

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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June 8, 2023  
Start: 11:14 a.m.  
Recess: 11:17 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Althea V. Stevens, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alexa Aviles  
Chi A. Osse  
Kevin C. Riley

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone  
3 check for the Committee on Youth Services. Recorded  
4 on June 8, 2023, located in Chambers, by Nazly  
5 Paytuvi.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and  
7 welcome to today's New York City Council vote for the  
8 Committee on Youth Services.

9 At this time, please silence all  
10 electronic devices.

11 Chair Stevens, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Good morning.  
13 Welcome to today's vote on Youth Services Committee.  
14 I am Council Member Althea Stevens, Chair of the  
15 Committee.

16 Today, we are voting on two bills  
17 sponsored by me to expand the reporting services for  
18 runaway and homeless youth. Intro. 976 will require  
19 the Department of Homeless Services and the  
20 Department of Youth and Community Development to  
21 report quarterly on the number of LGBTQ homeless  
22 persons who have received DHS and DYCD services as  
23 well as the number of shelter beds reserved for such  
24 persons. This data will also empower the Council to  
25 pinpoint the number of LGBTQ-identified persons

2 served by the homeless system so we can take steps to  
3 identify their needs and expand services to this too-  
4 often marginalized group.

5 Intro. 977 would require the drop-in  
6 centers to participate and to streamline intake  
7 process for youth aging or timing out of shelters  
8 operated or funded by the Department of Youth and  
9 Community Development and who intend to transfer to  
10 adult shelters. Advocates report that it takes up to  
11 21 days to identify a shelter bed in the adult  
12 system. This bill establishes drop-in centers to  
13 conduct intake processes so that the young people can  
14 remain in the RHY system until they identify an  
15 available bed within DHS.

16 I'm very proud we are advancing these  
17 bills and calling attention to the needs of the  
18 City's vulnerable youth. The RHY system is under-  
19 resourced and overlooked. Currently, there are only  
20 60 beds for homeless runaway youth between the ages  
21 of 21 and 24 in New York City. At my Youth Services  
22 Committee hearing in April, we heard passionate  
23 testimony from youth advocates about how the demand  
24 of bed access is limited. We find that the growing  
25 demand for shelter beds is only compounded by the

2 influx of migrant youth and the City's absurd  
3 directive banning youth from sleeping in drop-in  
4 centers. The RHY system is facing multiple crises,  
5 and our young people need our help. We celebrate the  
6 advancements of today's legislation and look forward  
7 to expanding our bold legislative actions committee  
8 to help homeless and runaway youth.

9 I'd like to take the time to thank the  
10 Staff for their hard work in preparing this vote.  
11 Committee Counsel Christina Yellamaty, Policy Analyst  
12 Elizabeth Arzt as well as my Chief-of-Staff and  
13 Legislative Director Kate Connolly.

14 I will now turn to the Clerk to call the  
15 roll.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good  
17 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call  
18 vote Committee on Youth Services. Items are coupled.  
19 Chair Stevens.

20 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: I vote aye on all  
21 and happy pride.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Riley.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye on all.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Aviles.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILES: Aye on all.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Osse.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSE: Aye on all.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
5 you. Richardson Jordan.

6 By a vote of four in the affirmative,  
7 zero in the negative, and no abstentions, both items  
8 have been adopted by the Committee.

9 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: This vote is closed.

10 [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 June 13, 2023