

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND
INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP ORGANIZATIONS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS,
LIBRARIES AND INTERNATIONAL
INTERGROUP ORGANIZATIONS

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October 29, 2025
Start: 10:26 a.m.
Recess: 10:32 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING
ROOM 3

B E F O R E: Erik D. Bottcher, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

David M. Carr
Shahana Hanif
Kamillah M. Hanks
Crystal Hudson
Farrah N. Louis
Chi A. Ossé
Nantasha M. Williams

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A P P E A R A N C E S

Khadim Thiam, One Strong Brotherhood

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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
check for the Committee on Cultural Affairs,
Libraries, International Intergroup Organizations,
here on HR3, recorded on October 29, 2025, by Pat
Kurzyna.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. Welcome
to the New York City Council Committee on Cultural
Affairs, Libraries and International Relations.

Please place your phone on vibrate or
silent mode.

Chair, we are ready to begin.

CHAIRPERSON BOTTCHER: [GAVEL] Good
morning. I'm Council Member Eric Bottcher, Chair of
the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and
International Intergroup Relations.

Today, the Council will hear and vote on
Proposed Resolution Number 969-A, sponsored by
Council Member Kevin Riley, which would designate
October annually as Black Boy Joy Month in the City
of New York to celebrate the resilience,
intelligence, creativity, and potential of young
black males.

I would now like to ask Council Member
Riley to provide remarks on his Resolution.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you so much,
Chair Bottcher. Thank you to my Colleagues here this
morning.

Resolution 969-A, designation for October
as Black Boy Joy Month in the City of New York, a
celebration, as the Chair stated, of resiliency,
intelligence, creativity, and potential of our young
black men. This resolution is about reclaiming the
narrative, it's about affirming that our young men
are not defined by statistics or stereotypes, but by
their brilliance, their leadership, and their
limitless potential. I especially want to recognize
Khadim and the rest of the One Strong Brotherhood, 10
young men from Hunter College, who transformed social
media into a space for empowerment by living freely
and authentically. They reminded the world that joy
is not a distraction from struggle, it's an act of
resistance and the declaration of worth. Their
movement sparked this legislation, proving that civic
impact can begin with self-expression, and that the
next generation has the power to turn social
influence into social change. Today we affirm that
joy is transformational, it heals, it uplifts, and it
builds community.

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Thank you, Chair Bottcher, and I urge my
Colleagues to vote in favor of this Resolution.

CHAIRPERSON BOTTCHER: Thank you, Council
Member Riley.

I would like to thank my team in District
3, as well as the Committee Staff who worked on
preparing this legislation, including Christina
Yellamaty, the Committee's Counsel; Regina Paul, the
Committee's Senior Policy Analyst who also drafted
the Resolution; and Sandra Gray, the Committee's
Financial Analyst.

I now open hearing for public testimony.
I remind members of the public that this is a formal
government proceeding and that decorum shall be
observed at all times. As such, members of the public
shall remain silent at all times.

The witness table is reserved for people
who wish to testify. No video recording or
photography is allowed from the witness table.
Further, members of the public may not present audio
or video recordings as testimony, but may submit
transcripts of such recordings to the Sergeant-at-
Arms for inclusion in the hearing record.

If you wish to speak at today's hearing, please fill out an appearance card with the Sergeant-at-Arms and wait to be recognized. When recognized, you will have two minutes to speak on today's hearing topic, Proposed Resolution 696-A. If you have a written statement or additional written testimony you wish to submit for the record, please find a copy of that testimony to the Sergeant-at-Arms.

I now call the witnesses.

Khadim Thiam.

KHADIM THIAM: Hello, hello. Okay. Good morning, everyone, and thank you, Committee Chair Bottcher and all the Council Members here today. My name is Khadim Thiam, and I'm also with Obubakar Kebe (phonetic), and we're representing... hello, hello.

Hello, okay. Yeah, my name is Kadeem Thiam, and I'm also with Obubakar Kebe, and we're representing It's Always Be, aka One Strong Brotherhood, aka Outside Boys. We are a group of creators who built a movement around something one would call Black Boy Joy. Black Boy Joy is more than a phrase. It's a movement about redefining how the world sees Black men, starting with how we see ourselves, and we're honored that the greatest city

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in the world recognizes the joy that we live and
share every day. We thank Council Member Riley and
the New York City Council for seeing us, believing in
us, and helping make Black Boy Joy part of our city
story to be forever celebrated in the month of
October. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BOTTCHER: Thank you so much
for your testimony.

We are ready for the vote.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
vote, Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and
International Intergroup Organizations. Proposed
Resolution 969-A.

Chair Bottcher.

CHAIRPERSON BOTTCHER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Louis.

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all.

Congratulations to Chair Bottcher and Council Member
Riley.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanif.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanks.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: I vote aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hudson.

COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye.

Congratulations to Council Member Riley, and thank
you for your testimony.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ossé.

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ung.

Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Yes. We love

Black Boy Joy, and thank you to my brother for doing
this. Congrats, and I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Carr.

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: With congratulations
to Council Member Riley and the advocates, I vote
aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
vote of eight in the affirmative, zero in the
negative, and no abstentions, item has been adopted
by the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON BOTTCHER: [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 interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date November 3, 2025