

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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November 25, 2025  
Start: 10:57 a.m.  
Recess: 11:06 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING  
ROOM 1

B E F O R E: Amanda Farías, Acting Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Adrienne Adams  
Joann Ariola  
Diana Ayala  
Justin L. Brannan  
Gale A. Brewer  
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.  
Pierina Ana Sanchez

A P P E A R A N C E S

David Chokshi, Mayor's nominee for New York City  
Board of Health

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone  
3 check for the Committee on Rules, Privileges and  
4 Elections in HR 1 on November 25th, 2025 by Pat  
5 Kurzyna. Check, check.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. Welcome  
7 to the New York City Council hearing on the Committee  
8 on Rules, Privileges and Elections.

9 At this time, please silence all  
10 electronics and do not approach the dais.

11 Chair and Speaker, you may begin.

12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON FARÍAS: Good morning,  
13 and welcome to this meeting of the Committee on  
14 Rules, Privileges and Elections. I am a Majority  
15 Leader, Amanda Farías, Acting Chair of the Committee.

16 Before we begin, I'd like to introduce  
17 the other Members of this Committee who are present.  
18 Justin Brannan of Brooklyn, Gale Brewer of Manhattan,  
19 Rafael Salamanca of the Bronx, Pierina Sanchez of the  
20 Bronx, Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala of Manhattan,  
21 Minority Leader Joann Ariola of Queens, myself, and  
22 Speaker Adrienne Adams.

23 I would like to acknowledge the Acting  
24 Committee Counsel, Amanda Del Grosso (phonetic), and  
25 the Committee Staff that worked on the appointments

2 we will hear today. Committee Counsel, Jeff Campagna;  
3 Chief Ethics Counsel, Pearl Moore; Director of  
4 Investigations, Francesca Dellavecchia; and Deputy  
5 Director of Investigations, Alycia Vassell.

6 Today, we will consider two candidates  
7 for appointment by the Mayor that are subject to the  
8 advice and consent of the Council.

9 Before we begin, I recognize Speaker  
10 Adrienne Adams to offer remarks.

11 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you very much,  
12 Majority Leader, and good morning, everyone.

13 Last month, when Mayor Adams' Office  
14 contacted the Council to inform us that they intend  
15 to nominate 14 candidates for appointments to various  
16 boards with terms lasting into the next decade, we  
17 told them we would not grant them our advice and  
18 consent. Nonetheless, on October 24th, ignoring the  
19 request of my Office, the Mayor sent 10 letters to  
20 the Council requesting this Body's advice and consent  
21 for appointments to the City Planning Commission, the  
22 Board of Health, and the Environmental Control Board.  
23 After the general election, we reached out again to  
24 the Mayor's Office to tell them that out of deference  
25 to the incoming mayoral administration, we would not

2 be approving any of the Mayor's requests for advice  
3 and consent, and that they should be withdrawn. The  
4 Mayor's Office did nothing. My Office reached out to  
5 the candidates themselves and explained that our  
6 decision to disapprove their candidacies had nothing  
7 to do with their qualifications and that they might  
8 be appointed by the next mayor. We explained that for  
9 candidates who were being reappointed, the Council's  
10 action would have no impact on their current roles.  
11 The public offices law requires them to hold over in  
12 their offices until or unless they are replaced. In  
13 response, almost all of the candidates wrote to the  
14 Mayor asking him to withdraw their names from  
15 consideration. Yesterday, the Mayor sent letters  
16 withdrawing eight of the candidates from  
17 consideration, but his office refused to withdraw the  
18 nominations of Dr. Mitchell Katz and Dr. David  
19 Chokshi, two candidates for the Board of Health,  
20 whose appointments, if approved, would last until the  
21 middle of 2030.

22           Section 31 of the Charter requires the  
23 Council to hold a public hearing and vote within 30  
24 days of receiving any appointment subject to advice  
25 and consent or otherwise the Mayor's appointments are

2 deemed approved. So today, we will hold a public  
3 hearing on these candidates as required. We have not  
4 invited the candidates to make opening statements.

5 All members of the public who sign up to  
6 speak today will be limited to two minutes each.  
7 After the public testimony has concluded, I ask my  
8 Colleagues to exercise their democratic prerogative  
9 to reject these nominations by voting to approve  
10 resolutions recommending the Council disapprove the  
11 Mayor's request for advice and consent. The Mayor's  
12 Office has attempted to characterize this process as  
13 undemocratic. The undemocratic choice would be to do  
14 nothing and let the Mayor influence City agencies and  
15 these boards into the next decade. Elections have  
16 consequences and this is what democracy looks like.  
17 Thank you very much, Majority Leader, and with that,  
18 I turn it back over to you.

19 ACTING CHAIRPERSON FARÍAS: Thank you so  
20 much, Speaker Adams.

21 We will now move on to the public  
22 hearings on two nominations by the Mayor for the New  
23 York City Board of Health. Pursuant to Sections 31  
24 and 553 of the Charter and by letters dated October  
25 28, 2028, requested the advice and consent of the

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2 Council regarding the reappointment of Dr. Mitchell  
3 Katz and the new appointment of Dr. Dave Chokshi to  
4 the New York City Board of Health. Both appointments  
5 would expire on May 31st, 2030.

6 I will now open the floor to the public  
7 for comments. Members of the public are invited to  
8 provide testimony about either or both of the  
9 candidates. If you wish to speak, please fill out an  
10 appearance card with the Sergeant-at-Arms and you  
11 will be given an opportunity to make your comment. If  
12 you have a written statement with you, please provide  
13 a copy of that statement to the Sergeant at Arms.

14 Public testimony will be limited to two  
15 minutes total. If you have additional information for  
16 the Committee to consider, you can submit it for the  
17 record within 72 hours via the web at  
18 [council.nyc.gov/testify](http://council.nyc.gov/testify).

19 Seeing no appearance cards in person, we  
20 will now see if there are any folks on Zoom.

21 DAVID CHOKSHI: Yes. Hi. This is Dr. Dave  
22 Chokshi. I'm on Zoom. Are you able to hear me?

23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON FARÍAS: Yes, we can  
24 hear you, Doctor.  
25

2 DAVID CHOKSHI: Well, thank you, Speaker  
3 Adams, Chair Powers, and Council Members for hearing  
4 my brief testimony. My name is Dave Chokshi. I'm a  
5 physician at Bellevue Hospital, professor at CUNY,  
6 and previously served as the 43rd Health Commissioner  
7 of New York City through much of the COVID-19  
8 pandemic, leading our historic vaccination campaign.

9 As Health Commissioner, I had the  
10 privilege of Chairing the Board of Health. Therefore,  
11 I have deep and direct knowledge of the Board's vital  
12 function in safeguarding the well-being of our fellow  
13 New Yorkers. I'm honored to have been asked to join  
14 the board again, especially in these challenging  
15 times for public health, given the headwinds we face  
16 at the national level. While I understand the  
17 Council's position regarding nominations before this  
18 Committee, I respectfully disagree. Bodies like the  
19 Board of Health are designed to rise above political  
20 transitions. Its work is long-term, continuous across  
21 administrations, and rooted in scientific expertise.  
22 That continuity is essential to maintaining trust in  
23 public health, and in fact, trust in each of us who  
24 work in government in service to our fellow New  
25 Yorkers. For that reason, I respectfully believe



2 appointments to the Board should be considered on  
3 their merits independent of the political calendar.

4 It has been a privilege to serve our City  
5 in various roles over more than a decade now. I would  
6 look forward to the chance to do so through the Board  
7 of Health. Thank you so much for your time and for  
8 your commitment to our City.

9 ACTING CHAIRPERSON FARÍAS: Thank you so  
10 much for your testimony.

11 Does anyone else have any comments  
12 virtually?

13 Seeing no one else signed up to testify,  
14 the public hearing on these candidates is now closed.

15 We will vote on the following items. M-  
16 182, a Resolution to disapprove the reappointment by  
17 the Mayor of Dr. Mitchell-Katz as a member of the New  
18 York City Board of Health to serve for the remainder  
19 of a six-year term that expires on May 31, 2030; and  
20 M-184, a Resolution to disapprove the appointment by  
21 the Mayor of Dr. Dave Chokshi, a member of the New  
22 York City Board of Health, to serve for the remainder  
23 of a six-year term that expires on May 31, 2030.

24 Clerk, please call the roll.  
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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good  
3 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call  
4 vote, Committee on Rules. Items are coupled.

5 Farías.

6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON FARÍAS: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Powers.  
8 Salamanca.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ayala.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brannan.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brooks-  
15 Powers. Brewer.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I'm abstaining  
17 because these are the two greatest public health  
18 experts, and I just think it would be great to have  
19 them there until 2030. I think any mayor would be  
20 glad to have them so I am abstaining because I would  
21 love to see them. I know that they can stay as  
22 holdovers, but I think it would be great for us to  
23 support them. Thank you.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hudson.  
25 Sanchez.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: I'd like to be  
3 associated with Council Member Brewer's remarks.  
4 Abstain.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ariola.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Speaker  
8 Adams.

9 SPEAKER ADAMS: Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a  
11 vote of six in the affirmative, zero in the negative,  
12 and two abstentions, items have been approved by the  
13 Committee as described by the Chair.

14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON FARÍAS: Thank you to  
15 the Staff and the Sergeant-at-Arms and members of the  
16 public for their participation in today's hearings.

17 This meeting of the Committee on Rules,  
18 Privileges and Elections 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 December 14, 2025