

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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February 24, 2026
Start: 11:16 a.m.
Recess: 11:21 a.m.

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

B E F O R E: Althea V. Stevens, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Simcha Felder
Rita C. Joseph
Chi A. Ossé
Nantasha M. Williams

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning.

3 Microphone check on community and children and youth.

4 Today's date, February 24th, 2026. Location, HR 2,

5 recorded by Kimberly Smith.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and

7 welcome to today's New York City Council vote from

8 the Committee on Children and Youth.

9 At this time, I'd like to remind everyone

10 to please silence their electronic devices, and no

11 one is to approach the dais.

12 Chair, we're ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: [GAVEL] Good

14 morning. I'm Council Member Althea Stevens, Chair of

15 New York City Council Committee on Children and

16 Youth. I want to thank everyone for joining us today

17 for the vote on Proposed Intro. Number 448-B,

18 sponsored by myself, which amended the New York City

19 Charter in relation to the structure and

20 responsibilities of the Youth Board.

21 The Youth Board plays an important role

22 in elevating young New Yorkers' perspective on

23 involving education, health care, social services,

24 labor, and community-based organizations. This

25 legislation would modernize the structure and

2 strengthen the effectiveness of the City Youth Board.

3 This bill would impose a two-year term limit on board

4 members, which would stagger it to maintain

5 institutional knowledge across terms. This bill would

6 also reduce the size of the board from a maximum of

7 28 to members of 20, with the Mayor and City Council

8 being responsible for 10 appointments each. It also

9 reinforces geographic diversity and requiring best

10 efforts to ensure borough representation and

11 demonstrate experience in youth services field.

12 Furthermore, the Youth Board will require to submit

13 formal recommendations to DYCD, who in turn will be

14 required to publicly report information on the Youth

15 Board's members, their term limits, and other

16 information that the DYCD Commissioner deems relevant

17 within 90 days. This creates a clear feedback loop

18 and ensures that youth-informed recommendations

19 receive meaningful consideration. Taken together,

20 these changes are intended to strengthen the

21 accountability, transparency, and the collaboration

22 between the Youth Board and DYCD, while enforcing the

23 board's role as a serious and effective advisory

24 board.

25

2 And thank you to my Committee Staff who
3 worked so hard on this, and thank you for your hard
4 work in drafting this legislation and preparing for
5 this vote. And I would like to extend a thanks to my
6 excellent team back in District 16.

7 And, with that, I turn it over to the
8 Clerk to call the roll.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Okay. First of
10 all, I just wanted to say that I requested to be in
11 this Committee because you're the Chair. I mean that
12 very seriously because I wanted to have the
13 opportunity to drive you nuts on a regular basis, but
14 in all seriousness, I'm delighted to serve on your
15 Committee because I know your reputation as being
16 very, very serious about the work you do, and I'm
17 delighted to be a part of the Committee.

18 Just one other thing is there's someone
19 in the room that doesn't want to be mentioned by name
20 that had been out on, you know, on leave who had a
21 baby, so I don't want to mention the name, but if you
22 know who it is, that's great, and if you don't you
23 can ask me afterwards and I'll tell you. So, we're
24 delighted to have her back, and that's it.

2 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Thank you. Thank
3 you. I'm so happy you requested to be on here. I was
4 wondering why you were here. Thank you.

5 And, with that, I'll turn it over to the
6 Clerk to call the roll. Thank you.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
8 you. Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk.
9 Roll call vote, Committee on Children and Youth.
10 Proposed Introduction 448-B.

11 Chair Stevens.

12 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Joseph.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ossé.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Williams.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Felder.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
22 you.

23 With a vote of five in the affirmative,
24 zero in the negative, and no abstentions, item has
25 been adopted by the Committee.

2 Madam Chair, that is a full Committee.

3 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: And with that I
4 close this, and thank you all for being here
5 relatively on time and coming here through the snow,
6 so thank you. Have a good day. [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 February 26, 2026