

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND
INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS 1
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS,
LIBRARIES AND INTERNATIONAL
INTERGROUP RELATIONS

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December 6, 2023
Start: 9:45 a.m.
Recess: 9:52 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Chi A. Ossé, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Eric Dinowitz
Amanda Farías
Shahana Hanif
Crystal Hudson
Rita C. Joseph
Farrah N. Louis
Francisco P. Moya

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee on Cultural Affairs,
4 Libraries and International Intergroup Relations,
5 recorded on December 6, 2023, in the Chambers by
6 Giselle Rivera.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
8 welcome to the Committee on Cultural Affairs.

9 At this time, we ask if you could please
10 place phones on vibrate or silent mode.

11 Thank you.

12 Chair, we are ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON OSSÉ: Good morning. I am New
14 York City Council Member Chi Ossé, Chair of the
15 Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and
16 International Intergroup Relations. My pronouns are
17 he/him/his.

18 Today, the Committee will both vote and
19 hear on one piece of legislation as well as a vote on
20 two additional pieces of legislation.

21 We will both hear and vote on Reso.
22 number 813 sponsored by Council Member Amanda Farías,
23 a resolution recognizing April 13th annually as
24 Borinqueneers Day in the City of New York in honor of
25 the courage and wartime contributions of the U.S.

1 Army 65th Infantry Regiment and their lasting legacy,
2 and we will also vote on Proposed Intro. number 1184-
3 A, sponsored by myself, a Local Law to amend the New
4 York City Charter in relation to requiring the
5 Commissioner of Cultural Affairs to report annually
6 on Department funding of art and cultural
7 organizations and institutions and Reso. number 586
8 sponsored by Council Member Nantasha Williams, a
9 resolution designating May 10th annually as National
10 Pan-Hellenic Council Day in the City of New York to
11 recognize the contributions made to social change by
12 members of nine black sororities and fraternities
13 known as the Divine Nine.

14
15 Now, I would like to welcome Council
16 Member Farías to provide remarks on her legislation
17 on Borinqueneers Day, which the Committee is hearing
18 for the first time today. Council Member Farías.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Good morning and
20 thank you for that pronunciation, Chair Ossé. The
21 acknowledgement of the Borinqueneers in New York City
22 is a vital recognition of the contributions and
23 sacrifices made by this distinguished group of Puerto
24 Rican soldiers. The Borinqueneers, the 65th Regiment
25 of the United States Army, played a significant role

1 in various conflicts including the Korean War,
2 demonstrating courage, valor, and patriotism.

3
4 Recognizing the Borinqueneers in New York City is a
5 powerful affirmation of the Puerto Rican community's
6 historical role in defending and upholding the values
7 of the United States. By acknowledging their service,
8 New York City not only pays homage to the bravery of
9 these soldiers but also honors the broader Puerto
10 Rican heritage woven into the City's cultural fabric
11 through the passage of Resolution 813. We are showing
12 as a City a deep appreciation for the diversity and
13 contributions of different communities, enriching the
14 City's narrative and promoting inclusivity.

15 Furthermore, it serves as a reminder of the shared
16 history and the collective commitment to freedom and
17 justice emphasizing the importance of preserving and
18 commemorating the stories of those who have served
19 and sacrificed for the greater good.

20 Thank you to the hard work of our bill
21 drafter, Regina Paul, and my Deputy Chief-of-Staff,
22 Rebecca Nieves, and to all my co-prime sponsors and
23 everyone else that signed on to support. I encourage
24 my Colleagues to vote yes in support of this bill.

25 Thank you so much.

CHAIRPERSON OSSÉ: Thank you, Council
Member Fariás, and my apologies to the Puerto Rican
community.

This Committee heard the original version
of Proposed Intro. number 1184-A and Reso. number 568
at our hearing on September 26, 2023. At that time,
in relation to my bill, I said that I was
particularly concerned about public reporting on the
distribution of DCLA's Cultural Development Fund
grants disaggregated by geographic area and
characteristics of the organizations being funded.
This bill would require DCLA's annual report to
include the Council District, ZIP code, and Community
Board for each organization being funded. Since being
heard, this bill was amended to require the
Commissioner to report demographic information
pertaining to the communities served by Department-
funded arts and cultural organizations. Such
information would include race/ethnicity, age,
disability status, and sexual orientation. If known
to the Department, additionally, the Commissioner
would be required to report demographic information
pertaining to the leaders of such organizations if
disclosed to the Department for purposes of the

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2 report. This report will bring more transparency and
3 insight into the CDF process, a grant that many of
4 our cultural organizations rely on. By having more
5 transparency with the reporting, we will be more
6 equipped to advocate for our cultural community and
7 see how effective reforms are.

8 I want to thank the entire cultural
9 community for their advocacy on this legislation,
10 which started before my time in the Council. I
11 especially want to thank Lucy Sexton the community at
12 Culture at 3 for helping us shape this legislation to
13 what it is today.

14 Finally, I would like to thank my Staff
15 as well as the Committee Staff and others who worked
16 on preparing this legislation including Naomi
17 Hopkins, my Chief-of-Staff, and proud member of Delta
18 Sigma Theta; May Vutrapongvatana, my Budget and
19 Policy Director; Christina Yellamaty, Legislative
20 Counsel to the Committee who negotiated and amended
21 the bill, thank you, Christina; Regina Paul,
22 Legislative Policy Analyst to the Committee who
23 drafted the two resolutions; and Sandra Gray, our
24 Financial Analyst.

25 Is there anyone here to testify?

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2 No.

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4 I think we are now ready for the roll
5 call vote. Billy, take it away.

6

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
8 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
9 vote Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and
10 International Intergroup Relations. All items are
11 coupled. Chair Ossé.

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13 CHAIRPERSON OSSÉ: I vote aye on all.

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15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Moya.

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17 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

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19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

20

21 you. Louis.

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23 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye on all.

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25 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Dinowitz.

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27 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

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29 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Farías.

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31 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye on all.

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33 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanif.

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35 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

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37 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hudson.

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39 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye.

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41 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Joseph.

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43 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ung. With
3 a vote of eight in the affirmative, zero in the
4 negative, and no abstentions, all items have been
5 adopted by the Committee.

6 CHAIRPERSON OSSÉ: Thank you. Without
7 further ado, this hearing/vote is adjourned. [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 December 11, 2023