

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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March 17, 2021
Start: 4:04 PM
Recess: 4:14 PM

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 1)

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

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

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

1 COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS 3

2 FEMALE SPEAKER: Go home.

3 RAFAEL SALAMANCA: Good afternoon everyone.
4 Welcome to New York City Council's hearing on the
5 Committee of Housing and Buildings. Everyone please
6 turn on your video at this time, and silence all
7 electron devices. Thank you so much. Chairman we can
8 begin.

9 CHAIR ROBERT CORNEGY: Thank you Rafael. I
10 am Council Member Robert E. Cornegy, Junior, Chair of
11 the Council's Committee on Housing and Buildings
12 officially gaveling in us...gaveling us in for this
13 vote. (gavel)

14 MALE SPEAKER: Just a little maintenance,
15 Chair. You also want to pass it over to Billy
16 Martin.

17 WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin Committee
18 Clerk roll call vote (bell) Committee on Housing and
19 Buildings. Introduction 874-A, part of one package
20 improving time notification in agency corporation,
21 conducting inspections and issuing stop work orders
22 in connection with lifting and construction work.
23 (BELL) Chair Cornegy.

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1 COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS 4

2 CHAIR ROBERT CORNEGY: I proudly vote aye and
3 congratulations to the bill's sponsor. (bell) Sorry
4 I took so long, Margaret.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. Permission to
6 explain my vote.

7 CHAIR ROBERT CORNEGY: Of Course.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I just want to say a
9 few words about the bill. I really want to thank all
10 my colleagues and all the advocates and the Committee
11 staff. This took a very long time. It was
12 supposedly part of the Lead Package last year because
13 I guess the agency an bigger housing work together,
14 but I think as Council Members, you know, we fight
15 everyday for our district, and help our constituents
16 improve their quality of life, and this piece of
17 legislation is an important step to ensuring that no
18 child must suffer because of poor oversight of
19 construction in residential buildings, and in my
20 district I think also it's Council Member Miller. We
21 have a lot of old tenant buildings, and I think there
22 are those kinds of old buildings across the city, and
23 a lot of them, you know have lead, and there is so
24 much renovations and construction going on. Even
25 though the city's rate of lead poisoning has

1 COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS 5

2 lessened, but the lead guideline is still not up to
3 par with the City's recommendation, and this, the
4 main part that this bill legislation, cooperation
5 between agencies, between DOB and the Department of
6 Health so that when lead is detected during
7 renovation and construction that immediate actions
8 are taken, and that's very important because you know
9 the damage to a child is irreversible. So, this is
10 why it's so important that every child deserves to
11 live in a safe home free of environmental hazard and
12 heavy metal. So, I thank my colleagues and urge you
13 to support, and I proudly vote aye. Thank you.

14 WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member Louis.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye. Congratulations
16 Margaret.

17 WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank you. Council Member
18 Rosenthal.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye.
20 Permission to explain my vote.

21 CHAIR ROBERT CORNEGY: Of course.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I'm stunned that we
23 now have to legislate cooperation because it's within
24 agencies, but, you know, there are many issues where
25 that does, you know where that cooperation is the

1 COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS 6

2 answer to the question, and whatever the problem is.

3 So Council Member Chin congratulations on your

4 legislation, and I proudly vote aye.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well, just on that point

6 I mean last minute very often when we were

7 still...where they were trying to age the bill, I was

8 thinking. The Commissioner called me and it was like

9 DOB said: Look, we can take a sample but that's a

10 sample, but we can't do the testing, but then

11 Department of Health can do the testing. So, they

12 got to work together, but apparently Department of

13 Health, I don't know if it's true or not, but they

14 don't work on weekends (laughs) but DOB is here all

15 the time. So, when DOB shows up and this bill

16 require them in a complaint, they have to show up

17 within 24 hours and they have to take a sample and

18 then pass it on to Department of Health. Makes

19 sense, right?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Mazel Tov.

21 WILLIAM MARTIN: Grodenchik.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you Mr. Clerk.

23 I want to congratulate my colleague Council Woman

24 Chin on this legislation, and I want to pick up. I

25 don't know if she left, but I just want to pick up

1 COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS 7

2 on what Council Woman Rosenthal said. Maybe we need
3 more legislation mandating that city agencies work
4 with one another. It has been over my generation in
5 government a source of great frustration at times
6 that one agency doesn't know what the other agency
7 is doing, and that's on the city level. When you
8 get multiple agencies involved on the city, state
9 and federal level it could be maddening and that is
10 everybody's at fault and nobody is at fault, and
11 that's if you don't want progress that's what you
12 do. You put everybody in the stew and you don't make
13 them work together. So, I want to thank you Council
14 Woman Chin. Thank you Chair for advancing this bill
15 and I proudly vote aye.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I hope that what
17 we've done today has set a precedent, and we don't
18 have to do this every single time. So, I'm hoping
19 that this fire lit by Council Member Chin is one
20 that kind of runs like wild fire throughout all the
21 agencies, but to not want to do this and be
22 embarrassed in this way.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Well, let's hope so.
24 Either that or we need somebody like my late great
25

1 COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS 8

2 mentor Claire Schulman who would lock people in the
3 room and rate what she wanted.

4
5 CHAIR ROBERT CORNEGY: Hope you do.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: That was effective,
7 too. Anyway, thank you again.

8 CHAIR ROBERT CORNEGY: Okay.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Anyway, thank you
10 again.

11 WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank you. Gjonaj

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I vote aye.

13 WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank you. Council Member Rivera

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

15 WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of 7 in the
16 affirmative, zero in the negative and no
17 abstentions, Introduction 874-A has been adopted by
18 the committee, and Mr. Chair there are two other
19 Council Members who are outstanding.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I am going to hold the
21 vote open for a few minutes for Council Member
22 Cabrera.

23 CHAIR ROBERT CORNEGY: Sure. Did we hear from
24 his office?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Yes, he's on his way.

1 COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS 9

2 CHAIR ROBERT CORNEGY: Okay, thank you. (pause)
3 Council Member Chin.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yes.

5 CHAIR ROBERT CORNEGY: I am in a little bit of an
6 awkward spot, and I'm about to lose my signal.
7 Would you mind closing the hearing out?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Oh, yes, of course.

9 CHAIR ROBERT CORNEGY: Thank you. I couldn't
10 think of anybody better on this space

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: (laughing)

12 CHAIR ROBERT CORNEGY: Thank you guys so much.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah, thank you for finding
14 the time to do this. Thank you.

15 CHAIR ROBERT CORNEGY: I appreciate it. Thanks.
16 (pause) Hi, Council Member Cabrera

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Hi, how are you?

18 CHAIR ROBERT CORNEGY: I'm good.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you for joining us.

20 CHAIR ROBERT CORNEGY: Thank you for this ripple

21 MALE SPEAKER: Thank you.

22 CHAIR ROBERT CORNEGY: The Committee on Housing
23 and Buildings Introduction 874-A, Council Member
24 Cabrera.

1 COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: (CHIME) I vote aye.

3 Thank you.

4 WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank you. The vote is now at 8
5 in the affirmative. One moment.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you everyone.

7 WILLIAM MARTIN: Are we voting?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Anybody else?

9 FEMALE SPEAKER: No, but Council Member Chin you
10 can do that.

11 WILLIAM MARTIN: Okay, so 8 in the affirmative,
12 zero in the negative, no abstentions, the final
13 vote. Thank you.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. Thank you to
15 everyone, and the hearing is now adjourned. (gavel)

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COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

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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 March 30, 2021