

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

----- X

JULY 13, 2022  
Start: 11:13 A.M.  
Recess: 11:30 A.M.

HELD AT: HYBRID HEARING - COMMITTEE ROOM -  
CITY HALL

B E F O R E: NANTASHA M. WILLIAMS, CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS: RITA C. JOSEPH  
CHRISTOPHER MARTE  
KRISTIN RICHARDSON JORDAN  
RAFAEL SALAMANCA, JR.  
INNA VERNIKOV  
SHAHANA HANIF  
JULIE MENIN

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

2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning. This is  
3 a sound check for the Committee on Civil and Human  
4 Rights. Today's date is July 13, 2022. Located in  
5 the Committee Room. Recording done by Pedro Lugo.

6 SGT. LUGO: Welcome to today's Hybrid New  
7 York City Council Meeting on Civil and Human Right.  
8 At this time, please place electronic devices to  
9 silent or on vibrate mode. Thank you. Chair, you  
10 may now begin.

11 CHAIRPERSON NANTASHA WILLIAMS: (gavel  
12 pounding). Good morning, my name is Nantasha  
13 Williams and I am the chair of the Committee on Civil  
14 and Human Rights. I would like to thank everyone  
15 joining us for today's vote on Proposed Intro 474A  
16 and proposed resolution 242B. On June 30th, 2022,  
17 the Committee heard previous versions of the  
18 aforementioned bill and resolution and received  
19 testimony and feedback from the Commission on Human  
20 Right, the New York Police Department and Advocates.  
21 Today we will be voting on proposed Intro 474A in  
22 relation to a public information outreach campaign  
23 regarding safe access to reproductive healthcare and  
24 resolution 242B congratulating the State Legislature  
25 for approving Senate Bill 15002 and Assembly Bill

2 41002. A resolution proposing an amendment to the  
3 New York State Constitution to relation to equal  
4 protection and calling on the legislature to approve  
5 this amendment again next session so that it may be  
6 submitted to the voters of New York State for  
7 approval. We are in the midst of a pivotal moment  
8 and the fight for equal access to reproductive  
9 healthcare. It is crucial that we do not get  
10 disheartened by the overturning of Roe V. Wade.  
11 Instead, we must work to pass meaning legislation  
12 such as the kind you are voting on today to ensure  
13 the safety and protection of those seeking  
14 reproductive healthcare services here in New York.  
15 I'd like to thank Committee staff, Jayceree and  
16 William as well as my own staff, Araton and Ashley.  
17 I will now turn it over to Council Member Hanif for  
18 some opening remarks on her legislation.

19                   SHAHANA HANIF: Hello. Hello. Good  
20 morning. I am Council Member Shahana Hanif. I  
21 represent the 39th District in Brooklyn. Thank you  
22 to the Committee on Civil and Human Rights and to  
23 Chair Nantasha Williams for holding this hearing and  
24 for brining by bill, Intro 474A up for a vote this  
25 morning. I want to express gratitude to the co-prime

2 sponsors who introduced this bill alongside me.

3 Public Advocate Williams. Chair Williams. Council

4 Member Hudson and Caban. I also want to thank a

5 majority of Council Members including Speaker Adams

6 for signing on as sponsors. The basic human right to

7 abortion is under attack across the country at every

8 level of government. Thankfully, New York City has

9 already enshrined a number of key reproductive rights

10 protections as Law. However, these protections are

11 underutilized with many New Yorkers simply not aware

12 they exist. Intro 474A addresses this information

13 gap by requiring the City to conduct a language

14 accessible and culturally competent public education

15 and media campaigns to inform the public about the

16 following: 1) The access to reproductive healthcare

17 law which prohibits obstruction or harassment by

18 entering a reproductive healthcare facility. 2)

19 Protection under the Human Rights Law against

20 discrimination in employment, housing or other

21 setting on the basis of reproductive health decisions

22 3) Remedies including the right to private action if

23 either of the above protections are violated. 4)

24 The range of reproductive care options that are legal

25 and available in our City including abortion,

2 pregnancy counseling and preventative and emergency  
3 contraction. 5) Resources on how to find the  
4 comprehensive reproductive healthcare services in our  
5 City. 6) Guidance regarding private of protected  
6 health information for those seeking reproductive  
7 healthcare services and 7) Any other rights related  
8 to reproductive healthcare that the administering  
9 agency deems appropriate which is intended to include  
10 newly established protections that the Council will  
11 hopefully pass tomorrow. This bill in tandem with  
12 the suite of bills in front of the Council will  
13 further cement New York City as a bashed in for  
14 reproductive justice. I encourage my colleagues to  
15 vote yes on Intro 474A. Thank you. And I'll pass it  
16 to Council Member Julie Menin for her remarks.

17 JULIE MENIN: Thank you so much. First  
18 of all I want to thank Chair Williams for this very  
19 important hearing. Today's vote is meaningful in  
20 that the City of New York will send a clear message  
21 to all New Yorkers and elected officials in Albany  
22 that we need an equal rights amendment in our State  
23 Constitution. On July 1st, the State Senate and  
24 State Assembly passed legislation sponsored by Senate  
25 Majority Leaders and Andrea Stewart-Cousins. And

2 Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright that puts New York  
3 State on a path towards and equal rights amendment.  
4 State Lawmakers must still pass this bill again next  
5 year before it goes to voters and a referendum. Now  
6 is the opportunity to have a constitution that truly  
7 protects all New Yorkers. The last time our state  
8 constitution was amended with regards to the topic of  
9 equal rights was 1938. It does not cover ethnicity,  
10 national origin, age, disability or sex including  
11 sexual orientation, gender identity, gender  
12 expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes and  
13 reproductive healthcare and autonomy. We know these  
14 classes should be protected. Our State Constitution  
15 must be updated to reflect that. By voting for  
16 resolution 242 New York can take another key step in  
17 ensuring that equal rights means equal rights in our  
18 State Constitution. It's critical to have this,  
19 considering reproductive rights were clearly taken  
20 away in the devastating Supreme Court decision last  
21 month. It's not enough to say that reproductive  
22 rights are human rights. Our State Constitution must  
23 make that explicitly clear. I thank the Chair for  
24 allowing me to speak and I look forward to today's  
25 vote. Thank you.

1 COMMITTEE ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

8

2 CHAIRPERSON NANTASHA WILLIAMS: All  
3 right. And now I'll ask the clerk to call the role.

4 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Good  
5 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk, roll call  
6 vote Committee on Civil and Human Rights on proposed  
7 introductions 474A and 242A. Items are coupled.  
8 Chair Williams?

9 CHAIRPERSON NANTASHA WILLIAMS: I vote  
10 aye.

11 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:  
12 Salamanca?

13 RAFAEL SALAMANCA: Uh, I would like to  
14 congratulate both my colleagues on their bills. I'm  
15 going to ask that I also be added as a co-sponsor on  
16 both Bills and I vote aye on all.

17 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank  
18 you. Joseph?

19 RITA JOSEPH: I vote aye.

20 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Marte?

21 CHRISTOPHER MARTE: I vote aye.

22 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: By a  
23 vote of four in the affirmative, zero in the negative  
24 and no abstentions both items have been adopted by  
25 the Committee.

2 CHAIRPERSON NANTASHA WILLIAMS: Awesome  
3 well this has been a great Committee meeting.  
4 Excited about the wonderful bill and resolution that  
5 was just passed. Have a great day. (gavel pounding)

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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 AUGUST 22, 2022