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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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March 16, 2023
Start: 10:47 a.m.
Recess: 11:06 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY
HALL

B E F O R E:
Amanda Farías, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alexa Avilés
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Ari Kagan
Kevin C. Riley
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Inna Vernikov

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee on Economic Development.
4 Today's date is March 16, 2023. Located in Council
5 Chambers. Recorded by Steve Sadowsky.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
7 welcome to the New York City vote on the Committee on
8 Economic Development.

9 Chair, we are ready to begin.

10 CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Good morning. Today
11 is March 16th. My name is Amanda Farias, and I have
12 the privilege of Chairing the Council's Committee on
13 Economic Development.

14 I would like to extend my thanks to the
15 Members of the Committee for coming together to hold
16 today's vote and welcome our newest member as she is
17 coming in, Council Member Vernikov. We're joined
18 today by Council Members Aviles, Kagan, Riley, and
19 Stevens.

20 The purpose of today's hearing is to vote
21 on a piece of legislation I sponsored and this
22 Committee heard last fall. The bill, Proposed
23 Introduction 236A would require the inclusion of city
24 high school students in the NYC Ferry Discount
25 Program and would memorialize the entire NYC Ferry

2 Discount Program in the City's Administrative Code.
3 It would also ensure any future contracted ferry
4 service offered by the administration would maintain
5 the NYC Ferry Discount Program if the contract were
6 overseen by a city agency other than the EDC. At
7 present, NYC Ferry costs 4 dollars for a regular
8 adult fair, 27.50 for a 10-pack, and 1.35 for anyone
9 eligible for a discount through the NYC Ferry
10 Discount Program. Currently, the discounts are
11 available to seniors, disabled persons, and low-
12 income persons who participate in the City's Fair
13 Fares program. When this bill was originally heard by
14 this Committee last fall, I was moved by testimony
15 from several city high school students from the New
16 York City Harbor School, a public high school on
17 Governors Island, who take incredibly long commutes
18 from all over the city each day to get to school via
19 the ferry from Lower Manhattan. While NYC Ferry does
20 make stops at Governors Island and could provide some
21 students with a much shorter commute, it is difficult
22 for these students to justify paying 8 dollars round-
23 trip or 40 dollars a week to get to school. This bill
24 will change that. Once the bill goes into effect, on
25 schooldays all of the city's public high school

2 students will be eligible for the same reduced price
3 fair as seniors, disabled persons, and anyone
4 eligible for Fair Fares. While the enactment date of
5 this bill is not until next September, I have been in
6 talks with my Colleagues at EDC, and it is not lost
7 on us that the students at the Harbor School should
8 benefit from this bill sooner than later so please
9 stay tuned.

10 I would like to extend my thanks to EDC
11 for expressing an interest in working with us on this
12 bill and to my Colleagues at the Council for ensuring
13 that it made it this far and to the Harbor School for
14 pushing for this bill consistently since our last
15 hearing. This is a perfect example of government
16 advocacy in action.

17 Lastly, I'd like to thank my Staff,
18 Legislative Director Rebecca Nieves, my Economic
19 Development Committee Staff Senior Counsel Alex
20 Paulenoff, Policy Analyst William Hongach, and
21 Finance Analyst Glenn Martelloni for all of their
22 hard work negotiating this bill and ensuring it made
23 it to a vote.

24 With that, I'll now as the Clerk to
25 please call roll call.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
3 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
4 vote Committee on Economic Development Proposed
5 Introduction 236A. Chair Farias.

6 CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: I proudly vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Riley.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Aviles.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILES: Very pleased to
11 vote aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Kagan.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: I vote aye. I would
14 also like to co-sponsor this legislation, 236A, and I
15 still hope to see very soon ferry service on Coney
16 Island. Thank you.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
18 you. By a vote of four in the affirmative, zero in
19 the negative, and no abstentions, item has been
20 adopted by the Committee.

21 CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Thank you so much. We
22 will now leave this open for about 10 minutes for
23 others to come in. Thank you.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

25 Continuation roll call, the Committee on Economic

1 COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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2 Development Proposed Introduction 236A. Council
3 Member Vernikov.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Hi. I vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
6 you. The vote is now five in the affirmative, zero in
7 the negative, and no abstentions, and the roll will
8 remain open at the request of the Chair.

9 Continuation roll call Committee on
10 Economic Development. Council Member Salamanca.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Vote is
13 currently at six in the affirmative.

14 Final vote on Economic Development
15 Proposed Introduction 236A is six in the affirmative,
16 zero in the negative, and no abstentions. Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Thank you. With that,
18 I will close this hearing. [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 March 27, 2023