

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS, STATE &  
FEDERAL LEGISLATION 1  
CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL  
OPERATIONS, STATE &  
FEDERAL LEGISLATION  
VOTE\*

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Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Start: 12:45 p.m.

Recess: 1:06 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: Hon. Lincoln Restler, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gale A. Brewer  
David M. Carr  
James F. Gennaro  
Jennifer Gutiérrez  
Shahana K. Hanif  
Vickie Paladino  
Lynn C. Schulman  
Inna Vernikov

Other Council Members Attending: Ariola, Farías,  
Marmorato, and Salaam

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2 FEDERAL LEGISLATION 3

2 SERGEANT BIONDO: This is a microphone  
3 test. Today's date is June 11, 2025—Committee on  
4 Governmental Operations, State & Federal Legislation.  
5 Being recorded in the Committee Room by John Biondo.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Chair, we are ready to  
7 begin when you are.

8 (PAUSE)

9 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Good [GAVEL] Good,  
10 oh, no, it's good afternoon now. My name is Lincoln  
11 Restler. I have the privilege, on most days, it's a  
12 privilege, of chairing the Committee on Governmental  
13 Operations, State and Federal Legislation.

14 I would like to start by thanking my  
15 colleagues who have joined us today from our  
16 committee: Council Members Gutiérrez, Hanif,  
17 Schulman, Brewer, Vernikov, and Paladino.

18 We currently have no one on Zoom. Also  
19 joining us on the Committee today are Majority Leader  
20 Farías, Minority Leader Ariola, and Council Member  
21 Marmorato. Thank you all for being with us. Did I  
22 miss somebody? Oh, and Yusef Salaam, excuse me,  
23 Council Member Salaam, thank you for being with us as  
24 well. It is always good to see you.

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Today we'll be voting on 20- 20

Preconsidered State Legislative Resolutions,  
including two Messages from the Mayor in support of a  
variety of state legislation.

We are voting to reauthorize the City's  
speed camera program for another five years. DOT has  
installed over 2,000 cameras across the city,  
pursuant to the state authorization, equally  
distributed throughout all neighborhoods. Since the  
program's inception in 2014, speeding has decreased  
by 94% at locations equipped with cameras. The  
majority of cars receive only one or two violations.  
Proof that this is an effective tool to reduce  
speeding and save lives.

Back in 2017, Detective Miosotis Familia  
was murdered while sitting in her NYPD command post  
in the Bronx. Her daughter, Genesis, was just 20 at  
the time and immediately stepped up to raise her  
younger siblings, who were 12 years old. This bill  
will enable her to receive the same benefits that a  
surviving spouse would typically receive.

We're also voting on several home Rule  
Messages to rectify inequities and pension benefits  
for various City employees, including probation

officers and DP police officers. Both these workforces face chronic retention issues given pension differences, and I hope these measures will help us recruit and retain highly qualified civil servants.

The other SLRs we'll vote on today cover a wide variety of topics. Permitting the City to set up speed limits on open streets; expanding access to benefits for first responders who worked at the World Trade Center; allowing the civilian Complaint Review Board to access sealed records needed for their investigations, including body-worn camera footage; and granting additional retirement and death benefits for various City employees, including for families and widows of our first responders killed in the line of duty.

I would like to take a moment to thank Santa Soriano-Vasquez and Rick Arbelo, who do a phenomenal job of navigating all of our state legislative resolutions, our Home Rules. It is a very challenging and complicated process, and they work immensely hard and have done a great job. So I just want to thank you both for your hard work. We are lucky to have you.

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I'd also like to thank our committee staff, Jayasri Ganapathy and Erica Cohen, for all their work.

And before we ask the Clerk to call the roll, I know there were a couple of colleagues who wanted to speak. We'll start with Council Member Marmorato.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Thank you, Chair. Before you cast your votes today, I want to speak plainly, not just as a Council Member, but as a constituent of District 13 and a representative of families who expect real representation from this city.

From the outset, this casino proposal raised red flags. There is no meaningful investment plan, no commitment to infrastructure, which was very important to me, and no engagement with the families who actually live in the surrounding community. And most importantly, there was no support from the people I represent.

The residents of District 13 were very clear that they do not want a casino, and when they spoke, I listened. The Committee vote today is about more than just stopping a bad proposal. It's about

1 sending a message that backroom deals, runarounds,  
2 and flashy promises will never outweigh the voice of  
3 the people.  
4

5 So I urge my colleagues to stand with me,  
6 stand strong, and vote no on this. Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Thank you very much,  
8 Council Member Marmorato. Now we'll hear from  
9 Majority Leader Farías.

10 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Chair, Restler,  
11 and colleagues, today we are advancing a Home Rule  
12 Message that represents a long overdue step towards  
13 justice for Genesis Villella and her siblings—the  
14 children of fallen NYPD Detective Miosotis Familia.

15 Detective Familia was tragically  
16 assassinated in the line of duty in 2017. In the wake  
17 of unimaginable loss, her eldest daughter, Genesis,  
18 stepped up at just 20 years old to raise her two  
19 younger siblings and keep their family together.  
20 However, despite her sacrifice, she has been denied  
21 access to her mother's pension due to outdated state  
22 laws that only grant lifetime benefits to spouses and  
23 parents, not to children, regardless of their  
24 circumstances. These pension laws were created in a  
25

time when single parents were few, and orphaned children of fallen officers were not considered.

Last year, towards the end of the State Legislative Session, Genesis and I were connected. While we ran out of time then, I made a personal commitment to her and her siblings that this city and I would not let her down. I am proud to be here today to follow through on that commitment.

This Home Rule Message is the City's first formal legislative action on behalf of the children of a fallen NYPD detective. It is our way of clearly stating on record that the New York City Council stands with officers and their families, and specifically stands with Genesis and her siblings.

This case highlights a broader systemic issue. Our pension laws are rigid and archaic, written without consideration for the many forms that families take or the sacrifices young people often make in times of tragedy. Genesis's experience isn't unique. She represents the many New Yorkers who step up when the system steps away. While the state holds the power to change pension laws, the City Council plays a pivotal role in advancing those changes. This Home Rule Message is not just a formality; it's a



powerful step that puts the full weight of the Council behind this effort. It affirms our commitment to correcting systemic failures and ensures that stories like Genesis' are seen, heard, and acted upon.

I want to thank Genesis for giving me her trust and patience over the last year. She had waited since 2017, and many doors had been closed before her, and I'm grateful for that trust.

I also want to thank my colleagues who have stood with us throughout this process. I would like to thank my state partners, Senator Rivera and Assembly Member Dinowitz, who allowed me to collaborate with the City partners to find the right approach and language to approach this bill: The NYPD Pension Fund, New York City Actuary, Chris Bombardier, Genesis's legal counsel, and the Council's State team, Santa Soriano-Vasquez and Rick Arbelo. And of course, my Chief of Staff, Rebecca Nieves, who worked tirelessly with me over the last three months, specifically on this bill and its many iterations.

To the folks who gave us all encouragement and wanted to celebrate today together:

The 46 Precinct Commanding Officer, Jeremy Scheublin,  
and PBA President Patrick Hendry, and DEA President  
Scott Monroe, thank you all.

And lastly, of course, thank you to  
Speaker Adams for her support throughout this  
process, and Chair Restler for helping bring this to  
the floor today. This is about justice for Genesis  
and for every family that's been overlooked by laws  
that fail to account for real-life responsibility and  
sacrifice.

Detective Familia gave her life in  
service to the City. Genesis gave hers to her  
siblings. And our system must reflect that. I urge my  
colleagues to vote 'yes' on this Home Rule. Thank  
you.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Thank you very much,  
Majority Leader, I just want to really credit and  
thank you, as well as Council Members Sanchez and  
Dinowitz, for their leadership on this important  
issue for Detective Familia and her family, and to  
support Genesis in this way.

Hold on one second, we're about to do the  
roll call vote. Give me two seconds. (LAUGHS) This is  
the process. So I just want to thank everyone. This

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is a critically important Home Rule, and I'm hopeful  
we'll get it through the legislature.

With that, we'll start the roll call. If  
we could start with Council Member Gennaro?

COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,  
Committee Clerk; roll call vote Committee on  
Governmental Operations, State & Federal Legislation.  
All items are coupled.

Council Member Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Can people hear  
me?

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Okay. I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, sir. Council  
Member Gennaro votes aye on all remotely, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: We'll see you later.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Chair Restler?

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: I will be voting aye  
on all today. But I do just want to take a moment to  
express that I have serious reservations about M 144.  
I do think that merits a vote on the floor. So I am  
supporting it coming out of Committee. But I have

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serious concerns about this project. And I will make  
those clear later on today.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye. And I  
want to express the same sentiments as the Chair.  
Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member  
Gutiérrez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye, except for M  
144.

COMMITTEE CLERK: (INAUDIBLE) 144?

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: M 144?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: No on it, thank  
you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Schulman?

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye on all,  
except for M 144, and I share the concerns expressed  
by Council Member Restler, uh, Chair Restler, and  
Council Member Brewer.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

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Council Member Carr?

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: I will be voting no  
on M 144 and M 145, as well as SLR 6 and SLR 12. I  
vote aye on all the rest.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

(PAUSE)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Vernikov?

COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Thank you, aye  
on all, except M 145, SLR 6, and SLR 12, on which I  
vote no, thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, one moment.

(PAUSE)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: I vote no on M  
0144, I vote no on M 0145, I vote no on SLR 6, and I  
vote no on T-2025-3664, in which I vote no.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: (INAUDIBLE)

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: What was that?

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: This is the  
(INAUDIBLE)

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Oh, I-- okay,  
SLR 6, I thought I said.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: In reference to the  
CCRB, correct?

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: (INAUDIBLE)

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Where do you see  
12?

COMMITTEE CLERK: That's fine.

UNKNOWN: (INAUDIBLE)

COMMITTEE CLERK: I got it.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Okay, you got  
that.

COMMITTEE CLERK: I got it. We got it.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: You got it. Are  
we good, Billy?

COMMITTEE CLERK: (INAUDIBLE)

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Okay, good.

COMMITTEE CLERK: (INAUDIBLE)... (CROSS-  
TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: All right, and  
aye on all the rest, thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: I got you, thank you.  
One moment... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Thank you, Council  
Member. Is that nine?

COMMITTEE CLERK: Okay, thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: And with that...

COMMITTEE CLERK: So, all items have been adopted by the Committee by nine in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no abstentions, with the exception of the following: M 144 was adopted by the Committee by five in the affirmative, four in the negative, and no abstentions; and M 145, SLR 6, and SLR 12 have been adopted by the Committee with six in the affirmative, three in the negative, and no abstentions. All items have passed out of Committee.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: And with that, we will adjourn. Thank you all. [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 July 17, 2025