

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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March 27, 2019
Start: 1:20 P.M.
Recess: 1:44 P.M.

HELD AT: Committee Room, City Hall

B E F O R E: YDANIS RODRIGUEZ
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Donovan Richards
Daneek Miller
Peter Koo
Carlos Menchaca
Fernando Cabrera
Rafael Salamanca
Ruben Diaz, Sr.
Mark Levine
Chaim Deutsch
Rafael Espinal, Jr.
Stephen Levin
Costa Constantinides

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

None

2 Test, test, test. Today is the Committee
3 on Transportation. Today's date is March 27, 2019.
4 This is recorded by Sacheem [phonetic] Bradley.

5 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon
6 and welcome to this hearing of the City Council
7 Transportation Committee. My name is Ydanis
8 Rodriguez, the Chair of this Committee. First, let
9 me recognize my colleagues who are here with us.
10 Council Member Diaz, Richards, Miller, Koo, Menchaca,
11 Cabrera, Salamanca, Deutsch. Today we will be voting
12 on the proposed Intro. 1010-A, a bill that is
13 sponsored by Council Member Miller. Proposed Intro
14 1010-A would address the issue of commercial vehicles
15 parking overnight on residential streets by creating
16 an alternative means of enforcement adjudicated
17 through all. The newly created fine would be higher
18 than those in existing law \$400 for a first offense
19 and \$800 for a second offense within a six month
20 period. This new means of enforcement will help to
21 deter tractor trailers and other large commercial
22 vehicles from illegally parking overnight on
23 residential streets. I would now like to invite the
24 sponsor of the, to deliver the opening statement,
25 Council Member Miller.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you Chair
3 Rodriguez. Today this body will vote on the first
4 bill of my hour, Commercial Truck Abuse Act,
5 Introduction 1010. This bill would establish a
6 costly civil penalty for 18-wheel, big rigs overnight
7 in residential areas. The drivers of commercial
8 tractor trailers routinely abuse our City's parking
9 regulations and degrade the quality of life in
10 communities throughout the City. They park these
11 monstrosities next to homes, bus stops, fire
12 hydrants, schools, playground for hours, sometimes
13 even days on end leaving pollution, debris in their
14 wake. We have worked with NYPD to ramp up its
15 enforcement efforts but these efforts often and
16 offenses continued. The current fines imposed on big
17 rig drivers have not been effective in curbing the
18 abuse of practices either which they deemed the
19 course of doing business. In actuality the greatest
20 expense of the course of doing business is the health
21 and safety of our communities. Now we will send a
22 clear message to the bad actors of operating within
23 the trucking industry that the price for such
24 flagrant abuse is steep. Instead of \$250 for the
25 first fine or offense, \$500 for a fine for subsequent

2 fines, one occurring within six months period,
3 authorities will be able to issue a larger civil
4 penalty respect to amounts, \$400 and \$800 for the
5 second. I want to thank Speaker Johnson, Chair
6 Rodriguez for supporting this advancement of this
7 important measure. Also like to thank committee
8 counsel, James Dejavani [phonetic], Elliott Lynn for
9 their work with this augmenting bill as well as my
10 legislative director, Brandon Clark, Greg Rose, we
11 started this a year and a half ago and special
12 advisor, the great Joe Goldbloom [phonetic] for their
13 combined efforts over the past two years in bringing
14 this to fruition today. I'd like to thank the Chair
15 once again and my colleagues that sit around us.
16 This is something that has plagued all communities
17 throughout the City and look forward to voting on it
18 in the affirmative this afternoon.

19 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Thank you Council
20 Member Miller for your statement and for all the work
21 you have done to address this issue. I now call for
22 the vote on Proposal Intro. 1010-A. I recommend a
23 yes vote and I ask the committee clerk to please call
24 the roll.

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2 CLERK: William Martin, community clerk,
3 rollcall vote, Committee on Transportation,
4 Introduction 1010-A. Chair Rodriguez?

5 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

6 CLERK: Cabrera?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Permission to
8 explain my vote? Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just want
9 to take a moment Council Member Miller to express my
10 deepest form of gratitude for this bill. There are
11 good bills. There are great bills. There are
12 amazing bills. This is an amazing bill. I've been
13 struggling with this issue, literally right where I
14 live, Sedgwick Avenue, Bailey Avenue, where these big
15 Mac trucks they come and they take parking. They
16 stay there overnight and I'm talking about every
17 single day so you can I'm livid about people taking
18 advantage, these truck drivers, of our communities
19 who are not from our communities. They come in and
20 the police department, they even go the extra mile
21 making, calling them, calling the companies to do
22 something about it. We do need more tow trucks. I
23 know the NYPD is here. Please, we only have one.
24 Let's get a few more and if we could help with
25 capital, we'll help with that as well so we can have

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2 a strong iron in this bill and thank you for the
3 teeth that you added in terms of the consequences so
4 with that I vote a definite aye.

5 CLERK: Deutsch?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

7 CLERK: Koo?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye and I
9 want to say thank you to Council Member Miller for
10 passing this bill.

11 CLERK: Menchaca?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I vote aye and
13 congrats.

14 CLERK: Miller?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye.

16 CLERK: Richards?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Permission to
18 explain my vote? All right it will be brief but I
19 want to thank Council Member Miller for his
20 relentless advocacy in finally getting this bill over
21 the goal line. This is, he's been working on this,
22 feels like forever, since we've gotten here but this
23 has been a constant complaint especially I know for
24 all neighborhoods but neighborhoods especially in
25 close proximity to the airports and close proximity

2 to air cargo at JFK and I know LaGuardia as well in
3 particular but when you look at where these trucks
4 park, you know, they are taking advantage of New York
5 City and especially communities that have high asthma
6 rates, where disparities around health and everything
7 else exist, we've seen these truck drivers taking a
8 consistent advantage of our neighborhood so this is a
9 great day. I do want to elaborate a little bit more
10 on where Council Member Cabrera mentioned more trucks
11 and I know that is a discussion we have had and I
12 know that's something we're gonna bring up once again
13 during Exec. budget hearings with the Commissioner
14 but I do believe we do have an agreement with PD that
15 we will gently remind them of purchasing more of
16 these truck, tow trucks, heavy duty tow trucks and
17 largely because a lot of our precincts don't have the
18 capacity. They want to do the right thing. They go
19 out there. They ticket. They're giving their all
20 but there's simply not enough heavy duty tow trucks
21 to really get rid of these monstrosities in our
22 neighborhoods so with that being said,
23 congratulations Council Member Miller and I vote aye.

24 CLERK: Salamanca?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Permission to
3 explain my vote?

4 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Permission
5 granted.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you,
7 Mr. Chair. Council Member Miller, I really want to
8 commend you on this bill. It is as my colleague,
9 Council Member Cabrera said, it is an outstanding
10 bill. In the south Bronx I represent two IBZs,
11 business improvement district, industrial business
12 improvement districts which is Hunts Point and Port
13 Morris. In Hunts Point alone I have over 16,000
14 trucks daily that come in and out of my community
15 because they're going into, you know, one of the 700
16 businesses that I have at Hunts Point and I do
17 represent the produce market, the meat market, the
18 fish market and other businesses there but Hunts
19 Point is also, half of Hunts Point is residential and
20 these trucks they do take advantage. They park
21 overnight and they create, they do affect our quality
22 of life and as much as we've relied on, at that local
23 precinct, you know, the tickets that they get, it's
24 just a course of doing business but increasing these
25 fines will really make the driver or the business

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2 owner think twice as to where they're gonna park
3 these trucks overnight taking valuable parking spaces
4 from my constituents so I commend you and I thank you
5 and I vote aye on all.

6 CLERK: Diaz?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Aye.

8 CLERK: Levine?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Also with my
10 sincere congratulations to Council Member Miller for
11 leading on this important bill, I am pleased to vote
12 aye.

13 CLERK: By a vote of 10 in the
14 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
15 Introduction 1010-A has been adopted by the
16 Committee.

17 [Inaudible]

18 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: The Speaker will
19 join us for the block of hearings so we'll give him a
20 few minutes and we'll leave the vote open until the
21 Speaker joins us.

22 [Pause]

23 CLERK: Continuation rollcall, Committee
24 on Transportation. Council Member Espinal?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye.

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2 CLERK: Continuation rollcall, Committee
3 on Transportation. Council Member Levin?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

5 CLERK: Roll currently stands at 12 in
6 the affirmative.

7 [Pause]

8 CLERK: Continuation rollcall, Committee
9 on Transportation. Council Member Constantinides?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I vote
11 aye.

12 CLERK: Vote is now at 13 in the
13 affirmative.

14 [Pause]

15 CLERK: Final vote Committee on
16 Transportation, Introduction 1010-A has been adopted
17 by the Committee 13 in the affirmative, 0 the
18 negative and no abstentions.

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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 April 30, 2019