

COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES, ELECTIONS,
STANDARDS AND ETHICS

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES,
ELECTIONS, STANDARDS AND ETHICS

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Thursday, April 16, 2026

Start: 10:05 A.M.

Recess: 10:15 A.M.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - 8th Floor
Hearing Room 2

B E F O R E: Hon. Sandra Ung, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shaun Abreu
Chris Banks
David M. Carr
Elsie Encarnación
Shekar Krishnan
Linda Lee
Kevin C. Riley
Nantasha M. Williams

AND

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SERGEANT CAMERON: This is a test for the
Committee on Rules, Privileges, Election Standards,
and Ethics. Today's date is April 16th, 2026;
recorded by Preston Cameron in HR-2.

CHAIRPERSON UNG: Before we begin, I would
like to recognize other members of the committee who
are present: Council Member Riley, Council Member
Krishnan, Council Member Lee, Council Member
Encarnación, and Deputy Speaker Natasha Williams,
Minority Leader David Carr, and Majority Leader
Shaun Abreu.

I would also like to acknowledge the
Counsel to the Committee, Jeff Campanga, and the
committee staff that worked on the matters before the
Committee today: Director of Public Integrity
Francesca DellaVecchia, Deputy Director of Public
Integrity Alycia Vasell, and Chief Ethics Counsel
Pearl Moore.

On April 6th, this committee held a
public hearing on the Mayor's request for advice and
consent in connection with the proposed appointment
of Nadia Shihata to be the Commissioner of the
Department of Investigations.

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The Department of Investigations is one of the oldest law enforcement agencies in the United States. The State Legislature established it in 1873 following the massive corruption scandals involving the then-mayor and (INAUDIBLE) Tammany Hall. Its commissioner is empowered to investigate any city agency, official, employee, or person doing business with the City for evidence of waste, fraud, corruption, criminal activities, or violation of the City's conflict of interest laws. Because it is a law enforcement agency, the Charter requires that a commissioner have at least five years of law enforcement experience.

The mayor's nominee, Nadia Shihata, has a stellar resume in that regard. As I mentioned during the April 6th hearing, Ms. Shihata's law enforcement experience includes 11 years spent in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York, which included serving as the Deputy Chief of the Public Integrity Section and the Chief of the Organized Crime and Gangs Section.

Ms. Shihata also worked for almost three years in the International Criminal Tribunal for the

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Former Yugoslavia, where she served as an appeals
counsel in the Office of the Prosecutor.

There is no doubt that Ms. Shihata is
qualified. However, because of the Department of
Investigation's unique mandate to investigate city
officials, including the mayor and the council
members, the Committee took care to investigate Ms.
Shihata's independence. In her response to
pre-hearing written questions, she explained that she
had had a long-standing social relationship with the
Mayor's chief counsel and that she supported the
Mayor's 2025 campaign. Her forthright response
prompted us to ask additional questions during the
public hearing, giving her an opportunity to explain
how she would ensure the DOI remained independent if
confirmed, including that she would recuse herself
from matters when necessary.

Since we have had the opportunity to
consider her qualifications, her response to our
written questions, her testimony, and her candidacy
in its totality, the Committee will now vote on a
resolution approving the appointment by the Mayor of
Nadalia Shihata as a Commissioner of the New York
City Department of Investigations.

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I now call on the Clerk to call the roll.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, William
Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call vote, Committee on
Rules, Privileges, Elections, Standards, and Ethics.

Chair Ung?

CHAIRPERSON UNG: I vote aye.

Council Member Riley?

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Abreu?

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Permission to
explain my vote?

(PAUSE)

CHAIRPERSON UNG: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: I'm proud to
support the nomination of Nadia Shihata, a leader who
has shown she is ready to take on the hard fights. As
a prosecutor in the Eastern District of New York,
Nadia led many critical cases and took on the hard
battles to defend New Yorkers against powerful
interests. She's always carried that same integrity
throughout her career as a lawyer. We all know that
this department needs to do the hard work to move out

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of the Adams administration, the stain of corruption,
and to rebuild from a culture that encouraged
corruption without accountability.

We need a DOI that is unafraid to take on
public corruption, to call out bad landlords and
billionaire corporations taking advantage of New
Yorkers, and to take on any injustice happening in
our city.

The independence of DOI is sacred. It is
a commitment to not be tied to any politician,
corporate interest, or ideology. That will be key as
we rebuild from the prior administration that did
everything to evade accountability.

Nadia has made it clear through the
hearings that the DOI under her leadership will be
the department that isn't afraid to take risks and
the hard fights, that will rebuild city government's
integrity and trust with New Yorkers and solidify and
fight for the department's independence.

With Nadia Shihata at its helm, the DOI
will root out corruption and hold bad actors
accountable so that City Hall can deliver for New
Yorkers.

And with that, I vote aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Lee?

CHAIR MEMBER: LEE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Williams?

DEPUTY SPEAKER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Banks?

CHAIRPERSON BANKS: (NO RESPONSE)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member
Encarnación?

COUNCIL MEMBER ENCARNACIÓN: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Carr.

MINORITY LEADER CARR: Permission to
explain my vote?

CHAIRPERSON UNG: Yes.

MINORITY LEADER CARR: Thank you, Chair.

Good morning, colleagues. You know, we're
here today to consider a very important matter of the
next appointment to Commissioner Investigations' role
in our city. And I think that when we look at the
appointments that come from any particular
administration, there's an expectation, I think, from
the Council that there'd be an alignment with the
Mayor of the day on politics. There may even be close
professional and political relationships with either

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the Mayor or high-ranking members of the
administration.

But I think when it comes to the
selection of the Commissioner of Investigation, it
requires a different assessment from us as Council
Members, one that ensures that the role has
independence, and that there are not such close ties
that, uh, potentially there is a future adversarial
relationship, which may be required by an
investigation with an administration, that it not be
compromised in any way.

And, and so I think that in the instance
here, Ms. Shihata has a number of ties with the chief
legal officer at City Hall, a person with whom there
may be an adversarial relationship later down the
line if an investigation were called upon into this
administration. And I think it's important that the
public be assured that the person who occupies this
role and leads that investigation be sufficiently
independent.

Ms. Shihata is an incredibly
well-credentialed person. I do not question her
credentials, nor do I question her integrity as a

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person or an attorney. I have confidence in her in
that regard.

However, I do feel that she should have
made her several social media accounts available to
the public, or at a minimum, the vetting unit of this
Committee, so that we have an opportunity to examine
her public utterances on policy matters, public
matters.

It may be that those accounts are benign
or anodyne in terms of their content, but we do not
know that at this point. And so given that that is
the case, and my request to the Mayor's Office and to
the appointee at the last hearing were not agreed to.
And I will be voting no on this appointment. Thank
you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Banks?

COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of 8 in the
affirmative, 1 in the negative, and no abstentions,
the item has been adopted by the Committee. And Madam
Chair, that is a full committee.

CHAIRPERSON UNG: This committee is
adjourned.

(PAUSE)

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CHAIRPERSON UNG: [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 no interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date August 13, 2026