

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

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August 27, 2020
Start: 9:38 a.m.
Recess: 9:43 a.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing

B E F O R E: Robert Holden
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Paul Vallone
Peter Koo
Costa Constantinides
Eric A. Ulrich
Brad Lander
Kalman Yeger

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

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Started.

3 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Our recording is good,
4 as well.

5 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Sergeant Hope, you
6 can take it away with the opening. Thank you.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and welcome
8 to the New York City Council remote hearing on
9 Technology. At this time, would all council member
10 and council member staff please turn on their videos?
11 To minimize disruption, please place all electronic
12 devices to vibrate or silent. Chair Holden, you are
13 ready to begin.

14 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Thank you. Good
15 morning. I am Council member Robert Holden, Chair of
16 the Councils Committee on Technology. Thanks for
17 joining us today. We are here to hold a vote on a
18 bill related to codifying New York City's cyber
19 command. In 2020, cyber security has been thrust
20 into the limelight as much of our nation was forced
21 to work from home and move their operations on mine.
22 However, as everybody knows, cyber security was and
23 will continue to be a pressing issue, especially as
24 New York City's important systems and critical
25 infrastructure are increasingly digitized. Cyber

2 threats can add various origins from sophisticated
3 state-sponsored attacks, all the way to unintentional
4 user errors. In fact, just from this year's rust
5 transition to the online world, the World Health
6 Organization experienced a fivefold increase in
7 cyber-attacks and the FBI saw a 400 percent spike in
8 cyber-crime complaints. Most recently, in January
9 this year, the state of New York's computer networks
10 suffered a large cyber-attack that temporarily
11 knocked out access to several important state
12 databases ride as the state was gearing up to deal
13 with the COVID-19 pandemic. Clearly, is the largest
14 municipal government in the United States, New York
15 City must prepare itself and its agencies for an
16 expanded online future and defend itself for many
17 threats of cyber-attacks. Having a centralized cyber
18 defense center that can survive successive
19 administrations and focus on protecting New York City
20 data and critical infrastructure from cyber threats
21 is crucial. We have a proposed Intro 1297 A that's
22 sponsored by Council member Torres and of which I am
23 a sponsor, would amend the New York City Charter in
24 relation to the creation of an Office Cyber Command.
25 New York City's Cyber Command was initially created

2 in 2017 by Executive Order 28. The bill would codify
3 into the Charter the Office of New York City Cyber
4 Command. Codifying the office would ensure its
5 existence and also provide the office with the power
6 and duty to establish cyber security policies and
7 standards for city agencies, training appropriate
8 city personnel on cyber security policies and
9 standards, and direct cyber security defense efforts
10 and responses to cyber-attacks. I am joined today by
11 Council members Vallone, Koo, Ulrich, Lander, Yeger--
12 did I miss anybody? Is Costa? I don't see Costa.
13 Is Councilman Torres here? Is Councilman Torres here
14 and wants to make a statement? No? Okay. I will
15 now ask the clerk to call the roll. By the way, I'd
16 also like to thank the staff of the Committee on
17 Technology, counsel Irene Bahoski, policy analyst
18 Charles Kim, financial analyst Florentine Cabor, my
19 chief of staff Daniel Casina, and legislative
20 director Kevin Ryan. So, can we call the roll?

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, everyone.
22 William Martin Committee Clerk. Roll call vote
23 Committee on Technology Introduction 1297 A. Chair
24 Holden?

25 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Aye.

1 COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER Vallone: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Yeger?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Sorry. Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: I'm just double

13 checking. Okay. By a vote of six in the

14 affirmative, zero in the negative, no extensions,

15 Introduction 1297 A has been adopted by the

16 Committee.

17 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Okay. Thank you,

18 everyone. This hearing is now closed.

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 August 29, 2020