

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

**VOTE\***

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Thursday, April 10, 2025

Start: 9:28 a.m.

Recess: 9:31 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Hon. Dr. Nantasha Williams, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Rita C. Joseph  
Christopher Marte,  
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.  
Kevin C. Riley

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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2 SERGEANT LEVY: Testing, testing this is a  
3 soundcheck for the New York City Council Vote for the  
4 Committee on Civil and Human Rights, recorded in the  
5 Chambers by Sergeant Ben Levy on April 10, 2025.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, good morning,  
7 welcome to the New York City Council Vote on the  
8 Committee on Civil and Human Rights. At this time  
9 please do not approach the dais. Please silence all  
10 electronics.

11 Chair, you may begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Hello, everyone, and good  
13 morning. My name is Nantasha Williams, and I serve as  
14 Chair to the Committee on Civil and Human Rights. I  
15 want to start off by thanking everyone joining us for  
16 today's vote on Resolution 729, sponsored by Speaker  
17 Adrienne E. Adams, condemning President Trump's  
18 revocation of diversity, equity, and inclusion  
19 programs and policies at the federal level, and  
20 expressing support for such programs and policies at  
21 the city and state level.

22 On January 20, 2021 then-President Biden issued  
23 Executive Order 13985, "Advancing Racial Equity and  
24 Support for Underserved Communities Through the  
25 Federal Government" which directed federal

1 departments and agencies to assess to what extent its  
2 programs and policies perpetuate systemic barriers to  
3 opportunities and benefits for people of color,  
4 women, and other underserved groups departments and  
5 agencies to assess to what extent their programs and  
6 policies perpetuate systemic barriers to  
7 opportunities and benefits for people of color, women  
8 and other underserved groups.  
9

10 This executive order was intended to identify  
11 possible obstacles to improving and maintaining  
12 diversity, equity, and inclusion, better known as  
13 DEI, within federal departments and agencies to work  
14 toward eliminating these obstacles and resolving  
15 inequities.

16 Within hours of taking office on January 20th of  
17 this year, President Trump issued an executive order  
18 ending all DEI programs and policies at the federal  
19 level. Ironically enough, in this order one of the  
20 claims made justifying the end of DEI programs and  
21 policies was that they are immoral and  
22 discriminatory, despite their explicitly stated  
23 purpose to eliminate discrimination.

24 While we do condemn the president's attack on  
25 civil and human rights, our hands are tied in taking

1  
2 direct action on a federal level. This is why we must  
3 support DEI at the local and state level to ensure  
4 that this city remains a safe haven for all and  
5 benefits from all that a diverse workforce and  
6 diverse voices bring to the table.

7 As immensely diverse city, New York is home to  
8 many populations who could be negatively impacted by  
9 the current president's administration. So our  
10 dedication to the well-being and equitable success of  
11 all New Yorkers, regardless of their background,  
12 needs to be stronger than ever.

13 I'd like to thank my colleagues, Council Members  
14 Rita Joseph and Chris Marte for being here, and both  
15 my staff and committee staff for their hard work and  
16 making this vote happen.

17 I will now ask the Clerk to call the vote.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, William Martin,  
19 Committee Clerk; roll call vote Committee on Civil  
20 and Human Rights, on Resolution 729.

21 Chair Williams?

22 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: (MEDICAL)

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Riley

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COMMITTEE ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: (ABSENT)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Marte?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of 3 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions, the Resolution has been adopted by the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: This Committee Vote is closed.

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 May 8, 2025