

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

**\*VOTE**

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Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Start: 11:11 A.M.

Recess: 11:18 A.M.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - 8th Floor - Hearing  
Room 1

B E F O R E: Hon. Lincoln Restler, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gale A. Brewer  
James F. Gennaro  
Kamillah Hanks  
Althea V. Stevens  
Inna Vernikov  
Julie Won

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COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

SERGEANT KANE: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. This is a microphone check for the Committee on Contracts. Today's date is January 28, 2026. We are in Hearing Room 1, and this is being recorded by Mike Kane (phonetic).

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, welcome to today's New York City Council Vote on the Committee on Contracts. At this time, no one is to approach the dais. Please silence all electronic devices.

Chair, you may begin.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: [GAVEL] Good morning, my name is Lincoln Restler, and I am the Chair of the City Council Committee on Contracts.

I would like to start off by thanking my colleagues who are with us today: Council Member Inna Vernikov of Brooklyn; the distinguished former chair of this committee, who did a great job leading the Contracts Committee over these past four years, Council Member Julie Won of Western Queens; and our Majority Whip, from the Northshore, Kamillah Hanks.

At today's hearing, the Committee will be considering whether to recommend the override of the Mayor's veto--former Mayor's veto, I should say-- of

1  
2 the former Mayor's veto of Introduction Number 479-A,  
3 as well as whether to recommend that the Mayor's veto  
4 message M 0007-2026 be filed.

5 Introduction 479-A, sponsored by the  
6 previous Chair of this Committee, Council Member  
7 Julie Won, addresses the lack of a standardized  
8 procedure for conflicts of interest and misconduct  
9 among City contractors.

10 The City needs much stronger safeguards  
11 to protect the integrity of our contracting process  
12 in the wake of several high-profile instances of  
13 fraud and abuse of the City's procurement system.

14 In his veto message, the former Mayor,  
15 who had his own ethical clouds, claimed this bill  
16 would place a significant burden on contractors and  
17 duplicate work. This is quite simply not true. The  
18 bill requires MOCS (The Mayor's Office of Contract  
19 Services), not contractors, to establish standards  
20 and procedures that contractors must use to identify  
21 conflicts of interest and misconduct. This is a  
22 straightforward accountability measure. It simply  
23 requires contractors receiving more than a  
24 \$100,000.00 in city funds to follow a process for  
25 identifying and reporting problems. It is no surprise

1  
2 that the scandal-plagued Adams administration was  
3 opposed to accountability.

4 I would like to thank the Contracts  
5 Committee team, Alex R. Paulenoff, Senior Legislative  
6 Counsel; Johari Frasier, Legislative Counsel; Alex  
7 Yablon, Legislative Policy Analyst; and Owen  
8 Kotowski, Senior Financial Analyst, for all of their  
9 hard work on this bill. And I would especially like  
10 to thank the bill's sponsor, Council Member Won, for  
11 pushing this really important, smart legislation.

12 With that, we will now be voting on the  
13 following items:

14 Shall we accept the file-- shall we  
15 accept and file the Mayor's veto message M 0007-2026,  
16 and shall we pass Introduction Number 479-A, the  
17 Mayor's Veto message notwithstanding?

18 I will now ask the Clerk to call the  
19 roll.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Good morning,  
21 William Martin, Committee Clerk; roll call vote  
22 Committee on Contracts; items are coupled.

23 Chair Restler?

24 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: (NO RESPONSE)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: (NO RESPONSE)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

MAJORITY WHIP HANKS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Stevens?

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: (NO RESPONSE)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Won?

COUNCIL MEMBER WON: (UN-MIC'D) Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Vernikov?

COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of 4 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions, M 7 has been approved by the Committee to file.

Introduction 479-A has been readopted by the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: And we would just like to ask that we keep the rollcall open for Council Members Gennaro and Brewer.

(PAUSE 00:03:41-00:03:49)

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Yes, please, thank you so much.

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COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

Council Member Brewer, thank you for joining us. We are thrilled to have you always.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation rollcall Committee on Contracts; items are coupled.

Council Member Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote, yes, thank you very much.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Vote...  
(CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much.

COMMITTEE CLERK: My apologies. Thank you. The vote on both items is now 5 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions.

The roll will still remain open at the request of the Chair.

(PAUSE 00:04:009-00:04:11)

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: It is now my honor and pleasure to acknowledge Council Member Jim Gennaro of Queens.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gennaro,  
both items are coupled.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote aye.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: And with that... Oh,  
no, I have to do your thing, and I'll adjourn.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. The following  
vote, both items have been approved by the Committee,  
respectively 6 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative,  
and no abstentions.

Council Member-- Chair Restler, excuse  
me.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Thank you so much,  
Clerk, and with that, we are going to adjourn. Have a  
wonderful day. [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 16, 2026