

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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November 27, 2018
Start: 11:45 a.m.
Recess: 11:48 a.m.

HELD AT: 350 Broadway - Committee Rm.
14th Fl.

B E F O R E: KEITH POWERS
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Robert F. Holden
Rory I. Lancman
Carlin Rivera

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

2 [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Good morning.

4 Welcome to the second committee hearing regarding
5 Introduction 514-A sponsored by Council Member
6 Lancman. This introduction requires the Department
7 of Correction to distribute written notice regarding
8 the voting rights of formerly incarcerated persons in
9 the state of New York upon release along with their
10 voter registration forms. Additionally, it would
11 also help—it would also require the Campaign Finance
12 Board with assistance from the Voter Assistance
13 Advisory Committee to include incarcerated and
14 formerly incarcerated persons in activities they
15 undertake aimed at encouraging and facilitating
16 incarcerated persons in activities and—I'm sorry—a
17 voter registration and conduct training for relevant
18 DOC staff. Under this bill written notice must
19 include information regarding the date of voter
20 eligibility. If passed, Intro No. 514-A would help
21 inform justice-involved populations who have been
22 disenfranchised due to wide spread miseducation
23 regarding voter eligibility. I will note this bill
24 had a hearing I think last month, and we are looking
25 to take a vote on this today, but before we do that,

2 I wanted to invite a member of the committee, but
3 also sponsor of the bill Council Member Rory Lancman
4 to make a statement.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Thank you. Very
6 briefly. I'm very proud to support the passage of
7 Intro 514 to give those released from Department of
8 Correction's custody information about their voting
9 rights and access to a voter registration form. An
10 overwhelming number of individuals release from DOC
11 custody have the right to vote, yet the majority are
12 unaware of that right. This information about voting
13 policies and laws shows confusion among formerly
14 incarcerated people. We know that rebuilding
15 societal ties reduces recidivism for justice involved
16 people, and my legislation is another step we must
17 take to re-enfranchise those communities. Informing
18 justice involved individuals of their voting rights
19 will only lead to a more democratic, inclusive and
20 engaged city. I'd like to thank the Chair Keith
21 Powers for his support for this legislation and for
22 conducting that hearing, and the committee staff
23 especially Alana Sivin who worked hard to make this
24 legislation inclusive. Thank you very much.

2 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Thank you, and with
3 that, I wanted to also note that in addition to
4 Council Member Lancman, we're joined by Council
5 Member Ampry-Samuel, Council Member Bob Holden and
6 Council Member Carlina Rivera. With that, I think
7 I'm going to ask the clerk to take the—to call the
8 roll.

9 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk.
10 Roll call vote Committee on Criminal Justice,
11 Introduction 514-A, Chair Powers.

12 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: I vote aye.

13 CLERK: Lancman.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

15 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Let me just
17 first say thank you, Council Member Lancman for your
18 leadership and your dedication at time with Criminal
19 Justice reform is so necessary and the election
20 reform as we all know is extremely necessary. I was
21 very proud to be able to be supportive. So, thank
22 you for your leadership, and thank you Chair Powers
23 for your leadership as well, and I vote aye.

24 CLERK: Holden.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

2 CLERK: Rivera.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: [off mic] Aye.

4 CLERK: By a vote of 5 in the
5 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
6 the item has been adopted by the committee.

7 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Thank you. I just
8 want to note for the committee members that our
9 hearing that was scheduled Thursday is going to be
10 moved to another date potentially next week or the
11 week after. So, we'll be keeping you updated on
12 that. Thank you. This is adjourned. [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 December 14, 2018