8 I emphasize Councilman, it was a... it was a male
9 member of this body who sponsored this bill and was
10 able to put together a coalition of 26 of his
11 colleagues to co-sponsor the bill and it apparently...
12 appears to pass unanimously through this committee
13 today. I, I want to just note a few things for the
14 record because I think it's important, you know as
15 the Chairman and as the sponsor of the bill indicated
16 this is not about using public funds, no government
17 funds can be used for these expenditures and that's
18 very important to the health of the robust campaign
19 finance program that we have in the city, campaign
20 finance funds that are paid for by the taxpayers are
21 to be used for campaign expenses, these funds can
22 only be the privately raised funds which are
23 transparently raised by candidates who they are
24 soliciting funds in their community, people know who
25 they are. More importantly, to me I think is as I

1 COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

2 analyzed the bill when it was first introduced and
3 over the last several weeks this is not a bill that
4 assists those of us who hold public office really
5 because we have jobs and if we should need childcare
6 right now its in relation to the job that we hold not
7 to our roles as candidates either in the past or in
8 the future, really this is about helping people who
9 want to come to this body and to other offices
10 whether to run against us or to run for other offices
11 in the city. I think it's a wise bill, I think it's
12 fair, I... my reservation and I will say it so that if
13 it ever happens I get to say I told you so, my
14 reservation is that in some respects this does leave
15 the approval of the childcare expenses to the whims
16 of the campaign finance board and I'm concerned by
17 that simply because I think that it's a factual
18 question whether or not a candidate has a child under
19 13 and is in need of childcare and butt for that
20 candidate's position as a candidate would he or she
21 need the childcare, its factual, it shouldn't require
22 the approval of the campaign finance board as we
23 amend section 3-702 of the administrative code
24 subdivision 23, however, having said that on balance
25 it's a good bill, it's a smart bill. As my colleagues

1 COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

2 have indicated it will, I hope, enable more women who
3 are... who are beginning their... the, the... their
4 families to look at public office as a place where
5 they can go and I'm proud to support it. Thank you,
6 Mr. Chairman.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: By a vote of
8 seven in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
9 abstentions the item is adopted.

10 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: So, with that we
11 conclude today's hearing and vote.

12 [gavel]

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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

November 15, 2018