

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS, STATE
AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL
OPERATIONS, STATE AND FEDERAL
LEGISLATION

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December 18, 2025
Start: 11:30 a.m.
Recess: 11:36 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING
ROOM 2

B E F O R E: Lincoln Restler, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gale A. Brewer
David M. Carr
James F. Gennaro
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Shahana Hanif
Frank Morano
Lynn C. Schulman
Inna Vernikov

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Simcha Felder

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and
3 welcome to the New York City Council vote of the
4 Committee on Governmental Operations, State and
5 Federal Legislation.

6 At this time, can everybody please
7 silence your cell phone, and no one is to approach
8 the dais.

9 Chair, we are ready to begin.

10 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Well, this may be
11 the last time I have the opportunity to welcome you
12 all to the Committee on Governmental Operations,
13 State and FEDERAL LEGISLATION, so I just want to
14 thank you for joining us.

15 I really want to take a moment to thank
16 the terrific Staff of this Committee, Johari Frasier
17 joined us recently as our Counsel and has done a
18 tremendous job since joining the Committee. We're
19 really grateful to have his expertise and Erica Cohen
20 has been our Analyst throughout the two years I've
21 Chaired the Committee. I want to thank her for her
22 hard work and contributing to the work of this
23 Committee. It has been an enormous privilege leading
24 this Committee. We've held 20 hearings in these two
25 years. We have brought tough rigorous, but fair

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oversight to the Adams Administration and done our
best to hold them accountable despite the you know,
cronyism and corruption that has been far too much of
a constant in this Administration.

I'd like to recognize my Colleagues who
are here today, Brooklyn's own David Carr, a special
guest of the GovOps Committee today, Simcha Felder,
my friend and neighbor Shahana Hanif, my other friend
and neighbor, Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez of
Brooklyn. We are joined on the end by Frank Morano,
the newest Member of our Committee from Staten
Island, Council Member Lynn Schulman from Queens,
Council Member Jim Gennaro also from Queens, and the
bill sponsor today, Council Member Dr. Nantasha
Williams.

We'll be voting on Intro. 472-A that
Council Member Williams has sponsored. This bill
would require borough presidents to work in
partnership with DCAS to provide anti-sexual
harassment training and anti-discrimination trainings
to community board members and staff. Sexual
harassment and... Council Member, we can find a seat
for you. There you go. What a gentleman. Thank you.

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We've been joined by Council Member Vernikov of
Brooklyn.

Sexual harassment and discrimination
trainings are simple but highly effective measures
that make our city a safe and respectful place for
all. We have made great strides in ensuring that
every single New York City employee and elected
official receives training annually around these
issues, and I'm grateful that Council Member Williams
is going to ensure community boards are held to that
very same standard.

I'd now like to turn it over to my
friend, Council Member Dr. Nantasha Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you so
much, Chair and Members of the Committee. I am here
today to speak on my bill which requires borough
presidents to provide equal employment opportunity
training for community board members including anti-
harassment and anti-discrimination training.
Community boards are one of the most direct points of
contact between New Yorkers and their local
government. Board members weigh in on land use,
budgeting, quality-of-life issues, and neighborhood
planning. They take on real responsibility, and I

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know as a former community board member, often while
balancing full-time jobs, family commitments, and
volunteer service. With that responsibility should
come clear, consistent standards. This bill
recognizes that community boards function best when
members understand their obligations and the
expectations that come with public service. Required
EEO training helps ensure that board members are
equipped to interact professionally, make decisions
responsibly, and contribute to spaces that are
respectful and functional for everyone involved. This
legislation also brings consistency across boroughs.
Right now, access to training can vary, leaving gaps
in understanding and uneven expectations. By
establishing a clear requirement, we create a shared
baseline that supports accountability and strengthens
the overall effectiveness of community boards
citywide. Intro. 472 is about reinforcing trust in
our civic institutions. It helps to ensure that
community boards remain spaces where residents can
participate meaningfully, where members can serve
confidently, and where standards are clear from the
start.

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Again, I want to thank the Committee for
its thoughtful consideration and hopefully for
supporting this bill and advancing this legislation
that strengthens civic participation and promotes
responsible professional engagement across our city.
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Thank you so much,
Council Member Williams.

We've also been joined by former Chair of
this Committee, Council Member Gale Brewer.

And I would now like to invite the Clerk
to call the roll.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
you. Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk.
Roll call vote, Committee on Governmental Operations,
State and Federal Legislation. Proposed Introduction
472-A.

Chair Restler.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: I vote aye.
Congratulations to Council Member Williams.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote aye. I'm
proud to be a co-sponsor of this bill and I
congratulate the sponsor.

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COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye but, as
Borough President, I did it already. Thank you. Good
luck.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

Gutiérrez.

COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanif.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Schulman.

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye and
congratulations to the bill sponsor.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Carr.

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Vernikov.

COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Morano.

COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Chairman Restler,
thank you for your exemplary leadership of this
Committee. It's been a real pleasure to serve with
you. I only wish it had been longer but, with that, I
do vote no.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
vote of eight in the affirmative, one in the

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negative, and no abstentions, item has been adopted
by the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: I think Council
Member Felder has a question. Do you mind? Yeah.

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: I just want to
know, you introduce certain people as your friends
and (INAUDIBLE)

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: He didn't
introduce me as a friend. Don't worry about.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: I just want to be
clear every single person on this dais is a friend. I
can't speak to the table, I can't speak to the table,
but the dais is friends. You know, the folks on the
dais got the seats. I'm just playing. I appreciate
you both immensely.

With that, are we adjourning? We got
everybody, right? You got nine?

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Just make
sure on the record, yes, we have nine present. You
have a full Committee, eight in the affirmative, one
of the negative, no abstentions. Item is adopted.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Thank you to my
great Colleagues on the GovOps Committee. You are all
my friends. Have a great day. [GAVEL]

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 December 29, 2025