

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

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November 27, 2018
Start: 12:44 p.m.
Recess: 1:19 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

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

2 [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Welcome to the
4 second hearing and vote of the Committee on
5 Governmental Operations. I am Council Member
6 Fernando Cabrera, Chair of the Committee on
7 Governmental Operations. Today, we are holding a
8 second hearing and a vote on the following bills
9 regarding the voting rights of justice involved
10 persons. Introduction 367 sponsored by Council
11 Member Salamanca in relation to the Department of
12 Probation informing persons of their voting rights,
13 and Introduction 1115-A sponsored by myself in
14 relation to agencies assisting eligible parolees with
15 voter registration. There's a tremendous amount of
16 confusion on when a justice involved person can vote.
17 Our goal with the two bills to be voted out of the
18 committee today is to provide as much education and
19 clarity as possible to justice involved individuals.
20 To that end, I would like to clarify that a justice
21 involved person only loses his right or her right to
22 vote when he or her is convicted of a felony. Anyone
23 convicted of a misdemeanor of which charged with a
24 felony, but still waiting trial, we change their
25 right to vote. Anyone on probation can still vote.

2 Before this year, a person on parole could not vote
3 and the right to vote was only restored after they
4 completed their parole. However, in April of 2018
5 the Governor issued an executive order that created a
6 process for granting conditional pardons that
7 restored only the right to vote to parolees. Now—so
8 now, some, but not all parolees can vote. This is a
9 wonderful step forward. However, for it to work, we
10 are to need to do a tremendous amount of public
11 education. Introduction 367 sponsored by Council
12 Member Salamanca requires the Department of Probation
13 distribute written notice on the voting rights of the
14 person sentenced to probation during their intake
15 process. Now, on bill Introduction 1115-A approaches
16 this issue by ensuring that the staff of the agencies
17 covered by the Agency Based Voter Registration Law,
18 which require agencies to assist the public in voter
19 registration are provided with guidance on the voting
20 rights or formerly incarcerated persons. This
21 guidance is to be developed by the Voter Assistance
22 Advisory Committee. The bill will also require
23 agencies covered by the law upon request by a
24 formerly incarcerated person to check if they are
25 eligible to register to vote. I want to thank the

2 members of both committees and the sponsors of these
3 bills for their commitment on this issue. I also
4 want to thank committee staff Brad Reed, Elizabeth
5 Cronk, Zach Harris, as well as my own Legislative
6 Director Claire Michael Bain for all of their work,
7 and with that let me give the floor to Council Member
8 Salamanca, and I want to commend you to on your bill.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you,
10 Chair Cabrera. Good afternoon everyone, and thank
11 you all for allowing me to speak on my bill. I want
12 to encourage my colleagues to vote yes on Intro 367,
13 which would require the Department of Probation to
14 inform people on probation of their voting rights.
15 The issue of mass incarceration in our nation largely
16 affects our black and brown communities, and with
17 their pervasive misinformation of who can't and can
18 vote, it is up to us to educate an improve voter
19 turnout. Communities of color like the one I
20 represent feel this heavy burden. I believe that
21 creating or instilling a sense of civic efficiency
22 can begin at a very basic level. Integrating back
23 into a community can begin with feeling like you have
24 a voice, and in this case, casting a vote can be that
25 voice. We should be encouraging participation in

2 government. We've made great strides in creating
3 voter turnout, and we should keep up this momentum.
4 Thank you all and please vote yes on Intro 367.

5 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: And with that,
6 we'll call the roll call.

7 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk.
8 Roll call vote committee on Governmental Operations,
9 Introduction 367 and 1115-A. Chair Cabrera.

10 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Aye

11 CLERK: Maisel.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: [off mic] Yes.

13 CLERK: Powers.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.

15 CLERK: Yeger.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

17 CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the
18 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
19 both items have been adopted by the committee.

20 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: We'll keep it open
21 for a few minutes. [pause] [background comments,
22 pause]

23 CLERK: Continuation of roll call,
24 Committee on Governmental Operations. Council Member
25 Kallos.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye. [pause]

3 CLERK: Continuation roll call, Committee
4 on Governmental Operations. Council Member Kallos.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: With a hint of
6 déjà vu the people who saw this video before, I vote
7 aye for a second time. Yes, I get two votes.

8 CLERK: Continuation vote Committee on
9 Governmental Operations, Council Member Rodriguez.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

11 CLERK: The final vote in the Committee on
12 Governmental Operations Introduction 367 and 1115-A
13 have now been adopted by a vote of 6 in the
14 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.
15 Council Member Rodriguez.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic]
17 This is hearing is-[on mic] With that, this hearing
18 is adjourned. [gavel] I don't like to use that.
19 (sic) [laughter]

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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, 2019