

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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May 28, 2025

Start: 11:36 a.m.

Recess: 11:40 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Julie Won, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Erik D. Bottcher

Sandy Nurse

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Sound check for the
3 Committee on Contracts. Today's date is May 28, 2025,
4 being recorded by Danny Huang of the Council
5 Chambers.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, welcome
7 to the New York City Committee on Contracts.

8 Please place your phone on vibrate or
9 silent mode.

10 Do not approach the dais during the
11 hearing.

12 Chair, we are ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON WON: [GAVEL] Good morning,
14 and welcome to this Committee vote of the New York
15 City Council's Committee on Contracts. Today is
16 Wednesday, May 28, 2025. My name is Julie Won. I have
17 the privilege of Chairing this Committee.

18 Today, we're voting on Proposed
19 Introduction 905-A, which I sponsored to establish a
20 six-month pilot program for food quality feedback
21 surveys from food service contractors. This bill
22 represents our commitment to improving accountability
23 and transparency in the City's food service
24 contracts, particularly in light of ongoing concerns
25 about food quality in shelters and other facilities.

This legislation was prompted by ongoing reports of food quality issues across the city, but particularly in shelters serving vulnerable populations. We've heard testimony about spoiled food, meals that lack cultural or religious appropriateness, and instances where shelter residents have become ill after eating shelter meals. When we heard from Intro. 905 on February, we received testimony from the Administration and advocates that highlighted both the need for better quality food quality oversight as well as practical challenges of implementation. Through extensive negotiations with the Mayor's Office, we've crafted a thoughtful, measured approach that balances accountability with operational feasibility. The original version of this bill would have required quarterly feedback surveys for all food service contracts over 100,000 dollars. This amended version before the Committee today establishes a targeted six-month pilot program for contracts valued at 1 million dollars or more. This pilot program will begin in January 2026 and will collect consumer feedback on food quality, taste, and cultural relevance.

This approach serves several important purposes. First, it creates a structured mechanism for collecting feedback from the people who actually consume the food provided through City contracts. Second, it requires transparency through public reporting by participating agencies. Third, it establishes a framework for the Office of Food Policy to evaluate the effectiveness of collecting this type of feedback and requires it to make recommendations for future improvements to the survey. This pilot program represents a meaningful first step towards greater accountability in food service contracting. The data and insights gathered during six-month period will inform our decisions about how to best ensure quality food services for New Yorkers in the future.

Before we vote, I'd like to thank the Administration for working with us to find common ground as well as Contracts Committee Staff, Senior Counsel Alex Paulenoff; Policy Analyst Alex Yablon; and Financial Analyst Owen Kotowski for their hard work in negotiating this bill and seeing it vote through.

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2 With that, I'll ask the Clerk for a roll
3 call.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
5 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
6 vote Committee on Contracts on Proposed Introduction
7 905-A, Council Member Won.

8 CHAIRPERSON WON: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Chair
10 Won, excuse me. Bottcher.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye on all.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
13 you, Council Member Botcher. Nurse.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
16 you. Stevens. Vernikov.

17 CHAIRPERSON WON: Council Member Stevens,
18 are you online? No?

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
20 vote of three in the affirmative, zero in the
21 negative, and no abstentions, item has been adopted
22 by the Committee.

23 CHAIRPERSON WON: Now I adjourn this
24 Committee. [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 July 9, 2025