

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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September 17, 2009
Start: 10:00am
Recess:

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
JAMES F. GENNARO
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Elizabeth Crowley
Bill de Blasio
Mathieu Eugene
G. Oliver Koppell
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Eric Ulrich
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Welcome
3 everyone. I'm Council Member Vallone, I'm
4 chairing today's hearing for Council Member Jim
5 Gennaro. We're holding hearings today and voting
6 on Intro 622A, which deals with retrofitting and
7 retirements of diesel fuel powered school buses
8 used by special education students. Our children
9 are the most precious resource and one of the most
10 important jobs that the Department of Education
11 performs is transporting our children safely to
12 and from school. But currently air pollution from
13 school buses presents a threat to the health of
14 some of our children who ride school buses.
15 Children are more susceptible to air pollution
16 than adults because they take in more air per unit
17 of body weight than adults. And children spend
18 more time outdoors than adults.

19 As children, they are least able to
20 mitigate the impacts of air pollution. Studies of
21 pollutant exposures show higher levels of exposure
22 inside of school buses from fugitive diesel
23 exhaust that travels through cracks in the
24 chassis and finds its way into the school bus
25 cabin. By using trace gas experiments that

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2 measure air quality in empty school buses and on
3 routes, researchers were able to establish that
4 children riding in school buses inhale at least
5 seven times more exhaust than non-riding residents
6 inhale from all school bus emissions in the study
7 area.

8 New York City acted to address
9 school bus self pollution in general education
10 buses by enacting local law 42 of 2005 that
11 required that diesel fuel powered school buses be
12 retrofitted but excluded buses used for special
13 education needs. So local law 42 covers 2,322 of
14 DOE's 6,770 public diesel school buses.

15 Today's legislation is designed to
16 close that loophole. Proposed Intro 622A requires
17 that 100% of diesel fueled powered school buses
18 used to fulfill each school bus contract be
19 equipped with such closed crank case ventilation
20 systems by September 1, 2011. And further
21 prohibits diesel fuel powered school buses from
22 being used to fulfill any school bus contract
23 beyond the end of the 16th year from the date of
24 manufacture, thereby, getting rid of the oldest
25 and most polluting school buses.

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2 I commend all who were involved in
3 the passage of this legislation, especially those
4 sitting out here in front and staff. I hope that
5 we continue to work with the administration to
6 address any additional costs, if they occur. I'm
7 sure that will happen. I look forward to having a
8 vote on this and being a sponsor of this important
9 legislation.

10 The sponsor is not here so I will
11 call the vote.

12 CLERK: William Martin, Committee
13 Clerk roll call on the Committee on Environmental
14 Protection, Introduction 622A. Council Member
15 Vallone.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

17 CLERK: Koppell.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

19 CLERK: Eugene.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye. And I
21 would like my name to be added as a co-sponsor.

22 CLERK: Crowley.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I'd like
24 to vote yes and also be added as a co-sponsor.
25 Just to reiterate what Council Member Vallone said

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2 earlier about making sure that when contracts are
3 awarded that they take into consideration small
4 companies that have to do these types of retrofits
5 or have to buy new buses because they have an
6 older fleet. Thank you.

7 CLERK: Ulrich.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

9 CLERK: By a vote of five in the
10 affirmative, zero in the negative and no
11 abstentions, the item is adopted. Council
12 Members, please sign the committee report. Thank
13 you.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Mr.
15 Chairman. I just ask my name also be added. I
16 see I'm not on the bill.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: The vote
18 will be left open for Chair Gennaro who has a
19 medical emergency and other Council Members.
20 Thank you.

21 CLERK: Roll call on Environmental
22 Protection. Council Member Recchia.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

24 CLERK: Vote now stands at six in
25 the affirmative, zero in the negative and no

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abstentions.

CLERK: Committee on Environmental Protection. Council Member Gennaro.

CHAIRPERSON GENNARO: Yes.

CLERK: Current vote on Committee on Environmental Protection is now seven in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions.

CLERK: Council Member deBlasio.

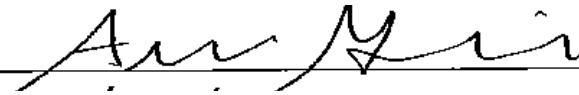
COUNCIL MEMBER deBLASIO: I vote aye.

CLERK: Final vote on Committee on Environmental Protection is now eight in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions. Thank you.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Amber Gibson, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amber Gibson", written over a horizontal line.

Date September 24, 2009