

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

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May 25, 2023  
Start: 10:38 a.m.  
Recess: 10:56 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Julie Menin, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Selvena N. Brooks-Powers  
Tiffany Caban  
Shekar Krishan  
Darlene Mealy  
Sandra Ung  
Marjorie Velazquez

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Althea V. Stevens

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone  
3 check for the Committee on Small Business, recorded  
4 on May 25, 2023, in the City Hall Chambers by  
5 Giselle Rivera.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: If everybody can please  
7 quiet down? We are ready to begin.

8 Welcome to the Committee on Small  
9 Business.

10 Please silence phones at this time. Thank  
11 you.

12 Chair, we are ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON MENIN: Good morning. I'm  
14 Council Member Julie Menin, Chair of the Committee on  
15 Small Business, and I want to begin by welcoming my  
16 Colleagues who have joined us here today. Majority  
17 Whip Selvena Brooks-Powers, Council Member Ung, and  
18 Council Member Tiffany Caban, and Council Member  
19 Velazquez is on Zoom, and we've also been joined by  
20 Council Member Althea Stevens who has a bill that  
21 we're hearing today.

22 At today's hearing, the Committee will be  
23 voting on Intro. 686. This bill was previously heard  
24 in a joint hearing with the Committee of Youth  
25 Services. The bill, which is sponsored by Council

2 Member Stevens, would amend the Administrative Code  
3 to enhance the opportunities available through the  
4 Summer Youth Employment Program, very proud to be a  
5 co-prime sponsor of this bill. I think this bill is  
6 really going to make an enormous difference to ensure  
7 that young people have opportunities both at City  
8 agencies and in the private sector as well. Youth  
9 unemployment often negatively affects future  
10 employment, either by increasing the probability of  
11 unemployment in adulthood or reducing access to  
12 higher wages. New York City's Summer Youth Employment  
13 Program shows the success that comes from engaging  
14 and uplifting our City's youth and has grown to serve  
15 over 90,000 participants this year, making it the  
16 largest youth employment program in the country. The  
17 power and interest in this program is clear and must  
18 be utilized to its fullest potential to effectively  
19 support New York City youth. Today, we are voting on  
20 Council Member Stevens' bill, Intro. 686, which seeks  
21 to diversify the opportunities available for  
22 participants of the Summer Youth Employment Program  
23 by requiring each City agency to have a goal of  
24 accepting SYEP participants equal to at least 0.5  
25 percent of its total full-time head count.

2           The bill also requires coordination  
3 between the Department of Small Business Services and  
4 the Department of Youth and Community Development to  
5 promote SYEP to businesses in SBS' contacts.

6           Finally, the bill will require a report  
7 breaking down the SYEP placements in government,  
8 private, and not-for-profit sectors with additional  
9 breakdowns on the number of youth employed at each  
10 City agency.

11           The future of New York City depends on  
12 the support we provide our youth now, and I very much  
13 look forward to voting on Intro. 686.

14           I first of all want to thank Nicole Cata  
15 and Rebecca Barilla from Central Staff for their work  
16 putting together this hearing as well as my own  
17 Chief-of-Staff, Jonathan Szott, and Legislative  
18 Director, Brandon Jordan, for their assistance.

19           Now, it's my pleasure to turn it over to  
20 my Colleague, Council Member Stevens.

21           COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Good morning. I'm  
22 very excited and thank you, Chair Menin. One, thank  
23 you for your collaboration on this bill. This bill  
24 really came out of a conversation of thinking about  
25 how do we make sure that we are fostering workforce

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2 development and really using the City as an agent to  
3 give young people opportunities and really start to  
4 explore the wonderful careers that we offer in the  
5 City so I'm super excited that we will be pretty much  
6 codifying some of the things that we talked about  
7 last year when SYEP was expanding and really making  
8 sure that young people have multiple opportunities  
9 and literally making sure that they are able to see  
10 different parts and intersections the City's workings  
11 so thank you, and I hope that everyone here is in  
12 full support and please vote yes.

13 CHAIRPERSON MENIN: Thank you so much. I  
14 am now going to turn it over to the Clerk to call the  
15 role.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good  
17 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call  
18 vote Committee on Small Business, Proposed  
19 Introduction 686A. Chair Menin.

20 CHAIRPERSON MENIN: Yes.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brooks-  
22 Powers.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS:  
24 Congratulations, Councilwoman Stevens. I vote aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Caban.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABAN: Congrats, Council  
3 Member Stevens and proudly vote aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ung.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: I vote aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

7 Velazquez.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VELAZQUEZ: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
10 you. Council Member Krishnan.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

13 you. By a vote of six in the affirmative, zero in the  
14 negative, and no abstentions, item has been adopted  
15 by the Committee.

16 CHAIRPERSON MENIN: Okay, we're going to  
17 keep it open for a minute.

18 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: We just have to wait  
19 for the Clerk to come back. Give us one minute.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

21 Continuation roll call, Committee on Small Business.  
22 Council Member Mealy.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye on all.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
3 you. Final vote now is seven in the affirmative, zero  
4 in the negative, and no abstentions.

5 Council Member Menin to close.

6 CHAIRPERSON MENIN: We are now closing the  
7 vote. Thank you. [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 May 31, 2023