

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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February 24, 2026
Start: 12:04 p.m.
Recess: 12:08 p.m.

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

B E F O R E: Lincoln Restler, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gale A. Brewer
Kamillah M. Hanks
Althea V. Stevens
Inna Vernikov
Julie Won

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a pre-recording
3 microphone test for the Committee on Contracts.
4 Today's date is February 24th. Recorded in Hearing
5 Room 3 by Dain Hope.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. Welcome
7 to today's New York City Council Vote for the
8 Committee on Contracts.

9 Please silence all cell phone and
10 electronic devices and do not approach the dais.

11 Chair Restler, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: [GAVEL] Good
13 afternoon. I would like to thank you all for joining
14 us today. My name is Lincoln Restler. I have the
15 great privilege of Chairing our Committee on
16 Contracts. I'd like to start by thanking my
17 Colleagues who are here, Council Member Althea
18 Stevens from the Bronx, Council Member Gale Brewer
19 from the Upper West Side, Council Member and Majority
20 Whip Kamillah Hanks from the North Shore, and on
21 time, Council Member Inna Vernikov from Brooklyn.
22 It's good to have you all here. Brooklyn. Always.
23 With too much Brooklyn pride.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Can you just enter
25 Staten Island into the record?

2 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: The Majority Whip is
3 from the North Shore of Staten Island. Proudly.

4 Council Member Stevens enjoys spending
5 time in her second favorite borough, Brooklyn.

6 At today's hearing, the Committee will be
7 voting on Proposed Intro. Number 2-B, wow, that's a
8 low number, sponsored by our Speaker, Council Member
9 Julie Menin. Intro. 2-B will establish term limits on
10 emergency procurement contracts. This legislation
11 will cap initial emergency contract terms at 90 days,
12 unless the Comptroller and Corporation Counsel have
13 agreed that a longer term is needed to mitigate
14 serious danger or to be able to effectively enact the
15 contract. I think that this exception was an
16 important and smart modification that was made in the
17 final bill to ensure that in a major public health
18 emergency or other similar circumstance, that the
19 Comptroller and Corporation Counsel have the ability
20 to negotiate a longer-term contract with an emergency
21 vendor. Emergency contracting, though, has increased
22 dramatically over the past several years, resulting
23 in unchecked and inefficient spending. This bill will
24 help ensure we work to transition to competitive
25 processes for ongoing emergencies to save money and

2 limit fraud. This will significantly reduce the scale
3 and frequency of no-bid contracts.

4 I want to thank Speaker Menin for her
5 leadership on procurement reform and prioritizing the
6 work of this important committee, and I'd like to
7 recognize the Contracts Committee Staff for their
8 tremendous work on this bill. Senior Counsel Alex
9 Paulenoff; Legislative Counsel Johari Frazier; Policy
10 Analyst Alex Yablon; and Financial Analyst Owen
11 Kotowski. The Contracts Committee Staff do terrific
12 work. We're very fortunate to have them.

13 With that, I'd like to ask the Clerk to
14 call the roll. We are waiting on the Clerk, but we're
15 hanging. I saw him outside, maybe downstairs. He was
16 talking to Ann.

17 And Council Member Won is on Zoom. Hope
18 everything is going well on Sunnyside.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Any comments that
21 anyone would like to make on the bill today?

22 Oh, my gosh, look who's back. Welcome
23 back. We missed you. He's had a long morning. We gave
24 him a little break, but now he's back.

25 Did you take the stairs?

1 COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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2 All right, good. We are ready for the
3 Clerk to call the roll.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

5 Greetings. Thank you, everyone. Pardon. William
6 Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call vote, Committee on
7 Contracts. Proposed Introduction 2-B.

8 Chair Restler.

9 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Gennaro.
11 Brewer.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanks.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Won.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
20 you.

21 Vernikov.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
24 vote of six in the affirmative, zero in the negative
25 and no abstentions, item is adopted by the Committee.

2 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: With that, we will
3 adjourn the meeting and formally welcome back Andrea
4 Vazquez. We missed her very much. Okay. [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 February 25, 2026