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COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS
LICENSING

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND
BUSINESS LICENSING

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May 13, 2020
Start: 10:38 a.m.
Recess: 10:42 a.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing

B E F O R E: Andrew Cohen,
Chairperson of Committee on
Consumer Affairs and Business
Licensing

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Justin L. Brannan
Margaret S. Chin
Peter A. Koo
Karen Koslowitz
Brad S. Lander
Kalman Yeger

1 COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS JOINTLY WITH
2 COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS
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4 SERGEANT AT ARM: Good morning and welcome to
5 Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing remote
6 hearing.

7 We will ask all Council Members and Council
8 Staff to please place all electronic devices and cell
9 phones to vibrate to avoid distractions.

10 Mr. Chair, we are ready do begin.

11 CHAIRPERSON COHEN: Alright, am I ready?

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: You are good.

13 CHAIRPERSON COHEN: Alright, I'm gaveling us in.

14 [GAVEL] Good morning everybody, welcome to the
15 Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing.
16 My name is Andrew Cohen and I am the Chair of the
17 Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing.
18 Today, our Committee will be voting on two pieces of
19 legislation. Preconsidered Intro. by Council Member
20 Matteo and my bill Proposed Intro. 1916-A.

21 As we know and as we heard at the joint hearing
22 held by this Committee and the Committee on Small
23 Business, the COVID pandemic has hit our city's small
24 businesses incredibly hard. Even before this
25 pandemic hit, the remaining profitable was incredibly
difficult. So, it is hard to comprehend how

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tenacious small business owners are making it happen
now, but many still are.

While it was inspiring to hear about the
resiliency and generosity of our small business
owners, they cannot bear this weight alone. Many
small business owners have called for very specific
legislation and governmental support to navigate this
unprecedented crisis. In response, I, and my fellow
Council Members have introduced various pieces of
legislation geared toward reducing the burden on
small businesses and to help maintain operations
during this crisis in the best way possible.

My bill, Intro. 1916-A will require the
Department of Consumer Affairs to waive and refund
revocable consent fees for sidewalk cafés for the
remainder of the Mayor's emergency executive order
105 or until February 28, 2021 depending on whether
the sidewalk café is enclosed or unenclosed.

Sidewalk café costs restaurant owners thousands
of dollars in city fees annually. While we are in
this crisis, it does not make sense for the city to
collect these fees when restaurants are one of the
hardest hit industries. This is simply placing

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1 additional burdens on businesses that are struggling
2 just to get by.

3
4 We are also voting today on Council Member
5 Matteo's Preconsidered bill, which requires city
6 agencies to publish a list of any licenses, permits,
7 consents or registrations that are not covered by the
8 renewal extension provided for by the Mayor's
9 Executive Emergency Executive Order number 107. This
10 list must be made available on agency websites, no
11 later than 14 days after enactment of this bill. In
12 addition, this bill extends the renewal period of
13 licenses and permits until 45 days after the
14 Executive order lapses.

15 I will now ask the Clerk to call the roll.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Good morning, Martin Committee
17 Clerk roll call vote Committee on Consumer Affairs
18 both bills are coupled. Chair Cohen?

19 CHAIRPERSON COHEN: I vote aye.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Chin?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye on all.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Koo?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye on all.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Do you hear me?

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2 COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS
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4 CHAIRPERSON COHEN: Yes Karen.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Yes, Council Member. I didn't
6 hear your vote Council Member.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on all.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Lander?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I vote aye.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye on all.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Yeger?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: By a vote of seven in the
15 affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions
16 both items are then adopted by the Committee. Thank
17 you.

18 CHAIRPERSON COHEN: Before I close out I know
19 that I normally thank the staff for their hard work
20 but it has been particularly challenging in this
21 time, so I just want to express my sincere gratitude
22 to the staff for helping get the bill into this
23 shape, getting it to this point, getting the Zoom
24 hearing going. I mean, it's just been an enormous
25 amount of effort on everyone's part, so I just wanted
to express my gratitude.

1 COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS JOINTLY WITH
2 COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS
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4 Can I close the Committee meeting? Alright,
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this conclude the Committee on Consumer Affairs.

[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 April 1, 2018