

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

***VOTE**

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Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Start: 12:53 P.M.

Recess: 1:00 P.M.

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

B E F O R E: Hon. Lincoln Restler, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gale A. Brewer
James F. Gennaro
Kamillah Hanks
Althea V. Stevens
Inna Vernikov
Julie Won

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SERGEANT KANE: Good afternoon, this is a mic check for the Committee on Contracts. Today's date is February 11, 2026. We are in Hearing Room 2. This is being recorded by Michael Kane (phonetic).

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, and welcome to the New York City Council Hearing for the Committee on Contracts.

Please place your phone on vibrate or silent mode.

Chair, we are ready to begin.

(PAUSE)

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: All right, we are going to get this show on the road. [GAVEL]

Good afternoon, my name is Lincoln Restler, and I have the privilege of chairing the Committee on Contracts.

I would like to start by thanking my colleagues who have joined us today—on time: the former Chair of this committee, my colleague from Western Queens, my neighbor from Western Queens, Julie Won; my friend from Brooklyn, Council Member Inna Vernikov; and person who just made a trip to Brooklyn, which she does very rarely, she refuses to leave the Island, Council Member Gale Brewer.

At today's hearing, we will be voting on two bills:

Proposed Introduction Number 5-A, sponsored by our Speaker, Council Member Julie Menin, which would right-size penalties for fraud in the contracting process, especially for the subcontracting process.

The current maximum fine for false statements is just \$1,000. This bill would increase the maximum fine to \$25,000, and it would also create a new penalty for false statements regarding subcontractor qualifications. It will also expand the subcontractor information that must be maintained in the City's contract database, including whether the subcontractor is a certified MWBE.

Proposed Introduction Number 510-A, sponsored by former Committee Chair, Council Member Julie Won, would create a comprehensive online public procurement interface, so that New Yorkers can see how City funds are being spent at every stage of the contracting process, from pre-solicitation through contract completion. Through this legislation, we can build on the access created through PASSPort and create a comprehensive database that is easily

searchable and accessible to all. I think this is a really smart, common-sense piece of legislation that is going to make a major difference for everybody who cares about how money is spent, and for everybody who contracts with the City.

I would like to thank Speaker Menin for her leadership on procurement reform, making this a priority in our first month in a new Council, and Council Member Won for her continued advocacy and leadership for transparency and accountability in City contracting.

I would really just like to commend the Contracts Committee staff, who I have really enjoyed working with so far, for their tremendous work on these bills: Alex R. Paulenoff, Senior Legislative Counsel; Johari Frasier, Legislative Counsel; Alex Yablon, Legislative Policy Analyst; and Owen Kotowski, Senior Financial Analyst, and of course, my Chief of Staff Molly Haley, who is absolutely brilliant.

Council Member Won, would you like to make any-- no, we're good?

With that, Mr. Clerk, I would like to invite us to call the roll.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Good afternoon, William Martin, Committee Clerk; roll call vote, Committee on Contracts; items are coupled.

Chair Restler?

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: (ABSENT)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

MAJORITY WHIP HANKS: (ABSENT)

CITY CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: (NO RESPONSE)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Won?

COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of 4 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions, both items have been adopted by the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: And, Mr. Clerk, I would love to keep this vote open for a few more minutes to allow for Council Member Stevens to vote. Thank you.

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2 (PAUSE 00:04:08-00:07:46)

3 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Council Member

4 Stevens?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: I...

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Quiet, we're rolling.

7 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Oh...

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call,

9 Committee on Contracts, Council Member Stevens?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote is now 5 in the

12 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions.

13 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Thank you very much.

14 With that, we will adjourn. I hope everyone has a

15 great day. [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 February 19, 2026