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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND
GENDER EQUITY

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March 23, 2022
Start: 9:07 a.m.
Recess: 9:15 a.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing - Virtual Room 3

B E F O R E: Tiffany Cabán,
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

James F. Gennaro
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Kristin Richardson-Jordan
Kevin C. Riley
Althea V. Stevens

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2 SERGEANT PEREZ: Just give me a second, I'm
3 confirming the stream. The stream looks good. All
4 the recordings are a go. Okay. Good morning.
5 Welcome to New York City Council's remote committee
6 hearing on Women and Gender Equity. Everyone, please
7 turn on your videos at this time. Silence all
8 electronic devices. Any written testimony can be
9 submitted to testimony@council.nyc.gov. Thank you,
10 Chair Cabán, we're ready to begin.

11 CHAIRPERSON CABÁN: Great, thank you. Good
12 morning. I'll go ahead and gavel us in. [GAVEL].
13 So we're going to commence this hearing. We know
14 that the imposing majority of people who survive
15 abuse and gender based violence don't report as much
16 to law enforcement. Many avoid interactions with
17 police because of prior negative experiences or
18 because they don't want their assailant imprisoned or
19 because of immigration status precarious or their
20 undocumented and they fear deportation. And so for
21 that reason alone Resolution 0025 when implemented by
22 the State takes us a big step forward. And I want to
23 extend my gratitude to Council Member Narcisse for
24 bringing this important Resolution to the Council and
25 for partnering with me on it.

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2 And I also want to recognize my colleagues that
3 have joined us. We have Council Members Gutiérrez,
4 Gennaro, Stevens, Richardson Jordan and Riley. And
5 thank you to all of the staff. I'm going to go ahead
6 and turn it over to Billy for roll call and then
7 we'll do remarks by Council Member Narcisse. Or do
8 we want to do it the other way around? Other way
9 around? Perfect. Okay. So then I'm going to hand
10 it over to my colleague.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Good morning everyone.
12 I thank Chair Cabán for being such a dedicated
13 partner in getting us here today on the cusp of
14 passing an important Resolution that we hope will
15 serve as a catalyst for change. When the system is
16 broken as elected officials it is our duty to fix it.
17 There is no doubt that accessing crime victim
18 compensation is part of a broken system.

19 In the United States each year over 50 percent of
20 violent victimizations go unreported to law
21 enforcement. The law enforcement reporting
22 requirement for victim compensation adversely impacts
23 Black and Brown communities who are less likely than
24 other groups to report their harm to law enforcement
25 due to distrust, through by years of well-documented

1 racial profiling, police violence and impunity.

2 Black men and with lower incomes living in New York
3 City are more likely to be criminally victimized than
4 any other group but are among those least likely to
5 receive victim compensation.
6

7 Other marginalized population, including
8 immigrant communities, members of the LBGTQIA plus,
9 community survivors, survivors of gender-based
10 violence may choose not to report their harm to
11 police due to fear of retaliation, fear of
12 deportation or unfair treatment or the dynamics of
13 inter-partner relationships.

14 Conversely, the majority of recipients of victim
15 compensation are White women between the age of 29 to
16 59. This is a broken system. And we stand ready to
17 do our part to fix it. That's the step we take this
18 morning with my partner Cabán, my City Council that's
19 very dynamic pushing forward for equity.

20 So tomorrow with the help of my colleagues and
21 the Council, I expect to pass the Resolution 0025,
22 which calls upon the New York State Legislator to
23 pass 886-19A and S75-73, Senator Myrie, of course, to
24 expand eligibility for victims and survivors of crime
25 to acts of victim compensation funds. Let's help fix

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2 this glaring inequity and allow every New Yorker, no
3 matter their race, gender, religion or sexual
4 preference, to have the opportunity to heal and
5 access the benefits they are entitled to. It's
6 simply the right thing to do, so let's do it.

7 Thank you, Council Member Cabán, for putting your
8 head together with me to get it done. Thank you so
9 much and all of the colleagues that are here.
10 Thanks. I pass it on to Chair Cabán.

11 CHAIRPERSON CABÁN: Oh wonderful, thank you so
12 much and I'm just going to pass it back to the Clerk
13 to do a roll call.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning,
15 everybody. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll
16 call vote Committee on Women and Gender Equity,
17 Resolution 25, Chair Cabán?

18 CHAIRPERSON CABÁN: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Riley?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Gennaro?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye. And Madam
23 Chair, I wish to be excused to explain my vote.

24 CHAIRPERSON CABÁN: Yes, please.
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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yeah, I want to
3 thank Council Member Narcisse for her great
4 leadership. I want to thank you, Madam Chair, as
5 well for your leadership and bringing this and moving
6 this forward. It's a privilege to serve on this
7 Committee. It's a privilege to be associated with
8 this Resolution. I ask the Clerk to add my name as a
9 sponsor to this good Resolution. I proudly vote aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, you got it.
11 Gutiérrez?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Richardson
14 Jordan?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Aye
16 and permission to explain my vote.

17 CHAIRPERSON CABÁN: Yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: I too
19 would love to be added to this Resolution to co-
20 sponsor. I'm really excited to see the bill. Thank
21 you for your leadership and for this step.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Council
23 Member Stevens?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye and
25 Congratulations and good work on getting this done.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. By a vote
3 of six in the affirmative, zero on the negative and
4 no abstentions, the item it is adopted by the
5 Committee. Madam Chair, that is a full Committee,
6 you can close at your convenience.

7 CHAIRPERSON CABÁN: Great. This closes
8 our hearing and see you all very soon.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you, thank
10 you to all.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIERREZ: [INAUDIBLE
12 7:14]. Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON CABÁN: Yeah. Alright,
14 thanks you all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Have a good day.
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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 May 13, 2022