

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN

----- X

October 30, 2018
Start: 10:20 a.m.
Recess: 10:54

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm.
14th Fl.

B E F O R E: HELEN K. ROSENTHAL
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Diana Ayala
Laurie A. Cumbo
Ben Kallos
Brad S. Lander

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

2 [sound check] [background comments,
3 pause] [gavel]

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSENTHAL: Thank you. Good
5 morning. I am Council Member Helen Rosenthal, Chair
6 of the Committee on Women. Today, we're meeting to
7 vote on Resolution 84 sponsored by the Public
8 Advocate Letitia James. The Resolution urges the New
9 York State Legislature to pass, and the governor to
10 sign the Reproductive Health Act. As I've said
11 before, an individual's right to choose to have an
12 abortion is an essential component of their personal
13 health, economic mobility, educational opportunities
14 and career aspirations. New York was once a leader
15 in protecting these rights. In 1970, three years
16 before *Roe v. Wade* our state was the first in the
17 nation to legalize abortion, but there were some
18 flaws in the original 1970 law. Passing the
19 Reproductive Health Act would address many of those
20 serious flaws. With Reproductive Health Act,
21 abortion will be regulated in the Public Health Code
22 rather than the Penal Code. Self-induced abortion
23 will no longer be criminalized. The health of the
24 pregnant person will be an exception to late term
25 abortion restrictions. It will be made clear that

2 nurse practitioners, physician assistants and
3 licensed midwives can perform abortions. The
4 testimony this committee received when the resolution
5 was first heard on September 20th, makes it clear why
6 this matters. This is a basic health issue affecting
7 individuals, families and everyday New Yorkers. As
8 State Senator Liz Kruger, the State Senate Bill's
9 sponsor, put it in her testimony before this
10 committee at our September 20th hearing: "This bill
11 is critical. Even without being at the door of
12 losing our rights, we are indeed at an emergency
13 action, first responder stage." And it is time that
14 the state take action. I would like to thank the
15 staff of the Committee on Women including Counsel
16 Brenda McKinney; Policy Analyst Chloe Rivera; and my-
17 and Finance Analyst Daniel Kroop for all their help
18 in preparing for this hearing as well as my
19 Legislative Director Ned Terrace. I'd also like to
20 acknowledge the Committee members, Brad Lander, who
21 is here, and ask Billy Martin to call-to do roll
22 call. I would like to wait on calling him to do roll
23 call until one more member is present. Thank you.
24 [background comments, pause]

1 COMMITTEE ON WOMEN

5

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic] Why
3 don't you go ask him?

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSENTHAL: If the clerk
5 could call the roll. [laughter]

6 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk.
7 Roll call vote Committee on Women, Resolution 84.
8 Chair Rosenthal.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSENTHAL: I vote aye.

10 CLERK: Kallos.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

12 CLERK: Lander.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Enthusiastically
14 aye.

15 CLERK: By a vote of 3 in the affirmative,
16 0 in the negative and no abstentions the Resolution
17 has been adopted by the committee. [background
18 comments]

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSENTHAL: I'd like to leave
20 the vote open for--until-- Hang on. [background
21 comments, pause] I'd like to hold the vote open for
22 30 minutes more. Thank you. [pause]

23 CLERK: Continuation roll call the
24 Committee on Women, Resolution 84, Council Member
25 Cumbo.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you so very
3 much for holding the vote open. I proudly vote aye,
4 and I thank everyone for making today possible, and
5 for us to be able to send a loud and clear message
6 that we hope will transition nationally in terms of
7 what we are doing to make sure that women's rights
8 and our reproductive rights and most importantly, our
9 health is first and foremost in this particular
10 administration. So, I proudly vote aye and I thank
11 you all for your work and your support.

12 CLERK: The vote currently stands at 4 in
13 the affirmative. [backgrounds comments, pause]
14 Continuation roll call the Committee on Women,
15 Resolution 84. Council Member Ayala.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I vote aye.

17 CLERK: The final vote on Resolution 84
18 has been adopted 5 in the affirmative, 0 in the
19 negative and no abstentions. [background comments,
20 pause]

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 November 20, 2018