

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

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DECEMBER 8, 2021  
Start: 4:04 P.M.  
Recess: 4:10 P.M.

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING VIRTUAL ROOM 1

B E F O R E: CHAIR STEPHEN LEVIN

COUNCIL MEMBERS: STEPHEN LEVEN  
RUBEN DIAZ  
DARMA DIAZ  
BARRY GRODENCHIK  
BRAD LANDER  
RAFAEL SALAMANCA  
VANESSA GIBSON

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

2 SGT. BRADLEY: PC recording is up.

3 SGT. SADOWSKY: Thank you.

4 SGT. POLITE: Cloud all set.

5 SGT. SADOWSKY: Thank you, and Sergeant  
6 Polite with your opening statement.

7 SGT. POLITE: Thank you. Good afternoon  
8 and welcome to the remote hearing on General Welfare.  
9 Will council members and staff, please turn your  
10 video at this time. Thank you. To minimize  
11 disruption, please place all cell phones and  
12 electronics to vibrate. Chair Levin, we are ready to  
13 begin.

14 CHAIR STEPHEN LEVIN: Thank you very  
15 much, Sergeant. Good afternoon, everybody. I'm  
16 gaveling here. Okay, welcome to this vote on the  
17 City Council's Committee on General Welfare. Today,  
18 the committee will conduct a vote on two Bills that  
19 I'm sponsoring. Proposed Intro 147-A which would  
20 require the Department of Social Services to provide  
21 an annual report on supportive housing and Proposed  
22 Intro 2176-A which will require that a Bill of Right  
23 be distributed supporting housing tenant. Supportive  
24 housing, which began in the 1970s in response to the  
25 homelessness crisis in the New York City is

2 considered the most successful existing model for  
3 ending chronic homelessness among vulnerable  
4 populations. It provides integrated, permanent  
5 housing with services that help people overcome  
6 barriers to maintaining stable housing. While  
7 supportive housing was created to serve the most  
8 vulnerable, some advocates will argue that only the  
9 easiest to serve clients are accepted into the  
10 supportive housing. There are reports of applicants  
11 being denied supportive housing due to their age,  
12 lack of insight into mental illness, not being  
13 compliant with medication, or recent substance  
14 worries and substance abuse. In order to ensure that  
15 we are serving those who need it the most and not  
16 leaving any populations behind, I sponsored Proposed  
17 Intro number 147-A. This Bill will require that DSS  
18 produce an annual report on the number of individuals  
19 eligible for or referred to, accepted to, rejected  
20 for, and still awaiting placement for supportive  
21 housing just aggregated by age, gender, race,  
22 population, category, the average length of time the  
23 client has been homeless, and then clients current  
24 shelter placement or whether the client is an  
25 unsheltered person and the referral source. The Bill

2 would also require DSS to report on the reason a  
3 client has been rejected for placement. This data  
4 will help us all figure out together if there are any  
5 hiccups in the system or groups that are being  
6 underserved. The committee will also hear Proposed  
7 Intro 2176-A which would require DSS to create a  
8 written notice for supportive housing residence of  
9 their rights pursuant to various state and local  
10 laws. The Bill would require every provide of  
11 supportive housing to provide every resident this  
12 notice at the time of an interview, initial  
13 occupancy, at each lease, program agreement and  
14 renewal and upon request. Additionally, the Bill  
15 would provide that any provider who violates the  
16 requirement to provide notice will be liable for a  
17 civil penalty of \$250. This Bill would help to  
18 improve transparency by ensuring every tenant in  
19 supportive housing has their rights made known to  
20 them. I'm a big component of supportive housing and  
21 I want to ensure that supportive housing programs are  
22 successful and reach their target populations. I  
23 hope that we can all work together to get support to  
24 those who need it, starting with ensuring that those  
25 in the highest needs, with the highest needs are

2 served. I'd like to thank the advocates, providers,  
3 and those with experience who informed and help shape  
4 this legislation, and at this time, I'd like to  
5 acknowledge my colleagues who are here. We are  
6 joined by Council Members Ruben Diaz, Sr., Council  
7 Member Darma Diaz, Council Member Rafael Salamanca,  
8 Council Member Barry Grodenchik, and Council Member  
9 Brad Lander, and I'd like to thank my staff,  
10 (inaudible) my Chief of Staff, Elizabeth Adams; and  
11 my Co-Legislative Directors (inaudible) Kumar, my  
12 Legislative Assistant and Committee Staff  
13 (inaudible), Senior Council, Crystal Pons (SP?),  
14 Senior Policy Analysis, Natalie Omary (SP?), Policy  
15 Analysis, Julia Herman (SP?), Financial Analysis  
16 (inaudible), our Finance Unit Head, and with that, I  
17 will turn it over to Senior Councilman Kilowan (SP?),  
18 or I'm sorry, to William Martin, Committee Clerk to  
19 call the roll.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Sir,  
21 thank you. (Crosstalk). William Martin, Committee  
22 Clerk, roll call vote, Committee on General Welfare.  
23 Proposed Introductions 147-A and 2176-A. Items are  
24 coupled. Chair Levin.

25 CHAIR STEPHEN LEVIN: I on all.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
3 you. Lander.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BRAD LANDER: With  
5 congratulations and thanks to the Chair for these  
6 important Bills and your continued pushing across the  
7 finish line, I on all.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
9 you. Grodenchik.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRY GRODENCHIK: I on  
11 all.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
13 you. Salamanca.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RAFAEL SALAMANCA: I on  
15 all.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
17 you. Darma Diaz.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DARMA DIAZ: I on all. I  
19 just want to thank the Chair for fighting for the  
20 underserved multiple times. I'm honored to have  
21 served with you. Thank you.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
23 you, Darma. My apologies council member, what was  
24 your vote?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER DARMA DIAZ: I thought  
3 said I, but just in case.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
5 you.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DARMA DIAZ: It's been a  
7 long day.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Yes.  
9 Thank you. Okay, by a vote of five in the  
10 affirmative, zero in the negative, and no  
11 abstentions, both items have been adopted by the  
12 committee. Mr. Chair, you can close at your  
13 convenience.

14 CHAIR STEPHEN LEVIN: Okay. This hearing  
15 is adjourned. Thank you very much, everybody.

16 SGT. BRADLEY: PC recording is up.

17 SGT. POLITE: Recording to the cloud all  
18 set.

19 CHAIR STEPHEN LEVIN: Thank you and I'll  
20 hand it over to the clerk.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DiSTEFANO:  
22 Matthew DiStefano, Committee Clerk continuation of  
23 roll call. Committee on General Welfare. Intros  
24 numbers 147-A and 2176-A, both items are coupled.  
25 Council Member Gibson.



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2 COUNCIL MEMBER VANESSA GIBSON: I vote I  
3 and I want to thank Chair Steve Levin and the members  
4 of the General Welfare Committee and congratulations  
5 to my colleagues on their Bills on the agenda, and I  
6 vote I, thank you.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

8 Okay, the revised vote is six in the affirmative,  
9 zero in the negative, and no abstentions. Thank you.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

WorldWide 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 January 24, 2022