

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

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March 19, 2024
Start: 10:44 a.m.
Recess: 10:48 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Diana Ayala, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alexa Avilés
Tiffany Cabán
Chi A. Ossé
Lincoln Restler
Kevin C. Riley
Sandra Ung

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Sound check for the
3 Committee on General Welfare. Today's date is March
4 19, 2024, being recorded by Danny Huang in the
5 Chambers.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
7 welcome to the New York City Council's vote for the
8 Committee on General Welfare.

9 At this time, we ask that you silence all
10 electronic devices.

11 At no time is anyone to approach the
12 dais.

13 Chair, we are ready to begin.

14 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: [GAVEL] Good morning,
15 everyone, and welcome to today's hearing. My name is
16 Diana Ayala, and I am the Deputy Speaker of the New
17 York City Council and the Chair of the General
18 Welfare Committee.

19 Today, our Committee will be voting on
20 Intro. 349. This bill will make clarifying the edits
21 to Local Law 34 of 2024 to indicate that required
22 reports are to be submitted on a quarterly basis.
23 Local Law 34 requires that the Department of Social
24 Services in consultation with the NYPD, the
25 Department of Sanitation, and the Department of Parks

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2 and Recreation produce reports on removals of those
3 experiencing homelessness on city streets.

4 At this time, I'd like to acknowledge my
5 Colleagues who are here today, Council Member Riley,
6 Council Member Ung, Council Member Cabán, Council
7 Member Restler, Council Member Ossé, and Council
8 Member Avilés.

9 I would also like to thank the Committee
10 Staff who worked to prepare this hearing and vote,
11 Aminta Kilawan, Senior Legislative Counsel; Penina
12 Rosenberg, Policy Analyst; Phariha Rahman, Finance
13 Analyst; and, finally, my Staff, Elsie Encarnacion,
14 Chief-of-Staff.

15 I would now like to turn it over to the
16 Clerk to do the roll call for this vote.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
18 you. Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk.
19 Roll call vote Committee on General Welfare on
20 Introduction 349. Chair Ayala.

21 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: I vote aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Riley.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Chair, permission
24 to explain my vote?

25 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Permission granted.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: I am firmly voting
3 yes to support this legislation. It is crucial that
4 we steer attention to our MTA system as we work
5 towards improving the lives of those who are most
6 severely impacted by our housing shortage. The people
7 dealing with homelessness are in a cycle of poverty.
8 Without intervention, this will only lead to future
9 issues. These people are in need of assistance, and
10 we, as a Council, need to ensure that these response
11 processes are delivering much-needed resources. By
12 increasing transparency through detailed quarterly
13 reporting, we can better understand the challenges
14 faced by those experiencing homelessness and
15 implement effective solutions to support them. Thank
16 you to Chair Ayala and my Colleagues for continuing
17 to work together to create a more inclusive and
18 supportive city for all individuals regardless of
19 their housing status, and I vote yes. Thank you.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Cabán.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: I vote aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
23 you. Avilés.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ossé.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

6 Ung.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: I vote aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Banks.

9 With a vote of seven in the affirmative, zero in the
10 negative, and no abstentions, item has been adopted
11 by the Committee.

12 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Thank you. With that,
13 this Committee hearing vote is adjourned. [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 March 28, 2024