

1 COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND
INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS

2 CITY COUNCIL
3 CITY OF NEW YORK

4 ----- X

5 TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

6 Of the

7 COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS,
8 LIBRARIES AND INTERNATIONAL
INTERGROUP RELATIONS

9 ----- X

10 February 16, 2023
11 Start: 9:54 a.m.
Recess: 10:04 a.m.

12 HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

13 B E F O R E: Chi A. Osse, Chairperson

14 COUNCIL MEMBERS:

15 Eric Dinowitz
16 Amanda Farias
17 Shahana Hanif
18 Crystal Hudson
19 Rita C. Joseph
20 Farah N. Louis
21 Francisco P. Moya
22 Sandra Ung
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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. This is a
3 mic check for the Committee on Cultural Affairs,
4 Libraries and International Intergroup Relations.
5 Today's date is February 16, 2023. Located in the
6 Chambers. Recording done by Pedro Lugo.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
8 welcome to the New York City Council vote of the
9 Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and
10 International Intergroup Relations.

11 At this time, could everyone please
12 silence your cell phones? Thank you for your
13 cooperation.

14 Chair, we are ready to begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON OSSE: [GAVEL] Good afternoon.
16 I am Council Member Chi Osse, Chair of the Committee
17 on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International
18 Intergroup Relations.

19 Today, the Committee will vote on three
20 pieces of legislation. Resolution 474 cosponsored by
21 Council Members Amanda Farias and Shahana Hanif, a
22 resolution recognizing February 21st as Mother
23 Language Day in the City of New York to honor the
24 importance of the Bengali/Bangla language to
25 Bangladeshis everywhere and to promote the acceptance

of linguistic and cultural diversity in our
communities.

Resolution 486 sponsored by Council
Member Althea Stevens, a Resolution recognizing the
accomplishments of and issues faced by black women by
designating February 15 annually as Black Girl Magic
Day in the City of New York.

Resolution 488 sponsored by Council
Members Nantasha Williams and Selvena Brooks-Powers,
a Resolution recognizing the contributions of Delta
Sigma Theta for public service by designating March 3
annually as Delta Day in the City of New York.

I want to take this time to recognize the
compelling statements we heard at yesterday's hearing
from Council Members and witnesses about the
importance of these Resolutions.

I would like to recognize and thank the
Resolution sponsors and, once they get here, I would
like to invite them to present and provide remarks on
their legislation.

I would also like to acknowledge Members
of this Committee who are here today, Council Member
Ung, Council Member Louis, Council Member Dinowitz,
Council Member Joseph, Council Member Hudson, and

2 online Council Member Hanif as well as Council Member
3 Moya.

4 I would also like to thank my Staff as
5 well as the Committee Staff and others who worked on
6 preparing this legislation including Naomi Hopkins,
7 my Chief-of-Staff, May Vutrapongvatana, my Budget and
8 Policy Director, Brenda McKinney, Senior Counsel to
9 the Committee, Regina Paul, Legislative Policy
10 Analyst to the Committee who also drafted these
11 resolutions, and Sandra Gray, our Senior Financial
12 Analyst.

13 I think we are now ready for the vote.
14 Billy, please take it away.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
16 you. Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk.
17 Roll call vote Committee on Cultural Affairs,
18 Libraries and International Intergroup Relations. All
19 items are coupled. Chair Osse.

20 CHAIRPERSON OSSE: I vote aye on all.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Moya.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
24 you. Louis.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Dinowitz.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: I vote aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Farias.

5 Hanif.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye on all.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
8 you. Hudson.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Joseph.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye on all.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ung.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote
15 of eight in the affirmative, zero in the negative,
16 and no abstentions, all items have been adopted by
17 the Committee, and the roll will be held open at
18 request of the Chair. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON OSSE: Now, I have the great
20 honor to recognize some of the compelling statements
21 we heard at yesterday's hearing from Council Members
22 and witnesses about the importance of these
23 Resolutions.

24 I would like to recognize and thank the
25 Resolution sponsors, and I want to invite one of them

1 who is present to provide remarks on their
2 legislation. Council Member Farias.

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4 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIAS: Thank you so much,
5 Chair. I'm super proud of having Resolution 474 come
6 to the floor for vote today. The Bangladeshi and
7 Bengali community is one of the fastest-growing
8 immigrant groups in the entire city, and I'm
9 fortunate enough to represent a large and growing
10 Bengali community in my own District in the Bronx.
11 Bangla is the native language of many of my neighbors
12 in Parkchester, and as an Afro-Latina to celebrate
13 and protect one's mother language and cultural
14 history deeply resonates with me. We have to
15 prioritize the diversity of our city's languages for
16 the next generation of New Yorkers and continue the
17 fight against the inherited impacts of colonialism on
18 our shared communities. Once we vote Resolution 474
19 out of Committee today, Mother Language Day will soon
20 be recognized by the City of New York, an important
21 measure that will further protect our cultural
22 diversity citywide. Every two weeks we lose 6,000
23 languages worldwide and with over 800 languages
24 spoken here and Queens, having more languages spoken
25 than any neighborhood in the world, it is crucial

1 that we honor our native languages. In Bangladesh,
2 February 21st is a national holiday that commemorates
3 those who lost their lives fighting in the Bangla
4 Language Movement. This fight to protect their mother
5 language sparked their fight for independence, a war
6 that many of our neighbors, freedom fighters, fought
7 in themselves. This history exemplifies just how
8 important language access and justice is and how
9 fundamental it is to the continuation of our
10 cultures. It is an honor to vote on this Resolution
11 today and a true privilege to be able to celebrate
12 one another's cultures and holidays together. I'm
13 looking forward to celebrating more with my community
14 on Tuesday and thank co-prime Sponsor Council Member
15 Hanif, Chair Osse, for expediting this for us and all
16 of the co-sponsors for their support. Thank you and I
17 vote aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON OSSE: Billy, I think we have
20 one more vote. Billy, please take it away.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
22 you. Council Member Farias.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIAS: I vote aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Final
25 vote now Committee on Cultural Affairs is nine in the

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2 affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
3 abstentions.

4 CHAIRPERSON OSSE: Have a great day,
5 everyone. [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 February 20, 2023