

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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June 30, 2025

Start: 1:09 p.m.

Recess: 1:26 p.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Justin L. Brannan, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Diana Ayala  
Gale A. Brewer  
Selvena N. Brooks-Powers  
David M. Carr  
Amanda Farías  
Kamillah M. Hanks  
Crystal Hudson  
Farrah N. Louis  
Francisco P. Moya  
Chi A. Ossé  
Keith Powers  
Yusef Salaam  
Pierina Ana Sanchez  
Althea V. Stevens  
Nantasha M. Williams  
Julie Won

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Mic check, mic check.

3 This is a mic check, mic check. This is a mic check  
4 for the vote on Finance. Today's date is June 30,  
5 2025, recorded by Walter Lewis in the Chambers.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet on the floor,  
7 quiet on the floor, please, quiet on the floor.

8 Good afternoon, and welcome to today's  
9 New York City Council Vote for the Committee on  
10 Finance.

11 Please silence all cell phone electronic  
12 devices, and as a friendly reminder, do not approach  
13 the dais.

14 Chair Brannan, ready to begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON BRANNAN: Thank you, Sergeant.  
16 [GAVEL] Okay. Good afternoon, and welcome to today's  
17 Finance Committee meeting, where we will be adopting  
18 the FY26 budget. I'm Councilman Justin Brannan, I  
19 chair the Committee on Finance. I want to acknowledge  
20 all of my Colleagues who are present, Council Members  
21 Fariás, Brewer, Louis, Ossé, Hanks, Ayala, Carr,  
22 Powers, Moya on Zoom, Williams, Won, Brooks-Powers,  
23 Salaam, Stevens, Sanchez, Restler, and Hudson.

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2 Today, the Finance Committee will take  
3 the necessary actions for the City Council to adopt a  
4 115.9-billion-dollar budget for FY26.

5 To begin, I want to thank Speaker  
6 Adrienne Adams for her fearless leadership throughout  
7 her tenure as Speaker of this Council for the past  
8 four years, and throughout this entire budget  
9 process, which began literally the day after we  
10 passed the FY25 budget last summer. The Speaker's  
11 commitment to a budget that meets the needs of  
12 working people of this city and insisting that we  
13 have the resources necessary to invest in our  
14 neighbors set the tone for all of us, with a record  
15 number of baseline funding and wins for the Council.  
16 I'd also like to thank the Speaker for maintaining  
17 standards of transparency and inclusivity for all  
18 members throughout the budget. We may take it for  
19 granted now, but I can tell you that's not how it  
20 always was. I want to thank the tireless work of the  
21 Council's mighty Finance Division. Month after month  
22 of long hours of preparing for hearings, fielding  
23 questions from Members, and delivering regular  
24 briefings, presentations, and reports went into  
25 crafting this budget, and we deeply appreciate the

2 dedication of all the financial analysts and  
3 economists who got us to this vote today. A very  
4 special thank you to the Finance Division's  
5 leadership team, who helped spearhead this effort.  
6 Finance Director Richard Lee; Managing Director  
7 Jonathan Rosenberg; Deputy Directors Emre Edev, Chima  
8 Obichere, Paul Simone, Aisha Wright; Assistant  
9 Director Elizabeth Hoffman; Chief Economist and  
10 Assistant Director Dilara Dimnaku; Supervising  
11 Economists Paul Sturm, William Kyeremateng, and  
12 Andrew Wilber; Unit Heads Aliyah Ali, Julia Haramis,  
13 Florentine Kabore, James Reyes, Jack Story; our  
14 Finance Counsel Nick Connell; and the many Finance  
15 Analysts, Economists, and Support Staff who have  
16 worked tirelessly behind the scenes at mission  
17 control to bring this all together. Big thank you to  
18 the Finance Division's Chief Financial Officer,  
19 Deputy Chief-of-Staff, to the Speaker, my friend,  
20 Tanisha Edwards, for her leadership. The budget  
21 success we've achieved today is possible due to the  
22 dedicated efforts of you and the entire Staff. I also  
23 want to make special notice of the Finance Admin  
24 Staff and the Legislative Documents Unit. They pull  
25 everything together through countless emails,

2 updates, corrections, and last-minute asks all  
3 throughout the night. Every vote, every time. Thanks  
4 to Vanessa Diaz-Lopez, Nicole Anderson, Jonathan  
5 Ettricks, Ruthie DelFranco, Jillian Jeffries, Yvette  
6 Molina, the inimitable Billy Martin, and Matthew  
7 DiStefano. The Sergeant-at-Arms, thank you for  
8 keeping things orderly and safe on both sides of  
9 Broadway all throughout our executive hearings,  
10 parade season, and everything in between. Thanks to  
11 Carl, Raphael, and the entire team. And a colossal  
12 thanks to my co-pilot for the past six months through  
13 all of the endless hearings and briefings, Committee  
14 Counsel Brian Sarfo. Last but not least, special  
15 shout-out to my District Office Staff for holding  
16 down the fort while I was chained to this desk for  
17 the past six months. And my Special Advisor, John  
18 Yedin, for dealing with my charming impatience.

19           This budget represents the Council's  
20 commitment to securing key restorations to preserve  
21 the essential services that New Yorkers rely on and  
22 that allow for both a safe and healthy city.  
23 Together, the Council and the Administration once  
24 again were able to deliver an on-time budget that not  
25 only reflects our shared priorities, but also makes

2 deeper investments into areas where previous budget  
3 cuts are now restored. We fought with passion and  
4 precision for a budget that delivers for the  
5 hardworking New Yorkers who make this city the  
6 capital of the world, not only by restoring the  
7 attempted cuts, but by baselining funding to give  
8 services stability and reliability in our future. As  
9 just an example of what this body accomplished, in  
10 the 115.9-billion-dollar budget, the Council secured  
11 1.7 billion dollars for our priorities, including  
12 seven-day library service to 10 new neighborhood  
13 libraries, a 50-million-dollar increase in  
14 immigration legal services, crucial investments in  
15 mental health supports, public safety programs, and  
16 robust childcare and early childhood education  
17 funding, with a first-of-its-kind new initiative to  
18 provide free childcare for children zero to two. This  
19 pilot program will help hundreds of low-income  
20 families and represents a giant leap towards making  
21 New York the first American city to provide free  
22 universal childcare for new parents. This, in  
23 addition to critical allocations to CUNY, housing,  
24 mental health services, our libraries, schools, and  
25 cultural institutions. We're delivering a balanced

2 on-time budget, setting aside 8.5 billion dollars in  
3 reserves, while still investing in making our city  
4 safer, healthier, and more affordable. Our emphasis  
5 on baselining continues to reflect the Council's  
6 attention to the future, preventing future councils  
7 and administrations from negotiating over what should  
8 be bedrock funding while New Yorkers hang in the  
9 balance. Today, we're proving that you can achieve an  
10 ironclad budget that doubles down on what matters  
11 most, while still setting aside funding and reserves  
12 and investing in making our city safer, healthier,  
13 and more affordable.

14           We'll also be voting on three legislative  
15 items today, two Pre-Considered Resolutions,  
16 sponsored by me, relating to the property tax  
17 exemptions located in Council Member Shaun Abreu's  
18 District, and a Resolution to approve the expenditure  
19 of payments in lieu of taxes to fund the development  
20 of infrastructure over the Western Rail Yards in  
21 support of the development of housing.

22           Now let's turn to adopting this budget.  
23 Before we get to the vote, I'd like to discuss the  
24 specific items that we'll vote on today. All members  
25 received a budget packet by the Committee Counsel

2 that contains all the budget-related legislation that  
3 must be voted on by the Committee, and later today by  
4 the full Council at the stated meeting. I'm just  
5 going to list the items that are on our agenda today  
6 that require a vote.

7           Number one, resolution approving the FY26  
8 expense budget.

9           Number two, a resolution approving the  
10 FY26 contract budget.

11           Number three, resolutions approving the  
12 FY26 capital budget, Reso. A and Reso. B.

13           Number four, a resolution approving an  
14 expense budget modification, which closes out FY26.

15           Number five, a resolution approving a  
16 revenue budget modification, closes out FY26.

17           Number six, a resolution approving the  
18 proposed FY26 community development program,  
19 reallocation of 51st year funds, and proposed 52nd  
20 year program.

21           Number seven, three property tax  
22 resolutions, current base proportion, adjusted base  
23 proportion, and the resolution fixing the tax rates  
24 are all interlocking resolutions that together are  
25 necessary for adopting the FY26 property tax rates.



2           Number eight, a resolution approving the  
3 expenditure of payment in lieu of taxes or a pilot to  
4 fund the development of infrastructure over the  
5 Western Rail Yards and Hudson Yards to support  
6 development of housing.

7           Number nine, a transparency resolution.

8           The other documents in the packet which  
9 do not require a separate vote are Schedule C, a list  
10 of the terms and conditions adopted for FY26. As a  
11 reminder, Schedule C is a schedule of the expense and  
12 contract budgets and the appropriations for the  
13 organizations listed in Schedule C are funded by the  
14 expense and contract budgets. Council Members will  
15 have to sign a disclosure form indicating whether or  
16 not a conflict exists with any of the groups listed  
17 in Schedule C or Reso. A, which details the  
18 designations of capital discretionary funds. A  
19 separate disclosure form must be completed for the  
20 transparency resolution. If any Council Member has a  
21 potential conflict of interest with any of the  
22 organizations included, they've got the opportunity  
23 to disclose the conflict at the time of their vote.  
24 If you've not yet signed those disclosure forms,  
25 we've got Staff from the General Counsel with us now

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2 to guide you through the process. As a further  
3 reminder, please disclose any conflicts you may have  
4 with proposed subcontractors that are used by any of  
5 the organizations sponsored. These disclosures must  
6 be made before the subcontractor can be approved. And  
7 those are all of our items today.

8 With that, I will turn it over to Billy  
9 Martin, the Committee Clerk, to call the roll.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good  
11 afternoon. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call  
12 vote, Committee on Finance. All items are coupled.  
13 Chair Brannan.

14 CHAIRPERSON BRANNAN: I vote aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ayala.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I am disclosing on  
17 the record of the Council proceedings that AHRC is  
18 funded in the budget that we are adopting and my  
19 partner is associated with that organization, and  
20 that Health and Hospitals and the New York City  
21 Department of Parks and Recreation are funded in the  
22 budget we are adopting and my sons are associated  
23 with those organizations as well.

24 I also wanted to thank the Finance  
25 Division. Thank you, guys. You guys have been

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2 awesome. It has been so nice to work with all of you,  
3 and I'm going to miss you tremendously. And with  
4 that, I vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Moya.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
8 you. Powers.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Disclosing on the  
10 record of the Council proceedings that my mother  
11 works at Mount Sinai Hospital and they're funded in  
12 the budget and I'm associated with that entity, and I  
13 vote aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Louis.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all, and I  
16 am disclosing on the record of the Council  
17 proceedings Metropolitan Transportation Authority is  
18 funded in a budget we are adopting and my brother is  
19 associated with this entity.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brooks-  
21 Powers.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I am  
23 disclosing on the record of the Council proceedings  
24 that the Queens Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta  
25 Sorority Incorporated is funded in the budget we are

2 adopting and I am associated with that organization,  
3 and that the YMCA is funded in the budget we are  
4 adopting and my family and I are associated with that  
5 entity, and that the New York City Department of  
6 Education, Edge School of the Arts and Community  
7 Youth Care Services Incorporated are funded in the  
8 budget we are adopting and my child is associated  
9 with those entities.

10           And I'd also like to take a moment to  
11 just thank Chair Brannan for his leadership on the  
12 Finance Committee for the past four years and really  
13 ensuring that the ship continues to be straight and  
14 narrow and to the amazing Finance Staff that works  
15 tirelessly around the clock which a lot of New  
16 Yorkers do not get to witness. Thank you for the work  
17 that you've done on that to once again bring us to  
18 today to vote and adopt a budget that is reflective  
19 of the needs of this great City of New York. Thank  
20 you.

21           COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brewer.

22           COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I am disclosing on  
23 the record of the Council proceedings that the City  
24 University are funded in the budget we are adopting

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2 and I am associated with that entity as a professor  
3 there, and I am voting aye.

4 I too want to thank Chair Brannan and  
5 thank the Staff, and I think New Yorkers are still  
6 hurting but I hope that this budget gives them some  
7 solace. We still have a lot to do. Thank you.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Farías.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: I vote aye, and I  
10 just want to congratulate Chair Brannan and the  
11 entire Finance Division for their work on this  
12 budget.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanks.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: I vote aye on all  
15 with the exception of the... which I vote no on the tax  
16 filing Resos and accompanying reports and  
17 congratulations and big thanks to Chair Brannan.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
19 you. Hudson.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: I'm disclosing on  
21 the record of the Council proceedings that the  
22 Brooklyn Museum Botanical Garden and Brooklyn Academy  
23 of Music are funded in the budget we are adopting and  
24 I'm associated with those entities, and that the  
25 Museum of the City of New York is funded in the

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2 budget we are adopting and my spouse is associated  
3 with that entity, and that Unlocal Inc. is funded in  
4 the budget we are adopting and my tenant is  
5 associated with that entity. I vote aye on all.

6           Congratulations to Chair Brannan for yet  
7 another successful budget and thank you to the whole  
8 Finance Staff for getting us to this point. Thanks.

9           COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ossé.

10           COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

11           COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Sanchez.

12 I'm disclosing on the record of the Council  
13 proceedings that the City University of New York is  
14 funded in the budget we are adopting and my sibling  
15 is associated with that entity and, with that, I vote  
16 aye and thank you so much Council Member Brannan for  
17 all your leadership.

18           COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

19           COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: I'm disclosing  
20 for the record in this Council proceeding that  
21 Columbia Presbyterian is funded in this budget we are  
22 adopting and my child is associated with this entity  
23 and congratulations. Happy budget day.

24           COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Williams.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye, and  
3 I would like to disclose on the record of the Council  
4 proceedings that the Children's Rescue Fund is funded  
5 in the budget we are adopting and my sibling is  
6 associated with this non-profit. Also, CUNY is funded  
7 in this budget we are adopting and I am still  
8 affiliated with CUNY, and also Queens Alumnae Chapter  
9 of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated is being  
10 funded in this budget we are adopting, and I am  
11 affiliated with that entity. Thank you, Finance  
12 Staff. Thank you, Justin Brannan, our Chair.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Won.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: I vote aye on all,  
15 and thank you to Council Member Brannan for leading  
16 the charge.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Salaam.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: I vote aye on all,  
19 and I'm disclosing for the record of the Council  
20 proceeding that the YMCA is funded in this budget we  
21 are adopting and I and my immediate family are  
22 associated with that entity, and that Youth Represent  
23 is funded in the budget we are adopting and my child  
24 is associated with that entity, and I'd like to thank

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2 Chair Brannan and the team for this great work.

3 Thanks.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
5 you. Council Member Won.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Sorry. I forgot to  
7 disclose on the record of Council proceedings that  
8 the Learning Experience is funded in the budget that  
9 we're adopting and my child is associated with that  
10 entity.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
12 you. Carr.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Disclosing on the  
14 record of the Council proceedings that the Italian  
15 Club of Staten Island, the Jewish Community Center of  
16 Staten Island, and the Garibaldi Meucci Museum are  
17 all funded in the budget we are adopting and I am  
18 associated with those organizations. I'll be voting  
19 no on all the tax, CLACS fixing, and share  
20 resolutions along with accompanying reports and aye  
21 on the rest.

22 And I just want to say thank you to all  
23 my Colleagues who have been helpful and supportive of  
24 me during this budget process and to all the Staff

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2 who truly do yeoman's work each and every year  
3 getting this budget done. Thank you so much.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
5 you. Results, all items have been adopted by the  
6 Committee with 17 in the affirmative, zero in the  
7 negative, and no abstentions with the exception of  
8 the tax fixing resolutions and their accompanying  
9 reports which were adopted by the Committee with 15  
10 in the affirmative, two in the negative, no  
11 abstentions.

12 Mr. Chair, that is a full Committee.

13 CHAIRPERSON BRANNAN: Okay. With that,  
14 this Committee is adjourned. Thank you very much.

15 [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 July 30, 2025