

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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May 11, 2023
Start: 11:10 a.m.
Recess: 11:13 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Nantasha M. Williams, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Christopher Marte
Kristin Richardson Jordan
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. This is a
3 microphone check for the Committee on Civil and Human
4 Rights. Today's date is May 11, 2023. Located in the
5 Committee Room. Recording done by Walter Lewis.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
7 welcome to the New York City Council vote of the
8 Committee on Civil and Human Rights.

9 At this time, can everyone please silence
10 your cell phones. Thank you for your cooperation.

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Okay, round two.

13 [GAVEL] Good morning, everyone. My name is Nantasha
14 Williams, and I serve as the Chair to the Committee
15 on Civil and Human Rights.

16 I'd like to thank my Colleagues for
17 joining me for today's vote on Intro. 209A sponsored
18 by Council Member Shaun Abreu. This bill would
19 prohibit discrimination on the basis of a person's
20 height or weight in employment, housing, and public
21 accommodations. It contains exemptions for employers
22 that need to consider height or weight in employment
23 decisions where required by federal, state, or local
24 laws or when these considerations must be made
25 because height or weight may prevent a person from

2 performing essential requirements of a job and there
3 is no alternative available.

4 The Committee first heard this bill in
5 February and received moving and powerful testimony
6 about the hardships endured by those who have dealt
7 with appearance-based discrimination. This testimony
8 along with feedback we've received from stakeholders
9 has informed changes made to the original bill.
10 Preconceived notions and stereotypes surrounding
11 someone's abilities or value based on their height or
12 weight is not only unfair but can also be incredibly
13 harmful to a person's dignity and sense of self-
14 worth.

15 One of my goals as Chair of this
16 Committee is to make New York City as equitable for
17 everyone as possible. Equal access and opportunity
18 should exist for all regardless of appearance. I look
19 forward to taking another step toward that goal with
20 Intro. 209A, and I'm excited to see the ways in which
21 it will benefit New Yorkers.

22 As always, I'd like to thank Committee
23 Staff and my Staff for their work leading up to this
24 vote.

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2 I will now ask the Clerk to call the
3 vote.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
5 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
6 vote Committee on Civil and Human Rights, Proposed
7 Introduction 209A. Chair Williams.

8 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:
10 Salamanca.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Marte.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

15 Richardson Jordan.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: I vote
17 aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote
19 of four in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and
20 no abstentions, item is adopted by the Committee.

21 The roll will be held open by request of
22 the Chair.

23 Final vote Committee on Civil and Human
24 Rights, Proposed Introduction 209A is adopted by the

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2 Committee with four in the affirmative, zero in the
3 negative, and no abstentions.

4 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Thank you so much.
5 Goodbye. [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 May 17, 2023