

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

VOTE*

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Thursday May 1, 2025
Start: 11:20 a.m.
Recess: 11:24 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Hon. Julie Won, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Erik D. Bottcher
Sandy Nurse
Althea V. Stevens
Inna Vernikov

Other Council Members Attending: Brooks-Powers

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS
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SERGEANT MESITI: This is a mic check for the Committee on Contracts. Today's date is May 1, 2025; the location is the Chambers. This is being recorded by Rocco Mesiti.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, and welcome to today's New York City Council vote for the Committee on Contracts.

At this time, we ask that you please silence all electronic devices. And at no time are you approach the dais.

Chair Won, we are ready to begin.

CHAIRPERSON WON: [GAVEL] Good morning, and welcome to this Committee vote of the New York City Council's Committee on Contracts. Today is Thursday, May 1, 2025. My name is Julie Won, and I have the privilege of chairing this committee.

Today marks a crucial moment in the Council's ongoing efforts to improve New York City system for supporting minority and women owned business enterprises seeking public contracts.

We're voting on a bill today sponsored by our colleague, Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers, Proposed Introduction 23-A.

This legislation will require the Comptroller to publish an annual report on citywide purchases of goods and services from minority and women owned business enterprises or MWBEs.

Proposed Intro 23-A provides needed transparency into the state of MWBE contracting. The granting of contracts to MWBE firms is one of the most powerful tools the City has to increase business opportunities for marginalized communities.

Reporting requirements do exist informing lawmakers on agency progress and meeting MWBE goals. However, gaps also exist in agency reporting, and the Comptroller's office has shown continued dedication to neutral and more detailed reporting.

The citywide report will give policy makers, advocates, and businesses seeking work with agencies a clearer picture of whether we are making good on promises to expand these contracting opportunities year over year. It will also further demonstrate which parts of the city government need to do a better job of meeting MWBE contracting goals.

The reports mandated by this bill will not be enough to the on their own to remedy the year of the years of discrimination that makes special MWBE

contracting programs necessary in the first place,
but they will provide information that will be an
essential starting point to future discussions of the
City's effort to diversify its vendor selection.

I urge my colleagues to consider the impact
that this of this bill will have and vote in favor.

I'd to give Council Member, Selvena Brooks-
Powers, an opportunity to talk about her bill.

And before we vote, I'd like to thank the
committee staff, Alex Paulenoff, Senior Legislative
Counsel; Kristoffer Sartori, Senior Legislative
Counsel; Alex Yablon, Legislative Policy Analyst; and
Owen Kotowski, Senior Financial Analyst for their
hard work in putting this hearing together and
preparing us for the vote.

I'm going turn it over to Council Member
Brooks- Powers to share her statement on her bill.

MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you and good
morning. I'd like to begin by thanking Chair Won for
her leadership on this committee and consistent
commitment to equity in city contracting.

Today, I'm proud to sponsor Intro 23, a bill
that brings needed transparency to how the City

engages with minority and women owned business enterprises.

The city of New York has a moral obligation to ensure that its procurement process reflects the diversity of our communities and provides equitable opportunities to those who have historically been excluded from public contracting. This legislation requires the Comptroller to publish an annual report showing how much of our city's contracting dollars are awarded to MWBE's broken down by agency, industry, contract value, and ethnic ethnic and gender categories. This level of detail will help identify where progress is being made, and just as importantly, where barriers still persist.

By increasing visibility into our procurement practices, we empower agencies, advocates, and MWBEs themselves with the information needed to push for meaningful reform. This is a step toward accountability and toward creating a procurement system that truly reflects the values of equity and inclusion.

Thank you again, Chair Won, and to the members of this committee for hearing this bill and to my

cosponsors for standing with me in this important effort. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON WON: With that, I will ask the Clerk to call the roll for a vote.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, William Martin, Committee Clerk; roll call vote for the Committee on Contracts on Proposed Introduction Number 23-A.

Chair Won?

CHAIRPERSON WON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: (NO RESPONSE)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: (ABSENT)

COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of 4 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions the item has been adopted by the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON WON: Congratulations, Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers. And I hereby state that this committee has been adjourned. [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 June 12, 2025