

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY

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October 5, 2023

Start: 9:58 a.m.

Recess: 10:02 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Tiffany Cabán , Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Jennifer Gutiérrez
Kristin Richardson Jordan
Kevin C. Riley
Althea V. Stevens
Inna Vernikov

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:
Amanda Farías

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee on Women and Gender Equity,
4 located in the Committee Room, recorded by Nazly
5 Paytuví on October 5, 2023.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
7 welcome to today's New York City Council hearing for
8 the Committee on Women and Gender Equity.

9 At this time, we ask you to silence all
10 cell phones and electronic devices to minimize
11 disruptions throughout the hearing. We thank you for
12 your cooperation.

13 Chair, we are ready to begin.

14 CHAIRPERSON CABAN: [GAVEL] Good morning.
15 Hello, everyone. My name is Tiffany Cabán. My
16 pronouns are she/her, and I am the Chair of the
17 Committee on Gender and Women Equity.

18 Today, we are here for a vote on
19 Resolution 475 sponsored by Council Member Farías
20 calling on the New York State Legislature to pass
21 and the Governor to sign legislation to create a
22 purple alert system for missing victims of domestic
23 violence. New York State currently administers three
24 alert programs, including alerts around missing
25 children under the age of 21, missing college

2 students of any age, and missing vulnerable adults
3 who are cognitively impaired. Once these alerts are
4 activated, key information about the missing person
5 is distributed to various public entities including
6 social and traditional media, roadway signs in areas
7 for public transportation. These types of alerts have
8 proven successful in disseminating emergency
9 notifications that support the safe rescue and return
10 of missing persons. Missing persons with a history of
11 domestic violence face heightened life-threatening
12 risks, and this resolution would create an alert
13 system that would help coordinate efforts of first
14 responders and galvanize communities to assist in the
15 search and safe recovery of victims of domestic
16 violence, and I am going to pass to Council Member
17 Fariás for opening remarks.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIAS: Thank you so much,
19 Chair Cabán , and thank you, everyone here today.
20 This Reso. represents a critical step forward in our
21 collective mission to protect the most vulnerable
22 members of our society and ensure their safety in
23 times of crisis. Domestic violence is a silent
24 epidemic that often takes place behind closed doors.
25 It is a pervasive issue that affects

2 individuals of all backgrounds with devastating
3 consequences not only for the victims themselves but
4 also for families, communities, and society as a
5 whole. In these dire circumstances, time is of the
6 essence. Lives hang in the balance, and every moment
7 that passes without intervention increases the risk
8 to those who are suffering. Creating an emergency
9 alert system specifically tailored to address missing
10 persons in cases of domestic violence is an
11 indispensable solution. We know that timely
12 intervention can be a matter of life and death for
13 victims trapped in abusive situations. This alert
14 system can act as a beacon of hope, a lifeline that
15 can bring swift assistance to those who need it most.
16 This has the potential to save lives, reunite
17 families, and serve as a powerful deterrent against
18 perpetrators. It sends a clear message that our
19 society is committed to protecting its most
20 vulnerable members and will not tolerate violence
21 behind closed doors. The creation of an emergency
22 alert system for missing persons of domestic violence
23 is not just a necessity; it is a moral imperative. It
24 represents a profound step forward in our ongoing
25 battle against domestic violence and serves as

2 government action for those who have suffered in
3 silence for far too long. That's why I'm really proud
4 today to pass Reso. 475 during the month of October
5 with my Colleagues to call on the New York State to
6 create a purple alert system for missing victims of
7 domestic violence.

8 Thank you again, Chair Cabán, for your
9 continued leadership on this issue and for holding
10 this vote today. Thank you to our State sponsors on
11 this bill, Assembly Member Khaleel Anderson and
12 Senator Julia Salazar, for your leadership on this as
13 well, and I look forward to seeing this come into
14 fruition across our city and state.

15 CHAIRPERSON CABAN: Thank you very much
16 and also gratitude to the Committee Staff for the
17 work here, and I will call on the Clerk to take a
18 vote.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
20 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
21 vote Committee on Women and Gender Equity, Resolution
22 475. Chair Cabán.

23 CHAIRPERSON CABAN: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Riley.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

3 Gutierrez.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIERREZ: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

6 Richardson Jordan.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Vernikov.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
13 vote of six in the affirmative, zero in the negative,
14 and no abstentions, the resolution has been adopted
15 by the Committee.

16 CHAIRPERSON CABAN: Thank you. [GAVEL]

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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 October 6, 2023