

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

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October 15, 2020
Start: 10:02 a.m.
Recess: 10:10 a.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing

B E F O R E: Robert Cornegy
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret Chin
Mark Gjonaj
Barry Grodenchik
Farah Louis
Bill Perkins
Carlina Rivera
Helen Rosenthal
Ritchie Torres

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

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Sergeant Sudowsky, I
3 will pass it on to you.

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. And
5 welcome to today's remote New York City Council
6 hearing on the Committee on Housing and Buildings.
7 At this time, what COUNCIL members and staff please
8 turn on their video? To minimize disruption, please
9 place electronic devices on vibrate or silent mode.
10 Thank you and we are ready to begin.

11 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Good morning,
12 everyone, and thank you for coming. I am Council
13 member Robert Cornegy, Chair of the Council's
14 Committee on Housing and Buildings. We are here to
15 vote on a bill related to extending the city's rent
16 stabilization Law. Pursuant to state law, the city
17 must conduct the housing and vacancy survey every
18 three years. This survey is conducted by HPD in
19 collaboration with the United States Census Bureau
20 and would ordinarily be conducted this year for
21 completion by the current deadline of April 1st,
22 2021. However, during the year that the decennial
23 census, like 2020, the Census Bureau has limited
24 capacity to assist HPD in gathering and analyzing
25 data. Recognizing the Census Bureau's limited

2 capacity, the state legislator passed legislation
3 extending the deadline for the housing and vacancy
4 survey by one year. Intro 2093, which I sponsored,
5 would align the city's rent stabilization Law with
6 the extension, shifting the current expiration date
7 from April 1st, 2021 to April 1st, 2022. I am joined
8 today, clearly, by Council member Barry Grodenchik,
9 Council member Farah Louis-- who else do I see?
10 Council member Rivera. I see you way up in the
11 corner there. Council member Ritchie Torres? Is
12 that a Ritchie Torres sighting? Council member
13 Perkins. Am I missing anyone? Council member Pastor
14 Fernando Cabrera. Who else? If I'm missing you,
15 it's only because my screen only allows me a certain
16 number of windows. So, I will pass this portion over
17 to our Committee counsel, Austin Brennan.

18 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Actually, going to
19 the committee clerk now to call the role.

20 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Oh. Committee
21 clerk William Martin, would you please call the roll?

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning. Thank
23 you. Roll call vote Committee on Housing and
24 Buildings Introduction 2093. Excuse me. Chair
25 Cornegy?

2 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: I vote aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Grodenchik?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Perkins? Council member
10 Perkins? I'll come back. Council member Rivera?

11 [background comments]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Council
14 member Louis?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER: I vote aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council member Perkins?

17 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: We will work on
18 following up with Perkin's office right now.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Okay. We'll call the
20 roll now and we'll get him later. By a vote of six
21 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
22 abstentions, Introduction 2093 has been adopted by
23 the Committee. Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: What's the protocol
25 for holding the role open? I know we have some

2 members who have committed to come in and they are
3 supposed to be coming in. Are we holding it open?

4 JOANNA CASTRO: We-- Jeff?

5 JEFFREY BAKER: We have another vote
6 immediately following this one. We can hold it open
7 for maybe until 10:15, but that we have to transfer
8 over.

9 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Thank you, Jeff.

10 JOANNA CASTRO: Billy, can you call
11 Council member Perkins one more time?

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Sure. Introduction
13 2093. Council member Perkins?

14 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: I just texted him,
15 too. Oh. I see we've been joined by Council member
16 Gjonaj.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, Council
18 member Gjonaj.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: yes.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Roll call vote on
21 Introduction 2093.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I vote aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now is
24 currently at seven in the affirmative, zero in the
25 negative, and no abstentions.

1 COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

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2 JOANNA CASTRO: Billy, we're having some
3 technical difficulties with Council member Perkins.
4 I am going to try to get him on the phone, and the
5 vote would be called from my screen, but it will be
6 Council member Perkins.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Sure. Absolutely.
8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: We've also been
10 joined by Council member Rosenthal.

11 JOANNA CASTRO: Billy, can you call on
12 Council member Perkins?

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Sure. Council member
14 Perkins. Introduction 2093.

15 JOANNA CASTRO: Council member Perkins,
16 you can vote now.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Hello?

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Yes. Council member
19 Perkins?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye. Thank
21 you.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Good
23 morning. Council member Rosenthal?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Good morning.
25 I vote aye. Thank you.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. The vote is
3 now nine in the affirmative, zero in the negative,
4 and no abstentions.

5 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: You are now at
6 the-- almost at the hour. Is anyone else--

7 JEFFERY BAKER: I believe the only other
8 person who has not voted was unavailable today.

9 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Jeff, can we close
10 the hearing, then? I know you have one right after.

11 JEFFREY BAKER: Yep. So, I think
12 everyone who is eligible-- or available to vote has
13 voted, so we can close.

14 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Thank you. Hearing
15 is now commenced.

16 [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 _____ October 25, 2020 _____