

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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May 28, 2020  
Start: 10:12 AM  
Recess: 10:16 AM

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING

B E F O R E: JOSEPH C. BORELLI  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Justin Brannan  
Fernando Cabrera  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Alan N. Maisel

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

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and  
3 welcome to the Committee on Fire and Emergency  
4 Management. All members and staff please turn on  
5 your video and place your electronic devices to  
6 silence. Chair, we are ready to begin. Thank you

7 CHAIRPERSON BORELLI: Thank you. Good  
8 morning. We will now begin the hearing for the  
9 Committee on Fire and Emergency Management. I'd like  
10 to thank my colleagues who have joined us today,  
11 Councilman Brannan, Councilman Cabrera, Councilman  
12 Deutsch, Councilman Miller, Council Member... I believe  
13 that is it. If I left someone out, I will correct it  
14 later. We are here today to vote on Resolution 1062  
15 sponsored by Council Member Daneek Miller, which  
16 calls for the salaries of New York City Emergency  
17 Medical Service personnel to be comparable to New  
18 York City's fire firefighters and police officers.  
19 Back in January this committee held an oversight  
20 hearing examining the challenges faced by EMS due to  
21 high rates of attrition. At that meeting many hard-  
22 working EMTs and Paramedics delivered inspiring  
23 testimony describing the immense financial and  
24 emotional strain placed on them on a daily basis with  
25 workers often taking second jobs and maximizing

1 overtime pay to ensure they are earning a living  
2 wage. This was before the COVID-19 outbreak in New  
3 York City. During this deadly pandemic EMS workers  
4 have literally been the city's first responders in  
5 providing essential medical assistance. In this  
6 challenging time for New York City our EMS workers  
7 provided to all the vital and heroic role they have  
8 always served. The pay disparity between EMS workers  
9 another first responders has long existed and it is  
10 overdue for our mayor to provide these essential  
11 workers with benefits and pay they deserve. I would  
12 now like to invite Council Member Miller, the sponsor  
13 of today's resolution being voted on to make brief  
14 statement. Council Member Miller, you have the couch.

15  
16 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I appreciate it.

17 I really want to thank you and your committee members  
18 for the leadership on this issue. We know that this  
19 is something that has been prevalent throughout our  
20 city for quite a while only highlighted by the COVID-  
21 19, and you have expressed so very well the plight of  
22 the men and women of the EMS EMT FDNY, but they have  
23 really labored on behalf of a half million New  
24 Yorkers day in and day out for a number of years, and  
25 they have been the victims of pay disparities, and so

2 there is much to be said about this, but I think the  
3 most that we can say and really saying that we as a  
4 Council demonstrate and value the work that they have  
5 done, and not just continually, but particularly in  
6 this time of COVID-19 that we can really stand behind  
7 them and support this legislation. I want to thank  
8 all of my co-sponsors. I want to thank again the  
9 Chair and ask that this committee vote this  
10 legislation (bell).

11 CHAIRPERSON BORELLI: Well, thank you. I  
12 want to acknowledge we've been joined by Council  
13 Member Alan Maisel. Welcome to the party, Council  
14 Member Maisel, and thank you Council Member Miller.  
15 I'll now call on Legislative Documents to call the  
16 vote.

17 CLERK: Good morning. William Martin  
18 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Fire and  
19 Emergency Services on Resolution 1062-A. Chair  
20 Borelli.

21 CHAIRPERSON BORELLI: Aye.

22 CLERK: Cabrera.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I want to  
24 congratulate and commend Council Member Miller for  
25 his leadership and this piece of legislation is so

2 important that we move this forward, and with that I  
3 vote aye.

4 CLERK: Deutsch.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: I vote aye.

6 CLERK: Maisel.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes. (background  
8 comments)

9 CLERK: Brannan.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: If City Hall  
11 doesn't get it now, they never will. I vote aye.

12 CLERK: By a vote of 5 in the  
13 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
14 Resolution 162-A has been adopted by the committee.  
15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON BORELLI: Thank you very  
17 much, and with that, I will closer the hearing, and  
18 gavel out and welcome the next committee chair.

19 [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 June 9, 2020