

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR

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September 25, 2025

Start: 9:33 a.m.

Recess: 9:38 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING  
ROOM 1

B E F O R E: Carmen N. De La Rosa, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Tiffany Cabán  
Erik D. Bottcher  
Eric Dinowitz  
Oswald Feliz  
Julie Menin  
Francisco P. Moya  
Yusef Salaam

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Amanda Farías

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone  
3 check on the vote on the Committee of Civil Service  
4 and Labor recorded in Hearing Room 1, recorded by  
5 James Marino on September 25, 2025.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and  
7 welcome to the New York City Council vote of the  
8 Committee on Civil Service and Labor.

9 At this time, can everybody please  
10 silence your cell phones.

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: [GAVEL] Good  
13 morning. Welcome to today's vote of the Civil Service  
14 and Labor Committee. I am Council Member Carmen De La  
15 Rosa, Chair of the Committee.

16 Resolution 860, sponsored by Majority  
17 Leader Farías, calls upon the New York City  
18 Department of Citywide Administrative Services to  
19 develop and implement a qualifying practical exam for  
20 painters as part of the civil service testing  
21 process. Right now, applicants are judged only on a  
22 written multiple choice test. This measure would add  
23 a hands-on practical exam to ensure candidates can  
24 demonstrate real-world skills like surface  
25 preparation, paint mixing, and tool use before

they're certified to work on City projects. It also recommends expanding credited experience for graduates of union apprenticeship programs and clarifying how part-time work is counted. The precision that is required by painters in the city is a high bar. They are entrusted to serve public housing shelters, municipal workspaces, and other necessary infrastructure that is managed by the City. By implementing a dual assessment system for these positions, the City can continue to effectively and safely employ individuals who make our communities beautiful. By raising professional standards and ensuring competency, this resolution helps protect the quality and safety of painting work across the city. I'm proud to have signed on to this Resolution, and I urge my Colleagues to do the same and support today's vote.

I'd like to thank Committee Staff, Policy Analyst Elizabeth Arzt; Senior Legislative Counsel Rie Ogasawara for their hard work in preparing for this vote, as well as my Staff.

I now turn it over to Majority Leader Farías for a statement in support of her resolution.

MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you, Chair, and my Colleagues who co-sponsored and supported this resolution through this process. I want to also recognize the Council Staff for their diligent work behind the scenes, and I especially want to thank the DC9 Painters Union, whose advocacy and technical expertise have been essential in shaping it.

Resolution 860 speaks directly to how New York City certifies its municipal painters. At present, the Department of Citywide Administrative Services relies almost entirely on a written multiple-choice exam. While such an exam may test theoretical knowledge, it does not verify the practical skills required to perform this trade at the standard New Yorkers deserve. Painting is a technical discipline with a critical impact on the safety of our residents and the durability of our buildings. It requires the ability to prepare and repair surfaces so coating adhere properly, primers that prevent corrosion, to use fire-resistant and environmentally safe materials, and to follow OSHA protocols that protect both workers and the public. When these steps are done incorrectly, the results are costly and dangerous. Coatings fail prematurely,

corrosion spreads, molds and water damage develop, and taxpayer-funded projects must be redone. Resolution 860 calls on DCAS to adopt a practical, hands-on examination for municipal painters, bringing this profession in line with other trades, such as plumbing and electrical work, where demonstrated ability is already a requirement. This will ensure that new hires are certified not just by what they know on paper, but what they can perform in practice. The resolution also strengthens fairness and recognition. It ensures that part-time municipal workers receive proper credit for their hours of service. It affirms the rigor of unionized apprenticeship models, which combine classroom instruction with years of supervised on-the-job training, and it acknowledges that those graduates meet the highest professional standards in their field. This legislation is about accountability, quality, and respect. It protects our infrastructure, preserves taxpayer resources, and honors the skilled tradespeople who maintain our city every day. By adopting this resolution, New York City's civil service will reflect the highest standards of professionalism. I respectfully urge my Colleagues to

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2 support Reso. 860. Thank you again to Chair De La  
3 Rosa, DC9, to Devon Lomax specifically, also my  
4 Legislative Associate, Dan Curtin, and the Committee  
5 Staff for advancing this resolution, and to all the  
6 painters and trades workers whose expertise keep our  
7 city running. Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you,  
9 Majority Leader. I also join you in congratulating  
10 DC9 and the painters on this resolution.

11 I will now turn to the Clerk to call the  
12 roll.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
14 you. Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk.  
15 Roll call vote, Committee on Civil Service and Labor,  
16 on Resolution 860. Chair De La Rosa.

17 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Moya.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
21 you. Dinowitz.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Feliz.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all.  
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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
3 you. Bottcher.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye on all.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanks.  
6 Menin.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Salaam.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: I vote aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
11 you. Cabán.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: I vote aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
14 you.

15 With a vote of eight in the affirmative,  
16 zero in the negative, and no abstentions, Resolution  
17 has been adopted by the Committee.

18 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you all for  
19 your patience. Congrats, Majority Leader.

20 With that, we are closing today's  
21 hearing. Thank you. [GAVEL]

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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 September 30, 2025