

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

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January 8, 2019  
Start: 10:52 a.m.  
Recess: 11:14 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret Chin  
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.  
Mark Gjonaj  
Barry S. Grodenchik  
Bill Perkins  
Carlina Rivera  
Helen K. Rosentla  
Ritchie J. Torres  
Jumaane D. Williams

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

2 [pause]

3 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Good morning

4 everyone and thank you for coming. I'm Council

5 Member Robert Cornegy, Chair of the Council's

6 Committee on Housing and Buildings. We're here to

7 hold a vote on a bill related to accessory signs

8 often referred to as awning signs and associated

9 violations. Proposed Intro No. 728-B would establish

10 a temporary program for the resolution of outstanding

11 judgments resulting from accessory sign violations.

12 It would establish a two-year moratorium on the

13 issuance of additional accessory-accessory sign

14 violations as well as a temporary assistance program

15 to facilitate the reinstallation of accessory signs

16 for respondents who have already paid related

17 penalties. The Department of Buildings and the

18 Department of Finance would be required to notify the

19 public of an existence of such programs and DOB and

20 the Department of City Planning would be required to

21 develop an education program to education-educate the

22 business community about accessory signs and related

23 regulations. This bill would establish an inter-

24 interagency task force to explore issues related to

25 accessory signs and require DOB to provide a report

2 to the Council that contains information about  
3 accessory sign violations. Finally, the bill would  
4 establish a waiver of all work without a permit  
5 penalties issued in relation to the hanging of an  
6 accessory sign from December 28, 2017 going forward.  
7 I'm joined today by Council Member Diaz, Council  
8 Member Ritchie Torres, Council Member Carlina Rivera,  
9 Mark Gjonaj, Barry Grodenchik and Fernando Cabrera.  
10 We can now--now ask the County Clerk--I'm sorry--ask the  
11 clerk.

12 CLERK: I'm on it.

13 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: [laughs] Yeah,  
14 that [laughs] to call the roll. Sorry Billy.

15 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk  
16 roll call vote Committee on Housing and Buildings,  
17 Introduction 728-B. Chair Cornegy.

18 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: I vote aye.

19 CLERK: Cabrera.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

21 CLERK: Torres.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote aye.

23 CLERK: Grodenchik.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

25 CLERK: Gjonaj.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: [off mic] Aye.

3 CLERK: Rivera.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

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

8 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: [off mic] We'll  
9 hold [on mic] Yeah, we're going to hold the roll open  
10 for Rosenthal. I just want to take a second to  
11 commend my colleague Rafael Espinal on what is a  
12 great bill, and this is kind of what the city should  
13 be doing to protect our small businesses when we have  
14 the opportunity. So, in his absence I want to let  
15 everyone know that I think it's a great bill. Thank  
16 you.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: [off mic] I know  
18 that I have you. (sic)

19 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Yes and also my--  
20 Council Member Mark Gjonaj, who has been a strong  
21 advocate, and who is absolutely fulfilling his  
22 responsibilities as the Chair of Small Business. I'm  
23 proud of you.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you, Chair.  
25 [pause] [background comments/pause]

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2 CLERK: Continuation roll call vote  
3 Committee on Housing and Buildings, Introduction 728-  
4 B, Council Member Rosenthal.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye on  
6 all. Thank you.

7 CLERK: The final vote is now 7 in the  
8 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.  
9 Council Member Rosenthal. [pause] Just a second.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [gavel] This  
11 hearing is adjourned. [background comments/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 January 25, 2019