

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AND WORKER PROTECTION

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES  
OF THE

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AND  
WORKER PROTECTION

**\*VOTE**

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Thursday, January 29, 2026  
Start: 9:14 A.M.  
Recess: 9:35 A.M.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - 8th Floor  
Hearing Room 1

B E F O R E: Hon. Harvey Epstein, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shirley Aldebol  
Joann Ariola  
Chris Banks  
Gale A. Brewer  
Carmen N. De La Rosa  
Kamillah Hanks  
Shekar Krishnan  
Chi A. Ossé

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AND WORKER PROTECTION  
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2 SERGEANT PAYTUVI: This is a microphone  
3 check for the Committee on Consumer and Worker  
4 Protection—recorded on January 29, 2026—located in  
5 Hearing Room 1, by Nazly Paytuvi.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, good  
7 morning, everyone, and welcome to today's New York  
8 City Council vote for the Committee on Consumer and  
9 Worker Protection. At this time, please silence all  
10 electronic devices. No one may approach the dais.

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON EPSTEIN: [GAVEL] Good  
13 morning, everyone. My name is Harvey Epstein. I want  
14 to welcome everyone to our first meeting of the  
15 Consumer and Worker Protection Committee. I really  
16 want to thank my colleagues who are here: Krishnan  
17 and Ariola on Zoom, Brewer, De La Rosa, and Ossé for  
18 joining us today.

19 I want to introduce members of the  
20 committee staff, Natalie Meltzer, whose email is  
21 [NMeltzer@council.nyc.gov](mailto:NMeltzer@council.nyc.gov), and Sarah Swaine, who can  
22 be reached at [SSwaine@council.nyc.gov](mailto:SSwaine@council.nyc.gov).

23 I look forward to working with you all to  
24 advance the work of this committee to help consumers  
25 and workers' rights in this great city.

2 Today, the Committee will consider  
3 whether to override four bills passed by our  
4 legislation at the end of the session that the Mayor  
5 vetoed:

6 Introduction 408-A, in relation to  
7 creating a division within the Department of Small  
8 Business Services to assist street vendors and  
9 reporting regarding such assistance efforts.

10 Introduction 431-B, in relation to  
11 expanding business licensing and regulatory  
12 compliance of all mobile food and general vendors.

13 Introduction 1251, in relation to issuing  
14 licenses to mobile food and general vendors.

15 Introduction 1391-A, in relation to the  
16 establishment of compensation standards for security  
17 guards.

18 The Committee will also consider whether  
19 to recommend that the Mayor veto of M 0005-2026, M  
20 0006-2026, M 0012-2026, and M 0015-2026 be filed.

21 The bills we are considering today  
22 represent a major step forward for street vending and  
23 security guards. The former mayor's vetoes on these  
24 bills, on his way out of office, were callous and  
25 undermined the many hours of public testimony,

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2 meetings with stakeholders, and negotiations to get  
3 this legislation passed.

4 Introduction 480-A, sponsored by the  
5 Public Advocate, would create a division of small  
6 vendor assistance within the Department of Small  
7 Business Services, offering training and education to  
8 conduct outreach to street vendors.

9 Introduction 431, introduced by Council  
10 Member [Pierina] Sanchez, would expand the number of  
11 licenses available to vend food and merchandise on  
12 the sidewalks of New York City—the first expansion  
13 of licenses for general vendors since the 1970s. The  
14 bill would expand street vending licenses, increase  
15 the share of enforcement agents required to inspect  
16 street vendor setups, and increase penalties for  
17 violations of certain siting requirements. This bill  
18 would add a requirement that vendors keep the area  
19 around their cart free from garbage and maintain  
20 proof of proper trash disposal. The bill would also  
21 expand the Street Vendor Advisory Board and require  
22 the board to examine and make recommendations  
23 pertaining to the new requirements.

24 Introduction 1251-A, sponsored by Council  
25 Member Fariás, would clarify that DOHMH and DCWP can

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2 continue to issue street vending license applications  
3 until the number of licenses issued reaches the  
4 maximum set by law, provided there is demand for  
5 these licenses.

6 Finally, Introduction 1391-A, sponsored  
7 by former Speaker Adams, would direct security guard  
8 employers to provide their security guard employees  
9 with minimum wage, paid vacation time, and  
10 supplemental benefits that meet or exceed the minimum  
11 wage, paid vacation time, and supplemental benefits  
12 required for private sector security guards engaged  
13 on New York City public building service contracts in  
14 excess of \$1,500.

15 Now, unless there are any Members who  
16 would like to make a quick statement, I would like to  
17 read a statement by the sponsor, Council Member  
18 Pierina Sanchez, who was unable to make it today.  
19 Before I do that, is there anyone on the Committee  
20 who wants to make a statement?

21 Seeing none, I am going to turn to  
22 Council Member Pierina Sanchez's statement:

23 "Thank you, Chair Epstein, and  
24 congratulations on your assignment as Council Member.  
25 You share that Intro 431-B was the first bill you

2 signed on to. And thank you for the override of the  
3 veto on 431-B. That's your first act as chair.

4 Today, New York City is finally reforming  
5 its street vending systems in a way that works for  
6 everyone. By overriding Intro 431-B, we are replacing  
7 decades of dysfunction with a system that is more  
8 just for vendors, more predictable and fair for brick  
9 and mortar businesses that deliver more orderly  
10 shared spaces for all New Yorkers. This reform breaks  
11 through arbitrary license caps frozen in place since  
12 the 1970s and delivers deep change that many long  
13 believed was impossible. Access to licenses is paired  
14 with meaningful consequences for bad actors and  
15 monitoring by a more diverse set of stakeholders.

16 Thank you to (INAUDIBLE) staff and  
17 members of the Street Vendor Project and brick and  
18 mortar business owners, (INAUDIBLE) supermarkets,  
19 bodegas, and restaurants, who kept showing up at the  
20 hard meetings, the agency staff understood that  
21 dignity and order must go hand in hand, and to our  
22 Speaker, Julie Menin, for her leadership in getting  
23 this historic reform across the finish line.

24 As the daughter and granddaughter of  
25 street vendors, this historic moment is deeply

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2 personal. We are ushering in a new era in this city  
3 with how it treats its small businesses and manages  
4 shared public space. I will fight tooth and nail to  
5 ensure every part of this law is fully and fairly  
6 implemented so that these reforms deliver on their  
7 promises for vendors, for brick and mortar  
8 businesses, consumers, and all New Yorkers."

9                   Thank you to Council Member Pierina  
10 Sanchez, and thank you for your leadership on this  
11 issue.

12                   Now we will be voting on the following  
13 items. Shall we accept and file the Mayor's veto  
14 message, and shall we pass Introduction 408-A,  
15 Introduction 431-B, Introduction 1251-A, and  
16 Introduction 1391-A, the Mayor's Veto Message notwithstanding?

18                   Thank you, Council Member Hanks, for  
19 joining us. I know it was early morning and a long  
20 trip, so I appreciate you being here.

21                   Let's do the roll call.

22                   COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, William  
23 Martin, Committee Clerk; roll call vote Committee on  
24 Consumer and Worker Protection; all items are  
25 coupled.

2 Chair Epstein?

3 CHAIRPERSON EPSTEIN: Yes.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Absolutely, yes.

6 I do want to comment and thank Council  
7 Member Sanchez. I also want to point out to the BIDS  
8 in the Chambers and the Brick and Mortars, people who  
9 are concerned about enforcement. I know that the  
10 Chair of this committee and also the sponsor of the  
11 bill are very committed to enforcement. I am very  
12 committed to enforcement. I also want to thank the  
13 Street Vendor Project, because it is a wonderful  
14 advocate for the vendors, but also understands  
15 mediation and making sure that there is enforcement.

16 So, I think we have a good group to make  
17 sure that these bills are enforced properly, the  
18 vendors get the jobs they need, and I think it will  
19 work. We all have to work together. But I do want to  
20 thank the sponsor, and let the brick and mortars know  
21 that we are all paying attention. Thank you very  
22 much.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member De La  
24 Rosa?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye, and I  
3 also want to take a moment to congratulate Council  
4 Member Sanchez on her extraordinary leadership. This  
5 was a hard conversation, mostly because we are all  
6 trying to balance, one, supporting vendors who make  
7 the fabric of our communities that much brighter, and  
8 also because we are trying to balance that with  
9 quality of life issues that still exist in our  
10 communities. I know in my community, 181st Street, is  
11 the (INAUDIBLE) of the Dominican Republic, and we are  
12 better for it, but I know there are a lot of issues  
13 that come with that. So, I want to thank Council  
14 Member Sanchez for the thoughtfulness in her  
15 leadership, and Chair Epstein, congratulations, and I  
16 am looking forward to working with you here as well.

17 I vote aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: I vote aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: I vote aye.

22 Congratulations to Council Member Sanchez for her  
23 extraordinary leadership with this package of  
24 legislation. And congratulations to Chair Epstein for  
25 an A+ on his first vote.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Banks?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: (NO RESPONSE)

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Aldebol?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: (NO RESPONSE)

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Thank you. I vote  
10 no on 1391, 431, 1251, and aye on 408-A. Thank you.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you—one moment.

12 All items have been adopted by the  
13 Committee with a vote of 6 in the affirmative, 1 in  
14 the negative, and no abstentions, with Introduction  
15 408-A being adopted by the Committee with 7 in the  
16 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions.

17 And the vote will be held open at the  
18 request of the Chair.

19 CHAIRPERSON EPSTEIN: Thank you, everyone.  
20 Have a lovely day, and I know it is going to be a  
21 long day for all.

22 (PAUSE 00:09:56-00:10:32)

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call,  
24 Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection, all  
25 items are coupled.

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2 Council Member Banks?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye.

4 Congratulations to Council Member Sanchez and also to  
5 Council Member Epstein on being the chair of this  
6 committee. Thank you.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, the roll is  
8 still open.

9 (PAUSE 00:10:51-00:11:30)

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call  
11 for the Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection,  
12 again, all items are coupled.

13 Council Member Aldebol?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: I vote yes.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

16 Final vote and vote revision:

17 All items have been adopted by the  
18 Committee with 9 in the affirmative, 0 in the  
19 negative, and no abstentions. Introductions 431-B,  
20 1251-A, and 1391-A have been adopted by the Committee  
21 with 8 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative, and no  
22 abstentions.

23 Mr. Chair, that is a full committee.

24 CHAIRPERSON EPSTEIN: Meeting is  
25 adjourned. Thank you. [GAVEL]

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 no interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date: February 6, 2026