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COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR

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MARCH 18, 2021
Start: 9:10 AM
Recess: 9:15 AM

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 1)

B E F O R E: Chair I. Daneek Miller

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Adrienne E. Adams
Daniel Dromm
Farah N. Louis
Francisco P. Moya
Helen K. Rosenthal
Eric A. Ulrich

2 SERGEANT LEONARDO: Sergeant Kotowski, can you
3 start your recording? Thank you.

4 SERGEANT KOTOWSKI: PC record started.

5 SERGEANT LEONARDO: Cloud is rolling.

6 SERGEANT PEREZ: Back up is rolling.

7 SERGEANT LEONARDO: Okay, Sergeant Polite.

8 SERGEANT POLITE: Thank you. Good Morning, and
9 welcome to Remote Hearing on Civil Service and Labor.
10 Will Council Members and staff, please turn on their
11 video at this time. Thank you. To minimize
12 disruption, please place all cell phones and
13 electronics to vibrate. Chair, we are ready to
14 begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you so very much.
16 Thank you everyone for being up so early. It's good
17 to see all these great faces. I know we all had a
18 long day, so we're going to try to get through this
19 important resolution as quickly as possible. I am
20 Council Member I. Daneek Miller and I am the Chair of
21 the Committee on Civil Service and Labor. Once
22 again, welcome to all of my colleagues that are here.
23 I see Council Member Rosenthal, so cheery and smiley,
24 early in the morning. Of course, Council Member
25 Adams, Council Member Louis, the great Danny Dromm,

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2 and I'm told that Eric Ulrich is somewhere in the
3 universe. So, with that, we can begin. This
4 resolution —

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Moya is here.

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And Council Member Moya.

7 Good Morning sir. This resolution at hand,
8 encourages the state to authorize public employees to
9 offer temporary retirement incentives to employees
10 age 55 and older, who have served at least 25 years
11 of service in the pension system. COVID-19 has
12 thrust our city into a budget crisis and a \$5.25
13 billion deficit.

14 Early retirement would create additional savings
15 without resorting to layoffs. It would allow
16 dignified exit with full benefits and pension to
17 veteran members of our public workforce, who are
18 currently compensated at higher rates.

19 In turn, early retirement will allow the city to
20 diversify its range with newer, younger employees
21 that better represent the diversity of our new city.
22 We have spoken before about the need to equally, to
23 have equity in representation across all agencies.
24 This means, this is a means of achieving that.
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2 Also, the city has gone to the Municipal Labor
3 Council in the past and asked the Unions to find
4 savings in order to avoid layoffs, in order to avoid
5 service cuts, in order to avoid diminished benefits,
6 and this is one way of doing that. Aside from being
7 able to achieve a significant savings because the
8 older, the more veteran employees have a much richer
9 benefit package but it will allow us to move into the
10 future with a more diverse workforce.

11 So, I'm excited that Council Member Ampry-Samuel
12 introduced this legislation and I have the
13 opportunity to coprime as many of you have signed on
14 as well. So, I'm not sure if Council Member Ampry-
15 Samuel is available? Is she on?

16 MODERATOR: I don't believe she's on Chair.

17 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay, I did say I was going
18 to try to hold on for her but in that case, she will
19 obviously speak this afternoon on the legislation.
20 And I will be voting aye in favor and Council Members
21 of the Committee's do the same.

22 This is important piece of legislation for our
23 public employees but also for the welfare and fiscal
24 responsibilities of our city. So, with that, Mr.
25 Clerk.

1 COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR 5

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good Morning, William
3 Martin Committee Clerk, roll call Vote Committee on
4 Civil Service and Labor on Frequency or an
5 Introduction. Chair Miller?

6 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Adams?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Moya?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Louis?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of seven in
20 the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
21 abstentions, item has been adopted by the committee.
22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you so much Mr. Clerk.
24 I guess with that, would any of my colleagues like to
25 speak on this legislation on the Reso? If not,

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hearing none, uh, I look forward to an early retirement and I'll see you guys in the next life.

Alright, okay, with that, I call this meeting, this meeting is now adjourned. Thank you. Thank you so much for getting up so early. [GAVEL]

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Nicely done Chair.

CHAIR MILLER: Okay thank you. I'm taking Danny with me.

[UNIDENTIFIED]: Thank you Chair.

CHAIR MILLER: Danny and I, we're riding off to the sunset. Thank you.

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 15, 2021