

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS, STATE

AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL
OPERATIONS, STATE AND FEDERAL
LEGISLATION

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November 12, 2025
Start: 11:50 a.m.
Recess: 11:54 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING
ROOM 3

B E F O R E: Lincoln Restler, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gale A. Brewer
David M. Carr
James F. Gennaro
Shahana Hanif
Frank Morano
Lynn C. Schulman

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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. This is a
microphone check for the Committee on Governmental
Operations, State and Federal Legislation. Today's
date is November 12, 2025. Location is Hearing Room
3, recorded by Ginelle Yearwood.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and
welcome to the New York City Council vote of the
Committee on Governmental Operations, State and
Federal Legislation.

At this time, can everybody please
silence your cell phones and no one is to approach
the dais.

Chair, we are ready to begin.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: [GAVEL] Thank you
very much, and good morning to all. Still good
morning, but just barely. My name is Lincoln Restler,
and I have the privilege of chairing the Committee on
Governmental Operations, State and Federal
Legislation, at least for 45 more days.

I'd like to start off by thanking all of
those who've joined us at today's hearing. Council
Member Schulman of Queens, Council Member Brewer of
Manhattan, former Chair of this fine Committee,
Brooklyn's own David Carr, our newest Member of our

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Committee, Frank Morano from Staten Island, and Jim
Gennaro is here in the flesh. Good to see you all.
Thank you, guys, for being here.

We will be voting on Intro. 1250,
sponsored by Brooklyn's own David Carr. This bill
will require every single community board, borough
board, or advisory board to publish its bylaws
online. It will also require those entities to
regular update their published bylaws after making
any changes to them. This bill will ensure public
awareness about the functions and operations of
government entities. As a co-prime sponsor of Intro.
1250, David, I've been with you since day one on this
one, I believe it is a necessary good government
practice to help ensure community and government
meetings are accessible to all. This is such a simple
but critical reform. There are too many community
boards and other institutions out there that do not
post their bylaws online, and it creates confusion
where there shouldn't be.

I'd like to invite Council Member Carr to
offer some remarks.

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Thank you, Chair.
This is an important piece of legislation, as the

Chair was just outlining, and I want to thank him in particular for signing on as a prime co-sponsor and really championing this, a long-time advocate for government reform and transparency even before your tenure in the Council, so I thank you for that and your support in this legislation. Because it's true that a lot of people find the institutions that should be closest to them difficult to navigate, and that's our community boards, our borough boards, and other institutions. And we've been very fortunate in this city that we have a lot of long-time members of those boards who probably know things by rote. But when members of the public come for the first time as a concerned citizen advocating on behalf of a cause that's important to them, when we have new members who are joining those institutions, everyone should be on an even playing field when it comes to knowing the rules, the rules that govern the way those institutions work. And oftentimes that has not been the case. And I think it's even more critical when we keep in mind that in 2027 and 2028, community board term limits will come into actual effect for the first time and members who have served for decades will be leaving those boards. So, this is an

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opportune moment for us to make sure that there's
transparency in the way these neighborhood
organizations essentially function and operate on
behalf of the people they're supposed to serve. So, I
urge my Colleagues to vote yes. And once again, I
thank the Chair and everyone on the Team here at the
Committee for their work in making this a reality.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Thank you so much,
Council Member Carr, for your really great leadership
on this issue and being a great Colleague on the
Committee. We really appreciate it.

With that, I will invite the Clerk to
call the roll.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
you. Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk.
Roll call vote, Committee on Governmental Operations,
State and Federal Legislation. Proposed Introduction
1250-A.

Chair Restler.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote aye, and I
wish to be added as a sponsor if I'm not already.

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COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
you. Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye. I do
want to point out that when I was Borough President,
we did this already. Thank you very much.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:
Gutiérrez. Hanif.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
you.

Schulman.

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Carr.

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: I'm going to have to
put Gale did it already on my tombstone, but aye.
Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Vernikov.
Morano.

COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: As someone that
was a member of a community board that did not have
these bylaws at the time that this bill was
introduced, an enthusiastic, enthusiastic aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
vote of seven in the affirmative, zero with a

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negative and no abstentions, this item has been
adopted by the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Thank you very much
to the Clerk, and congratulations to Council Member
Carr.

Thank you, Council Member Hanif, for
joining us.

And for those who haven't met our new
Committee Counsel, Jahari Frazier, please want to
welcome him as the new Committee Counsel for GovOps.
We're thrilled to have you.

Thank you so much, everybody. [GAVEL]

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 November 25, 2025