

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY

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Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Start: 10:20 A.M.

Recess: 10:33 A.M.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: HON. TIFFANY L. CABÁN, CHAIR

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

JAMES F. GENNARO
JENNIFER GUTIÉRREZ
KRISTIN RICHARDSON JORDAN
KEVIN C. RILEY
ALTHEA V. STEVENS
INNA VERNIKOV

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY
A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

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COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY

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SERGEANT RIVERA: This is a microphone check for the Committee on Women and Gender Equity recorded on December 6, 2023 in the Chambers by Giselle Rivera.

[PAUSE]

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, and welcome to the Committee on Women and Gender Equity. At this time we ask that you place all electronic devices to vibrate or silent mode. Thank you.

Chair, we are ready to begin.

CHAIRPERSON CABÁN: [GAVEL SOUND] [GAVELING IN]

Good morning, My name is Tiffany Cabán, my pronouns are she/her, and I am the chair of the Committee on Women and Gender Equity.

Today our committee will vote on five pieces of legislation concerning menstrual equity and one resolution pertaining to housing survivors of domestic violence.

Each day over 800 million people on the planet are menstruating with at least 500 million of those people lacking adequate resources for managing their periods. The lack of menstrual equity is due to inadequacy as a result of a misunderstanding of the populations that are affected by menstrual equity --

2 including gender expansive people, as well as
3 inadequate or inconsistent access to period products
4 and choice between products. The set of five bills
5 are intended to promote menstrual equity in New York
6 City by making menstrual product language gender
7 expansive, increasing the level of choice of products
8 in schools, shelters, and correctional facilities,
9 and requiring reporting to monitor distribution of
10 these resources.

11 First, we will be voting on legislation that I am
12 proud to sponsor, Introduction Number 1055-A, A Local
13 Law to amend the administrative code of the city of
14 New York, in relation to menstrual products. This
15 bill would also require that all laws, documents and
16 materials generated by the City use the term
17 "menstrual products" whenever referring to products
18 for use in connection with the menstrual cycle such
19 as menstrual cups, tampons, and menstrual pads. This
20 legislation would also require the Department of
21 Education to report on the provision of menstrual
22 products in schools.

23 We will also vote on 1056-A, sponsored by
24 Council Member De La Rosa, A Local Law to amend the
25 administrative code of the city of New York, in

2 relation to the provision of menstrual products in
3 schools. This bill would expand the schools in which
4 the Department of Education is mandated to provide
5 menstrual products from beginning at grade 6 to
6 beginning at grade 4.

7 Additionally, we will also vote on three pieces
8 of legislation sponsored by Council Member Farías.

9 First, Introduction 1057-A, a Local Law to amend
10 the administrative code of the city of New York, in
11 relation to requiring the Department of Correction to
12 report on the distribution of menstrual products in
13 City correctional facilities. DOC would be required
14 to report the average daily population of individuals
15 in custody, disaggregated by gender; the number of
16 products ordered by the department, disaggregated by
17 product type; the number of products distributed to
18 city correctional facilities, disaggregated by
19 product type; and the number of products distributed
20 to individuals in custody, disaggregated by product
21 type.

22 The second bill, sponsored, again, by Council
23 Member Farías, 1058-A, a Local Law to amend the
24 administrative code of the city of New York, in
25 relation to educational materials on menstrual

2 products. This bill would require the Department of
3 Education (DOE) to develop, in collaboration with the
4 Commission on Gender Equity, informational materials
5 about menstrual products, to be shared with every
6 student in grades 4 through 12. This bill would also
7 require DOE to submit to the Mayor and the Speaker,
8 and publish on its website, an annual report
9 regarding the distribution of such informational
10 materials.

11 The third bill, sponsored by Council Member
12 Fariás, is 1059-A, a Local Law to amend the
13 administrative code of the city of New York, in
14 relation to including menstrual cups in the
15 definition of menstrual products and the provision of
16 such products. This bill would define the term
17 "menstrual products" as menstrual cups, tampons, and
18 pads, for purposes of the Administrative Code. This
19 bill would also require the Department of Citywide
20 Administrative Services to include menstrual cups in
21 the provision of menstrual products to agencies, for
22 further distribution to individuals in temporary
23 shelters and youth in secure detention or congregate
24 care facilities. Additionally, this bill would
25 require the Department of Correction to provide all

2 people in custody who menstruate access to reusable
3 or single use menstrual cups while in custody, and to
4 provide reusable menstrual cups to those who request
5 such a cup upon release from the Department's
6 custody.

7 Finally, we will also vote on Resolution Number
8 165-A, sponsored by Council Member Louis, Resolution
9 calling on the State Legislature to pass, and the
10 Governor to sign, A.2583/S.15, authorizing certain
11 shelters for victims of domestic violence to be
12 reimbursed for any payment differential for housing a
13 single individual in a room intended for double
14 occupancy. Within New York City, domestic violence
15 shelters were created over several decades as a short
16 term respite to house families fleeing imminent
17 danger. Nonprofit providers who operate these
18 shelters are reimbursed by the New York State Office
19 of Children and Families Services on a per person,
20 per night basis, which is intended to cover the cost
21 of the shelter's rent, utilities, staffing services,
22 and other inflationary factors. Any reduction in this
23 reimbursement severely impacts the ability of the
24 provider to cover the costs of operating the shelter.
25 The state reimbursement policy prioritizes sheltering

2 larger families to the exclusion of smaller families
3 and single adults. This resolution supports
4 rectifying that policy and would call on the state to
5 enact legislation to authorize certain shelters for
6 victims of domestic violence, and be reimbursement
7 for any payment differential for housing a single
8 individual in a room intended for double occupancy.

9 At this time, I would like to invite my
10 colleagues to give remarks on their legislation. I am
11 going to go ahead and pass it over to Council Member
12 Farías.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Thank you, Chair Cabán. I
14 will start with thanking you for the extensive amount
15 of time, since there are three bills.

16 I am proud be here this morning to watch this
17 committee vote on several bills as part of the
18 Menstrual Equity Bill package. As a woman and the
19 chair of the Women's Caucus, I am so excited to see
20 much of our work this year come full circle.
21 Menstrual equity stands as a fundamental color of
22 justice, particularly for women and gender expansive
23 individuals in the vibrant and diverse landscape of
24 New York City. Access to menstrual hygiene products
25 is not merely a matter of personal convenience, it is

2 a matter of dignity, health, and equality. I am proud
3 to be the prime sponsor on Introductions 1057-A,
4 1058-A, and additionally a co-prime sponsor with
5 Chair Cabán on Introduction 1055-A; and with Council
6 Member De La Rosa on 1056-A; and with Public Advocate
7 Jumaane Williams on 1059-A.

8 These bills are bringing the City forward for all
9 people. Introduction 1057-A would require the
10 Department of Correction (DOC) to produce an annual
11 report specifying the amount of menstrual products
12 ordered by the Department disaggregated by product
13 type, the amount of such products distributed to
14 correctional facilities, the location, and the amount
15 of products distributed by each facility.

16 Introduction 1058-A, would require the Department
17 of Education (DOE) to develop, in collaboration with
18 the Commission on Gender Equity, informational
19 materials about menstrual products, to be shared with
20 every student in grades 4 through 12. This bill would
21 also require DOE to submit to the Mayor and the
22 Speaker, and publish on its website, an annual report
23 regarding the distribution of such informational
24 materials.

2 Introduction 1059-A expands the current
3 definition of menstrual products in the
4 Administrative Code to include menstrual cups and
5 require the Department of Citywide Administrative
6 Services to include menstrual cups in the provision
7 of menstrual products to agencies, temporary
8 shelters, and to youth detention centers, or
9 congregate care facilities. This bill would require
10 the Department of Correction to provide all people in
11 custody who menstruate access to either reusable or
12 single use menstrual cups, while in custody, to
13 provide reusable menstrual cups to those request such
14 cups upon release from the Department's custody.

15 Additionally, Introduction 1055-A, would require
16 all laws, documents, and other materials generated by
17 the City to use the terminology "menstrual product"
18 whenever referring to products for use in connection
19 with the menstrual cycle such as menstrual cups,
20 tampons, and menstrual pads. This bill is about
21 inclusive language and bringing New York City up to
22 par. Thank you to Chair Cabán for leading on this.

23 Introduction Number 1056-A, would expand the
24 existing age group of students to whom the Department
25 of Education is mandated to provide menstrual

2 products from beginning at grade 6 to beginning at
3 grade 4. Expanding the provision of menstrual
4 products within Department of Education's mandate
5 from grade 6 to grade 4 represents a pivotal step
6 towards inclusivity and recognizing the diverse needs
7 of students in their formative years. Menstruation
8 is a biological reality that does not wait for a
9 specific age, and it is essential to acknowledge this
10 by extending support to younger students. By
11 beginning the provision of menstrual products at
12 grade 4, we ensure that every student, regardless of
13 age, has access to the resources they need to manage
14 their menstrual hygiene with dignity, and aligns with
15 the diverse onset of puberty in children and ensures
16 that no student is caught unaware or unprepared.

17 Thank you to Speaker Adrienne Adams and Council
18 Carmen Member De La Rosa for leading on this bill.

19 Lastly, thank you to the hard work of our bill
20 drafters, Sahar Moazami, Legislative Counsel and my
21 Deputy Chief of Staff, Rebecca Nieves, and to all of
22 our advocates who have been working with us profusely
23 on ensuring that we are up to par here in New York
24 City. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on all of

2 these bills. And thank you for your partnership and
3 additional time, Chair Cabán.

4 CHAIRPERSON CABÁN: Thank you. I would also like
5 to thank advocates, providers, and those with lived
6 experience who informed and helped to shape this
7 legislation.

8 I want to acknowledge my colleagues who are here
9 today, Council Member Vernikov, obviously we already
10 have acknowledged Council Member Fariás, Council
11 Member Gutiérrez, Council Member Richardson Jordan,
12 and Council Member Riley. And, finally, I would like
13 to thank my own staff Celia Castellán, Chief of
14 Staff; Jesse Myerson, Director of Communications and
15 Strategy; Madhuri Shukla, Legislative and Budget
16 Director; committee staff and committee counsel,
17 Sahar Moazami, Legislative Counsel, and Cristy Dwyer,
18 Senior Legislative Policy Analyst for their work on
19 this hearing.

20 And now I will call on the clerk to call the roll
21 call vote.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, William Martin,
23 Committee Clerk, roll call vote for the Committee on
24 Women and Gender Equity. All items are coupled.

25 Chair Caban?

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2 CHAIRPERSON CABÁN: Aye on all.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Riley?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [ABSENT]

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Richardson
10 Jordan?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Aye

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: [ABSENT]

14 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member Vernikov?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: No on 1055-A and aye on
16 the rest.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you... [CROSS-TALK]

18 CHAIRPERSON CABÁN: And I believe we will be
19 holding the vote open for a couple more members.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Sure.

21 So, with the vote of 5 in the affirmative, 0 in
22 the negative, and no abstentions, items 1056-A, 1057-
23 A, 1058-A, and 1059-A, with the Resolution 165-A are
24 adopted by the Committee, and with a vote of 4 in the
25

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2 affirmative, 1 in the negative, and no abstentions,

3 Proposed Introduction 1055-A is also adopted.

4 And the roll will be held open at the request of
5 the chair.

6 [END]

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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 11, 2023