

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

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November 12, 2025

Start: 12:01 p.m.

Recess: 12:04 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING
ROOM 1

B E F O R E: Lincoln Restler, Acting
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chris Banks
Chi A. Ossé
Kevin C. Riley
Sandra Ung

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Testing, testing. This
3 is a microphone test for the Committee on General
4 Welfare, recorded on November 12, 2025, by Sergeant
5 Ben Levy. We are located in Hearing Room 1, 250
6 Broadway.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good afternoon, and
8 welcome to the New York City Council vote on the
9 Committee on General Welfare.

10 At this time, please silence all
11 electronics and do not approach the dais.

12 Chair, you may begin.

13 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: [GAVEL]
14 Great. Good afternoon, officially. It's 12 o'clock.
15 Welcome to today's hearing. My name is, sadly, not
16 Diane Ayala, much to the chagrin of everyone in this
17 room. I'm Lincoln Restler, I'm stepping in for the
18 Deputy Speaker today to chair the Committee on
19 General Welfare.

20 Today, our Committee will be voting on
21 Intro. 1408, related to a study and report on burial
22 capacity at Hart Island. Hart Island has served as
23 the New York City Municipal Cemetery since 1869.
24 That's almost the Civil War. It's approximately 100
25 acres and more than one million New Yorkers, one

million New Yorkers are buried there. There is concern among advocates and bereaved family members about the capacity for the island to continue to serve as a cemetery for New Yorkers. This bill would require the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, in collaboration with the Commissioner of the Department of Parks and Recreation and any other relevant New York City agency head, to conduct a study to analyze Hart Island's capacity for future public burials under existing burial procedures. The agency heads would have to assess whether the procedures should be changed and develop recommendations if any changes are determined appropriate. Finally, DSS would have to submit to the Mayor and the Speaker of the Council and the respective agencies would have to post online a report containing the study findings and recommendations. When enacted, this bill will take effect immediately.

At this time, I'd like to acknowledge my Colleagues who are here today, Council Member Chi Ossé from Bed-Stuy, Council Member Sandra Ung from Flushing, Council Member Kevin Riley, you know, you like this, we're bringing the energy, we're bringing

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2 the energy. The Northeast Bronx is represented by
3 Council Member Kevin Riley, and Chris Banks of East
4 New York is holding it down.

5 I'd like to thank the Committee Staff who
6 worked to prepare this hearing, Aminta Kilawan, our
7 Senior Legislative Counsel, thank you; Penina
8 Rosenberg, Policy Analyst; Elisabeth Childers-Garcia,
9 our Finance Analyst.

10 And I'd now like to ask the Clerk to call
11 a roll call.

12 I didn't call that out. I'm sorry. I can
13 do that. No, you want me to?

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: No, no,
15 no, no, no.

16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: The Clerk is
17 representing Astoria today. We want to thank him for
18 that.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: All
20 right, appreciate it.

21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Queens is
22 here.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
24 you. Good afternoon, William Martin, Committee Clerk,
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2 from Astoria Queens, Committee on General Welfare,
3 Proposed Introduction 1408-A.
4 Chair Restler.
5 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Oh, aye.
6 Sorry. I'm here.
7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
8 you.
9 Ayala. Riley.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.
11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Cabán.
12 Avilés. Ossé.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.
14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.
15 Ung.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.
17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Banks.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye.
19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
20 vote of five in the affirmative, zero in the
21 negative, and no abstentions, item has been adopted
22 by the Committee.
23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Is there
24 anyone we need to leave this open for?
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2 Okay. We are adjourning. Thank you.

3 [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 November 25, 2025