

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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December 18, 2025

Start: 12:24 p.m.

Recess: 12:30 p.m.

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

B E F O R E: Amanda Farías, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alexa Avilés
Erik D. Bottcher
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Kevin C. Riley
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Inna Vernikov

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check on the Committee on Economic Development,
4 recorded by James Marino on December 18, 2025, in HR
5 3.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good afternoon, good
7 afternoon. Welcome to the New York City Council vote
8 on the Committee on Economic Development.

9 At this time, please silence all
10 electronics and do not approach the dais.

11 Thank you for your cooperation.

12 Chair, you may begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON FARIÁS: Good morning. Today
14 is Thursday, December 18, 2025. My name is Amanda
15 Fariás, and I'm honored to Chair what will be the
16 final meeting of the Committee on Economic
17 Development in this Council session. Thank you to all
18 my Colleagues for being here as we take this
19 important step forward.

20 I'd like to note that we've been joined
21 by Council Members Bottcher, Gutiérrez, Vernikov,
22 Salamanca, and Riley.

23 Today, we will vote on two amended bills
24 that emerged from our oversight hearing in October
25 and via subsequent negotiations with the

Administration. Both of these bills, Proposed Introduction 1121-A and Proposed Introduction 1149-A, represent meaningful progress towards a more equitable and inclusive New York City Ferry system. Proposed Introduction 1121-A, which I introduced, would extend the New York City Ferry reduced fare benefit to middle school students in grades six through eight when traveling to or from school. This legislation builds upon the reduced fares for high school students that we secured in 2023 and ensures that younger students and their families are not left behind. This bill makes sure that safe, affordable...

GALLERY: (INAUDIBLE)

CHAIRPERSON FARÍAS: We're not going to have any interruptions in the gallery.

GALLERY: (INAUDIBLE)

Sergeants, please remove her from the hearing. You need to be removed because you are not remaining silent.

GALLERY: (INAUDIBLE)

CHAIRPERSON FARÍAS: We absolutely are.

Okay, folks, I'm going to start that paragraph over.

Proposed Introduction 1121-A... Sergeants, please close the door so we no longer have any more interruptions.

Proposed Introduction 1121-A, which I introduced, would extend the New York City Ferry reduced fare benefits to middle school students in grades six through eight when traveling to or from school. This legislation builds upon the reduced fares for high school students that we secured in 2023 and ensures that younger students and their families are not left behind. This bill makes sure that safe and affordable ferry commutes are accessible to more New York City children.

Proposed Introduction 1149-A, which I also introduced, would guarantee language accessibility across our ferry system. It would require clear signage and digital access to ferry terminals regarding schedules, fares, and service information in English, Spanish, and locally relevant language as determined by guidance from the Federal Transit Administration. It also requires posting notices in multiple languages reminding riders that the Staten Island Ferry remains free for all. These practical requirements remove real barriers for

limited English proficient New Yorkers and help make our waterways truly accessible to everyone.

As we prepare to vote on these bills, I want to pause and reflect. It has been the privilege and honor of my professional life to serve as Majority Leader and Chair of this Committee over the past four years. Together, we have fought for a city where economic opportunity reaches every corner of our borough, from codifying discounted ferry fares for students, seniors, and low-income New Yorkers, to advancing helicopter noise reduction and community benefit agreements and development projects, to requiring the Economic Development Corporation to publish community impact reports for greater transparency. We've also advanced bills aimed at expanding community hiring, ensuring shore power usage at cruise terminals, and restoring the budget for the city's workforce development programs. Much work remains to be done, but I am proud of what we have achieved during this Council session. I'm deeply grateful to my fellow Committee Members for your partnership, to the advocates who have pushed us to do better, and especially to our extraordinary Committee Staff, Senior Counsel Alex Paulenoff;

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2 Senior Policy Analyst William Hongach; and Finance
3 Analysts Glenn Martelloni and Spencer Kuhn, for your
4 tireless work and unwavering commitment throughout my
5 time as Chair. Thank you all.

6 With that, I'll ask the Clerk to call the
7 roll. Let's grab Billy Martin.

8 Before our Committee Clerk calls roll
9 call, I'd also like to acknowledge we've been joined
10 by Council Member Avilés.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
12 afternoon. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
13 vote, Committee on Economic Development. Both items
14 are coupled.

15 Chair Farías.

16 CHAIRPERSON FARÍAS: I proudly vote aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:
18 Salamanca.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I vote aye on
20 all.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Riley.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Avilés.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye on all.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Bottcher.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

4 Gutiérrez.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Vernikov.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: I vote aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

9 you.

10 With a vote of seven in the affirmative,
11 zero in the negative, no abstentions, both items have
12 been adopted by the Committee.

13 Madam Chair, that is a full Committee.

14 CHAIRPERSON FARÍAS: Thank you so much,
15 and thank you to my Colleagues.

16 This Committee is now 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 29, 2025