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COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

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April 11, 2023
Start: 11:15 a.m.
Recess: 11:18 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Pierina Ana Sanchez, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Shaun Abreu
- Alexa Aviles
- Charles Barron
- Tiffany Caban
- David M. Carr
- Eric Dinowitz
- Oswald Feliz
- Crystal Hudson

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a prerecorded
3 sound test for the Committee on Housing and
4 Buildings. Today's date is April 11, 2023. It's being
5 recorded by Michael Leonardo in the Chambers.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
7 welcome to today's New York City Council hearing for
8 the Committee on Housing and Buildings.

9 At this time, we ask that you silence
10 cell phones and electronic devices to minimize
11 disruptions throughout the hearing. Thank you for
12 your cooperation.

13 Chair, we are ready to begin.

14 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: [GAVEL] Good
15 morning. I am Council Member Pierina Sanchez, Chair
16 of the Committee on Housing and Buildings.

17 We are here today to vote on Resolution
18 number 344A sponsored by the Public Advocate calling
19 on the State Legislature to pass and the Governor to
20 sign legislation creating a Housing Access Voucher
21 program.

22 The Reso was first heard by the Committee
23 at a hearing on social housing on February 23rd. As a
24 co-Sponsor of this Resolution, I expressed my strong
25 support for the creation of a voucher program as a

2 means of keeping families stably housed and
3 preventing homelessness in our city. According to the
4 Coalition for the Homeless, in January of this year,
5 there were roughly 70,000 homeless individuals
6 sleeping in the City's primary shelter system. Over
7 22,000 of them were children. We know full well that
8 the most cost-effective homeless prevention tool is
9 to keep people securely housed, and vouchers that
10 help families and individuals stay in their homes are
11 tried and true. The City is experiencing a severe
12 housing shortage and, even when housing is available,
13 it is unaffordable to most people. A Housing Access
14 Voucher program would allow those who are homeless to
15 access homes that would otherwise be unattainable for
16 them and would help families at imminent risk of
17 homelessness to stay in their homes.

18 I am joined today by Council Members
19 Hudson, Dinowitz, Feliz, Caban, Aviles, Carr, and
20 Shaun Abreu.

21 Unless there are any questions, I will
22 now ask the Clerk to call the roll.

23 We are also joined by Council Member
24 Barron.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
3 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
4 vote Committee on Housing and Buildings, Proposed
5 Resolution 344A. Chair Sanchez.

6 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Dinowitz.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Feliz.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Abreu.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Aviles.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILES: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Barron.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye on all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

18 you. Caban.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CABAN: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hudson.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Carr.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote

25 of nine in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and

1 COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

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2 no abstentions, Reso has been adopted by the
3 Committee.

4 Madam Chair, that is a full Committee.

5 CHAIRPERSON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much to
6 my Colleagues for attending today's vote and for our
7 Staff for putting these materials together.

8 With that, this hearing is closed.

9 [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 15, 2023