

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE TO COMBAT HATE

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March 26, 2026
Start: 10:26 a.m.
Recess: 10:37 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Yusef Salaam, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shekar Krishnan
Darlene Mealy
Pierina Ana Sanchez
Lynn C. Schulman
Julie Won

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Eric Dinowitz

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This
3 is a microphone check for the Committee on Combat
4 Hate recorded by James Moreno on March 26, 2026, in
5 the Chambers.

5 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and
6 welcome to the New York City Council vote for the
7 Committee to Combat Hate.

7 At this time, please silence all devices,
8 and no one should approach the dais.

9 Chair, you may begin.

10 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: [GAVEL] Good morning.
11 My name is Yusef Salaam, and I serve as the Chair of
12 the Committee to Combat Hate. I would like to first
13 start off by thanking everyone for joining us here
14 today for this vote.

14 Last month, this Committee held a hearing
15 on a legislative package aimed at combating an
16 alarming rise in hate that we have seen in recent
17 years. Present at this hearing were the New York
18 Police Department, the New York City Commission on
19 Human Rights, and others. After hearing agency
20 testimony, this Committee engaged in an in-depth and
21 mindful discussion, not only with the Administration,
but with advocates, subject matter experts, and many

2 other members of the public. Several hours of
3 testimony were heard, and I would like to take this
4 moment to say that's what this process is all about,
5 receiving and engaging with feedback from as many
6 stakeholders with varying viewpoints as possible. Our
7 goal is always to improve the lives of New Yorkers in
8 any way that we can, especially when it comes to
9 their safety, their security, and their feeling of
10 belonging, all of which are matters at the forefront
11 of this hearing and package of bills. It was truly
12 and positively astounding to see how many people,
13 especially everyday New Yorkers, felt called to come
14 and share their thoughts, their feelings at such an
15 important legislation. I want to once again thank
16 each and every person who took the time to
17 participate in this legislative process, whether at
18 the hearing or by contacting my office or my
19 Colleagues' offices personally. People were
20 especially concerned that the protections were
21 extended equally to all New Yorkers. That has always
been a primary consideration for me as well. This
feedback and testimony has helped to inform careful,
thoughtful amendments to this package, which we are
all voting on today, which are as follows:

2 Proposed Intro. 1-B, sponsored by Speaker
3 Julie Menin, in relation to a plan regarding security
4 perimeters adjacent to places of religious worship.

5 Proposed Intro. 22-A, sponsored by
6 Council Member Shaun Abreu, in relation to acquiring
7 the Department of Education to distribute materials
8 to students about the risk of social media and online
9 hate.

10 Proposed Intro. 175-B, sponsored by
11 Council Member Eric Dinowitz, in relation to a plan
12 regarding security perimeters adjacent to educational
13 facilities.

14 Proposed Intro. 297-A, sponsored by
15 Council Member Virginia Maloney, in relation to
16 emergency planning for religious and nonprofit
17 Institutions.

18 And lastly, Proposed Intro. 388-A
19 sponsored by Council Member Lincoln Restler in
20 relation to establishing a hotline to report
21 discriminatory harassment and unlawful discriminatory
practices.

We are joined in the Chambers by Council
Members Sanchez, Shekar, Schulman, and Council Member

2 Dinowitz, and we are joined online by Council Members
3 Mealy, Won on Zoom.

4 I'll now like to pass it to Council
5 Member Dinowitz for his remarks.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Thank you, Chair
7 Salaam.

8 I thank you for holding this vote today,
9 and thank you for the hearing you held last month. It
10 was a very intense and emotionally charged hearing,
11 and you took the time as Chair to make sure everyone
12 was heard, and I want to personally thank you. And it
13 was emotionally charged because of the fear and the
14 anxiety that so many New Yorkers feel walking into
15 their house of worship or walking into their schools.
16 And that is why we are voting today on Intros 1 and
17 175, laws that will require the NYPD to come up with
18 a plan that could include security perimeters, to
19 ensure that if a student is walking into school, if a
20 person is going to a house of worship, they can do so
21 without fear of intimidation, interference, or
physical obstruction. The bill requires the NYPD to
come up with a plan, a plan that has public input, a
plan that has points of contact at the NYPD, and a
plan that clarifies and provides transparency around

1 what we deserve. And I know there are some who don't
2 think this is necessary, but you need look no further
3 than the outside of some of our schools or houses of
4 worship where physical barriers have been erected,
5 where volunteers go outside in bulletproof vests,
6 because that is the level of fear that exists, and it
7 exists for a reason. It exists because there are
8 violent attacks at some of our schools and houses of
9 worship. It exists because there is harassment and
10 intimidation, physical obstruction at some of our
11 schools and houses of worship. I've spoken to the
12 students that have had to take their classes remotely
13 for fear of entering their own school building. I've
14 spoken to the students that have had to transfer
15 schools for fear of entering their own school
16 building or campus simply because on the way in they
17 were faced with threats, interference, intimidation,
18 and physical obstruction. That is not what our
19 students deserve, and it's not what our worshipers
20 deserve. And we are asking something simple with this
21 legislation. We are asking for transparency and
accountability. That's what these bills do. These
bills provide transparency and accountability so that
those students can go into school without the fear of

2 intimidation and harassment, that the worshipers can
3 go into their house of worship without fear of
4 intimidation and physical obstruction. And I look
5 forward to the community conversations that are going
6 to happen as a direct result of this legislation,
7 which has a 45-day window for public comment and
8 public input, and I look forward to the conversations
9 and the transparency that is going to be a direct
10 result of this legislation with point people at the
11 NYPD so everyone knows who they're going to contact
12 in the instance of this type of harassment and
13 intimidation. It is what our students deserve. It is
14 what our worshipers deserve. It is what all New
15 Yorkers deserve. And I again want to thank you, Chair
16 Salaam, for holding the hearing and for bringing this
17 to a vote.

18 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Thank you.

19 I'll now like to ask the Clerk to call
20 the vote.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
you. Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk.
Roll call vote, Committee on Combat Hate. All items
are coupled.

Chair Salaam.

1 COMMITTEE TO COMBAT HATE

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2 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: I vote aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Schulman.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Permission to
5 explain my vote, Chair?

6 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Permission granted.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Thank you. I
8 want to thank Speaker Menin and I want to thank Chair
9 Salaam for bringing this critical package of
10 legislation forward. Today's bills take a
11 comprehensive approach to confronting hate from every
12 angle, strengthening hate crime reporting,
13 transparency, creating a bias reporting hotline,
14 educating young people about the dangers of online
15 hate, improving emergency planning, and enhancing
16 security protections at schools and all houses of
17 worship. And I am very happy that these are moving
18 forward, and I want to thank the Chair specifically
19 for the great hearing that he had and hearing all
20 voices. And with that, I vote aye on all.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Mealy.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: May I explain my
23 vote?

24 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Yes.

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1 COMMITTEE TO COMBAT HATE

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I just want to
3 thank Speaker Menin and Chair Salaam and all my
4 Colleagues with their legislation, and I'm glad this
5 package of legislation is coming through in regards
6 to bringing Christ back into all this crisis we are
7 having. And I will definitely be glad to vote aye on
8 all. Thank you, Chair.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
10 you, Council Member.

11 Sanchez.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Permission to
13 explain my vote?

14 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Permission granted.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Thank you, Chair.
16 I just want to join in commending you for sitting
17 through the many hours of testimony that we heard
18 during the hearing. I'm going to vote aye on all to
19 advance these bills to the floor and allow the full
20 Body to weigh in and will vote on my position later
21 on today. With that, I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Won.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: I vote aye on all
23 except for 175, which I abstain.

1 COMMITTEE TO COMBAT HATE 10

2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

3 Apologies, Council Member Won. On Intro. 175, I
4 didn't hear you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: I abstain on 175.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
7 you.

8 Krishnan.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye on all
10 except for Intro. 175, for which I vote no.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Following
12 results, all items have been adopted by the Committee
13 with a vote of six in the affirmative, zero in the
14 negative, and no abstentions, with Proposed
15 Introduction 175-B being adopted by the Committee
16 with a vote of four in the affirmative, one in the
17 negative, and one abstention.

18 Mr. Chair, that is a full Committee.

19 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Thank you, and that
20 concludes today's matter. [GAVEL]
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing

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transcript is a true and accurate record of the

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proceedings. We further certify that there is no

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relation to any of the parties to this action by blood

or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome

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of this matter.

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Date April 30, 2026

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