

COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND
ELECTIONS

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October 9, 2025
Start: 11:45 a.m.
Recess: 11:56 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING
ROOM 2

B E F O R E: Keith Powers, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Adrienne Adams, SPEAKER
Diana Ayala
Justin L. Brannan
Gale A. Brewer
Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
Amanda Farías
Crystal Hudson
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Pierina Ana Sanchez

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a mic check,
3 this is a mic check for the Committee on Rules,
4 Privileges and Elections. Today's date is October 9,
5 2025, recorded by Walter Lewis at HR2 (INAUDIBLE)

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and
7 welcome to today's New York City Council vote for the
8 Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections.

9 At this time, I would like to remind
10 everyone to silence all electronic devices and no one
11 is to approach the dais.

12 Chair Powers, we are ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: [GAVEL] Okay. We're
14 going to actually just pause for one second. We're
15 waiting for the Speaker.

16 All right. We will pick up.

17 Good morning, and welcome to the
18 Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections. I am
19 City Council Member Keith Powers, Chair of this
20 Committee.

21 Before we begin, I'd like to introduce
22 the other Members of the Committee who are present.
23 We're joined by Speaker Adrienne Adams, Council
24 Members Salamanca, Ayala, Brooks-Powers, Sanchez,
25 Brewer, Hudson, Brannan, and Council Member Farías

2 online. I'd also like to acknowledge the Committee
3 Counsel, Jeff Campagna.

4 Today, we are voting on Preconsidered
5 Resolution 1058-A by the Speaker and Majority Leader
6 Fariás titled "A Resolution to Amend the Rules of the
7 Council to Improve Clarity, Consistency with Council
8 Practices and Precedent." The Committee held a public
9 hearing on this resolution on September 22nd at which
10 one member of the public testified.

11 We also will be voting on a Preconsidered
12 Resolution to make changes to Chairs and Memberships
13 of certain Committees.

14 Before we vote, I would like to recognize
15 Speaker Adrienne Adams to speak on the resolution.

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you. First time up
17 here in this lovely room.

18 Good morning, everyone, and thank you,
19 Chair Powers, for your introduction.

20 Today, we are voting on an amended
21 resolution to update the Rules of the Council. These
22 amendments are not an overhaul and have been the
23 subject of discussions with Council Members and
24 external stakeholders for over three years with input
25 gathered and incorporated. The vast majority of the

2 revisions clean up and reorganize the rules so that
3 everyone can understand and use them. The Rules of
4 the Council at their most basic level establish what
5 Council Members, Staff, and the public can expect
6 with respect to their rights and responsibilities in
7 the conduct of the Council's business. In doing so,
8 rules should promote civility, collegiality,
9 democracy, transparency, accountability, and
10 efficiency. For rules to be useful, they should be
11 organized in a way that is easy to read, understand,
12 and reference. They should also bring together the
13 various laws that govern the operations of the
14 Council in a readable and accessible format. The
15 current rules do not meet these standards. They are
16 disorganized and difficult to reference, with rules
17 governing the procedure for Stated Meetings spread
18 across 11 chapters. The most significant change in
19 the new rules is that they have been reorganized so
20 that related topics are now in the same chapter or
21 the same rule. To that end, procedures that govern
22 Committee meetings and hearings are consolidated in
23 Chapter 7. Procedures that govern Stated Meetings are
24 consolidated in Chapter 8. Procedures that apply to
25 both are consolidated in Chapter 9.

2 The existing rules also do not adequately
3 bring together the regulations we need to conduct our
4 daily business. Amendments spell out for the public,
5 Members, Committee Chairs, and the Sergeant-at-Arms
6 what decorum means and the means by which it can be
7 enforced while respecting the First Amendment. Given
8 the marked uptick in decorum issues and harassment
9 experienced by Staff and Members in recent years,
10 these changes are of critical importance.

11 The new rules also specify Council
12 Members' obligations under the Conflicts of Interest
13 Law when voting on or sponsoring legislation. They
14 incorporate the notice and fiscal impact statement
15 requirements added to the Charter in the 2024 General
16 Election. They clarify the public notice requirements
17 of the Open Meetings Law.

18 While the majority of changes to the
19 Rules are updates to clarify, modernize, and
20 reorganize them for clarity and practical
21 implementation, the fraction that are substantive
22 have been the subject of significant discussion and
23 engagement with Members and other stakeholders. We've
24 taken nearly four years from the first discussion
25 about amending the Rules to the vote we are taking

2 today. During that time, the Office of General
3 Counsel consulted with every Division of the Council
4 to solicit proposals. Good government groups were
5 consulted multiple times over the course of this
6 process. Every Council Member has been given
7 opportunities to review and comment on multiple
8 drafts, and several have offered feedback. These
9 proposals have been modified based on these
10 discussions and the incorporation of this input.
11 Based on these years of work, we've arrived at the
12 Resolution we're voting on today. The Daily News has
13 asserted that a Council should not seek to change its
14 rules at the end of a term but rather at the
15 beginning of a new term. I could not disagree more.
16 Considering updates to rules at the end of a term,
17 especially with an outgoing Speaker, allows for the
18 experience of the Body to shape any changes. It also
19 allows for the functioning and well-being of the
20 institution rather than political interests and the
21 interests of a Speaker to dominate these decisions.

22 I believe it is our duty to improve this
23 institution, even as some of us are coming to the end
24 of our terms. That is how I have led. We make these
25 changes knowing that the next Council can make any

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2 others it desires as the Rules allow them to do so at
3 any time.

4 I want to thank everyone who's given
5 feedback on these rules and has been a part of this
6 effort. I particularly want to thank the Council
7 Parliamentarian, Jeff Campagna, and our General
8 Counsel, Jason Otaño, for all of their hard work on
9 this process.

10 I urge all of my Colleagues to vote aye.

11 Mr. Chair, I yield.

12 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Thank you, Speaker.

13 I'm going to now call on the Clerk to
14 take a roll call vote for the items on today's
15 agenda.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
17 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
18 vote Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections.
19 Both items are coupled.

20 Chair Powers.

21 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: I vote aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:
23 Salamanca.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ayala.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brannan.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brooks-
6 Powers.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brewer.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye and,
10 this morning, I was at three events but at one of
11 them, I met the gentleman who was the one person who
12 spoke at the hearing on this topic, and he said, as
13 he ran towards me to the elevator, he said, looks
14 good, the rules. Thank you very much.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
16 you. Farías.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Permission to
18 explain my vote.

19 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Go ahead.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Thank you, Chair
21 Powers, and thank you to Speaker Adams who really
22 just said it all. I appreciate all of my Colleagues
23 for their thoughtful feedback and cooperation
24 throughout this process. Today, with the passage of
25 Preconsidered Resolution 1058, we're making important

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2 updates to the Rules of the Council, updates that
3 ensure clarity, consistency, efficiency, and
4 alignment with how the Body already operates in
5 practice. These amendments reflect our shared
6 commitment to transparency, accountability, and good
7 governance, ensuring that our procedures match the
8 high standards we set for ourselves and the people we
9 serve.

10 And a big thank you to our
11 Parliamentarian, Jeff Campagna, and our entire Team
12 at OGC for all of their hard work to get us here.
13 Thank you.

14 With that, I vote aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
16 you. Hudson.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: I vote aye, and
18 also want to thank the General Counsel as well as the
19 Parliamentarian and the Speaker and her entire team
20 for really hearing the feedback from Colleagues,
21 making sure that these Rules pass with much support
22 so thank you.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Sanchez.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: I vote aye.
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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Speaker
3 Adams.

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: I vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
6 vote of 10 in the affirmative, zero in the negative,
7 and no abstentions, both items have been adopted by
8 the Committee.

9 Mr. Chair, that is a full Committee.

10 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Thank you. That
11 concludes today's business.

12 This meeting is adjourned. [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 October 16, 2025