

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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SEPTEMBER 9, 2021
Start: 12:58 P.M.
Recess: 1:03 P.M.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

B E F O R E: CHAIR YDANIS RODRIGUEZ

COUNCIL MEMBERS: YDANIS RODRIGUEZ
FERNANDO CABRERA
PETER KOO
DEBORAH ROSE
MARK LEVINE
ROBERT HOLDEN
SELVENA BROOKS-POWERS

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

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3 CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: Good morning. I
4 apologize for our delay. They've been in
5 conversation with some stake holders that have some
6 concerns about this bill, and fortunately, with the
7 support of the Speaker and my colleagues, we are
8 ready to vote on it. Also, I am late because I was
9 assisting (inaudible) together with the NYPD, DOT,
10 and DICAS addressing some new initiative that from
11 now on, we will see in the city of New York,
12 enforcing more law enforcement going after those
13 drivers who don't respect the right of those children
14 to cross the street near the school. So, I apologize
15 big time to my colleagues, but that is the reason why
16 we are starting late. Today, the committee convenes
17 to vote on Proposed Intro 1789 that is sponsored by
18 myself, Proposed Intro 1789(a) that is a local law to
19 amend the Administrative Code of the city of New York
20 in relation to side guards. The committee heard a
21 previous version of this bill on October 24, 2019.
22 In January of 2014, Mayor De Blasio announced the
23 creation of Vision Zero, a city-wide policy aimed at
24 eliminating traffic fatalities in New York City
25 streets by 2024. However, in 2020, there were 246

2 traffic fatalities, the most since Vision Zero began.
3 While I applaud his efforts on safety, it seems that
4 we are still along way from the goal of ending
5 traffic fatalities, and I hope that in the couple of
6 months that we have in this Administration, and the
7 Administration to come on January 1st, we will see a
8 follow up on Vision Zero. Large trucks are crucial
9 to keeping our streets running, but they account for a
10 significant number of pedestrian and cyclist's
11 fatalities. Fatalities from these crashes, side
12 impact, also called on the right, can be mitigated
13 through the installation of side guards. Side guards
14 are devices that prevent pedestrians or cyclists from
15 being pulled into the space between a truck's axles
16 and ran over by the rear wheels. Studies from other
17 jurisdictions that require side guards, like the
18 United Kingdom have shown that they are extremely
19 effective in preventing fatalities from these kinds
20 of crashes. Since the passage of a local law in
21 2015, cities agencies have worked to install side
22 guards on large vehicles in the city fleet with a
23 January 1, 2024 deadline. However, with the crisis
24 this city faces with pedestrians and cyclists
25 fatalities, it's time we go further, we're requiring

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2 this simple and effective safety solution. Proposed
3 Intro 1789(a) would accelerate the assisting of the
4 lines for side guard implementation in the city's
5 fleet, and for (inaudible) hauling vehicles from
6 January 1st, 2024 to January 1st, 2023. Starting in
7 2023, it will also require the installation of side
8 guards on all large vehicles used for contract with
9 city agencies of at least \$2 million dollars. I'm
10 proud to sponsor this bill which will reduce traffic
11 fatalities in our city. I will now ask the Committee
12 Clerk to conduct a roll call vote on the Proposed
13 Bill and recommend my colleagues to vote yes on this
14 important piece of legislation.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
16 Committee Clerk, roll call vote, Committee on
17 Transportation. Proposed Introduction 1789(A).
18 Chair Rodriguez.

19 CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: I vote I on this Bill
20 (Speaking Spanish). With that, I vote I.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera.

22 CM CABRERA: I.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.

24 CM KOO: I.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

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2 CM ROSE: I.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

4 CM LEVINE: I.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Holden.

6 CM HOLDEN: I vote I.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Brooks-Powers.

8 CM BROOKS-POWERS: I.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of seven in
10 the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
11 abstentions, item has been adopted by the committee.

12 CHAIR RODRIGUEZ: This meeting is
13 adjourned.

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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 SEPTEMBER 11, 2021