

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

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September 9, 2021
Start: 1:49 p.m.
Recess: 1:53 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Robert F. Holden
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Paul Vallone
Eric A. Ulrich
Brad Lander
Kalman Yeger

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

2 [background comments]

3 [Gavel]

4 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Good afternoon. I
5 am Council member Robert Holden, Chair of the New
6 York City Council Committee on Technology and I would
7 like to welcome you all to a vote on Intro 1152-A
8 sponsored by my fellow Queens Council member, Peter
9 Koo. Intro 1152-A establishes a 48-hour grace period
10 to protect New Yorkers from being charged interest
11 and other fees when they cannot make payments due to
12 an electronic system failure. As many aspects of our
13 lives become increasingly digitized, we also become
14 vulnerable to potential cyber attacks or other
15 technical system failures. For city governments, as
16 well as the residents, such incidents could be
17 devastating. For example, in March 2018, the city of
18 Atlanta suffered a cyber attack that shut down
19 municipal courts and left its residents unable to
20 access critical services like water bills and traffic
21 summonses payments systems. In May 2019, Baltimore
22 suffered a ransom where attack that froze thousands
23 of government computers and disabled dozens of
24 government services. In December 2019, a cyber
25 attack affected the city of Pensacola would shut down

2 telephone systems, Internet servers, and online
3 payment systems and sanitation and energy
4 departments. Right here, in January 2020, the state
5 of New York's computer network suffered a large cyber
6 attack that temporarily knocked out access to several
7 vital databases precisely as the state was gearing up
8 to deal with the COVID 19 pandemic. Most recently,
9 in June 2021, New York City's law department had been
10 hacked and lawyers were struggling to gain access to
11 important documents. Others cyber attack victims
12 include New York's Metropolitan Transportation
13 Authority and park mobile and mobile parking
14 applications for street parking payment systems. As
15 some websites maintained by New York City agencies
16 handle online payments by credit card, people and
17 businesses must not be penalized for technical system
18 failures beyond their control. With proposed Intro
19 1152-A, if a city website used to make online
20 payments is disabled due to an electronic system
21 failure, a 48-hour grace period would be established
22 to ensure that people and businesses can make
23 payments following the restoration of the website
24 without incurring any late fees or interest. This
25 simple, yet common sense bill will go a long way in

2 helping our constituents not get nickel and dimed by
3 this city. I urge all to vote aye on the bill and I
4 would like to recognize committee members that are
5 present from the technology committee. Councilman
6 Yeger and Council member Eric Ulrich. And I will now
7 ask the clerk to call the role.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
9 committee clerk. Roll call vote Committee on
10 Technology on proposed Introduction 1152-A. Chair
11 Holden?

12 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: I vote aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Yeger?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I want to thank the
17 Chair for making sure this committee hearing started
18 promptly on time today and I will be voting aye. It
19 is a commonsense piece of legislation and I
20 congratulate Council member Koo for making sure that
21 we passed it today. I vote aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Thank you, Council
23 member. And this hearing is adjourned.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: One second. By a vote
25 of three in the affirmative, zero and the negative,

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2 and no abstentions, the item has been adopted by the
3 committee.

4 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Okay. This hearing
5 is adjourned. Thank you.

6 [gavel]

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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 13, 2021