

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 19, 2024

Start: 9:52 a.m.

Recess: 9:59 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Diana Ayala, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alexa Avilés
Chris Banks
Tiffany Cabán
Chi A. Ossé
Lincoln Restler
Kevin C. Riley
Althea V. Stevens
Sandra Ung

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Gale A. Brewer

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Sound check for the
3 Committee on General Welfare. Today's date is
4 December 19, 2024, being recalled by Danny Huang in
5 the Council of Chambers.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and
7 welcome to today's New York City Council vote for the
8 Committee on General Welfare.

9 At this time, we ask that you silence all
10 electronic devices, and at no time is anyone to
11 approach the dais.

12 Chair, we're ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: [GAVEL] Good morning,
14 everyone, and welcome to today's hearing. My name is
15 Diana Ayala, and I am the Deputy Speaker of the New
16 York City Council and the Chair of the General
17 Welfare Committee.

18 Today, we are holding a vote on
19 Resolution 227-A, resolution calling on Congress to
20 pass and the President to sign a renewed farm bill
21 that increases funding for lifesaving food aid.
22 According to research from Columbia University's
23 Center for Poverty and Social Policy, in 2023, one in
24 three adults, 31 percent, and nearly half of all
25 families with children, which equals to 44 percent,

2 in New York City experienced food hardship. Each
3 year, almost two million New York City residents
4 receive benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition
5 Assistance Program, or SNAP. The United States Farm
6 Bill is a multi-year package of legislation,
7 reauthorized every five years, that provides a
8 federal framework for food policy and funding,
9 including for SNAP. This Resolution calls for the
10 federal government to renew this important
11 legislation to increase funding for SNAP and other
12 food and nutrition programs to ensure food insecure
13 New Yorkers have access to sufficient and nutritious
14 food.

15 I would like to thank the Committee staff
16 who worked hard to prepare this vote, Sahar Moazami,
17 Legislative Counsel, Nina Rosenberg, Policy Analyst,
18 Julia Haramis, Unit Head, Elizabeth Childers-Garcia,
19 Finance Analyst, Andrew Skoll, Data Analyst, as well
20 as my Chief-of-Staff, Elsie Encarnacion.

21 I would like to acknowledge my Colleagues
22 who are here today, Council Members Cabán, Avilés,
23 Ossé, Restler, Stevens, Ung, and Banks.

24 I would now turn it over to Council
25 Member Brewer to deliver remarks on her legislation.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very
3 much, Madam Chair, and as you suggested, Resolution
4 227 calls for a renewed Farm Bill that increases
5 funding for lifesaving food aid. We all know that too
6 many New Yorkers are experiencing food insecurity.
7 More cuts to food security will only contribute to
8 the increase in need for emergency food assistance.
9 Food banks and soup kitchens have seen double-digit
10 increases in demand citywide. The last Farm Bill was
11 written in 2018 and expired in September after a one-
12 year extension, leaving American farmers in limbo.
13 Speaker Mike Johnson unveiled a stopgap emergency
14 spending bill on Tuesday, but I have to understand
15 that Mr. Trump has just upended it. It included 10
16 billion in aid to farmers, far less than they hoped
17 for. We need a real renewal. I want to thank Joel
18 Berg and Hunger Free America for your leadership and
19 advocacy in the fight against food insecurity.

20 I want to thank Shula Puder and Cynthia
21 Hornig from my office and all the people listed by
22 the Chair, and also just to mention an excellent op-
23 ed in the Daily News yesterday, a better Farm Bill
24 that feeds families by Congress Member Espaillat and
25 Commissioner Park, talking about the absolute need

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2 for this bill, particularly because it helps SNAP
3 benefits and those who receive them. Thank you very
4 much.

5 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Thank you, and now
6 I'll call on the Clerk to call the roll.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
8 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
9 vote, Committee on General Welfare, Resolution 227-A.
10 Chair Ayala.

11 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: I vote aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Riley.
13 Cabán.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: I vote aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
16 you. Avilés.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: I vote aye, and
18 congratulations, Council Member Brewer.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ossé.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ung.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
4 you. Banks.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
7 vote of eight in the affirmative, zero in the
8 negative, and no abstentions, Resolution has been
9 adopted by the Committee.

10 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: We will hold it open a
11 few seconds. If you voted, you can leave. Thank you.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Excuse
13 me, quiet down, please. Continuation roll call,
14 Committee on General Welfare, Resolution 227-A.
15 Council Member Riley.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Final
18 vote is now nine in the affirmative, zero in the
19 negative, and no abstentions.

20 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: With that, this vote
21 is closed. [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 23, 2024