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COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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December 21, 2022
Start: 12:20 p.m.
Recess: 12:23 p.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Julie Won, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joann Ariola
James F. Gennaro
Linda Lee
Sandy Nurse

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a soundcheck
3 for the Committee on Contracts. Today's date is
4 December 21, 2022, being recorded by Danny Huang
5 (phonetic) in the Chambers.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Hello, everyone. Good
7 afternoon. Welcome to today's hybrid New York City
8 Council hearing of the Committee on Contracts. Thank
9 you for your cooperation.

10 We're ready to begin, Chair.

11 CHAIRPERSON WON: Thank you so much,
12 everyone. Good afternoon. My name is Julie Won, and I
13 have the privilege of Chairing the Council's
14 Committee on Contracts.

15 We're here today to vote on a bill I
16 sponsored, Proposed Introduction 136-B, which
17 Proposed Introduction 136-B would require an agency
18 designated by the Mayor to conduct a survey of
19 relevant community-based organizations to assess
20 their capacity to provide translation,
21 interpretation, and other related services. Within
22 one year of the bill's effective date, the agency
23 would need to produce a report detailing the survey's
24 findings and recommend steps to remove barriers
25 facing CBOs in providing such services to the city.

2 The report will be submitted to the Speaker and
3 posted publicly on the agency's website.

4 Additionally, the agency would need to provide
5 contracting agencies with the names of CBOs
6 participating in the survey, the types of
7 translation, interpretation, and other language
8 services they offer, conduct outreach to CBOs
9 regarding the City's prequalification process
10 including information regarding relevant
11 procurements, and work with contracting agencies to
12 improve the business environment of CBOs seeking to
13 provide such services to the City.

14 The impetus for this bill came from
15 complaints my office received regarding large
16 translation service companies outside of New York who
17 are typically unfamiliar with the myriad of non-
18 standard dialects that are spoken by the City's
19 immigrant communities. As a result, many of those
20 communities rely on informal arrangements with
21 family, friends, or community centers to have
22 critical documents translated and usually with no
23 financial support from the City. The survey would
24 empower the small community-based translators and
25 interpreters by potentially granting them greater

2 access to City contracts. This would support
3 providers who currently conduct these services often
4 for free or at personal expense. This report
5 ultimately improves engagement with government
6 services for many of the City's immigrant communities
7 and could provide a lifeline to many informal
8 translators and interpreters who currently volunteer
9 their time or conduct this critical work.

10 Before we begin, I would like to thank
11 Contract Committee staff, Senior Counsel Alex
12 Paulenoff, Policy Analyst Alex Yablon, and Finance
13 Analyst Florentine Kabore for all their hard work
14 negotiating this legislation and ensuring it made it
15 to a vote.

16 I will now invite the Clerk to call the
17 roll.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
19 afternoon. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
20 vote, Committee on Contracts. Proposed Introduction
21 136-B. Chair Won.

22 CHAIRPERSON WON: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Gennaro.

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1 COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I thank the Chair
3 for her leadership. I'm proud to be a co-Sponsor of
4 this bill, and I proudly vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Lee.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Nurse.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ariola.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote
12 of five in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and
13 no abstentions, item has been adopted by the
14 Committee.

15 Madam Chair, that is a full Committee.

16 CHAIRPERSON WON: Thank you so much,
17 everyone. It is now adjourned.

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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 27, 2022