

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

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April 11, 2018  
Start: 11:30 a.m.  
Recess: 11:55 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: KAREN KOSLOWITZ  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ADRIENNE E. ADAMS  
MARGARET S. CHIN  
VANESSA L. GIBSON  
RAFAEL L. ESPINAL, JR.  
ROBERT E. CORNEGY, JR.  
COREY D. JOHNSON  
RORY I. LANCMAN  
STEVEN MATTEO  
RITCHIE J. TORRES  
MARK TREYGER

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

2 [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Call the meeting  
4 of the Rules, Privileges and Elections to order. Good  
5 morning and welcome to this meeting of the Committee  
6 on Rules, Privileges and Elections. My name is Karen  
7 Koslowitz and I am Chair of the Committee on Rules,  
8 Privileges and Elections. I would like to at this  
9 point ask the Speaker to make a few comments.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Sure, thank you Chair  
11 Koslowitz. Today is new day for all workers in New  
12 York City. Today the council will vote on  
13 groundbreaking legislation, the stop sexual  
14 harassment in New York City act. This package of  
15 bills demands that no employer in New York City  
16 either public or private ignore or overlook or turn a  
17 blind eye to sexual harassment in their businesses,  
18 organizations, offices or city agencies. The  
19 resolution we consider... we will consider and vote on  
20 today supports New York City employees by bringing  
21 the council's anti-discrimination and sexual  
22 harassment policies and practices in alignment with  
23 the demands and goals of our legislative package, New  
24 York City workplaces free of discrimination and  
25 harassment. Today by amending the rules of the

1  
2 council, the council takes action and joins with  
3 working people to say the time for sexual harassment  
4 in the workplace is up. I want to thank you Chair  
5 Koslowitz for chairing this hearing today and for  
6 preparing for it, I want to thank Chair Helen  
7 Rosenthal of the Committee on Women for her  
8 leadership and I also want to thank all of the women  
9 in the council who I see; Council Member Chin,  
10 Council Member Adams, who else is here... Council  
11 Member Gibson, Council Member Rosenthal is down there  
12 for their leadership in this. What we are doing today  
13 by amending these rules we're again aligning  
14 ourselves what we're calling on other city agencies  
15 and the private sector to do so this is an important  
16 day, a good day, a step in the right direction and we  
17 are doing something both here for the council, for  
18 city agencies and for the private sector which is one  
19 of the most forward thinking packages of legislation  
20 addressing sexual harassment and hopefully mitigating  
21 what we've seen and doing the right thing by the  
22 people of New York City. So, I am proud that the  
23 Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections is  
24 voting on this today, I fully support it and I look  
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2 forward to voting in support of this at our stated  
3 meeting later today. Thank you Chair Koslowitz.

4 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Thank you Mr.  
5 Speaker. I would like to at this time acknowledge the  
6 members of the committee; we have Council Member  
7 Espinal, Council Member Chin, Council Member Cornegy,  
8 Council Member Adams, Council Member Gibson, Council  
9 Member Matteo, and we've also been joined by Council  
10 Member Rosenthal.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: We have Council Member  
12 Lancman behind us.

13 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Oh, Councilman..  
14 Council Member Lancman. I would also like to  
15 acknowledge Rules Committee Counsel Elizabeth Guzman  
16 who was here very late last night working on this.  
17 Today the Rules Committee will consider a resolution  
18 to amend Chapter two of the rules of the council of  
19 the city of New York. The amendments to Chapter two  
20 include amending rule 2.70 and adding new rule 2.75,  
21 these amendments are set forth in the pre-considered  
22 resolution. This is the statement now. Good morning,  
23 today the council will vote on a crucial series of  
24 bills collectively called the stop sexual harassment  
25 in New York City act aimed at demanding the

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2 protection of all particularly women against  
3 workplace sexual harassment in the public and private  
4 sectors. These bills require city agencies, the  
5 offices of the borough presidents and the office of  
6 the public advocate to have non-discrimination and  
7 anti-harassment policies in place and to provide  
8 training to every employee. The resolution this  
9 committee considers today is a resolution to amend  
10 rule 2.70 of the rules of the council and add rule  
11 2.75 to the rules will align the council's policies  
12 and practices with a slate of anti-sexual harassment  
13 bills the council will vote on later today. Anybody  
14 have any comments on what we're voting on today?  
15 Council Member Adams.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you Chair  
17 Koslowitz. I just wanted to say that it's very  
18 important and I'm very proud of this council for  
19 initiating this very unique package of legislation  
20 that we will vote on today, it's really important  
21 that the city council take the lead on this and I'm  
22 really proud to have a part of this legislative  
23 package. So many thanks to our Speaker Corey Johnson,  
24 Helen Rosenthal, all of the women and men who had a  
25 part of this important legislative package today, our

1  
2 sincerest thanks and I'm sure that the people of the  
3 city of New York give their thanks as well.

4 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Anyone else?  
5 Okay, with that let's do the vote.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: William Martin,  
7 Committee Clerk roll call vote Committee on Rules,  
8 Privileges and Elections, Pre-considered Resolution,  
9 Chair Koslowitz?

10 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Happily, vote  
11 aye, this is a great thing that the council is doing  
12 and as a woman I really appreciate this.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Gibson?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to  
15 briefly explain my vote? Thank you, thank you Chair  
16 Koslowitz and I really want to echo the sentiments of  
17 Council Member Adams in just expressing my firm  
18 support for today's Resolution on the agenda. I want  
19 to thank our Speaker Corey Johnson and our Chair of  
20 the Committee on Women, Helen Rosenthal and many  
21 others who really stood firm. In the culture that we  
22 are working in and certainly in society we have to  
23 recognize our fundamental responsibility as public  
24 servants and I appreciate that this city council  
25 during this time is really taking the lead in not

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2 only reaffirming our commitment but making sure that  
3 we're talking the talk and walking the walk and  
4 today's Resolution coupled with the legislative  
5 package, stop sexual harassment in New York City is  
6 our commitment to not only take the lead but make  
7 sure that we're holding ourselves accountable to the  
8 same level of standard that we expect of every public  
9 servant in this city of New York whether you work in  
10 a city agency or any other public sector. We have to  
11 be the leaders in this movement, we have to make sure  
12 that we are providing a safe environment for every  
13 public servant who works in our council and who works  
14 here in this city so I'm very, very proud of today,  
15 certainly it's long overdue but better late than  
16 never and certainly time is always of the essence to  
17 make sure that we continue to make a mark and create  
18 a legacy in this term that we don't just talk about  
19 it but we are doers of the word and so with that I am  
20 proud to vote aye and I want to thank our Chair and  
21 our Speaker and all of my colleagues in the Women's  
22 Caucus and in the city council for their leadership,  
23 their commitment and their partnership, I vote aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Chin?  
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COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Permission to explain my vote? I'm really proud to be able to vote on this Resolution today because as we move forward on the package of bills against sexual harassment and discrimination and people say well how come it doesn't apply to the city council, well this Resolution makes it that the city council also has to comply with the rules and I think we're taking the lead on this that sexual harassment has no place in public workplace or in private workplace and I want to thank our Speaker for your leadership and Chair Koslowitz and also Chair Rosenthal and the Women's Caucus and really making a shining example for especially the younger generation of women and this is what leadership is all about and I proudly vote aye, thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Matteo?

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: [off-mic] Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Cornegy?

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Madame Chair permission to explain my vote? So, I'm very proud as a father of four boys and two girls to be in a progressive administration that puts forward and a progressive council that puts forward the idea of how

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2 important it is to protect women. I want to thank my  
3 Speaker and the Chair of this committee for thinking  
4 that in the beginning of this term how important it  
5 was to make this a benchmark and I'm proud to have a  
6 piece of legislation that's part of this very  
7 progressive package, thank you and I vote aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Espinal?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: With many thanks  
10 and congratulations to the Chair Koslowitz and our  
11 Speaker, thank you for putting this forward, this is  
12 a great step, thank you, I vote aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Lancman?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: [off-mic] Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Torres?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Adams? Speaker  
18 Johnson?

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I very proudly vote aye  
20 and again I want to thank Chair Rosenthal for her  
21 leadership on this.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: By a vote of ten  
23 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no  
24 abstentions the item is adopted by the committee.

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2 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: This meeting is  
3 adjourned. Open for another 15 minutes.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Continuation of  
5 roll call, the Committee on Rules, Council Member  
6 Treyger?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I vote aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: The final vote  
9 on the Committee on Rules, Pre-considered Resolution  
10 is now adopted by a vote of 11 in the affirmative,  
11 zero in the negative and no abstentions.

12 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: I now close this  
13 meeting.

14 [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

April 30, 2018