

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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February 25, 2021

Start: 9:33 AM

Recess: 9:56 AM

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 2)

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS: FERNANDO CABRERA
JAMES F. GENNARO
JUSTIN BRANNAN
ALAN N. MAISEL
CHAIM M. DEUTSCH

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

1 COMMITTEE ON FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 3

2 TECHNICIAN 1: PC RECORDING HAS STARTED.

3 TECHNICIAN 2: CLOUD IS BEGINNING.

4 TECHNICIAN 1: BACK-UP IS ROLLING.

5 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and welcome
6 to today's remote New York City Council vote of the
7 Committee on Fire and Emergency Management. At
8 this time would all panelists please turn on their
9 video, and minimize disruption please silence your
10 electronic devices. Thank you. we are ready to
11 begin.

12 CHAIR BORELLI: Thank you and good morning
13 (gavel) This is Councilman Joe Borelli Chair of the
14 Committee on Fire and Emergency Management opening
15 up today's vote on two important Introductions,
16 Intro 849 introduced by myself which establishes
17 fire protection safety provisions for film
18 production locations and requires production
19 location fire safety managers for certain rigging
20 filming and production activities. We are also
21 voting on Intro 8452-A sponsored by Council Member
22 Robert Cornegy, which relates to fire safety at film
23 production locations and to provide the Fire
24 Department and local fire houses with information
25 about field conditions at film production locations.

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2 I will save my remarks for today's Stated hearing
3 and a pre-stated press conference, but I will note
4 that this bill package is referred to as the Fire
5 Fighter Michael Davidson package because these two
6 pieces of legislation come as a result of the tragic
7 death of Fire Fighter David Smith (sic) in 2018. It
8 is a rare occasion where the City Council can make
9 rules specifically to address very significant
10 conditions that led to the death of fire fighter
11 Davidson, and these two bills when signed and
12 enacted will almost certainly ensure that no member
13 of the FDNY and anyone else on film sets quite
14 frankly succumbs to that sort of tragic and horrible
15 and awful death as a result of problems with
16 filming. So, I'm going to hand it over to Robert
17 Cornegy and I will save the rest of my comments for
18 later, and then we will turn it over to the
19 Committee Clerk. Council Member Cornegy.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you Chair
21 Borelli. Good morning. I just want to point out
22 before my comments that this is another example of
23 how there are occasions at the New York City Council
24 where we get to work across the aisles on behalf of
25 our front line and essential workers. So, thank you

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2 so much for your collaboration on the suite of
3 bills. I just priced... I just needed the world to
4 see that there is a possibility for two parties to
5 work together on behalf of citizens and our most
6 valuable citizens in this instance, which are front
7 line very essential workers. So, as said, I am
8 Council Member Robert Cornegy, and I look forward to
9 doing the right thing here at New York City Council
10 today. Lieutenant Michael Davidson 37 was killed on
11 the set of motherless Brooklyn in 2018 in Harlem
12 when he and Engine Company 69 were called to the
13 fire and had no idea the building was not as it
14 appeared. False walls had been erected and
15 flammable materials created a fire hazard.
16 Davidson became separated from his fellow
17 firefighters and he was suffocated. This new
18 legislation will protect future film locations and
19 will require a fire safety director to be on set at
20 all the times. So, if the layout is changed
21 responding fire fighters will know before they go
22 charging in. Fire fighters put their lives at risk
23 every single day. The least we can do is to provide
24 adequate information when they arrive at a building
25 that has been altered during a film. This is a

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2 practical solution that will prevent future fire
3 fighters from coming up on the same hazard that took
4 Lieutenant Michael Davidson from his loved ones.
5 Intro 1849-A requires the Fire Department to
6 establish fire safety provisions for certain film
7 production locations. Additionally, the bill
8 requires the designation of a production and
9 location fire safety manager when a permit for
10 rigging or filming has been obtained as such fire
11 safety provisions require. Obviously in 1852-A
12 upraise the communication between the Mayor's Office
13 of Film, Theater and Broadcasting, FDNY and local
14 firehouses towards a system of real time access to
15 information that goes along side permits.
16 Familiarizing local fire house with fil sites will
17 contribute to safety for our fire fighters. In
18 addition, clearing life safety violations will
19 ensure that fire fighters are not walking into
20 particularly hazardous conditions because a building
21 happens to be a film site. I am grateful for the
22 tireless advocacy of Eileen Davidson and the entire
23 Davidson family, the work of the United Firefighters
24 Association, Fire and Emergency Management, of
25 course Committee Chair Borelli and all colleagues

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who co-sponsored legislation, and all the Council staff who worked on this legislation including Jeff Baker, Josh Kingsley, and Dismal Shariff. I urge the swift passage of both these bills. Lieutenant Michael Davidson and the families of all of our fire fighters deserve no less. Thank you and thank you again for allowing me to bring those comments, Chair Borelli.

CHAIR BORELLI: Thank you and now we'll turn it to the Committee Clerk to record the roll.

CLERK: Good morning. William Martin Committee Clerk roll call vote Committee on Fire and Emergency Management Introduction 1849-A and 1852-A. The items are coupled. Chair Borelli.

CHAIR BORELLI: Aye on all.

CLERK: Deutsch.

CHAIM DEUTSCH: Aye on all.

CLERK: Maisel.

ALAN MAISEL: Yes.

CLERK: Thank you. Brannan.

JUSTIN BRANNAN: Aye on all.

CLERK: One moment. Okay by a vote of four in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no

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abstentions both items have been adopted by the committee. Thank you.

CHAIR BORELLI: Thank you and we'll adjourn the committee, but if possible, we will hold the rolls open until the next committee starts. Is that okay?

CLERK: Yeah, we can leave it open until 10:00.

CHAIR BORELLI: Okay, so we'll leave the committee roll open until 10:00, and I'll gavel out. Thank you very much. (gavel)

COUNCIL MEMBER: Alan Maisel, is that a Golden State motorcycle you're on? (pause) I guess he's gone. (pause)

CLERK: We're still live, folks. Just letting everybody know. (pause)

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Hi, it's Karen. Hello.

CHAIR BORELLI: Hello. How are you?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Hi. Today it's Fire and Emergency. When is Finance? Is Finance going to be on the same?

CHAIR BORELLI: Finance be following, and we're actually still live.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Okay, pause. Okay thanks.

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CHAIR BORELLI: We're just holding the vote open.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Okay, thanks.

CHAIR BORELLI: Alright, thank you. (pause)

Good morning Council Member Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Good morning.

CLERK: Are you ready to vote for...

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Yes, yes sir.

CLERK: Okay.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you.

CLERK: Okay on 1849-A and 1852-A Council Member
Cabrera

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I vote aye.

CLERK: Thank you, sir. The final vote now on
Introductions 1849-A and 1852-A are adopted 5 in the
affirmative, zero in the negative and no
abstentions. Thank you everyone.

CLERK: And I will end it on that.

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 APRIL 5, 2021