

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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May 27, 2021
Start: 10:10 a.m.
Recess: 10:15 a.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing (Virtual Room 1)

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
Robert Holden

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

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Recordings.

3 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: PC has started.

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Cloud has started.

5 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Back up is rolling.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Sergeant Martinez, can
7 you give us the opening, please?

8 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good afternoon and
9 welcome to today's remote New York City Council
10 hearing of the Committee on Housing and Buildings.
11 At this time, would all panelists please turn on
12 their video? To minimize disruption, please silence
13 your electronic devices. Thank you for your
14 cooperation. We are ready to begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Thank you. This
16 morning's 27th hearing on Housing and Buildings will
17 commence. We will begin with an opening statement
18 from Council member Robert Holden.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Thank you, Chair,
20 and good morning. So, as a civic leader for nearly
21 40 years and throughout my time in the City Council,
22 I have worked to improve the quality of life in my
23 district and neighborhoods across the city. I have
24 spoken out about the poor condition properties are
25 left in when construction is only half complete or

2 when work stops. So, under the current law, wooden
3 fences are put up around the site by the contractors
4 or the developers. Unfortunately, these fences
5 deteriorate and attract graffiti, as we know, and
6 become long term eyesores for neighborhoods. So,
7 with the passage of Intro 1128 A where work at the
8 construction site has stopped for at least two years,
9 the green wooden fence must be replaced with a chain
10 link fence. The chain link fence is safer, more
11 secure, and really cannot be used as graffiti canvas.
12 So, this is an issue that I have wanted to solve for
13 years, so I'm kind of proud that we could come
14 together to get this vital quality of life matter
15 addressed by the Council. These are common sense
16 solutions to problems our constituents care deeply
17 about and I'm happy that the City Council would
18 deliver on this and, you know, I've had-- believe it
19 or not, I've had in my district-- and I assume it's
20 around the city-- I've had construction sites going
21 on 30 years with a construction fence. 30 years
22 where people who live next to it or across the street
23 or in the neighborhood have to put up with it. So,
24 this is, like I said, common sense legislation. I
25 just want to thank Chair Robert Cornegy and the

2 Housing and Buildings staff for helping us get to
3 this moment. I would also like to thank Speaker
4 Corey Johnson and his staff, especially Jason
5 Goldman, and co-sponsors Council members Borelli,
6 Ulrich, Yeger, Gjonaj, Dromm, Rodriguez, Koo, and
7 Moya, for assisting and bringing this bill up for a
8 vote today. And so I ask my colleagues to vote aye
9 on this piece of legislation. Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Just before we go
11 forward, I want to thank you, Council member Holden.
12 We are in a very difficult time in the city and some
13 people would focus away from or have us believe that
14 we can't focus on quality of life issues while facing
15 some of the bigger picture issues. So, thank you for
16 keeping us focused on those things that matter most
17 to constituents in the city of New York and,
18 obviously, quality of life, public safety, all of
19 those things that are associated with having these
20 types of eyesores are important to address as well as
21 some of the other issues. So, thank you for keeping
22 your eye on the ball, figuratively and literally, on
23 behalf of the constituents in all five boroughs.
24 Thank you, Council member.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Thank you, Chair.

1 COMMITTEE ON HOUSING BUILDINGS 6

2 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: At this point, I
3 think we can have our committee clerk, William
4 Martin, call the roll.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning. This is
6 the May 27th, 2021 committee--

7 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: I'm sorry. I
8 thought it was Billy Martin. I'm sorry.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: No worries, Mr. Chair.
10 This is the May 27th, 2021 Committee on Housing and
11 Buildings roll call vote on proposed Intro 1128 A.
12 Chair Cornegy?

13 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: I vote aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council member Cabrera?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [inaudible
16 00:04:19] Council member Holden for a great bill.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council member Chin?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye and
19 thank you to Council member Holden for your
20 leadership on this. Thank you.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council member
22 Rosenthal?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye
24 and, along with Council member Chin, I want to
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1 COMMITTEE ON HOUSING BUILDINGS

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2 congratulate Council member Holden for his leadership
3 on this very important issue.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Council
5 member Grodenchik?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I vote aye, as
7 well, and I want to congratulate Council member
8 Holden. This is a big problem in my community. You
9 know, it's a nightmare for the adjoining homeowners.
10 Especially I was out canvassing the other night and I
11 saw a house where a dozen years had passed since the
12 house has been under construction. There is one in
13 my community-- I don't have 30 years, Council member
14 Holden, but I do have a 20 year house right by
15 Cunningham Park. So, it's not a perfect perfect
16 solution, but it is a great step in the right
17 direction and I appreciate your advocacy here. Thank
18 you.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Council
20 member Gjonaj?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Congratulations,
22 Council member Holden, and I proudly vote aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council member Rivera?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Council
3 member Louis?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council member Perkins?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Thank you very
7 much for your cooperation. I vote aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, as well.
9 Chair Cornegy, by a vote of nine in the affirmative,
10 zero in the negative, and zero abstentions, the item
11 is adopted.

12 CHAIRPERSON CORNEGY: Thank you very
13 much. Thank you, again, Council member Holden. This
14 hearing of May 27th is now adjourned.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Thank you.

16 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: We've ended the live--

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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 June 15, 2021