

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

----- X

December 8, 2021
Start: 10:35 a.m.
Recess: 10:40 a.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing (Virtual Room 1)

B E F O R E: Ben Kallos
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Mark Gjonaj
James Gennaro
Helen Rosenthal
Inez Barron
Bill Perkins

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

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: PC started.

3 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Cloud is rolling.

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, everyone,
5 and welcome to today's remote New York City Council
6 vote for the Committee on Contracts. At this time,
7 would 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 Kallos, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON KALLOS: Good morning and
13 welcome to the Contracts Committee of the New York
14 City Council. Today is Wednesday, December 8th, 2021
15 at 10:35 a.m. Eastern standard Time. My name is Ben
16 Kallos and I have the privilege of chairing this last
17 hearing of the Contracts Committee. The purpose of
18 today's hearing is to vote on a critical piece of
19 legislation pertaining to minority and women owned
20 business Enterprises and our city. I would like to
21 extend my thanks to Council members Ampry-Samuel and
22 Grodenchik for signing onto this bill and for their
23 continued support for the MWBE community and as
24 cosponsors of legislation before this committee
25 today. The city Council has long supported the

2 city's minority and women owned businesses and,
3 through its various MWBE initiatives, the Council has
4 assisted MWBEs on expanding their role in the city
5 procurement and the private sector. In 2005, the
6 city established its MWBE program in order to address
7 disparities in city procurement between the number of
8 minority and women owned businesses available to do
9 business in the number that are actually awarded city
10 contracts. We, in the Council applaud the work being
11 done by the Mayors Office of Contract Services, Small
12 Business Services, and the Mayors Office of MWBE via
13 their training network and business development
14 programs. However, more remains to be done. In
15 fiscal year 2021, the city's contract budget was \$30
16 billion. As of today, only \$1.166 billion-- less
17 than four percent -- were actually awarded to MWBEs.
18 While the city is managed to certify over 10,500
19 MWBEs citywide, the actual number awarded city
20 contracts is just a fraction of that number-- only
21 16 percent. This is why I sponsored legislation
22 before the Committee today for proposed Introduction
23 1624-A that would require the Mayors Office of
24 Contract Services and the Department of Small
25 Business Services to expand the data and the

1 COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

5

2 quarterly MWBE report to include the change in the
3 number of certified MWBE farms, certified [inaudible
4 00:02:15] inner prize firms, and each industry
5 classification since the most recent MWBE disparities
6 study and the percentage increase for such firms
7 since the previous quarter. This way, city agencies
8 and, critically, the public would be aware of the
9 progress of the city's efforts towards reaching its
10 goals of contracting a certified MWBE vendors in
11 order to get the administration's stated goal of a 30
12 percent MWBE utilization citywide. Finally, I would
13 like to thank Contracts committee staff, legislative
14 counsel Alex Polinov, policy analyst Leah Scripiak,
15 and finance unit head John Russell for their hard
16 work negotiating this bill. I will now ask the
17 committee clerk to call the roll.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning. William
19 Martin. Committee clerk. Roll call vote Committee
20 on Contracts. Proposed Introduction 1624-A. Chair
21 Kallos?

22 CHAIRPERSON KALLOS: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Barron?
24
25

1 COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

6

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. Yes. I
3 vote aye and, Mr. Martin, I ask to be added to
4 legislation.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Absolutely.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: One second. Okay.

8 Rosenthal? You are muted, Council member Rosenthal.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you so
10 much. Well, with congratulations to Chair Kallos,
11 I'm really impressed with the additions that you've
12 made to the disparity report. Those are really
13 fantastic, so I proudly vote aye. I would also just
14 put in a gentle reminder to people that half of the
15 contract's budget is the nonprofit sector. So, my
16 hope is that the next city comptroller will correct
17 the error that has been on the comptroller's report
18 all these years to have in the denominator of the
19 report and [inaudible 00:04:22] setting for MWBEs.
20 That they only include contracts that are not human
21 service sector related. I look forward to that
22 change in the comptroller's office, but, overall,
23 Chair Kallos, congratulations to you. Thank you so
24 much. Proud to vote aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Gjonaj?

1 COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

7

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I want to thank
3 Chair Kallos for his leadership and work on this
4 committee. And, with that, I vote proudly aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Gennaro?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote aye and
7 I wish to be added to the legislation.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: You got it.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of five in the
11 affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
12 abstentions, the item has been adopted by the
13 committee.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Chair, can I
15 just ask real quickly-- I, too, would like to be
16 added. My name added to this legislation.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Of course.

18 CHAIRPERSON KALLOS: Thank you. I want
19 to thank all the members of the committee for being
20 active members of the committee. Quite often, it's
21 hard to have members show up, let alone show up and
22 participate meaningfully, stay for questioning and
23 what have you. I want to thank former Chair Helen
24 Rosenthal, for your leadership of this Committee and
25 setting being cold standard and setting the bar high.

1 COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

8

2 Council member Barron for her nonstop advocacy, and
3 Council member Gjonaj who has just been such stalwart
4 leader for the business community on the City Council
5 and Jim Gennaro who is an old recent addition coming
6 back here and being such an active member. So thank
7 you to everyone. Thank you to the staff. It's been
8 fun doing to the Contracts Committee and look forward
9 to what the next Council is able to do with it. I
10 hereby adjourn this final meeting of the Contracts
11 Committee.

12 UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you, Ben.

13

14

15

16

17

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 26, 2022