

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

1

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

----- X

Thursday, August 15, 2024
Start: 11:13 a.m.
Recess: 11:17 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Hon. Diana I. Ayala, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alexa Avilés
Chris Banks
Tiffany Cabán
Chi A. Ossé
Lincoln Restler
Kevin C. Riley
Althea V. Stevens
Sandra Ung

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)
(NONE)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

3

(BLANK PAGE)

1
2 SERGEANT MESITI: This is a microphone check for
3 the Committee on General Welfare. Today's date is
4 August 15, 2024, located in the Chambers; recording
5 is done by Rocco Mesiti.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, and welcome
7 today's New York City Council Hearing for the
8 Committee on General Welfare. At this time please
9 place all electronic devices to vibrate or silent
10 mode to minimize disruptions.

11 Thank you for your cooperation, Chair, we are
12 ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Thank you. (GAVEL SOUND)
14 (GAVELING IN) Good morning, everyone, and welcome to
15 today's hearing. My name is Diana Ayala, and I am the
16 Deputy Speaker of the New York City Council and the
17 Chair of the General Welfare Committee.

18 This morning we will be voting on two bills.

19 The first bill, proposed Introduction 123-A,
20 which I have sponsored, which would preclude DHS
21 from requiring that every member of the family be
22 present at a PATH intake center when the family seeks
23 placement at a shelter.

24 Secondly, proposed Introduction 460-A, sponsored
25 by Council Member Ung, would require DHS to report on

1
2 the feasibility of partnering with community based
3 organizations to accept and process applications for
4 shelter intake for families with children.

5 We know of the inefficiencies of the shelter
6 application process for families with children.

7 Families all across the City must travel to the PATH
8 intake center located in the Bronx. Upon doing so,
9 they often have to endure waiting on long lines --
10 many times with their children present -- with
11 limited resources and staff interaction, while
12 waiting for hours.

13 These bills seek to make that intake process
14 easier and more accessible for families with children
15 experiencing homelessness.

16 At this time, I would like to acknowledge my
17 colleagues Council Member Riley, Council Member
18 Restler, Council Member Stevens, Council Member Ung,
19 and Council Member Banks.

20 Also, I would like to thank the committee staff
21 who worked diligently to prepare this hearing and
22 vote: Aminta Kilawan, Senior Legislative Counsel;
23 Penina Rosenberg, Legislative Policy Analyst; Julia
24 K. Haramis, Finance Unit Head; Phariha Rahman,

1
2 Finance Analyst, and finally, my staff, Elsie
3 Encarnacion.

4 I will turn it over to Council Member Ung so that
5 she can deliver remarks on her bill.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: I want to thank Chair Deputy
7 Speaker Ayala and my fellow committee members for
8 supporting Introduction 460 by sending this
9 legislation to City Council for a full vote. We are
10 taking an important step toward making our city
11 shelter system more accessible and compassionate for
12 homeless families and children.

13 We know that the first stop for many families in
14 crisis is not the PATH intake center in the Bronx,
15 but local community based organizations working
16 tirelessly on the frontlines providing culturally
17 competent services that our immigrant communities
18 rely on. By requiring the Department of Homeless
19 Services to study on the feasibility of partnering,
20 this (INAUDIBLE) local not for profits to process
21 shelters to process shelter intake applications, we
22 are taking a common sense approach to serving
23 homeless families where they are rather than making
24 them come to us. Thank you again, and I look forward
25 to the passage of Introduction 460.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Perfect. We will now do the rollcall.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, William Martin, Committee Clerk, rollcall vote Committee on General Welfare, proposed Introductions 123-A and 460-A. Items are coupled (BACKGROUND NOISE).

Chair Ayala?

CHAIRPERSON AYALA: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Riley?

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: (MEDICAL)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Avilas?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILAS: (ABSENT)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: (ABSENT)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Restler?

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Permission to explain my vote?

CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: I just want to congratulate the Chair and Council Member Ung on two great pieces of legislation. I am very proud to support them today, thank you very much, aye on all.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

8

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ung?

COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Banks?

COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of six in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions both items have been adopted by the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON AYALA: With that, this vote is closed. Thank you

(GAVEL SOUND) (GAVELING OUT)

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 August 22, 2024