

COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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September 10, 2025

Start: 9:51 a.m.

Recess: 10:00 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Sandy Nurse, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shaun Abreu
Diana Ayala
Tiffany Cabán
Shahana Hanif
Christopher Marte
Mercedes Narcisse
Lincoln Restler

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Jennifer Gutiérrez
Rita C. Joseph

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Mic check, this is mic
3 check. This is mic check on a vote on criminal
4 justice. Today's date, September 10, 2025, recorded
5 by Walter Lewis in the Chambers.

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

9 At this time, I'd like to remind everyone
10 to please silence their electronic devices.

11 At no point is anyone to approach the
12 dais.

13 Chair, we're ready to begin.

14 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: [GAVEL] Good morning.
15 I am Council Member Sandy Nurse, Chair of the
16 Council's Committee on Criminal Justice. I'd like to
17 welcome you to our vote on Proposed Introduction
18 Numbers 1238-A, 1240-A, and 1242-A.

19 I want to recognize my Colleagues who are
20 here, Council Members Joseph, Restler, Marte,
21 Gutiérrez, Abreu, Hanif, and Ayala.

22 We have a moral and legal imperative to
23 close Rikers Island, but without coordinated
24 government action and innovative policy solutions to
25 bring down the jail population, this goal will remain

elusive. The legislation we are voting on today, each based on recommendations within the recent Lipman Commission Report, advances a positive agenda that brings us closer to a post-Rikers future.

Intro 1238-A, sponsored by Council Member Gutiérrez, will require the Department of Correction to provide people in custody with access to technology to review evidence in their pending criminal case.

I'd like to turn it over to Council Member Gutiérrez to provide brief remarks on her bill.

COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you so much, Chair Nurse. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I'm so proud that this Council is voting to pass Intro. 1238, bringing discovery tablets to all correctional facilities. I also want to thank the Lipman Commission for doing the hard and honest work of exposing the deep gaps in our justice system at Rikers and pointing us towards solutions. Their recent report highlighted that true equity and due process requires that every person has full access to the evidence being used against them. Right now, people in custody face enormous barriers to defending

themselves. It is much harder, if not impossible, to meaningfully participate in your own defense simply due to a lack of access. Technology has transformed nearly every part of our lives, including our courts and justice system, so it must transform in our jails as well. By providing secure tablets for evidence review, Intro. 1238 brings us closer to fairness, transparency, and justice for all New Yorkers.

CHAIRPERSON NURSE: If everyone could settle down, please.

Next up, Intro. 1240-A, sponsored by Council Member Joseph, will make it easier and faster for defense attorneys to have their clients evaluated for the Alternative to Incarceration programs.

I'd like to turn it over to Council Member Joseph to provide brief remarks on her bill.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you, Chair Nurse. I'm delighted that my bill, Intro. 1240, is being voted on today. This bill will require that the Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice, upon request of a person in custody, or the attorney to conduct a holistic needs assessment when one is required for acceptance into a court-based Alternative to Incarceration program. These clinical assessments are

included information on a person's mental health, physical health, intellectual disabilities, history of trauma, and other sociological conditions or circumstances at the time of the person's arrest. The results must be shared with the person's criminal defense attorney within 14 days of arraignment to help inform decisions about charges, detention, release, or plea agreements. MOCJ would not be allowed to share any confidential information without the consent of the person's attorney. Additionally, MOCJ would be required to publish a report twice a year on January 1st, July 1st, disaggregated by race, age, gender, and relevant health information. This report must be submitted to the Speaker of the Council and the Mayor. Providing early holistic assessment is one of the key recommendations from the Independent Rikers Commission's March 2025 Report to Safely Reduce the Jail Population. The report states Rikers cost New Yorkers more than 400,000 dollars per incarcerated person per year. Rikers' impact and decades of neglect have been disproportionately felt, with 85 percent of uniformed staff who are Black or Latino, 88 percent of incarcerated people are also Black or Latino.

I urge the Chair and all of you, my Colleagues, to vote yes on this bill. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NURSE: Thank you, Council Member Joseph.

Finally, my legislation, Intro. 1242-A, establishes a structure to ensure New York City is taking a whole-of-government approach and all necessary actions to reduce the jail population, construct the borough-based jails, and plan for the future use of Rikers Island for environmental sustainability purposes. In addition to the citywide coordination required by this legislation, the bill requires that the Department of Correction to develop plans that will prevent the dangerous conditions on Rikers Island from being replicated in the borough-based jails. Thank you all for your support on this legislation, and I urge my Colleagues to vote aye.

With that, I now call on the Clerk to call the roll.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call vote, Committee on Criminal Justice. All items are coupled.

Chair Nurse.

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2 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: I vote aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ayala.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Cabán.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Abreu.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanif.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Marte.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye, and congrats
17 to my Colleagues on great bills.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

19 With a vote of eight in the affirmative,
20 zero in the negative, and no abstentions, all items
21 have been adopted by the Committee.

22 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: Thank you so much,
23 Clerk. I now 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 September 12, 2025