

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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December 19, 2024
Start: 11:11 a.m.
Recess: 11:18 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Rita C. Joseph
Amanda Farías

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Sound check for the
3 Committee on Civil Service and Labor. Today's date is
4 December 19, 2024, being recorded by Danny Huang and
5 the Council Chambers.

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

9 At this time, we ask that you silence all
10 electronic devices and at no time are you to approach
11 the dais.

12 Chair De La Rosa, we're ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: [GAVEL] Good
14 morning. I'm Council Member Carmen De La Rosa, Chair
15 of the Committee on Civil Service and Labor. Today
16 the Committee will be voting on the following
17 legislative items ahead of the Council's final Stated
18 Meeting of 2024. Proposed Intro. 265-A, sponsored by
19 Council Member Joseph, which would improve benefits,
20 enrollment process for City employees; Resolution
21 521, sponsored by Majority Leader Amanda Fariás,
22 which calls on the United States Department of Labor
23 to expand the number of OSHA authorized outreach
24 trainers in New York City to 10 designated languages;
25 and Resolution 522, sponsored by Council Member Julie

2 Menin, which calls on the New York State Legislature
3 to pass and the Governor to sign A10225, also known
4 as the Good Jobs Guarantee Act, which would establish
5 certain workforce training programs and increase
6 employment opportunities for New Yorkers.

7 These bills and resolutions are designed
8 to expand and strengthen our municipal workforce.
9 Over the past year, the Committee has tackled
10 critical issues affecting municipal workers,
11 including pay disparities, high vacancy rates, and
12 the administration of employee benefits. Together,
13 this Committee and this Council have advanced robust
14 legislation to improve the City and its workforce,
15 and we will remain committed to building on this
16 progress in 2025. I'd like to thank the Committee
17 staff, Senior Policy Analyst Elizabeth Arzt,
18 Legislative Counsel Rie Ogasawara, and Finance
19 Analyst Michael Sherman for their work in preparing
20 for this vote. I'd also like to thank my Staff,
21 Chief-of-Staff James Burke, Legislative Director
22 Kiana Diaz, and Comms Director Fray Familia.

23 I would like to recognize that we've been
24 joined by Council Members Bottcher, Joseph, Salaam,
25 Majority Leader Farías, Council Member Dinowitz,

2 Council Member Hanks, and on Zoom, Council Members
3 Cabán, Menin, Moya, and Feliz.

4 I now turn to Majority Leader Farías for
5 her remarks on Resolution 521.

6 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you so
7 much, Chair De La Rosa.

8 Reso. 521 calls on the U.S. Department of
9 Labor to expand the number of Occupational Safety and
10 Health Administration, OSHA, authorized trainings and
11 trainers in the 10 designated languages spoken across
12 New York City. For many immigrant workers,
13 particularly in construction and other hazardous
14 industries, lack of access to safety training in
15 their native language can be a matter of life or
16 death. By calling for more trainers in multiple
17 languages, we are taking an important step toward
18 making sure immigrant workers can receive the
19 critical safety training they need, training that
20 complies with New York City's site safety training
21 and OSHA standards. In industries where safety risks
22 are high, especially construction, language barriers
23 should never be the reason workers are not adequately
24 trained, or worse, result in injury or death.
25 Expanding language access to OSHA trainers ensures

2 that every worker, regardless of the language they
3 speak, can stay safe on the job. Thank you so much to
4 the Chair for allowing me time to speak on the
5 resolution. I urge my Colleagues to vote yes and to
6 sign on for passing this important resolution today
7 and I look forward to the result. Thank you so much.

8 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you so
9 much, Majority Leader.

10 Now we turn to Council Member Joseph for
11 remarks.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you, Chair
13 De La Rosa and Members of the Committee on Civil
14 Service and Labor.

15 Today, I'm proud that my bill, Intro.
16 265-A, Local Law to Amend Administrative Code of the
17 City of New York in relations to health insurance for
18 City employees is being voted on in the committee.
19 Intro. 265 aims to require City agencies to expedite
20 the processing of health insurance coverage for
21 employees transferring between agencies. This ensures
22 there are no lapse in coverage during such
23 transitions. I have firsthand experience with this
24 issue when City employees transfer from one agency to
25 another. They often experience a gap in health

2 insurance coverage. This is unacceptable as health
3 insurance is essential for their well-being and in
4 some cases, their survival. I urge you vote yes on
5 this bill, a problem that has affected hundreds of
6 City employees, including myself, over the years.

7 I want to thank my Colleagues on the
8 council for their support as well as my Staff and the
9 Council Team for their hard work in getting us to
10 this point. Thank you, Chair De La Rosa.

11 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you so
12 much.

13 I now turn to the Clerk to call the roll.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
15 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
16 vote, Committee on Civil Service and Labor. All items
17 are coupled. Chair De La Rosa.

18 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Moya.
20 Council Member Cabán.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye. Thank you.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
23 you. Dinowitz.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Feliz.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye.

3 Congratulations, everyone.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
5 you. Bottcher.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanks.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: I vote aye.

9 Congratulations, everyone. Great bills.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Menin.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye. Thank you.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
13 you. Salaam.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: I vote aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
16 vote of eight in the affirmative, zero in the
17 negative, and no abstentions, all items have been
18 adopted by the Committee.

19 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: We'll hold the
20 vote open.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: The roll
22 will be held open at request of the Chair.

23 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you all so
24 much. Happy holidays.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

3 Continuation roll call, Committee on Civil Service
4 and Labor. Council Member Moya.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
7 you. Final vote is now nine in the affirmative, zero
8 in the negative, and no abstentions.

9 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you all.

10 This meeting is adjourned. [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 December 23, 2024