

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR

----- X

December 8, 2021  
Start: 12:18 p.m.  
Recess: 12:26 p.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing (Virtual Room 1)

B E F O R E: I. Daneek Miller  
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Francisco Moya  
Helen Rosenthal  
Farah Louis  
Eric Ulrich  
Adrienne Adams  
Eric Dinowitz

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: PC started.

3 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Cloud started.

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and welcome  
5 to today's remote New York City Council vote for the  
6 Committee on Civil Service and Labor. At this time,  
7 will all panelists please turn on their videos for  
8 verification purposes? And to minimize disruptions,  
9 please place all electronic devices to vibrate or  
10 silent mode. Thank you for your cooperation. Chair  
11 Miller, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you,  
13 sergeant-at-arms. Good afternoon and welcome to  
14 today's hearing on the New York City Council's  
15 hearing on Civil Service and Labor. I am Council  
16 member I. Daneek Miller and I am the Chair of the  
17 Council's Committee on Civil Service and Labor.  
18 Today, we will be voting on two pieces of  
19 legislation: proposed Intro 976-- I'm sorry.  
20 Proposed Reso 976-A, sponsored by the Council member  
21 Danny Dromm, which would call on New York City  
22 Comptroller to instruct the pension fund of public  
23 employees of New York City to divest from any  
24 companies involved in the production and maintenance  
25 of nuclear weapons, reaffirming New York City as a

2 nuclear weapon free zone and joining the I Can City's  
3 appeal calling on the United States to support and  
4 join the treaty on the prohibition of nuclear  
5 weapons.

6           The committee will also be voting on  
7 Intro 2454 of which I am the sponsor. This bill  
8 would amend New York City's collective bargaining law  
9 to allow non-union members to proceed to agreements  
10 and arbitration process without union representation  
11 so long as the non-union member assumes the costs.  
12 This bill would account for the U.S. Supreme Court's  
13 decision Janis vs. AFSCME which they declared that  
14 unions could no longer collect mandatory their fees--  
15 fair share fees to cover the costs of collective  
16 bargaining and in the aftermath of the court  
17 decision, union leaders feared that more public  
18 workers would withdraw from the unions, magnifying  
19 the free rider affect where employees can reap the  
20 benefits of union bargaining without supporting the  
21 union financially. The aim of Intro 2454 is to help  
22 ameliorate the free rider affect by removing specific  
23 costs associated with services and benefits the  
24 public sector unions and what they are required to  
25 provide to nonunion members. This will reduce the

2 union's obligation and financial strains and  
3 ultimately preserving the viability of the valuable  
4 public sector union. I would like to thank the  
5 unions and officials for their advocacy in this  
6 matter who brought this to our attention and,  
7 certainly, my staff for helping out here, as well.  
8 At the time, I would like to also thank Council  
9 member Dromm for his thoughtful legislation. It's  
10 been a log type getting this over the finish line and  
11 I know he is very excited about this today. And so,  
12 as we move forward, I know there are other committees  
13 that are waiting to cast votes this afternoon. We've  
14 been joined by Council members Louis, Adams, Dromm,  
15 Dinowitz, and Ulrich and myself. And, with that,  
16 Billy, could we have a roll call on the vote?

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: I believe Council member  
18 Dromm wanted to make a comment on the bill.

19 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I'm so sorry. Yes.  
20 I'm so sorry. Council member Dromm, please. And I  
21 you have something to say about this piece of  
22 legislation that you have waited so long to see come  
23 to fruition.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very  
25 much, Chair Miller. Today, I hope this committee

2 will take a resounding step towards a nuclear weapons  
3 free world and vote for resolution 976-A. Earlier  
4 this year, New York City formally announced a  
5 divestment of several of its pension funds from  
6 fossil fuels. While this is a great development, it  
7 is sad that the city neglected the biggest  
8 environmental an existential threat of all: nuclear  
9 weapons. With today's vote, the Council is  
10 challenging the city should do the right thing and  
11 stop funding directly and indirectly the production  
12 of nuclear arms. We are New York City and we should  
13 be leading the growing coalition of municipalities  
14 domestically and internationally to recognize the  
15 absurdity of investing in our own destruction. As we  
16 speak, representatives of the Catholic Church are  
17 preparing to present to the Vatican the formal case  
18 of Dorothy Day for sainthood. The day was and  
19 continues to be an inspiration for all peace-loving  
20 people and is especially noteworthy for her  
21 dedication to a world without nuclear weapons. Her  
22 granddaughter, Martha Hennessey, reminded us of this  
23 when she testified at the committee hearing last  
24 year. Earlier this year, Mayor DeBlasio officially  
25 christened one of the Staten Island ferries in Day's

1 honor. An even better way to honor Day and her  
2 Catholic work and colleagues is to have New York City  
3 take all possible action to frustrate the production  
4 and use of nuclear arms. I would be remiss if I did  
5 not recognize the living saints and peacemakers  
6 amongst us, namely the incredibly tenacious activists  
7 who move this idea from inception to fruition.  
8 Kathleen Sullivan, Matthew Boulton, Seth Sheldon,  
9 Robert Kunchrist [sp?], and all of the individuals  
10 who supported this effort. It is not hard to see you  
11 why the international campaign to abolish nuclear  
12 weapons one the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize. I especially  
13 want to recognize my good friend, human rights  
14 activist, Brendan Fay, you first discussed with me  
15 ideas about how our city can support nuclear  
16 divestment. I also want to acknowledge Chair Miller  
17 in the Council staff worked on this. Natalie Omari,  
18 Elizabeth Arts, Bianca Vitale, Zay Immanuel, Hai Lu,  
19 and [inaudible 00:06:21]. Finally, I want to express  
20 my appreciation to my colleague and now Comptroller-  
21 elect, Brad Lander, for indicating his willingness to  
22 work with the experts and advocates on moving forward  
23 on divestment. Thank you very much, Chair Miller.

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you so much,  
3 Chair Dromm. Thank you, Council member Dromm, for  
4 that statement. Thank you for your leadership. And  
5 I am a proud co-sponsor of Reso 976, as well. I  
6 actually ran into Brendan on the street a couple  
7 weeks ago and reminded me that this is important and  
8 we talked about getting this across the finish line.  
9 So, your advocates are out there. With that, Billy,  
10 can you take the roll call?

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Absolutely. Thank you.  
12 William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call vote  
13 Committee on Civil Service and Labor. Introduction  
14 2454. [Inaudible 00:07:20] proposed resolution 976-  
15 A. Items are coupled. Chair Miller?

16 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I vote aye on all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye on  
19 all. Thank you.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Adams?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: I vote aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Moya?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Louis?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye.



2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Dinowitz?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: I vote aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Ulrich?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. By vote of  
7 seven in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and  
8 no abstentions, both items have been adopted by the  
9 committee. Mr. Chair, that is a full committee. You  
10 can close at your convenience.

11 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you so much,  
12 William. I want to thank everyone. We have been  
13 joined by Council member Moya, as well. I neglected  
14 to mention his name. I want to thank everyone for  
15 taking the time and look forward certainly for this  
16 to pass the full body. With that, this meeting in  
17 this hearing is adjourned. Congratulations, Danny.

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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 January 25, 2022