

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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March 26, 2026
Start: 10:34 a.m.
Recess: 10:46 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING
ROOM 1

B E F O R E: Sandra Ung, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

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AND ETHICS 2

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Mic check. This is a
3 mic check. This is for the vote on Rules, Privileges,
4 Elections, Standards, and Ethics. Today is March 26,
5 2026. Recorded by Walter Lewis in Hearing Room 1.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and
7 welcome to today's New York City Council vote for the
8 Committee on Rules, Privileges, Elections, Standards,
9 and Ethics.

10 At this time, I would like to remind
11 everyone to silence all electronic devices.

12 Also, at this point going forward, no one
13 is to approach the dais.

14 Chair, we're ready to begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON UNG: Good morning, and
16 welcome to this meeting of the Committee on Rules,
17 Privileges, Elections, Standards, and Ethics. I am
18 Council Member Sandra Ung, Chair of the Committee.
19 Before we begin, I would like to recognize the other
20 Members of this Committee who are present (INAUDIBLE)
21 Encarnación, Carr, Riley, Lee, and Abreu. I also like
to acknowledge the Counsel to the Committee, Jeff
Campagna, and the Committee Staff that worked on the
matters before the Committee today, Director of
Public Integrity Francesca DellaVecchia; Deputy

2 Director of Public Integrity Alycia Vassell; and the
3 Chief Ethics Counsel Pearl Moore.

4 Today, we are voting on two items that
5 the Committee heard on March 12, 2026. We are voting
6 on a Resolution to approve M41, the Mayor's request
7 pursuant to Sections 31 and 2301 of the New York City
8 Charter for the Council's advice and consent in
9 relation to the appointment by the Mayor of Midori
10 Valdivia to serve as a member of the New York City
11 Taxi and Limousine Commissioner for the remainder of
12 a seven-year term that will expire on January 31st,
13 2031. The Mayor has indicated his intent to designate
14 Ms. Valdivia to serve as the Chair of the TLC.

15 We're also voting a resolution to approve
16 M51, a request by the Comptroller pursuant to Section
17 2602 of the New York City Charter for the Council
18 advice and consent regarding the appointment of Wayne
19 G. Hawley to serve the Conflict of Interest Board to
20 serve the remainder of the six-year term that will
21 expire on March 31st, 2028.

I now call on the Clerk to call the roll.

19 COUNCIL CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Matthew
20 DeStefano, Committee Clerk. Committee on Rules,
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AND ETHICS 4

2 Privileges, Elections, Standards and Ethics. Roll
3 call vote. All items are coupled.

4 Chair Ung.

5 CHAIRPERSON UNG: I vote aye.

6 COUNCIL CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Riley.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

8 COUNCIL CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Abreu.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: I vote aye.

10 COUNCIL CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

11 Krishnan. Lee.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

13 COUNCIL CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

14 Williams. Banks. Encarnación.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ENCARNACIÓN: Aye.

16 COUNCIL CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Carr.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Permission to
18 explain my vote?

19 CHAIRPERSON UNG: Yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Thank you, Chair.

21 Just a couple of words about the two
nominees that are before us. With respect to Mr.
Wayne Hawley, I'm really grateful to the Comptroller
for appointing him to continue to serve on the
Conflicts of Interest Board. I think he's somebody

2 who over the course of his career as a leading
3 staffer at that institution and then as a
4 Commissioner, he's shown that he has great wisdom and
5 judgment and experience that should be retained for
6 the benefit of the City at COIB, and I'm very happy
7 to be supporting his appointments to a different spot
8 on the Conflicts of Interest Board, but nonetheless,
9 that will allow him to continue to serve.

10 With respect to Midori Valdivia, who's
11 the Mayor's appointee to the Taxi and Limousine
12 Commission, I have a number of good things I could
13 say about her. I know that in her time at TLC, she
14 made sure Staten Island had its first TLC office,
15 which is actually located in my District. And in
16 particular, her championing of public-private
17 partnerships in her time at the Port Authority, which
18 led to real positive changes, in particular the
19 Goethals Bridge replacement project, which I regard
20 as one of the great public works successes in our
21 region. But despite this, you know, her vote as a
member of the MTA board to impose congestion pricing
on folks coming into most of Manhattan, I think is
not something that I can overlook. I think that it's
something that has imposed significant costs on my

2 constituents in particular, as well as a lot of outer
3 borough and other residents throughout New York City,
4 and it's also being done in the name of financing the
5 MTA's capital plan, which again is not one that
6 reflects borough equity. It is not one that brings
7 investment back to the communities that it's
8 charging. So, I unfortunately will not be able to
9 vote in favor of her appointment today.

10 So, with that being said, I'll be voting
11 no on M41 and aye on the rest.

12 CHAIRPERSON UNG: Thank you.

13 COUNCIL CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Banks.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye on all.

15 COUNCIL CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: By a
16 vote of seven in the affirmative, zero in the
17 negative, and no abstentions, M51 has passed. By a
18 vote of six in the affirmative, one in the negative,
19 and no abstentions, M41 is passed.

20 CHAIRPERSON UNG: I would like to keep the
21 vote open.

COUNCIL CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

Continuation of roll call.

Council Member Krishnan.

COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: I vote aye.

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2 COUNCIL CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Vote
3 stands for M51, eight in the affirmative, zero in the
4 negative, no abstentions. For M41, seven in
5 affirmative, one negative, no abstentions.

6 Committee on Rules, Privileges,
7 Elections, Standards, and Ethics. Continuation of
8 roll call.

9 Council Member Williams.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

11 COUNCIL CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Final
12 vote: M51, nine in the affirmative, zero in the
13 negative, and no abstentions. M41, eight in the
14 affirmative, one negative, and no abstentions.

15 CHAIRPERSON UNG: This meeting is hereby
16 adjourned. [GAVEL]
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5 C E R T I F I C A T E
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8 World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing
9 transcript is a true and accurate record of the
10 proceedings. We further certify that there is no
11 relation to any of the parties to this action by blood
12 or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome
13 of this matter.
14



19 Date April 30, 2026
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