

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

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October 9, 2025

Start: 11:14 a.m.

Recess: 11:19 a.m.

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

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

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Testing one, two, one,
3 two. Today's date is October 9, 2025. Today's hearing
4 is on General Welfare, location HR1 being recorded by
5 Keith Polite.

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

9 At this point during today's vote, no one
10 may approach the dais.

11 Chair, you may begin.

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

17 Today, our Committee will be voting on
18 several bills, Intro. 1208, Intro. 1232, and Intro.
19 1372.

20 Intro. 1208 sponsored by Council Member
21 Jennifer Gutiérrez would require the Commissioner of
22 Social Services and the Commissioner of Housing
23 Preservation and Development to issue a biannual
24 report to the Mayor and the Speaker of the Council on
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the availability of air conditioning in homeless shelters.

Intro. 1232 sponsored by Council Member Chris Banks would require the Human Resource Administration to make available as a part of the application for emergency assistance grants for rental assistance processes by which applicants may authorize HRA to send a text or email notification to the applicant and/or the building owner or a managing agent designated by the building owner upon approval of such application.

Finally, my bill, Intro. 1372 would require that the rent contribution for CityFHEPS recipients not exceed 30 percent of the household's total monthly income, regardless of whether the household receives public assistance or has earned income. Under a new rule adopted by Mayoral Administration on April 30th, 2025, beginning on September 13th, 2025, households with earned income that have been using the CityFHEPS voucher for five years and are applying to renew for a sixth year have to spend no more than 40 percent of their annual income on rent, up from 30 percent previously. According to advocates, including the Legal Aid

Society, this rule change would serve to destabilize more than 29,000 low-income households and significantly raise the risk of eviction, homelessness, and long-term harm. Intro. 1372 seeks to prevent this from happening.

At this time, I'd like to acknowledge my Colleagues, so we've been joined by Council Members Riley, Cabán, Ossé, Restler, Stevens, and Ung, and Council Member Banks, I believe we just saw him, and Avilés.

I'd also like to thank the Committee Staff who worked to prepare this hearing and vote Aminta Kilawan, Senior Legislative Counsel; Penina Rosenberg, Senior Policy Analyst; Justin Campos, Policy Analyst; Elisabeth Childers-Garcia, Finance Analyst; Maria Roman, Finance Analyst; Julia Haramis, Unit Head, and finally my Staff, Elsie Encarnacion, Chief-of-Staff.

I will now turn it over to Council Member Banks, who's going to deliver a statement on behalf of his bill.

COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Thank you, Madam Chair, and good afternoon or good morning to all my Colleagues.

I'm proud to speak on Intro. 1232, a bill that would require the Human Resources Administration to send an automated text or email notification when an application for emergency assistance grant program related to rental assistance is approved. These notifications would go to both the tenant and the building owner or managing agent, providing key details like the approved grant amount, the estimated issuance date, payment method. In my District, HRA-related issues make up a significant percent of the cases our office handles. And time in and time out again, we've seen both tenants and property managers left in the dark, unsure if aid has been approved or when payment is coming. This bill is about fixing the breakdown in communications and it's about transparency, accountability, and basic efficiencies in government, ensuring that families don't lose their homes simply because no one knew help was on the way.

So I want to thank all my Colleagues for their support on this bill, my Staff for their hard work, Central Staff, the Legislative Division for their partnership in helping to craft Intro. 1232

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2 into this strong, thoughtful piece of legislation
3 we're voting on today. Thank you, Madam Chair.

4 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Thank you.

5 And with that, I would now like to turn
6 it over to the Clerk to do the roll call for this
7 vote.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
9 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
10 vote, Committee on General Welfare. All items are
11 coupled.

12 Chair Ayala.

13 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Riley.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Cabán.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Avilés.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ossé.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye, and congrats
24 to my Colleagues.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ung.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
6 you. Banks.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
9 vote of nine in the affirmative, zero in the
10 negative, and no abstentions, all items have been
11 adopted by the Committee.

12 Madam Chair, that is a full Committee.

13 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Thank you.

14 With that, this hearing is closed.

15 [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 October 15, 2025