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COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND 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 AND GENDER EQUITY

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October 12, 2022
Start: 10:42 a.m.
Recess: 10:50 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Tiffany Cabán, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Jennifer Gutiérrez
Kevin C. Riley
Althea V. Stevens
Julie Menin

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. This is a
3 prerecorded sound test for the Committee on Women and
4 Gender Equity. Today's date is October 12, 2022. It
5 is being recorded by Michael Leonardo (phonetic) in
6 the City Council Chambers.

7 CHAIRPERSON CABAN: [GAVEL] Good morning.
8 My name is Council Member Tiffany Cabán. My pronouns
9 are she/her, and I am Chair of the Committee on Women
10 and Gender Equity.

11 Today, the Committee will vote on a
12 package of legislation related to childcare. There
13 are seven bills and one resolution in this package,
14 which our Committee will be voting on today.

15 This includes Intro 242-A sponsored by
16 Council Member Gutiérrez, a Local Law and the
17 establishment of a Marshall plan for a moms taskforce
18 to develop and issue recommendations on how to
19 support working mothers, other parents, and
20 caregivers.

21 Intro 477-A sponsored by Council Member
22 Hudson. A Local Law to amend the Administrative Code
23 of the City of New York in relation to establishing a
24 childcare taskforce.

2 Intro 485-A sponsored by Council Member
3 Menin. A Local Law to amend the Administrative Code
4 of the City of New York in relation to an electronic
5 childcare directory.

6 Intro 486-A sponsored by Council Member
7 Menin. A Local Law to amend the New York City Charter
8 in relation to establishing a childcare advisory
9 board.

10 Intro 487-A sponsored by Council Member
11 Menin. A Local Law to amend the Administrative Code
12 of the City of New York in relation to establishing a
13 childcare subsidy information portal.

14 Intro 488-A sponsored by Council Member
15 Menin. A Local Law to amend the Administrative Code
16 of the City of New York in relation to establishing a
17 childcare grant pilot program.

18 Intro 489-A sponsored by Council Member
19 Menin. A Local Law to amend the Administrative Code
20 of the City of New York in relation to guidance to an
21 owner of real property regarding facility
22 requirements for a childcare program.

23 Finally, Resolution 69, also sponsored by
24 Council Member Menin. A Resolution calling on the New
25 York State Legislature to pass and the Governor to

2 sign Senate Bill 7595, Assembly Bill 8623, Senate
3 Bill 6706B, Assembly Bill 7582A, and Senate Bill
4 7615, Assembly side 8625. Legislation supporting the
5 provision of financial assistance to families and
6 childcare providers in order to make childcare more
7 accessible and affordable.

8 Childcare is not only essential for
9 working parents but for a just and equitable society,
10 and I commend my Colleagues of the Council for making
11 this issue a priority.

12 Before moving on to the vote, I would
13 especially like to recognize and welcome the Bill's
14 sponsors who are present today and invite them to
15 provide remarks on their legislation. I will start by
16 handing it over to Council Member Menin.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Thank you so much.
18 I first of all want to thank Chair Caban for today's
19 vote and for her leadership on bringing these bills
20 forward. I want to congratulate my Colleague, Council
21 Member Gutierrez, on her Marshal plan taskforce as
22 well as Council Member Hudson.

23 Childcare is in a state of crisis. It
24 costs on average over 18,000 dollars a year for
25 childcare. During the COVID pandemic, it's estimated

2 that over 375,000 parents and caregivers in New York
3 City have left the workforce or downsized their jobs
4 because of high childcare costs, and that is actually
5 costing the City over 2 billion dollars a year in
6 lost revenue. Additionally, there aren't enough
7 childcare providers, creating childcare deserts all
8 over the city as over 1,400 facilities have closed in
9 recent years.

10 My package of bills, the Universal
11 Childcare Act, is a critical step in addressing this
12 issue. Today's vote means that New York City would
13 become the first city in the country to enact a
14 comprehensive legislative package that implements and
15 mandates universal childcare. The package includes
16 five bills.

17 Intro 485 creates an electronic childcare
18 directory of every provider in the city, and that
19 would be available in 11 different languages.

20 Intro 486 creates a permanent childcare
21 advisory board that would make recommendations on
22 legislation, policies, and initiatives to make
23 childcare affordable, and it puts the City on a five-
24 year plan to implement universal childcare.

2 Intro 487 creates a childcare subsidy
3 information portal, which again would be available in
4 11 languages so that parents and caregivers could
5 find out if they qualify for federal, state, and city
6 subsidies, and it connects them directly with the
7 forms needed to qualify for those subsidies.

8 Intro 488 establishes a three-year pilot
9 program that gives childcare grants to struggling
10 providers.

11 Finally, Intro 489 requires the
12 Department of Health to create a package basically of
13 a state tax abatement, which would allow us to open
14 up more childcare facilities to address this
15 childcare desert situation that we have.

16 This package collectively along with my
17 Colleagues' addresses a longstanding issue of
18 affordability and accessibility that affects so many
19 New Yorkers. Today's legislative package ensure
20 affordable, high-quality childcare can finally be a
21 reality for our city.

22 In closing, I want to thank from the
23 Speaker's office Brenda McKinney, Jessica Foong, Sara
24 Liss, Andrea Vazquez, Jeff Baker, and from my office,
25 my Chief of Staff Jonathan Szott, my Legislative and

2 Budget Director Brandon Jordan, and my entire team
3 for this package of bills. Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON CABAN: Thank you, Council
5 Member Menin. I will pass it over to Council Member
6 Gutiérrez.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIERREZ: Thank you,
8 Chair. The bill in this package, the Marshall plan
9 for moms, calls for a historic investment in
10 caregivers' economic recovery and empowerment,
11 especially against the backdrop of the pandemic's
12 impact on mothers and working caregivers. That's why
13 I'm so excited, and I'm so proud of this package of
14 bills. It is the beginning of something historic.

15 I also want to recognize the lead
16 Sponsors from other bills in this package including
17 Council Member Menin and Council Member Hudson. All
18 in solidarity, we are sending clear signals that this
19 City Council which is composed of mothers,
20 caregivers, aunties, godmothers, we are ready to
21 build and work towards a path of revolutionizing the
22 economy of care. When we continue down this path, we
23 will fight for watershed investments that would
24 support not just the half a million children under
25 five in our city but the providers of that care as

2 well, which is a workforce that is predominantly made
3 up of women and women of color. This investment would
4 help the parents in the city, many of which are
5 people of color, 32 percent of whom are single moms,
6 and it would help ease the cycle of poverty so many
7 find themselves in. I'm so proud to be standing with
8 this group of Colleagues.

9 I also want to shout out our wonderful
10 and illustrious Chair, Council Member Cabán, for
11 prioritizing these packages under her Committee and
12 her staff, and I'm also proud to take the first small
13 step towards a true vision of universal childcare.
14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON CABAN: Thank you. Finally, I
16 also want to acknowledge the Committee Members who
17 are present, Council Members Riley and Stevens and
18 Jenn. I'd like to thank my staff as well as the
19 Committee staff and others who worked on this
20 legislation including Stephanie Silkowski, my Chief
21 of Staff; Madhuri Shukla, my Legislative Director;
22 Brenda McKinney, Senior Counsel to the Committee;
23 Jessica Foong, Senior Counsel in Bill Drafting who
24 assisted with this package; Anastassia Zimina, Policy

1 COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY 9

2 Analyst to the Committee; and Eisha Wright, Finance
3 Deputy Director.

4 I think we are now ready for the vote so
5 please take it away.

6 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Good
7 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
8 vote Committee on Women and Gender Equity. All items
9 are coupled. Chair Cabán.

10 CHAIRPERSON CABAN: Aye.

11 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Riley.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: I proudly vote aye.

13 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK:

14 Gutiérrez.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIERREZ: Aye.

16 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: Stevens.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Enthusiastically
18 vote aye.

19 WILLIAM MARTIN, COMMITTEE CLERK: By a
20 vote of four in the affirmative, zero in the
21 negative, and no abstentions, all items have been
22 adopted by the Committee.

23 CHAIRPERSON CABAN: Thank you. This
24 concludes our hearing. [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 October 15, 2022