

COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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June 8, 2023

Start: 9:23 a.m.

Recess: 9:28 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Carlina Rivera, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shaun Abreu

David M. Carr

Shahana Hanif

Mercedes Narcisse

Lincoln Restler

Lynn C. Schulman

Althea V. Stevens

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee on Criminal Justice. 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 on the
8 Committee on Criminal Justice.

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

11 Chair Rivera, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you so very
13 much. I want to thank all of the Staff for being here
14 today, every single one of you, for making this
15 hearing happen. I'm very, very grateful to you.

16 [GAVEL] Thank you so much for joining us
17 today. Good morning, everyone. I am Council Member
18 Carlina Rivera, Chair of the Committee on Criminal
19 Justice.

20 I'd like to welcome you to our vote today
21 on a bill that I sponsored, Intro. 831, which would
22 establish a citywide resource navigator for women and
23 gender-expansive persons.

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2 I want to recognize my Colleagues who are
3 here today, Council Members Narcisse, Stevens,
4 Schulman, Abreu, and Carr.

5 I'm proud to work in coalition including
6 with members of the TGNCNBI task force to ensure
7 women and transgender, non-binary, non-conforming,
8 and intersex individuals are treated equally in the
9 City's jail system and that they are provided
10 services and programming that allows with DOC's
11 mission to care for those in its custody and support
12 a pathway to successful community reintegration.
13 Thank you for your service to ensure everyone is
14 treated with the dignity and respect they deserve and
15 to the task force for continuously showing up and
16 being there. We are working on related legislation to
17 pass that would support this population, and I'm
18 proud of the bill as a step in the right direction.
19 70 percent of this population are caregivers, and
20 incarceration has profoundly negative consequences
21 for their children and families. At jail intake, as
22 many as 25 percent of women and gender-expansive
23 people reported they were homeless before being
24 jailed or had nowhere to go upon release. It is the
25 responsibility of the City to prioritize these

2 incarcerated groups' safety by treating them with the
3 dignity they deserve. For far too long, these
4 marginalized groups have disproportionately faced
5 unjust mistreatment within correctional facilities.
6 Correction facilities across New York City must
7 support and safely reduce the number of women,
8 transgender, gender-nonconforming, non-binary, and
9 intersex individuals in the jails.

10 In addition, the gutting of the LGBTQ+
11 Unit at Rikers, rendering it defunct, has had dire
12 consequences for these communities. I support efforts
13 to expand available resources for both women and
14 TGNCNBI individuals who have experienced
15 incarceration as re-entry programs reduce the
16 likelihood of recidivism. This bill would create a
17 public database that will have referrals and
18 information on alternatives to incarceration,
19 transitional housing, and re-entry programs and
20 services for people in the jails and constantly being
21 updated with eligibility and availability. It also
22 provides outreach and education about such programs.
23 This will also be something to include district
24 attorneys, criminal defense attorneys, the Office of
25 Court Administration, and with this info,

2 recommendations can be made to the Mayor and the
3 Council to make improvements to these diversion and
4 re-entry resources. It is essential that the
5 Department of Correction safeguards the rights of
6 incarcerated transgender, gender non-conforming, non-
7 binary, and intersex individuals without any
8 impositions or denials from the Department.

9 I am proud to carry this legislation and
10 urge my Colleagues to vote aye.

11 I now call on the Clerk to call the roll.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
13 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
14 vote Committee on Criminal Justice. Proposed
15 Introduction 831A. Chair Rivera.

16 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: I vote aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Abreu.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: I vote aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanif.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: I vote aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
22 you. Narcisse.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I vote aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Apologies for my
3 tardiness and aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Schulman.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: I vote aye and
8 happy pride.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Carr.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

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

15 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you so much. I
16 just want to thank everyone for their support. These
17 populations are especially likely to suffer from
18 prior abuse and trauma, which can precipitate other
19 mental health problems so coordinated re-entry
20 planning will greatly impact detained individuals'
21 reintegration into society and can reduce recidivism
22 rates. I just want to underline and underscore that.
23 Thank you for your support.

24 With that, we adjourn. [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