

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

VOTE*

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Wednesday, January 28, 2026
Start: 10:35 a.m.
Recess: 10:44 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - 8th Floor -
Hearing Room 2

B E F O R E: Hon. Majority Leader, Shaun Abreu,
Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Shahana K. Hanif
- Shekar Krishnan
- Farah N. Louis
- Christopher Marte
- Justin E. Sanchez,
- Pierina Ana Sanchez
- Julie Won
- Phil Wong

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SERGEANT LEVY: Testing, testing, this is a microphone check for the New York City Council Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure vote. Today's date is January 28, 2026. We are located in Hearing Room 2 - 250 Broadway. And this is being recorded by Sergeant Ben Levy.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, good morning, welcome to the New York City Council vote on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

At this time, please silence all electronic devices and do not approach the dais. Chair Abreu, you may begin.

CHAIRPERSON ABREU: [GAVEL] Good morning, and welcome to today's hearing of the New York City Council's Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I am Council Member Shaun Abreu, Majority Leader and Chair of this committee.

This is the first hearing of the Committee of this session, and I am honored to serve as its new chair. In this role, I am committed to running an effective, efficient, and equitable committee, one that conducts diligent oversight and advances thoughtful legislation and improves the daily lives of all New Yorkers.

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2 I would like to acknowledge and welcome
3 my colleagues who are here with us, starting with
4 Council Members Wong, Won, Krishnan, Justin Sanchez,
5 Marte, and Farah Louis. Thank you very much.

6 At today's hearing, the Committee will
7 consider whether to file the former Mayor's Veto
8 Message and whether to vote to override the veto of
9 Introduction Number 276-A, in relation to the
10 wrongful deactivation of high-volume for-hire vehicle
11 drivers.

12 The bill we are considering today works
13 to address an important issue within the FHV (For-
14 Hire Vehicles) driver deactivations. Too often,
15 drivers can find themselves deactivated with little
16 warning and limited explanation, effectively losing
17 their income overnight. Deactivation can have serious
18 consequences—missed rent, delayed bills, and
19 financial instability for workers. At the same time,
20 we recognize that platforms and the City have a
21 responsibility to protect passengers and the public
22 and to take swift action when there are credible
23 allegations of violence, harassment, fraud, or other
24 serious misconduct.

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2 The challenge is ensuring that the system
3 is both safe and fair, protecting riders, while also
4 providing drivers with due process and basic
5 transparency.

6 Introduction Number 276-A, sponsored by
7 Council Member Krishnan, would prevent the wrongful
8 deactivation of high-volume for-hire vehicle drivers
9 by prohibiting deactivations, except when there is
10 just cause, or if the deactivation is legally
11 required, or if there is a bona fide economic reason.

12 The bill would generally require advance
13 notice before a deactivation, but permit immediate
14 deactivation of the driver engaged in account
15 sharing, a pattern of fraud, or egregious misconduct,
16 including violence, sexual harassment, assault, or
17 illegal discrimination.

18 The legislation would create pathways for
19 drivers to challenge deactivations. Drivers could
20 pursue an informal resolution process with the for-
21 hire-vehicle service either on their own or
22 represented by an advocate, or they can request an
23 investigation by the Department of Consumer and
24 Worker Protection. If the Department determines that

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2 deactivation was wrongful, drivers would be entitled
3 to remedies, including reinstatement and backpay.

4 I was a sponsor and supporter of this
5 bill, and I believe that we should override the
6 Mayor's veto. The bill would ensure that drivers and
7 passengers are protected, while ensuring proper
8 processes are in place to address any misconduct or
9 abuse.

10 Before we begin, I would like to thank my
11 staff and the committee staff for their hard work in
12 preparing for today's hearing: Jalissa Quigley, my
13 Deputy Chief of Staff; Ian Boldiston, my Director of
14 Legislation and Budget; my Director of Communications
15 (*NAME); Mark Chen, Senior Legislative Counsel;
16 Theodore Miller, Legislative Analyst; Kevin Kotowski,
17 Senior Policy Analyst; John Basile, Senior Policy
18 Analyst; and Adrian Drepaul, Principal Financial
19 Analyst.

20 I would also like to acknowledge Council
21 Member Hanif and Council Member Pierina Sanchez, who
22 have joined us online.

23 I will now allow Council Member Krishnan
24 to provide some remarks.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Good morning,
3 everyone. Thank you very much, Chair Abreu, for your
4 leadership of this committee and for your support for
5 this legislation and the veto override.

6 Today is a historic day for drivers
7 across this city and workers across the country. Too
8 often, before we passed this bill just a month ago,
9 Uber and Lyft drivers across our city were fired by
10 billion-dollar companies, with no notice, no process,
11 and no ability even to contact the companies that
12 hired them after they were fired, to understand why
13 they were fired, and to challenge it when it was
14 wrongful. But that changed when we passed this
15 legislation in December.

16 In December, our city council, with an
17 overwhelming majority, voted to create the strongest
18 worker protections for drivers across the country—
19 affecting 100,000 Uber and Lyft drivers in this city
20 alone, making sure that their rights--that they had
21 rights, before they were wrongfully fired, that they
22 had due process before they were wrongfully fired,
23 and an ability to make sure they could protect their
24 jobs, their livelihood, their means of supporting

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2 themselves, their families, their children, to pay
3 their rent, or to pay their mortgage.

4 We passed historic legislation in this
5 council to end wrongful deactivations, but the prior
6 mayor vetoed our bill, which was overwhelmingly
7 passed. But it is a new day, where we have a council
8 that is just as committed, strongly, even more so, to
9 the protection of workers in this city. We also have
10 a mayor now at City Hall who believes just as
11 strongly as our city council does in standing up for
12 Uber and Lyft drivers across this city and across the
13 country.

14 So it is a historic day that we, again,
15 vote to override the last mayor's veto of this
16 legislation that stopped the wrongful deactivation of
17 drivers in this city, setting a precedent for drivers
18 across the country. I would urge all of my colleagues
19 to vote in favor of this override. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you, Council
21 Member Krishnan. We will now be voting on the
22 following items:

23 Shall we accept and file the Mayor's Veto
24 Message, and shall we pass Introduction Number 276-A,
25 the Mayor's Veto Message notwithstanding?

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2 I now ask that the Committee Clerk call
3 the roll.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, William
5 Martin, Committee Clerk; roll call vote for the
6 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; both
7 items are coupled.

8 Chair Abreu?

9 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Louis?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

13 Council Member Hanif?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

16 Council Member Krishnan?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: I want to thank
18 the New York Taxi Workers Alliance, all the Uber and
19 Lyft drivers in this city, for their inspiration, my
20 staff, Chanel Martinez, Hunter Divinagracia, and
21 Victoria Opperman, and with that, I proudly vote aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Marte?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: I vote aye,
24 congrats, Shekar.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Pierina
3 Sanchez?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

6 Council Member Won?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye, congrats,
8 Shekar.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Justin
10 Sanchez?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Wong?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: I vote aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

15 With a vote of 9 in the affirmative, 0 in
16 the negative, and no abstentions, M 4 has been
17 approved by the Committee to file--to be filed, and
18 Introduction 276-A has been readopted by the
19 Committee.

20 Mr. Chair, that is a full committee.

21 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you so much,
22 Clerk.

23 (APPLAUSE)

24 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: This hearing is hereby
25 adjourned. [GAVEL]

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 no interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date February 18, 2026