

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS, STATE
AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION

1

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL
OPERATIONS, STATE AND FEDERAL
LEGISLATION

----- X

March 10, 2026
Start: 11:15 a.m.
Recess: 11:21 a.m.

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

B E F O R E: Gale A. Brewer, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Eric Dinowitz
Oswald Feliz
Frank Morano
Althea V. Stevens
Susan Zhuang

1 COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS, STATE AND
FEDERAL LEGISLATION

2

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning.

3 Microphone check on Committee of Governmental
4 Operations, State and Federal Legislation. Today's
5 date, March 10, 2026. Location, HR 1. Recorded by
6 Kimberley Smith-Thomas.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and
7 welcome to today's New York City Council vote on the
8 Committee of Governmental Operations, State and
9 Federal Legislation.

9 At this time, please silence all
10 electronic devices.

11 Chair, you may begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: [GAVEL] Thank you
13 very much. I am Gale Brewer, Chair of the Committee
14 of Governmental Operations, State and Federal
15 Legislation. Thank you for being here. I'd like to
16 thank Council Members Stevens, Dinowitz, Morano,
Zhuang, and Feliz for being here.

17 We're voting on two bills. The first is
18 my bill, Proposed Intro. 87-A. It combines the
19 Archival Review Board and the Archives Reference and
20 Research Advisory Board into a Library and Archival
21 Review Advisory Board with nine members. The second
is Deputy Speaker Williams' bill, Proposed Intro.

2 502-B, establishing a commission to review the
3 salaries of elected officials in New York City and
4 make recommendations regarding those salaries.

5 The purviews of the Archival Review Board
6 and the Archives Reference and Research Advisory
7 Board are largely overlapping. That's why we're doing
8 the Intro. They've been holding joint meetings since
9 '23, and the most recent annual report, which came
10 out January of this year, was also issued jointly.
11 Combining the two Boards would not constitute a major
12 change. Consolidation will save staff time and would
13 increase efficiency while continuing to provide the
14 agency with the same guidance and oversight the two
15 separate boards offer. Members of the Boards are
16 supportive of this change. The combination has been a
17 topic raised by the Boards on many occasions, and
18 members have repeatedly crafted proposals to
19 consolidate the two Boards into one. I just want to
20 point out what they look at, of the New York City
21 Municipal Archives that have 200 million records,
photographs, maps, government documents, and they
are, in my book, very important.

20 502-B would establish a commission to
21 review elected official pay. Elected official pay is

2 set by local law, but under our City's Administrative
3 Code, the Mayor is required to appoint a commission
4 to review the compensation levels of elected
5 officials every four years and make recommendations
6 to the Council. With the exception of the District
7 Attorneys, the last time City elected officials
8 received a raise was back in 2016. Mayor de Blasio
9 failed to impanel the required commission in 2002.
10 Mayor Adams also declined to convene one in 2024. The
11 10-year gap is the longest the City officials have
12 gone without a raise in the 40 years the quadrennial
13 commission framework has been in place. Over that
14 time, salaries of New York elected officials have
15 failed to keep pace with inflation and with the
16 salaries of elected officials across the country.
17 Legislators in Los Angeles, Chicago, and Philadelphia
18 all make more than we do in New York, and all those
19 cities have much smaller budgets and smaller
20 workforces. Stagnant wages not only affect elected
21 officials, while as we saw under Mayor Adams, some
top executives can receive salaries that are
significantly higher than the elected officials they
serve. For most non-executive roles, the elected
official salary serves as a cap on the salaries of

2 the employees who work under them. These salary caps
3 can keep the City from offering competitive wages,
4 which can keep us from being able to recruit the most
5 talented individual for jobs. Low salaries can also
6 negatively influence who is able to run for office.
7 Being an elected official in New York is a
8 challenging, demanding 24/7 job, as we all know, and
9 officials should be able to support themselves and
10 their families on their government salaries without
11 needing to have a personal fortune. If salaries are
12 too low, then elected officials' offices risk being
13 accessible only to wealthy individuals. 502-B, which
14 we'll be voting on today, requires the Mayor to
15 convene a three-person commission to review the
16 compensation levels of the Mayor, Public Advocate,
17 Comptroller, Borough Presidents, Council Members, and
18 DAs. The commission would have 75 days to make
19 recommendations on new compensation levels. The
20 commission would send their recommendations to both
21 the Mayor and the Council. The Mayor would be able to
send the Council approval, disapproval, or
modifications of the commission's recommendations.
The Council would then have discretion to review the
recommendations and alter the compensation level of

2 the City's elected official. The bill would also
3 require the calling of a commission every four years
4 on '26. This will be in lieu of, and not in addition
5 to, the commissions that are currently required to
6 meet in 2028 and every four years after that.

7 I would like to thank the following
8 Council Staff for their work, from Government Ops
9 Committee Staff, Johari Frasier, Erica Cohen, and
10 Saiyemul Hamid, and from my Staff, Cynthia Hornig and
11 Shula Puder, and everyone else.

12 I will now turn it over to the Clerk to
13 call the roll.

14 COUNCIL CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank you.
15 William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call vote,
16 Committee on Governmental Operations, State and
17 Federal Legislation. Items are coupled.

18 Chair Brewer.

19 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Yes.

20 COUNCIL CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Dinowitz.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Yes.

COUNCIL CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Feliz.

COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Yes.

COUNCIL CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

1 COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS, STATE AND
FEDERAL LEGISLATION 7

2 COUNCIL CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Zhuang.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Aye.

4 COUNCIL CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hankerson.
5 Morano.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Aye on Intro. 87,
7 no on Intro. 502-B.

8 COUNCIL CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank you.

9 Following vote, Introduction 87-A is
10 adopted by the Committee with six in the affirmative,
11 zero the negative, and one abstention; and
12 Introduction 502-B is adopted by the Committee with
13 five in the affirmative, one in the negative, no
14 abstentions.

15 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Thank you very much.

16 This hearing concludes. [GAVEL]
17
18
19
20
21

3
4 C E R T I F I C A T E

5
6
7 World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing
8 transcript is a true and accurate record of the
9 proceedings. We further certify that there is no
10 relation to any of the parties to this action by blood
11 or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome
12 of this matter.



18 Date June 16, 2026