

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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November 22, 2021
Start: 9:06 a.m.
Recess: 9:09 a.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing (Virtual Room 4)

B E F O R E: Keith Powers
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Carlina Rivera
Kevin Riley
Jimmy Van Bramer
Robert F. Holden
Darma V. Diaz
Alicka Ampry-Samuel

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Recordings. Recording
3 to the PC begun.

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Recording to the cloud
5 in progress.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Thank you.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Backup is rolling.

8 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Thank you. Good morning
9 and welcome to today's remote New York City Council
10 vote for the Committee on Criminal Justice. At this
11 time, will all panelists please turn on their videos
12 for verification purposes? To minimize disruptions,
13 please place all electronic devices to vibrate or
14 silent mode. Thank you. Chair, we are ready to
15 begin.

16 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Thank you and good
17 morning, everyone. I'm City Council member Keith
18 Powers, Chair of the Committee on Criminal Justice.
19 Today, we are here to vote on Intro 903-A which a
20 bill by Council member Adrienne Adams. This bill
21 would require the Department of Corrections to assist
22 formerly incarcerated individuals to access their
23 unused commissary funds and ensure that any person
24 with unused funds is immediately given up to 200 in
25 commissary funds in cash upon request. Additional

2 funds would be available by check. The bill will
3 also require the Department to make reasonable
4 efforts to return unused funds of formerly
5 incarcerated individuals and to establish a plan for
6 raising awareness regarding obtaining commissary
7 funds. It would also require a yearly report on
8 outstanding funds and the attempts to return such
9 funds. The Department of Corrections currently has
10 \$3.7 million of unclaimed commissary funds that
11 belongs to people who have been discharged from
12 correctional facilities. This money has accumulated
13 over many years and many people who are in the
14 Department's custody aren't aware that they have
15 money left in their accounts. This bill would help
16 return money to its rightful owners and I want to
17 thank Council member Adams for her bill which I feel
18 like we put out there about three or four years ago
19 talking about this bill and, of course, I want to
20 thank all the staff who helped with this hearing and
21 have been working on that, as well. And, of course,
22 I want to acknowledge many of my colleagues that are
23 here today: Council member Holden, Council member Van
24 Bramer, Council member Diaz, Council member Ampry-
25 Samuel, Council member Riley, Council member Rivera,

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5

2 and, of course, Council member Adams who is here for
3 her own bill, as well. I don't believe she's making
4 any comments on it today, so we will go ahead and
5 open the vote on Intro 903-A.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning.

7 William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call vote

8 Committee on Criminal Justice. Proposed Introduction

9 903-A. Chair Powers?

10 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: I vote aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Ampry-

14 Samuel?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: I vote

16 aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Holden?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Rivera?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Darma Diaz?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: I vote aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Riley?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: I vote aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. By a vote of
3 seven in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and
4 no abstentions, the item has been adopted. Mr.
5 Chair, that is a full committee.

6 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Good. Thank you,
7 everyone, and we'll see you at the next one. With
8 that, the committee is adjourned. Thank you.

9 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Thank you.

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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 December 30, 2021