

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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April 9, 2019
Start: 10:20 a.m.
Recess: 10:27 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: KEITH POWERS
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Robert F. Holden
Rory L. Lancman
Carlina Rivera

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

2 [sound check] [pause] [background
3 comments] [gavel]

4 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Good morning,
5 everyone. I'm City Council Member Keith Powers,
6 Chair of the Committee on Criminal Justice. Today,
7 we will be looking—we will be conducting a vote on
8 two important pieces of legislation, Proposed
9 Introduction 1199 and Proposed Introduction 944. We
10 last heard these bills on December 3, 2018 at a joint
11 hear by the Criminal Justice and Justice Committee—
12 Justice Systems Committee entitled: *Why Does the City*
13 *Make it so Hard to Pay Bail?* People paying credit
14 card bail in person are charged non-refundable fees
15 of over 7% and those paying credit card bail online
16 are charge a non-fundable fee of 2%. While these
17 percentages may appear to be small, they can amount
18 to hundreds of dollars, an impossible amount for
19 those struggling to post bail for incarcerated family
20 member—family members and loved one. My bill 1199
21 will remove these fees so that no one is charged
22 extra simply for using a credit card to pay bail.
23 Additionally, we have heard advocates testify that
24 they receive referrals every day for people who are
25 incarcerated solely due to bail that has been set at

2 the amount of \$1.00. Even though dollar bail is
3 meant to serve as administrative hold when a person
4 is otherwise detained to an unrelated case. Council
5 Member Lancman's bill 944 will ensure that the
6 Department of Correction informs incarcerated
7 individuals and their attorneys when bail is set at
8 such an amount and any amount less than \$10.00.
9 While transformative bail reform has occurred at the
10 state level, judges are still permitted to set bail
11 in many cases, which means that the passage of these
12 bills will significantly reduce the financial and
13 operational burdens that exist for those who are
14 still permitted to be detained without having been
15 sent—been found guilty of any crime. With that being
16 said, I want to thank all of the advocates or
17 organizations who fought to make these changes happen
18 including the work—including the work—including Work
19 Rises (sic) Bureau of Profits Coalition and many
20 more. I want to also thank my staff and staff from
21 the Criminal Justice Committee and all the Council
22 Members that have supported these bills both mine and
23 Council Member Lasman—Lancman. I also want to
24 recognize two of our stalwarts here at the committee
25 both Council Member Rivera and Council Member Holden.

2 I would now like to ask if any committee members
3 would like to make statement to beginning the vote?

4 No. thank you. So, we will now call the roll and take
5 the vote. Thanks.

6 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,
7 roll call vote Committee on Criminal Justice.
8 Introductions 944-a and 1199-A. The items are
9 coupled. Chair Powers.

10 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: I vote aye.

11 CLERK: Holden.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote and
13 request that my name be added as a sponsor.

14 CLERK: Rivera.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

16 CLERK: By a vote of 3 in the affirmative,
17 0 in the negative and no abstentions, both items have
18 adopted by the Committee.

19 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Thank you, and with
20 that being said, this—this vote is closed, and the
21 hearing is adjourned. Thanks so much. [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 May 12, 2019