

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL
OPERATIONS

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Wednesday, December 7, 2022
Start: 10:07 a.m.
Recess: 10:20 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Sandra Ung, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gale A. Brewer
Shahana K. Hanif
Lincoln Restler
Lynn C. Schulman

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

2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning and welcome to
3 today's New York Council vote for the Committee on
4 Governmental Operations. At this time please silence
5 all electronic devices. Chair we are ready to begin.

6 CHAIRPERSON UNG: Good morning. I'm City Council
7 members Sandra Ung, Chair of the Committee on
8 Governmental Operations. I would like to welcome my
9 colleagues who have joined us here today,
10 Councilmembers Schulman, Hanif, and Brewer.

11 At today's hearing, the Committee will be voting
12 on two distinct bills that I sponsored. The first is
13 a bill that modifies ranked choice ballots, and the
14 second is the bill to codify the Department of
15 Citywide Administrative Service Public Service Corps
16 Internship Program.

17 In 2019, New York City voters overwhelmingly
18 approved a referendum adopting ranked choice voting
19 for Mayor, Comptroller, Public Advocate, Borough
20 President, and all 51 city council races. The 2021
21 primary election was the first time that New York
22 City use RCV outside of a handful of much-smaller,
23 special elections. And by almost all measures, it
24 was truly popular of the voters and almost 90% of
25 them rank multiple candidates in at least one race.

2 While the first RCV election went fairly
3 smoothly, we did get some feedback from voters and
4 advocates about the design on the ballot. My bill,
5 Intro 696, takes this feedback into account improves
6 the design and ease of use or rank choice voting
7 Allots by simplifying the instructions for ranked
8 choice voting elections, and improves the layout of
9 rank choice ballots by ensuring that contests on the
10 same ballot page are separate from one another using
11 bold black lines, ensure that non English texts can
12 be easily compared to the corresponding English text,
13 and that each language on the ballot is clearly
14 separated and visually distinct, and lastly, that to
15 the extent practical, instructions regarding ranked
16 choice voting are clear in black font on a white
17 background.

18 The second bill that we'll be hearing today is to
19 codify the city's Public Service Corps Program. New
20 York City is in the midst of a staffing crisis. A
21 recent report by City Comptroller found a vacancy
22 rate of over 22% in Department of Buildings, 32%
23 Department of Small Business, and over 22% City
24 Planning. With so many positions to fill, we have
25 both in need and opportunity to show the

2 possibilities for public service to students who many
3 not have otherwise considered a career in local
4 government.

5 The bill will codify and expand the Public
6 Service Corps Program to ensure that it is available
7 to students from a wide range of backgrounds. New
8 York City has won the most diverse workforce in the
9 world, and New York City government should reflect
10 that. This bill takes a step in that direction by
11 giving students an opportunity for a paid internship
12 with one the various agencies. The goal of this bill
13 is to create a pipeline of students from diverse
14 backgrounds who are ready and able to fill civil
15 service positions upon completion of their degree.
16 And with that, I'd like to thank CJ Maria Alka Cohen
17 for the Central Staff, for their work in putting this
18 hearing, as well as my own Chief of Staff Alexander
19 Hart, and my Communications Director, Shane Miller
20 for their assistance. I will now turn it over to
21 clerk to call the roll.

22 CLERK: Good morning. William Martin, Committee
23 Clerk. Roll call vote, Committee on Governmental
24 Operations. Items are coupled. Chair Ung?

25 CHAIRPERSON UNG: Aye.

2 CLERK: Brewer?

3 COUNCILMEMBER BREWER: I vote aye. And I was an
4 early supporter of ranked choice voting, despite many
5 people complaining to me. And I appreciate the fact
6 that this has been improved in terms of how the
7 ballot is written. Thank you very much.

8 CLERK: Hanif?

9 COUNCILMEMBER HANIF: Aye, and like my colleague,
10 Councilmember Brewer, I just want to really applaud
11 the work we're doing to make it easier for folks who
12 participate in ranked choice voting. That'll
13 absolutely strengthen our democracy. So aye on both.
14 Thank you.

15 CLERK: Schulman?

16 COUNCILMEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye on all, and I want
17 to echo my two colleagues, Brewer and Hanif. And
18 this is really strengthening rank choice voting for
19 those that might have been confused previously. Now
20 it's going to be... there's going to be clarity here
21 and it's going to be easier for them to do this.
22 Thank you.

23 CLERK: Thank you. By a vote of 4...

24 COUNCILMEMBER SCHULMAN: (inaudible)

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2 CLERK: No problem. Thank you Councilmember. By
3 a vote of 4 in the affirmative, zero in the negative,
4 and no abstentions, both items have been adopted by
5 the Committee.

6 CHAIRPERSON UNG: Yes, thank you.

7 CLERK: The roll will be held open at request of
8 the chair.

9 COUNCILMEMBER RESTLER: No no no. I've got to
10 get on this. Chair Ung, thank you for your
11 leadership. Aye on all.

12 [background voices]

13 CLERK: Continuation of roll call, Committee on
14 Governmental Operations. Councilmember Restler?

15 COUNCILMEMBER RESTLER: Thank you, Chair Ung, for
16 your leadership. Aye on all.

17 CLERK: Thank you, Councilmember. Thank you.
18 Final vote now, Committee on Governmental Operations.
19 Final vote is 5 in the affirmative, 0 in the
20 negative, and no abstentions.

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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 December 12, 2022