

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS

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October 19, 2023
Start: 10:05 a.m.
Recess: 10:09 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Robert F. Holden, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Ari Kagan
Sandy Nurse
Vickie Paladino

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Eric Dinowitz
Chi A. Ossé

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Sound check for the
3 Committee on Veterans. Today's date is October 19,
4 2023. Being recorded by Danny Huang (phonetic) in the
5 Committee Room.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
7 welcome to the Committee on Veterans.

8 Please silence all cell phones and
9 electronic devices.

10 Chair, we're ready to begin.

11 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: [GAVEL] Good morning
12 and welcome to today's hearing.

13 I am Council Member Robert Holden, Chair
14 of the City Council's Veterans Committee.

15 Today, our Committee will vote on
16 Resolution 581-A sponsored by Council Member Eric
17 Dinowitz. This resolution will recognize the month of
18 November as Veterans Appreciation Month. November is
19 a special time when we come together as a nation to
20 honor and appreciate our veterans. These
21 extraordinary individuals have answered the call to
22 defend the freedoms and liberties we hold dear, often
23 at great personal cost and sacrifice. We must not
24 only pay tribute to those who have worn the uniform,
25 but also seek to renew our commitment to supporting

2 and uplifting our veterans in meaningful ways,
3 ensuring their sacrifices and contributions are never
4 forgotten.

5 At this time, I would like to acknowledge
6 my Colleagues who are here. Council Member Nurse,
7 Council Member Kagan, and Council Member Paladino.

8 I would like to thank the Committee Staff
9 who worked to prepare for this hearing. Counsel David
10 Romero who served, by the way, eight years in the
11 United States Army and I thank you for your service
12 and for your commitment to our veterans, Policy
13 Analyst Anastassia Zimina, and also my Chief-of-Staff
14 Daniel Kurzyna.

15 I'll now turn it over to Council Member
16 Eric Dinowitz for remarks on his resolution. Council
17 Member.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Thank you,
19 Chair. Thank you so much for bringing this resolution
20 to a vote.

21 My grandfather served in the Army Air
22 Force back when it was one branch, and I had the
23 honor of serving as Chair of this Committee and my
24 interaction with the Armed Services, with the
25 Military was very limited before that, but I quickly

2 grew to deeply appreciate the work that they do and
3 the sacrifices, not just members who serve make but
4 their families as well. It really is a sacrifice for
5 the whole family when they serve, and we sit here in
6 comfort and security and safety in large part due to
7 the sacrifices that they and their families make.
8 It's tough to imagine, I think so many of us,
9 volunteering to serve, volunteering to put our lives
10 in harm's way for the sake and the safety of people
11 they'll never meet, and I am personally grateful, but
12 I also know we as a City are grateful for that
13 sacrifice that they make, and that's why I am very
14 proud to be introducing this resolution, supporting
15 it, and voting on it today, which does what we can as
16 a City and recognizes November as Veterans
17 Appreciation Month and says that we value your
18 service, we as a City value that service. Once again,
19 I thank all the Members of the Committee and the
20 Chair for bringing this to a vote today.

21 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Thank you, Council
22 Member. As a baby boomer, certainly most of our
23 fathers served in the war, and we heard all the
24 stories and their fathers served in World War 1 so
25 we're quite versed on the veterans' issues and some

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2 of the hardships that they face so I appreciate the
3 bill. I'm glad we got under the wire too because
4 November is coming up. I want to thank you again.

5 I will turn it over now to the Clerk for
6 a roll call on this important vote.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
8 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
9 vote Committee on Veterans. Proposed Resolution 581-
10 A. Chair Holden.

11 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Nurse.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Kagan.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Proudly voting aye.

16 Congratulations Council Member Dinowitz, and, of
17 course, it should be every day veterans appreciation
18 day. Thank you so much.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Paladino.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye and
21 congratulations to you.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
23 vote of 4 in the affirmative, zero in the negative,
24 and no abstentions, the Resolution has been adopted
25 by the Committee.

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2 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: [GAVEL] Thank you.

3 This hearing is closed. Thank you.

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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 October 25, 2023