

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN & GENDER EQUITY

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN & GENDER EQUITY

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December 14, 2021

Start: 1:34 p.m.

Recess: 1:45 p.m.

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 2)

B E F O R E: Hon. Darma V. Diaz, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Laurie A. Cumbo  
James F. Gennaro  
Ben Kallos  
Brad S. Lander  
Farah N. Louis  
Helen K. Rosenthal

Other Council Members Attending:

Barron  
Cornegy  
Yeger

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN & GENDER EQUITY

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

[N/A]

2 SERGEANT BRADLEY: Pc recording is up recording is  
3 up.

4 SERGEANT LUGO: Cloud is up.

5 Good afternoon everyone, and welcome today's  
6 remote New York City Council Vote of the Committee on  
7 Women and Gender Equity.

8 At this time would all panelist please turn on  
9 your videos?

10 To minimize disruption, please place all  
11 electronic devices to vibrate or silent.

12 Thank you for your cooperation, Chair Diaz, we  
13 are ready to begin.

14 CHAIRPERSON DIAZ: Good afternoon, my good people.  
15 Can you hear me clearly?

16 JOHANNA CASTRO: Yes, we can hear you.

17 CHAIRPERSON DIAZ: I am Councilwoman Darma V.  
18 Diaz, my pronouns are she/her/hers, Chair of the  
19 Committee on Women and Gender Equity.

20 Today the Committee will vote on Council Member  
21 Helen Rosenthal's Proposed Introduction number bill  
22 2424-B, which is related to establishing a Street  
23 Harassment Prevention Advisory Board.

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2 Before we move on, I would like to welcome my  
3 colleague and predecessor Committee Chair, Council  
4 Member Rosenthal, to say a few words on her bill.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you so much,  
6 Chair Diaz, uh, I really appreciate you and  
7 appreciate your, uh, committee hearing this bill, and  
8 I urge my colleagues vote yes on it.

9 Just a quick description. So, according to  
10 research, over 50% of people experience street  
11 harassment. What this bill does is add the  
12 definition of street harassment to our City's  
13 administrative code. It, uh, establishes a Street  
14 Harassment Committee made up of a broad range of city  
15 agencies and nonprofits, to, uhm, examine the issue  
16 and included in the membership is, uh, a member of  
17 the MTA, hopefully, MTA staff, they're invited to  
18 join, the Office of Nightlife is invited to join.  
19 And, it is my hope that the Mayor or The City Council  
20 will appoint someone from the organization called  
21 Hollaback! To join the committee as well. Hollaback!  
22 has been the leading voice in New York City to study  
23 street harassment, which can be sexual, but is not  
24 limited to that. We've seen horrible Asian hate  
25 crimes, uh, experienced by people on the street,

1  
2 that's street harassment. Uhm, and that's on the  
3 rise. The LGBTQI+ Community experiences street  
4 harassment in particular, transgender women. And  
5 this can be stopped. It can be stopped through  
6 education campaigns and bystander training.

7 Education campaigns can be geared toward both the  
8 harasser, the public who might see the harassment,  
9 and the victim.

10 So, enough is enough. This bill requires city  
11 government to take street harassment seriously, and I  
12 am so proud that, uh, we've been able to move it to  
13 this space, and, uhm, appreciate you, Chair Diaz.  
14 And, to the committee staff, uh, I see Chloë Rivera  
15 is here, uhm, Jai Shree Ganapathy worked on this  
16 bill, thank you, Chloë, uh, and Brenda McKinney has  
17 worked on this bill. So... And, Jeff Baker, of  
18 course, thank you so much for all your help in  
19 bringing it to this place.

20 CHAIRPERSON DIAZ: Thank you. Thank you for  
21 breaking down the bill to the greater audience. So,  
22 we're clear, uhm, that there will be as much of New  
23 York City involvement as possible. And, when I say  
24 New York City, it's the many arms that we have in  
25 government, including the MTA. You know, this

1 definitely has been an issue in my community, so I'm  
2 looking forward to positive resolution, or a good  
3 healthy conversation to come. You know, it's much  
4 needed; it's healthy conversation. Sometimes  
5 conversations of this nature are hard to have, but  
6 the time has risen for us to have this conversation.

7 I'd like to thank my colleagues, the committee  
8 members that at last minute jumped back in. We  
9 thought last week we were done, but life said  
10 differently. We're New Yorkers, and we know we've  
11 got to get these going; we just get them done.

12 I'd like to thank my staff, Karen Cherry, Chief  
13 of Staff [INAUDIBLE 00:5:13] Legislative Director,  
14 I'd like to thank Chloë Rivera, and also Brenda  
15 McKinney, who my understanding is has worked on this  
16 bill, but is out on maternity leave. Uhm, Brenda, if  
17 you're out there listening, we thank you for all your  
18 efforts, and your efforts have not been forgotten. I  
19 would also be remiss if I would not include our  
20 Finance Chair, our lead, we know as members and  
21 without the union, the financial piece of this, we  
22 don't know if we can actually move a bill forward.  
23 So, again, thank you for all of you that have  
24 participated from beginning to end. [INAUDIBLE  
25

1  
2 00:05:54] started last year, I said, from the person  
3 that opens the door in the morning, to the Finance  
4 staff, to the members, New York City, the City  
5 Council, doesn't move forward, if you we don't get  
6 together as a team.

7 Chloë, I don't know if you have any last remarks  
8 before we... we close today?

9 No?

10 Alright, uhm, any member have anything they'd  
11 like to day before we close out, Majority Leader?

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I just want to celebrate  
13 all of the dynamic women on this committee, and the  
14 men who get it. My former co-chair of the Women's  
15 Caucus, Helen Rosenthal, we've done a lot of work  
16 together on street harassment, and making this a real  
17 issue, and it's not just something that we have to  
18 live within the City of New York. It's not just part  
19 of urban culture. It's a real, serious issues, uhm,  
20 that has major consequences that can lead to many  
21 other issues, and it's serious work to get to the  
22 bottom of this. And, she and I have both worked with  
23 Hollaback! for a number of years, uhm, who have  
24 really talked about that there are real, tangible  
25 solutions to street harassment. And, I just want to

1  
2 close by celebrating Chair Darma Diaz, you have run a  
3 powerful committee. I was honored when I first  
4 became elected to The City Council to chair this  
5 committee. Uhm, also Council Member Rosenthal, and  
6 now you, it's... It's wonderful to see that this  
7 committee has been in your hands, and the incredible  
8 work that you have done, in a very short period of  
9 time, your future is so big and bright. And, we look  
10 forward to your future next steps, and seeing all  
11 that you are going to do. And, whenever you get to  
12 the top, just give me a call and take me with you.

13 (LAUGHING)

14 CHAIRPERSON DIAZ: Oh, definitely, definitely, and  
15 all I can say, I am only as good as my team and my  
16 staff and my predecessors. You know, so I stand on  
17 the shoulders of the both of you.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Oh, thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON DIAZ: Because you definitely...

20 (Cross-Talk)

21 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Chair Diaz?

22 CHAIRPERSON DIAZ: [INAUDIBLE 00:08:04] for me to  
23 work with, and you've been there, available to me,  
24 when I've had questions or maybe even doubts. So,

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1  
2 thank you for leading the way and giving me a clear  
3 path.... (Cross-Talk)

4 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Chair Diaz? (Cross-Talk)

5 CHAIRPERSON DIAZ: Thank you. Yes?

6 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Uh, would you.... Would you  
7 like the vote to be taken now?

8 CHAIRPERSON DIAZ: I'm sorry, we have one more  
9 member that has his hand raised, and then we can take  
10 the vote.

11 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Yes, thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON DIAZ: You're welcome... (Cross-Talk)

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: So, thank you, Council  
14 Member Diaz, it's been a serve with you.

15 CHAIRPERSON DIAZ: Same here, like we were taught  
16 yesterday, right, that means love.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Or so we hope.

18 CHAIRPERSON DIAZ: (LAUGHING) Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yeah, I... I had my hand  
20 up, but I just wanted first to thank Helen so much  
21 for her bill and all the bills, that she's put  
22 forward since I've been on the council. It's been a  
23 great privilege to, uh, to chair at the same time as  
24 you, and everyone on this call, I certainly want to  
25 associate myself, uhm, with the comments of the

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2 Majority Leader, and to pay special tribute to Chair  
3 Darma Diaz. It's been great to be on this committee,  
4 uh, and I hope I continue to stay on it. Uh, I asked  
5 to be on it, and, uhm... (Cross-Talk)

6 CHAIRPERSON DIAZ: Good.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I got what I wanted. I'm  
8 happy about that. And, uhm, and I'm going to miss  
9 you and miss, you know, being a member of your  
10 committee. And, uhm, but we'll always be friends,  
11 and I'm happy about that. And, that goes for, uhm,  
12 everybody who can hear my voice, uh, all of the  
13 friends I've made since The Council took me back, you  
14 know, in February. I'm grateful for that. Grateful  
15 for you. Grateful for this bill. And, uh, let's do  
16 this.

17 CHAIRPERSON DIAZ: Thank you for your honesty.  
18 You've definitely brought honesty and true commitment  
19 to the committee, and I thank you for that.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you, Darma.

21 CHAIRPERSON DIAZ: You're welcome.

22 I want to turn it over to Jonathan so we can  
23 vote.

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2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you, and good afternoon.  
3 This is The Committee on Women and Gender Equity roll  
4 call vote on Intro 2424-B.

5 We'll start with Chair Darma Diaz?

6 CHAIRPERSON DIAZ: Yes.

7 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Lander?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: With gratitude to The  
9 Chair and the sponsor for you really important  
10 leadership, I vote aye.

11 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Majority Leader Cumbo?

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I proudly vote aye.

13 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you.

14 Council Member Kallos?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I vote aye.

16 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Rosenthal?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye with  
18 gratitude to my colleagues.

19 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Louis?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye. And,  
21 congratulations, Chair Diaz, on your hard work.

22 CHAIRPERSON DIAZ: Thank you.

23 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

25 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you.

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COMMITTEE ON WOMEN & GENDER EQUITY

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Chair Diaz, by a vote 7 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and 0 abstentions, Intro 2424-B is adopted.

CHAIRPERSON DIAZ: Thank you.

[GAVEL]

UNKNOWN: Thank you, Chair Diaz. Congratulations on your last vote.

CHAIRPERSON DIAZ: Yay!

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 31, 2022