

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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June 22, 2023
Start: 11:20 a.m.
Recess: 11:48 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Shekar Krishnan, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

David M. Carr
Eric Dinowitz
Robert F. Holden
Linda Lee
Julie Menin
Francisco P. Moya
Mercedes Narcisse
Sandra Ung
Marjorie Velazquez

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a sound check
3 for the Committee on Parks and Recreation. Today's
4 date is June 22, 2023. Being recorded by Danny Huong
5 (phonetic) in the Committee Room.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
7 welcome to the New York City Council vote of the
8 Committee on Parks and Recreation.

9 At this time, can everyone please silence
10 your cell phones? Thank you for your cooperation.

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: [GAVEL] Thank you
13 so much, Sergeant.

14 Good morning, everyone. I am Shekar
15 Krishnan, Chair of the Committee on Parks and
16 Recreation.

17 Today, the Committee will vote on three
18 pieces of legislation. First, Proposed Intro. 7-A
19 sponsored by Council Member Ayala would require the
20 City to make memberships for recreation centers free
21 for young adults between 18 and 24 years old. This
22 would help increase youth participation in rec center
23 activities since young adults would no longer be
24 required to pay the yearly 25-dollar fee. We first

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2 considered this bill at a Parks Committee hearing on
3 March 1st of this year.

4 Second, Proposed Intro. 227-A is
5 sponsored by Council Member Brewer. Currently, other
6 than within the supportive documents we draft for
7 each Local Law, there is no easily accessible
8 biographical or background information for ceremonial
9 street co-names or even official name changes that
10 are posted on any City agency website. Intro. 227-A
11 would improve this by requiring an agency or office
12 designated by the Mayor to publish on its website
13 biographical information pertaining to all street and
14 park name changes. This bill was first considered at
15 a Parks Committee hearing on June 7, 2022.

16 Finally, apropos, we'll consider a bill
17 that would ceremonially co-name 112 thoroughfares and
18 public places throughout the City. This bill was
19 first considered by the Committee last week at a
20 hearing on June 13th. Of the many honorees proposed
21 by this piece of legislation, I'd like to call
22 attention to a couple of co-namings that I am proud
23 to have sponsored.

24 My first nomination is for Janet Kelly
25 who was an important civic leader in my District. She

2 served as the Director of the Jackson Heights
3 Beautification Group and was the leader of the Garden
4 Club which was very involved in beautifying the
5 community and improving 34th Avenue (INAUDIBLE)
6 street. She was also active in so many various
7 community activities, and she was the founder of the
8 Jackson Heights Knitting Group, taught knitting at
9 the Catherine Sheridan Senior Center, and was the key
10 organizer of the Annual Jackson Heights Childrens
11 Halloween Parade.

12 My other nomination is for Mike Crowley
13 who was the founding member and President of the
14 Jackson Heights Beautification Group. Under his
15 leadership, JHBG helped to landmark Jackson Heights
16 as a historic district. He was instrumental in so
17 many other activities that helped to improve our
18 community in so many ways, including establishing the
19 first ever community-based anti-graffiti program in
20 the city, the JHBG Architecture and Good Neighbor
21 Awards, the JHBG Halloween Parade, the Garden Club,
22 and created the Friends of Travers Park and a
23 community newsletter that we still receive to this
24 day.

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2 I'd like to welcome all who have come to
3 participate in this hearing, and I urge all of my
4 Colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation
5 before us.

6 I'd also like to announce the Members who
7 are here. We have Council Member Holden virtually,
8 Council Member Moya virtually, Council Member Lee,
9 Council Member Menin, Council Member Narcisse,
10 Council Member Ung, Council Member Velazquez, and
11 Council Member Carr.

12 Now, I'd like to open up the floor to any
13 of the Members who want to say a few words.

14 Seeing none, I'd ask the Clerk to take a
15 roll call for the vote.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
17 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
18 vote Committee on Parks and Recreation. Items are
19 coupled. Chair Krishnana.

20 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Aye on all.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Holden.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
24 you. Moya.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
3 you. Dinowitz. Lee.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Marte.
6 Menin.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.
11 Ung.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

14 Velazquez.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VELAZQUEZ: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Carr.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: By a vote of nine in
18 the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
19 abstentions, all items have been adopted by the
20 Committee.

21 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much.

22 I'd ask the Clerk to hold the vote open.

23 Thank you, everyone.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Reopening
3 the Committee on Parks and Recreation. Chair
4 Krishnan.

5 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: The hearing is now
6 reopening for Council Member Dinowitz.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: What service.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:
9 Introduction 7-A, 227-A, and Preconsidered
10 Introduction. Council Member Dinowitz.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Permission to
12 explain my vote.

13 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Yes.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Thank you so
15 much, Chair.

16 I've introduced and we're voting on today
17 a very important street co-naming for my community in
18 the Northwest Bronx (INAUDIBLE) That's Lloyd's Carrot
19 Cake. He's one of the greatest institutions in the
20 Bronx and in New York City and, dare I say, the
21 country. Betty Campbell-Adams and Lloyd Adams, a
22 typical story. Lloyd Adams bought a pizza oven and
23 started baking carrot cakes in Betty Campbell-Adams'
24 basement and would sell the cakes and eventually
25 would do wholesale and eventually open a store on

2 Broadway across from Van Cortlandt Park, opened up a
3 second location in Harlem, but what makes I think
4 their store and their lives so incredible isn't just
5 that they've made a successful store that really is
6 well-known across the country, people come from all
7 over to buy their delicious cakes, it really is that
8 they were part of the fabric of the community, and
9 they recognized that the business wasn't just about
10 the business, it wasn't just about making good food,
11 it was about the people that they served, and there
12 wasn't a community event, a civic organization that
13 they weren't involved in, doing work to uplift the
14 entire community. When people would go to track meets
15 at Van Cortlandt Park across the street, they'd be
16 there with their cakes afterwards and, although the
17 community groups often got treated to the cupcakes
18 and the carrot cakes, they donated their time and
19 their money to make sure that the community in the
20 Northwest Bronx was really a place that fostered
21 growth not just for businesses but for kids and for
22 young adults to really be their best selves so I'm
23 very excited to be introducing this and to be voting
24 on this street co-naming today.

2 I would also be remiss if I did not
3 mention Sylvia Lask. Sylvia Lask, the street co-
4 naming introduced by Council Member Velazquez. Sylvia
5 Lask I've known since I was zero. She was a friend of
6 my family long before I was born, and she was a
7 fierce advocate really, really close until the day
8 she died for mental health. Traveling up to Albany
9 day-in and day-out more than anyone would want to,
10 but she did because she knew fighting for mental
11 health and mental health education was critical to
12 the future of New York City. She was a fighter until
13 the very end, but she wasn't just about the big
14 issues like mental health. She never failed to give a
15 phone call when something great happened or something
16 tragic happened. Every single year, I would receive a
17 birthday call in the mail from her, and, when I had
18 kids, she subsequently sent them birthday cards every
19 single year, and so today we're voting on two very
20 well-deserved street co-namings.

21 With that, I vote aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
23 you. Vote is now currently at 10 in the affirmative.

24 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much,
25 Council Member Dinowitz. The Committee is

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2 disappointed that while you came late you did not
3 bring us carrot cake with you, but maybe next time.

4 On that note, the hearing is now closed.

5 Thank you very much.

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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 June 28, 2023