

THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

OF THE

THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

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Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Start: 11:10 a.m.

Recess: 11:17 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Hon. Yusef Salaam, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joann Ariola
Diana I. Ayala
Tiffany Cabán
Carmen N. De La Rosa
Robert F. Holden
Rita C. Joseph
Christopher Marte
Chi A. Ossé
Carlina Rivera
Althea V. Stevens

THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
A P P E A R A N C E S
(NONE)

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2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Quiet down, please. Okay. Good
3 morning, and welcome to today's New York City Council
4 Hearing vote for the Committee on Public Safety. At
5 this time we ask that you silence all electronic
6 devices, and at no time are you to approach the dais.

7 Chair Salaam, we are ready to begin.

8 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Good morning, I'm Council
9 Member Yusef Salaam, Chair to the Committee on Public
10 Safety.

11 Today, the Committee will be voting on Proposed
12 Resolution 414-A, sponsored by Council Member Sandy
13 Nurse; Proposed Resolution 415-A, a sponsored by
14 Public Advocate Jumaane Williams; and Proposed
15 Resolution 417-A, sponsored by Council Member Kevin
16 Riley.

17 Preconsidered Resolution 414-A, calls on the New
18 York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to
19 sign S.3746, requiring at least one member of the
20 State Board of Parole be a formerly incarcerated
21 person.

22 The State Board of Parole plays a crucial role in
23 determining whether eligible incarcerated individuals
24 are released from prison due to their successful
25 rehabilitation while incarcerated and readiness to

1
2 rejoin society. However, the Board has faced
3 criticism for denying a significant percentage of
4 parole applications raising concerns about fairness
5 and about the lack of diversity... I'm sorry – about
6 the lack of diverse perspectives in decision making.

7 This Resolution calls for the passage of S.3746,
8 which would amend the State Law to require that at
9 least one member of the Board of Parole be a formerly
10 incarcerated person– that aims to promote fairness,
11 empathy, and a more just parole process.

12 Preconsidered Resolution 415-A, calls on the New
13 York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to
14 sign, S.2240/A.5414, which would remove the lifetime
15 ban on jury duty for convicted felons. Under the
16 current New York State law, individuals convicted of
17 a felony are permanently disqualified from serving on
18 a jury regardless of the nature of their offense or
19 the time that has passed since their conviction. This
20 policy disproportionality impacts Black people in
21 particular and Brown people in general who have had
22 felony convictions at significantly higher rates than
23 white individuals and can result in juries that do
24 not accurately reflect the community from which they
25 serve. By eliminating this lifetime ban on jury

1 service for individuals convicted of felonies, the
2 legislation seeks to expand civic participation for
3 formerly incarcerated individuals and ensure more
4 diverse and representative jury pools in New York
5 courts.
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7 Finally, Preconsidered Resolution Number 417-A,
8 sponsored by Council Member Riley, calling on the New
9 York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to
10 sign A.4246, in relation to the return of fines,
11 restitution, and reparation payments where there was
12 an unjust conviction in a timely manner.

13 Individuals convicted of crimes are often
14 required to pay substantial fines restitution and
15 other monetary fees as a condition of their
16 convictions. Currently, New York State law lacks
17 provisions to facilitate the prompt reimbursement of
18 these financial penalties for individuals who are
19 wrongfully convicted. This delay in repayment of
20 penalties can exacerbate the financial hardship
21 experienced by individuals after they're released due
22 to a wrongful conviction. This resolution seeks to
23 support a State bill that will require the exonerated
24 individuals receive a refund of all court fees and
25 fines within ninety days of the overturning of their

1 conviction. I urge my colleagues to support these
2 resolutions which aim to promote fairness and
3 accountability in our state's criminal justice
4 system.

5 And now I ask that the Clerk conduct the vote.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, William Martin,
7 Committee Clerk; roll call vote Committee on Public
8 Safety, all items are coupled.

9 Chair Salaam?

10 CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: I vote aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ayala?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Holden?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: (NO RESPONSE)

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Rivera?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

20 Council Member De La Rosa?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: (UN-MIC'D) Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Marte?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Ariola?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I am a no on Resos 414-A
and 415-A and aye on the rest.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

Thank you, one moment.

(PAUSE)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Holden?

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Uh, I vote no on Resos
414-A and 415-A and aye on the rest.

COMMITTEE CLERK: The following results,
Resolution 417-A has been adopted by the Committee
with 11 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no
abstentions; and Preconsidered Resolutions 414-A and
415-A have been adopted by a the Committee with 9 in
the affirmative, 2 in the negative, and no
abstentions.

Mr. Chair, that is a full committee.

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THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

CHAIRPERSON SALAAM: Thank you, this hearing is
now closed.

(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 April 1, 2025