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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 25, 2022  
Start: 10:13 a.m.  
Recess: 10:23 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Tiffany Cabán, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

James F. Gennaro  
Jennifer Gutiérrez  
Kristin Richardson Jordan  
Kevin C. Riley  
Althea V. Stevens

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. This is a  
3 microphone check for the Committee on Women and  
4 Gender Equity. Today's date is October 25, 2022,  
5 located in the Committee Room, recording done by  
6 Pedro Lugo.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Welcome to today's New  
8 York Council hearing for the Committee on Women and  
9 Gender Equity.

10 At this time, please silence all  
11 electronic devices. Thank you for your cooperation.

12 Chair, we are ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON CABAN: I'm going to gavel it  
14 in in like 30 seconds. I apologize.

15 [GAVEL] Good morning. My name is Tiffany  
16 Cabán. I am the Chair of the Committee on Women and  
17 Gender Equity, and we are here today to vote on the  
18 Support Survivors legislative package. I want to just  
19 begin by saying that it's time that we did right by  
20 survivors. This session, the Committee on Women and  
21 Gender Equity has been uncovering the barriers to  
22 accessing services that survivors face. We have heard  
23 from courageous survivors who testified before us  
24 telling us their personal stories and identifying the  
25 institutional and policy-based factors that

2 contributed to their lack of access to the services  
3 that we owe them, and I'm committed to removing these  
4 barriers and proactively establishing the programs  
5 that survivors say they need so that's why it's so  
6 important that we pass the Support Survivors  
7 legislative package. It consists of three items.

8           One, Intro 153. It's a program that  
9 addresses the economic precarity that again and again  
10 we have heard from survivors is a central barrier to  
11 their leaving dangerous situations, accessing the  
12 services they need, and beginning to heal. It does  
13 this by providing low-barrier, urgently accessible  
14 grants to survivors for housing, medical, counseling,  
15 legal, and other immediate expenses and services,  
16 which could range from moving costs to mobile phone  
17 cost to cost associated with developing a safety plan  
18 and more.

19           Two, Intro 154. It's an online portal and  
20 written resource guide where all of the services  
21 offered by every agency and CBO are clearly laid out  
22 in all of the major languages including Braille, all  
23 in one place. This addresses the problem of access  
24 that often arises even when the city already offers  
25 the service a survivor needs. Since different

2 services are houses in different departments and  
3 organizations, it's often hard to find out about,  
4 locate, and access the service a given survivor  
5 needs.

6           Three, Resolution 111. It's a Resolution  
7 in support of a State bill to provide paid leave to  
8 survivors. Like the vast majority of my fellow New  
9 Yorkers, I support universal paid leave. However,  
10 even if that takes a while to win that, there are  
11 certain sets of people we all should be able to agree  
12 require immediate attention, including survivors of  
13 domestic, intimate partner, sexual, and gender-based  
14 violence, and, for the sake of survivors as well as  
15 their loved one and coworkers, we should not be  
16 forcing them to work amid the trauma of violence. For  
17 too long, the City has cynically used violence  
18 survivors' trauma and pain merely as a pretext to  
19 ramp up policing, prosecution, and incarceration,  
20 leaving the actual survivors without access to the  
21 services and the protections they need and so we're  
22 here to say no longer.

23           Before we begin, I would like to thank my  
24 staff as well as the Committee staff for their work  
25 in preparing this legislation, it's hearing, and this

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2 vote today including Stephanie Silkowski, my Chief of  
3 Staff, Jesse Myerson, my Communications Director,  
4 Madhuri Shukla, my Legislative Director, Brenda  
5 McKinney, Senior Counsel to the Committee, Anastasia  
6 Zimina, Policy Analyst to the Committee, and Eisha  
7 Wright, Deputy Director in Finance. Finally, I also  
8 want to acknowledge the Council Members who are  
9 present, Council Member Richardson Jordan, Council  
10 Member Stevens, Council Member Riley, Council Member  
11 Gennaro. I think we're ready.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good  
13 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call  
14 vote Committee on Women and Gender Equity and  
15 Proposed Introductions 153-A and 154-A and Resolution  
16 111. All items are coupled. Chair Cabán.

17 CHAIRPERSON CABAN: I very proudly vote  
18 aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Riley.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Proudly vote aye on  
21 all.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Gennaro.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote aye, and I  
24 wish to be added as a Sponsor on all three items if I  
25 am not already so if you can check that out and put

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2 me down as a Sponsor on all three, that'll be great.

3 Thank you all. Thank you.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

5 Richardson Jordan.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Aye on

7 all.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Proudly aye on

10 all.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote  
12 of five in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and  
13 no abstentions, all items have been..

14 CHAIRPERSON CABAN: I'm sorry. I think  
15 we're going go hold the vote open for just one Member  
16 who will be here shortly. I appreciate it.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

18 Continuation roll call Committee on Women and Gender  
19 Equity. Proposed Introductions 153-A, 154-A, and Reso  
20 111. Council Member Gutiérrez.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIERREZ: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
23 you. Final vote now, all items have been adopted by a  
24 the Committee with six in the affirmative, zero in  
25 the negative, and no abstentions.

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2 CHAIRPERSON CABAN: [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 29, 2022