

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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January 28, 2021
Start: 10:05 AM
Recess: 10:09 AM

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 1)

B E F O R E: ROBERT E. CORNEGY, JR.
CHAIR

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Margaret S. Chin
Carlina Rivera
Helen Rosenthal
Bill Perkins
Mark Gjonaj
Fernando Cabrera
Barry Grodenchik
Farah N. Louis

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

2 SERGEANT 1: The recording is on.

3 SERGEANT 2: Thank you. The recording is
4 started.

5 SERGEANT 1: Thank you. Back-up is
6 rolling.

7 SERGEANT: 2: Thank you and Sergeant Hope.

8 SERGEANT HOPE: Yes, thank you. Good
9 morning and welcome to the New York City Council vote
10 on Housing and Buildings. At this time would all
11 Council Members and Council Member staff please turn
12 on our videos. Thank you. To minimize disruptions
13 please place all electronic devices to vibrate or
14 silent mode. Thank you. Chair Cornegy, we are ready
15 to begin. (pause)

16 CHAIR ROBERT CORNEGY: (gavel) Good
17 morning and thank you for coming. I'm Council Member
18 Robert Cornegy, Chair of the Council's Committee on
19 Housing and Buildings. We are here to hold a vote
20 today on a bill that extend deadlines related to the
21 City's Basement Legalization Pilot Program.
22 Established by Local Law 49 of 2019, the City's
23 Basement Legalization Polite Program creates a back-
24 up of participation homeowners to legally convert
25 their basement or cellar into a safe and rentable

2 dwelling unit. The deadline for the submission of
3 required construction documents to DOB was 18 months
4 after the effective date of the local law, which was
5 January 2, 2021. However, the COVID 19 crisis
6 resulted in substantial delay making compliance with
7 this deadline difficult for many homeowners and
8 impacting DOB's ability to conduct necessary
9 inspections. To provide additional time for
10 applicants to submit required documents, Proposed
11 Considered Intro sponsored by Council Member Darma
12 Diaz would extend the deadline by six months. I am
13 joined today by Council Members Louis, Chin,
14 Rosenthal, Koslowitz, Diaz, Cabrera, Powers and
15 Gjonaj. We will ask the committee clerk... Oh, I see
16 you. I'm sorry.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: And Rivera.

18 CHAIR ROBERT CORNEGY: Oh, Council Member
19 Rivera. Who else did I miss?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Grodenchik.

21 CHAIR ROBERT CORNEGY: Grodenchik from
22 the great borough of Queens.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Don't forget
24 that.

2 CHAIR ROBERT CORNEGY: I believe, I
3 believe that's it. We can now ask... Oh, Bill
4 Perkins. I see Council Member Perkins from the great
5 Borough of the Village of Tahoe who has also joined
6 us. We can ask the committee clerk to call the role.

7 CLERK: Good morning. William Martin
8 Committee Clerk. Roll call vote Committee on Housing
9 and Buildings. Proposed Introduction Number 2204-A.
10 Chair Cornegy.

11 CHAIR CORNEGY: I vote aye.

12 CLERK: Cabrera.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

14 CLERK: Chin.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye.

16 CLERK: Rosenthal.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: (pause)

18 CLERK: We'll come back. Grodenchik.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I just want
20 to explain my vote. I did vote against this original
21 legislation when it came to the floor. I'm not a big
22 fan of basement apartments because many of them have
23 been unsafe over the years. In my community in the
24 last few years we've lost people in fires, but I will

2 vote for this today as it is a technical adjustment
3 from the existing legislation. So, aye on that.

4 CLERK: Perkins.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER: (pause) You can go away
6 if you want.

7 CLERK: You muted Council Member Perkins.
8 There you go.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye on all.

10 CLERK: Thank you, sir. Rosenthal.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye.

12 Thank you.

13 CLERK: Thank you. GJONAJ.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I vote aye.

15 CLERK: Rivera.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

17 CLERK: Louis.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye.

19 CLERK: By a vote of 9 in the affirmative,
20 zero in the negative and no abstentions Proposed
21 Introduction 2204-A has been adopted by the
22 committee. Thank you.

23 CHAIR CORNEGY: Thank you all for your
24 attendance. We have a very busy agenda today, but
25 we've already begun the process by looking at and

2 passing very substantive legislation that will shape
3 and change and create affordability within the
4 borough. Thank you Council Member Diaz for following
5 in the rich legacy of your predecessor. See you guys
6 later. This hearing is dismissed. (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 February 4, 2020