

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

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January 17, 2017  
Start: 10:30 a.m.  
Recess: 10:45 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm,  
14th Fl.

B E F O R E:

LAURIE A. CUMBO  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Darlene Mealy  
Elizabeth S. Crowley  
Karen Koslowitz  
Ben Kallos  
Fernando Cabrera

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

[sound check]

[pause]

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: Good morning. I am Council Member Laurie Cumbo; this hearing of the Committee on Women's Issues is now called to order.

Today we will be voting on Resolution No. 104-A, a resolution calling upon the New York State Unified Court System to require the Integrated Domestic Violence Courts in New York City to issue regular reports on batterer intervention programs.

Domestic violence is an insidious crime and any efforts to reduce it and improve outcomes must include continued evaluation of what programs and policies we already have in place. The efforts must be created and not only serve its victims after the fact but aim to reduce patterns from repeating and treat those who abuse.

Batterer intervention programs were designed as educational programs for domestic violence offenders partly to help stop the cycle of abuse. Although there are several possible ways to enter a batterer program, one of the more common is by order from a court. When batterers go through

1  
2 court-ordered programs, there is currently no readily  
3 accessible public record of outcomes to whether the  
4 programs are successful at all. Reporting on the  
5 placement in and outcomes of, batterer intervention  
6 programs could help measure the success of the  
7 program and assist in creating policies towards  
8 changing the behavior of the batterers.

9 I'd like to thank the sponsor of this  
10 resolution, Council Member Cabrera and invite him to  
11 say a few words. I also want to thank the members of  
12 the Women's Issues Committee and I want to recognize  
13 Karen Koslowitz from Queens, I want to recognize Ben  
14 Kallos from Manhattan, and I'd also like to now turn  
15 it over to Council Member Cabrera.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Good morning and  
17 first I want to thank Council Member Cumbo, Chair of  
18 the Committee on Women's Issues and the Committee  
19 members, Council Member Kallos, Mealy, Crowley,  
20 Koslowitz, and the Legislative Director of Human  
21 Services Division, Matthew Gewolb.

22 Reso 104 calls on the New York State  
23 Unified Court System to require New York City's  
24 Integrated Domestic Violence Courts to issue regular  
25 reports on batterer intervention programs. Currently

1  
2 we have no way to easily determine whether these  
3 programs make a real difference in batterers'  
4 behavior. This report will allow us to measure the  
5 effectiveness of batterers' intervention programs to  
6 make sure that the underlying causes of domestic  
7 violence are addressed and domestic violence is  
8 eliminated.

9 Adding a requirement of accountability  
10 will ensure that participation in a court-ordered  
11 intervention program is meaningful and substantive  
12 and not simply a procedure that the batterer must  
13 follow. Thank you so much.

14 CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: Thank you. I just  
15 have a question for Council Member Cabrera. So  
16 legislation often has inspiration that we receive,  
17 either it comes from our constituents or things we've  
18 experience personally; what exactly inspired this  
19 bill for you?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I have to give  
21 credit to the advocates; the advocates sat down with  
22 me and shared their concerns and alongside with this  
23 reso I have some other resos that I have put forth  
24 and hopefully we can have them as well in the future,  
25 but they truly deserve the credit.

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: Oh that's wonderful.  
3 Okay. Well thank you. I'm very proud to see so many  
4 of the men that are part of the City Council  
5 participate in this effort to end domestic violence  
6 all across the City and ultimately the nation and  
7 world.

8 So at this time we are going to do a roll  
9 call and begin the voting.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,  
11 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Women's  
12 Issues, Resolution 104. Chair Cumbo.

13 CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: I proudly vote aye  
14 and I'm very proud of you, Council Member Cabrera.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye and  
17 I'd like my name added to Reso No. 104.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Ditto.

20 [background comment][laughter] I'd like to vote aye  
21 and have my name added to the resolution.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 3 in the  
23 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
24 the resolution has been adopted by the Committee.  
25

CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: Okay. And at this time I would like to hold the vote open for another 15 minutes. So we'll keep the vote open for another 15 minutes and at this time we'll wait for other members to arrive, but we'll keep the vote open. And I want to thank all of my committee members for being here today; I want to thank our staffs, I want to thank Aminta Kilawan, Joan Povolny, Monica Abend on my staff, and we have some new interns that have begun today, so we're very excited. So thank you.

[background comments]

[pause]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call, the Committee on Women's Issues, Resolution 104. Council Member Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now currently stands at 4 in the affirmative.

[pause]

[background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote now, Committee on Women's Issues, Resolution 104 has been adopted by the Committee; 4 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

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COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: This meeting is  
adjourned.

[gavel]

[background comments]

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 January 24, 2017