

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 Fariás, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

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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 FARÍAS: Good morning. Today
14 is Thursday, December 18, 2025. My name is Amanda
15 Farias, 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

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

14 GALLERY: (INAUDIBLE)

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

17 GALLERY: (INAUDIBLE)

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

21 GALLERY: (INAUDIBLE)

22 CHAIRPERSON FARÍAS: We absolutely are.

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

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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.

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

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

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

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 BOTTCHER: 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