



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

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CONTACT: pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov, (212) 788-2958

**RUSH TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO HOLDS PUBLIC HEARING AND SIGNS
INTRO. 154-A, INTRO. 210-A, INTRO. 225-A, INTRO. 462-A, INTRO. 644-B, and
INTRO. 712-A**

Mayor Bill de Blasio: We have a lot of legislation today. First, we are going to talk about Intro. 154-A, which requires the Parks Department to report on maintenance spending on a park-by-park basis. This is an important part of our effort to make sure all New Yorkers have a great neighborhood park. The sponsor is Council Member Brad Lander.

As many of you will remember, through our Community Parks initiative, we've already invested – or investing \$285 million dollars to transform 67 underserved neighborhood parks. I want to thank Mitch Silver for his great efforts to implement that program.

But another key element of parks equity is seeing how and where our dollars are being spent. This bill will allow the public access to that information. It will require also the Parks Department to publish regular updates on capital projects, so New Yorkers know what the project is, where the funds come from, and when the work will be completed. True equity obviously requires real transparency, and we're proud to take this step today.

I want to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. And now, I want to introduce our Parks Commissioner, Mitch Silver.

[...]

Mayor: Thank you very much, Mitch. Now we are going to pause on signing this bill – looking to Jon Paul, make sure we're doing things in sequence – because a couple of council members who were part of it want to come speak, and they've just been briefly held up. So we're going to jump ahead to the next bill, and then we'll double back.

The next bill we'll talk about is Intro. 712-A, which requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to conduct an annual community air – excuse me – to conduct annual

community air quality surveys, and to publish the results. Sponsor – chief sponsor is Council Member Corey Johnson, the chair of the Health Committee.

Air pollution, obviously, over decades, has been a major concern in New York City. The good news is we have seen major improvements in the quality of our air, but nonetheless, air pollution remains a leading environmental threat to our health – obviously, particularly related to asthma and other respiratory diseases. And it affects all of us, but it – as we know, there’s a disproportionate act on – disproportionate impact on our lower income communities.

Again, progress over many years, extraordinary progress – air pollution is at the lowest point in the city’s modern history, but still, again, a serious health challenge. And we do not believe that we have gone as far as we can go. So in our OneNYC plan, we make clear that our goal is to have the best air quality of any large city in the United States by 2030. This bill will give us some important tools to realize that goal.

New York City will now be required to measure air pollution on streets across the city and to determine how factors like traffic and building emissions impact on air quality. The findings will help guide our work to curb pollution and track our progress towards our ambitious goal.

I want to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito for her leadership on this bill; of course, our Health Commissioner, Dr. Mary Bassett; and again, Council Member Corey Johnson.

So, we have no testimony on that. We are still waiting for – we’ll sign this one, and then we’ll double back. Okay. We’re doing a little – we’re – we’re creating a new approach here, right? Okay.

[...]

Mayor: We do have the [inaudible]. Okay, we are now going back in time – again, to Council Member and Chair Levine and to Council Member Lander. We have talked about why Intro. 154-A is important. Now we want you to tell us why it’s important. Chair Mark Levine.

[...]

Mayor: Why don’t we sign the bill?

Unknown: Excellent.

[...]

Mayor: Okay. Next we have – I’m on the right page, okay – Intro. 462-A, which requires the Department of Buildings to refer unaddressed and immediately hazardous elevator related violations to HPD’s Emergency Repair Program. The sponsor is Council Member James Vacca.

The Emergency Repair Program gives HPD the authority to repair, or order a building owner to repair, any condition that threatens the safety or health of a tenant. If the owner fails to correct the violation, the city can perform emergency repairs at the owner’s expense.

This program currently does not include elevator violations. Obviously, broken elevators should not go unfixed, and should not be off-limits to the residents of our buildings. Particularly for seniors and those with disabilities, if the elevator is broken, it means they’re confined to their apartment or they are forced to take a chance on going down stairs. This bill will make sure that no New Yorker finds themselves in that situation.

I want to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. I want to thank our HPD Commissioner, Vicki Been; Council Member Jumaane Williams, the Chair of the Committee on Housing and Buildings; and of course, the bill’s sponsor, Council Member Vacca.

Now, I’d like to introduce our Buildings Commissioner and marathon runner – congratulations, good time – Rick Chandler.

[Laughter]

Commissioner Rick Chandler, DOB: Thank you, sir.

Mayor: Looking very fit today, Rick.

Commissioner Chandler: And very stiff.

Mayor: [Inaudible] that’s right. No one said it would be easy.

[Laughter]

[...]

Mayor: Thank you. Let’s sign the bill.

[...]

Mayor: Okay. Now, Intro. 644-B – is that right? “B”?

Unknown: That’s right.

Mayor: Okay – requires Department of Education to report on physical education in our public schools. The sponsor is Council Member Elizabeth Crowley – welcome.

Every child deserves a great education, and that includes physical education. I can say this as a just completed New York City public school parent – physical education is very important for our children. It’s important for their health; it’s important for their ability to focus in the classroom. It’s a key part of the overall educational experience.

We’re working hard to ensure all students in all schools get the physical activity they need. This last budget in June, we added \$6.6 million dollars to support physical education programs, allowing the Department of Education to hire 50 more physical education teachers, and to improve and expand P.E. classes – access to P.E. classes in eight target districts.

The reports required by this bill will include the frequency and duration of P.E. classes, facilities used for those classes, and the number of instructors. It will strengthen our efforts to make sure that P.E. in all schools is inclusive, by helping us to identify where the gaps still remain.

I want to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito; our Chancellor, Carmen Farina; the Chair of our Education Committee, Danny Dromm. And now, it’s my pleasure to introduce Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, the lead sponsor of the bill.

[...]

Mayor: We thank you for your sisterly teamwork there – very nice. Now, we have public testimony from Erin George, of the Phys Ed 4 All Coalition.

[...]

Mayor: Thank you very much. Let’s sign the bill.

[...]

Mayor: Okay, last but not least – Intros. 210-A and 225-A increase transparency of our Citi Bike program. Intro 210-A requires the Department of Transportation to compile and publish Citi Bike usage data. This includes trip duration, start and end times, starting point, and destination. The sponsor is Council Member Brad Lander.

Intro. 225-A requires the Department of Transportation to compile and publish all financial data related to the Citi Bike program, including revenues generated, the program’s – and the program’s overall finances. The sponsor is Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez, Chair of the Transportation Committee.

We think Citi Bike has brought a lot to this city. We want its success to continue, and these bills will allow us to evaluate how this program can better serve New Yorkers in all parts of this city.

I want to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito; our Department of Transportation Commissioner, Polly Trottenberg. Now, it's my pleasure to introduce Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez.

[...]

Mayor: Thank you very much. Let me just do a quick summary in Spanish of the different pieces of legislation today.

[Mayor de Blasio speaks in Spanish]

With that, let us sign the final pieces of legislation.

[...]

Mayor: These bills are now law.

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