

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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February 13, 2025  
Start: 10:41 a.m.  
Recess: 10:47 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Sandy Nurse, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Diana Ayala  
Tiffany Cabán  
Shahana Hanif  
Christopher Marte  
Mercedes Narcisse  
Althea V. Stevens

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Carlina Rivera

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Mic check, mic check.

3 This is a mic check on today's vote on Criminal  
4 Justice. Today's date is February 13, 2025. Recorded  
5 by Walter Lewis in the Chambers.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and  
7 welcome to the New York City vote on the Committee on  
8 Criminal Justice.

9 Please silent all electronic devices at  
10 this time.

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: [GAVEL] Good morning.

13 I am Council Member Sandy Nurse, Chair of the  
14 Council's Committee on Criminal Justice. I'd like to  
15 welcome you to today's vote on Proposed Introduction  
16 Number 735-B and Proposed Introduction 792-A. I want  
17 to recognize my Colleagues who are here. Council  
18 Member Marte, Narcisse, Rivera, Stevens, Hanif, Cabán  
19 online. I think that's everyone. And Ayala.

20 In October, this Committee held a  
21 difficult but very important hearing on sexual  
22 assault and harassment in city jails and, at the  
23 hearing, we examined what appears to be a chasm  
24 between the Department of Corrections' written  
25 policies to prevent and address sexual abuse and the

2 reality for both those in the Department's custody  
3 and those who work on Rikers Island. Today, the bills  
4 we are voting on will move us forward to ensure that  
5 we have an accurate understanding of the scope of  
6 sexual assault and harassment within our city jails  
7 as well as how the Department of Correction is  
8 investigating allegations. I invite the lead sponsors  
9 to speak on their bills.

10 I'm going to start with Council Member  
11 Rivera.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Good morning.  
13 Thank you, Chair Nurse, for the opportunity to  
14 deliver brief remarks on my bill that we are voting  
15 on today, and thank you for your leadership on this  
16 issue.

17 Today, we're voting on Intro. 792, which  
18 will require the Department of Corrections to  
19 implement an electronic case management system to  
20 track investigations of sexual abuse. At our hearing  
21 on this bill, we heard from survivors of sexual  
22 violence in New York City-operated jails who made  
23 clear the need for greater oversight to ensure that  
24 investigations into sexual violence are completed  
25 within 90 days as mandated by local and federal

2 policy. According to a report from Gothamist, more  
3 than 45 percent of the Department's investigations  
4 into sexual violence drag on well past 90 days. The  
5 history of sexual abuse allegations at Rikers Island,  
6 combined with the lack of meaningful oversight, has  
7 allowed perpetrators to operate with impunity. When  
8 sexual abuse investigations are delayed or ignored,  
9 it sends a message that such crimes are tolerated,  
10 perpetuating a cycle of violence. Survivors deserve  
11 to know that their cases are being taken seriously  
12 and handled in a timely manner. A modern electronic  
13 case management system would provide a streamlined,  
14 secure way to track reports, ensure accountability,  
15 and prevent cases from languishing without  
16 resolution. I ask for your support on this  
17 legislation, and I also thank my Colleague, Council  
18 Member Stevens, for her bill for corrections  
19 officers. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: Thank you, Council  
21 Member Rivera. I now turn it over to Council Member  
22 Stevens.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Thank you, Chair  
24 Nurse, for your leadership and approach in this  
25 Committee. I'm honored here today to take this

2 important step with the passage of Intro. 735, which  
3 requires Department of Corrections to report on  
4 incidents of sexual assault and harassment against  
5 correctional officer staff to ensure they have access  
6 to critical mental health resources. This legislation  
7 is about accountability, protection, and compassion.  
8 Correctional officer staff put their safety on the  
9 line every day, and they deserve to work in an  
10 environment that prioritizes their well-being. With  
11 this bill, we are making it clear that their  
12 experience matters, their safety matters, and their  
13 mental health matters. Too often, we focus on  
14 accountability without ensuring that we have the  
15 tools and resources to heal. But healing is essential  
16 for progress as individuals and as a city. If we  
17 truly want to build a more just and equitable  
18 society, we must invest in policies that protect  
19 people while also providing them with the care they  
20 need to move forward. With strong support from the  
21 City Council, this legislation reflects our strong  
22 commitment to justice, dignity, and humanity. It  
23 sends a powerful message not just to correctional  
24 officers, but every worker across the city  
25 industries, no one should have to endure harassment

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2 or violence in the workplace. Everyone deserves to  
3 feel safe, valued, and respected. Thank you to all my  
4 Colleagues, and I'm excited about this bill passing  
5 today. Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: Thank you, Council  
7 Member Stevens. I'm going to call on the Clerk, there  
8 you are, to call the roll.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good  
10 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call  
11 vote, Committee on Criminal Justice. Both items are  
12 coupled. Chair Nurse.

13 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: I vote aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ayala.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Cabán.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: I vote aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

19 you. Abreu. Hanif.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Marte.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.  
3 Stevens.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye. With a vote  
5 of seven in the affirmative, zero in the negative,  
6 and no abstentions, both items have been adopted by  
7 the Committee.

8 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: Awesome.  
9 Congratulations to all of the bill sponsors. I will  
10 now close the hearing. [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 February 14, 2025