

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH,
DISABILITIES, AND ADDICTION

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December 14, 2021
Start: 9:08 a.m.
Recess: 9:11 a.m.

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 2)

B E F O R E: Farah Louis
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Diana Ayala
Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Joseph Borelli
Eric Dinowitz
Kevin Riley

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

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: PC recording underway.

3 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Cloud recording is up.

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Backup is rolling.

5 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and welcome
6 to today's remote New York City Council hearing for
7 the Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities, and
8 Addictions. At this time, we ask that all Council
9 members and Council staff turn on their videos for
10 verification purposes. And to minimize disruptions,
11 place all cell phones electronic devices to vibrate
12 or silent mode. Thank you for your cooperation.
13 Chair, we are ready to begin.

14 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you so much.
15 Good morning, everyone. I am Council member Farah
16 Louis, Chair of the Committee on Mental Health,
17 Disabilities, and Addiction. I like to start by
18 thanking my amazing colleagues for being on and
19 present this early morning as we vote on a very
20 important piece of legislation: Introduction number
21 2005-A which I am very proud to sponsor. This
22 legislation would require the New York City
23 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, also known
24 as DOHMH, to track and issue a report on the mental
25 health of New Yorkers during the COVID-19 public

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3 health emergency. Specifically, the report would be
4 published every six months and would include the
5 number of 311 calls relating to mental health, the
6 number of 911 calls relating to mental health
7 emergencies, and substance misuse or overdoses. The
8 number of call received by any mental health hotline
9 maintained by the Department or by another agency, as
10 well as the number of hospital admissions for
11 overdoses or substance use-related cases and any
12 other information relating to the mental health of
13 New Yorkers during the COVID-19 public health
14 emergency that the Commissioner of Health deems
15 appropriate. Importantly, on an annual basis, the
16 report would also include a description of any trends
17 in adverse mental health of New Yorkers during the
18 COVID-19 public health emergency and any steps taken
19 by DOHMH to address such trends. I would like to
20 thank my colleagues, as well as my staff.

21 Legislative director Christia Winter, Alex Timkiff
22 [sp?], as well as our Council Committee staff, senior
23 counsel Sara Liss, legislative policy analyst Christy
24 Dryer, and our financial analyst Lauren Hunt, for all
25 of their work on this legislation and preparing for

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2 this hearing. Thank you and I will now pass it to
3 the clerk for the vote.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning. This is a
5 roll call vote of the Committee on Mental Health,
6 Disabilities, and Addictions. The item is Intro 2005-
7 A. We will start with Chair Louis?

8 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: I vote aye. Thank
9 you.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Ampry-
11 Samuel?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: I vote
13 aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council member Ayala?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Sorry. I lost my
16 zoom. I vote aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Riley?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: I vote aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council member Dinowitz?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: I vote aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Minority Leader Borelli?

22 MINORITY LEADER BORELLI: I vote aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. By a vote of
24 six in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
25 abstentions, the item is adopted.

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3 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you so much.

4 And to all my colleagues, thank you for being on so
5 early. Have a blessed day, everyone.

6 MINORITY LEADER BORELLI: Thank you,
7 Chair.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Thank
9 you, Chair Louis.

10 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you so much.

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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 January 28, 2022