

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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December 20, 2023
Start: 10:40 a.m.
Recess: 10:46 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Julie Won, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joann Ariola
James F. Gennaro
Linda Lee
Sandy Nurse

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Pierina Ana Sanchez
Amanda Farías

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee on Contracts. Today's date is
4 December 20, 2023. We're located in the Council
5 Chambers, recording done by Rocco Mesiti.

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

9 Please silence all electronic devices and
10 cell phones.

11 Chair, we're ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON WON: [GAVEL] Good morning and
13 welcome to the hearing of New York City Council's
14 Committee on Contracts. Today is Wednesday, December
15 20, 2023. My name is Julie Won, and I have the
16 privilege of Chairing this Committee.

17 As Chair of this Committee, I am proud to
18 be holding today's vote, as a sponsor, of Proposed
19 Introduction 1048-A. This bill seeks to address major
20 bureaucratic hurdles faced by our non-profit partners
21 and human service providers across New York City, the
22 burden of repeatedly submitting the same duplicative
23 paperwork to multiple City agencies when bidding on
24 City contracts. Whether it's certificates,
25 organizational documents, financial statements, or

2 other materials, nonprofit organizations currently
3 spend inordinate amounts of time sending City
4 agencies nearly identical information through
5 separate procurement processes. This represents
6 wasted effort and does nothing to help connect
7 vulnerable New Yorkers with vital services. By
8 establishing a centralized and secure electronic
9 document vault, proposed Intro. 1048-A provides a
10 21st century solution allowing providers to simply
11 refer agencies to required documents already
12 submitted and stored digitally in one consolidated
13 document repository.

14 Streamlining and consolidating documents
15 in this commonsense way will alleviate headaches for
16 both vendors and contracting agencies. It will also
17 free up precious time and resources for non-profits
18 to focus on service delivery rather than endless
19 administrative work. As a Council, we have heard far
20 too many stories of non-profits working after hours
21 of working weekends just to meet City paperwork
22 demands. Many nonprofit organizations find themselves
23 so bogged down in paperwork that they cannot bid on
24 funding opportunities or even spend awarded funds
25 this time. This legislation delivers sorely needed

2 guardrails and infrastructure upgrades to bring
3 efficiency to outdated, duplicative bureaucratic
4 processes.

5 If nothing else, this bill epitomizes
6 good, responsible government. I am proud of
7 sponsoring this legislation, and I urge your support
8 today for this solution that empowers City
9 contractors through smarter use of technology and
10 greater interagency coordination. Thank you for your
11 partnership and commitment to reforming procurement
12 practices that too often lose sight of real people
13 and real outcomes.

14 I would like to thank my Committee Staff,
15 Senior Counsel Alex Paulenoff, Policy Analyst Alex
16 Yablon, Senior Analyst Nia Hyatt, and Principal
17 Financial Analyst Florentine Kabore for all their
18 hard work putting this hearing together.

19 I'll now turn it over to the Clerk for
20 the roll call.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
22 morning, William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
23 vote, Committee on Contracts. Chair Won.

24 CHAIRPERSON WON: Aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Gennaro.

1 COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote aye. Can I
3 be heard? Did you hear that?

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Yes, sir.
5 Thank you.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Nurse.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ariola.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote yes.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
12 you. With a vote of four in the affirmative, zero in
13 the negative, and no abstentions, item has been
14 adopted by the... Council Member Lee.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: My
17 apologies. Thank you. Final vote now, Committee on
18 Contracts is five in the affirmative, zero in the
19 negative, and no abstentions.

20 Madam Chair, that is a full Committee.

21 CHAIRPERSON WON: [GAVEL] I adjourn this
22 hearing. 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 December 22, 2023