

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND ETHICS

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July 23, 2019
Start: 11:17 a.m.
Recess: 11:28 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: Steve Matteo
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Vanessa L. Gibson
Margaret S. Chin
Karen Koslowitz
Stephen T. Levin
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A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

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2 PEDRO AND IZZY: This is a sound check
3 for the Committee on Standards and Ethics, date
4 7/23/2019, recorded by Pedro and Izzy. [pause]

5 CHAIRPERSON MATTEO: [gavel] Good
6 morning. My name is Steve Matteo. I'm the chair of
7 the Committee on Standards and Ethics. I've been
8 joined today by my colleagues, Vanessa Gibson,
9 Margaret Chin, and Karen Koslowitz. Today we'll be
10 holding a second hearing and vote on proposed Intro
11 1272-A, whose primary sponsors are Council Members
12 Barry Grodenchik and Mark Levine, in relating to
13 amending the reporting and donor disclosure
14 requirements for organizations affiliated with
15 elected officials. This bill was previously heard by
16 the committee on December 3, 2018. As was discussed
17 at our prior hearing, the council passed a law last
18 session establishing reporting requirements on
19 donations for all organizations affiliated with
20 elected officials. It also required that any
21 organization that spends more than 10% of its
22 expenditures on elected official communications is
23 subject to a restriction on the donations it can
24 receive from persons doing business with the city.
25 While the basic structure of that law has so far

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2 seemed to be well balanced, we took testimony at our
3 last hearing from unrestricted organizations about
4 the administrative burdens that complying has created
5 for them. These are organizations that are not
6 involved in elected official communications, but who
7 are still subject to the law's reporting
8 requirements. Proposed Intro 1272-A would address
9 those concerns by creating separate reporting
10 requirements for restricted and unrestricted
11 organizations. Restricted organizations would
12 continue with current reporting requirements as they
13 are under the existing law with a few clarifications
14 to strengthen those requirements. Unrestricted
15 organizations will be required to report on all
16 donations from a single contributor that were an
17 aggregate in the prior year above \$5000, a dollar
18 threshold first adopted by the Conflicts of Interest
19 Board pursuant to an advisory opinion. Provisions
20 would also be made for the reporting of anonymous
21 donations. The bill would also require that the
22 information in these reports be posted to the
23 Conflicts of Interest Board website in a machine-
24 readable format. Proposed Intro 1272-A would be
25 deemed to have been retroactively in effect as of

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2 January 1, 2019. I want to thank the members of this
3 committee and the sponsor of this bill for their work
4 on these issues. I also want to thank the staff who
5 worked to put today's hearing together, Serita
6 Longly, deputy general counsel, Brad Reed, assistant
7 deputy director, Michelle Lee, senior legislative
8 counsel, Ben Smith, assistant general counsel, and
9 Rob Newman, counsel to the speaker, and at this point
10 we're going to ask Billy Martin to call the roll.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Billy Martin,
12 committee clerk, roll call vote, Committee on
13 Standards and Ethics, Introduction 1272-A. Chair
14 Matteo.

15 CHAIR MATTEO: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Gibson.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Chin.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Koslowitz.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: I have a vote of
23 4 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
24 abstentions. The item is adopted by the committee.
25 [pause]

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CHAIR MATTEO: We're just going to hold the roll open for 15 minutes. [pause]

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Continuation on roll call, Committee on Standards and Ethics, Introduction 1272-A, Council Member Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye on all.

CHAIR MATTEO: The final vote is now 5 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no abstentions. Council Member Levin. The hearing is adjourned. [gavel]

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 July 29, 2019