

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON AGING

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November 15, 2023  
Start: 10:15 a.m.  
Recess: 10:19 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Crystal Hudson, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Eric Dinowitz  
Linda Lee  
Christopher Marte  
Lynn C. Schulman

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Tiffany Cabán

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone  
3 check for the Committee on Aging. Recorded on  
4 November 15, 2023, located in Chambers, recorded by  
5 Nazly Paytuvi.

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

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

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: [GAVEL] Good morning,  
13 everyone. I'm Council Member Crystal Hudson, Chair of  
14 the Committee on Aging and Co-Chair of the Council's  
15 LGBTQIA+ Caucus.

16 Thank you to the Members of the Committee  
17 for being here today to vote on Proposed Introduction  
18 564-A, and thank you to my Caucus Co-Chair, Council  
19 Member Tiffany Cabán, for being here.

20 This legislation co-lead sponsored by  
21 Council Member Cabán and by me would require the  
22 Department for the Aging, also known as NYC Aging, to  
23 establish a commission for LGBTQIA+ older adults or  
24 older adults of any other diverse sexual orientation  
25 or gender identity within the Department. The

2 commission's goals would be to identify challenges,  
3 share best practices, and issue expert  
4 recommendations on ways to improve the quality of  
5 life for LGBTQIA+ older adults in New York City. The  
6 commission would be composed of a diverse set of  
7 experts including from LGBTQIA+ advocacy and services  
8 spaces, the community-based healthcare sector, labor,  
9 and organizations that serve black, Asian American,  
10 Pacific Islander, Indigenous, and LatinX LGBTQIA+  
11 people ensuring that the commission's findings  
12 reflect the lived experiences of our most  
13 marginalized communities.

14           As Co-Chair of the Council's LGBTQIA+  
15 Caucus, I believe that we must be doing more as a  
16 Council and as a City for our LGBTQIA+ older adults.  
17 Earlier this year, our Caucus released the Marsha and  
18 Sylvia plan, which advances a bold vision to lift up  
19 LGBTQIA+ New Yorkers including older adults. I'm  
20 proud that we are advancing a critical piece of this  
21 plan today. LGBTQIA+ older adults have been ignored  
22 and mistreated for decades, and we must ensure that  
23 DFTA programming and services are sufficiently  
24 inclusive and that staff are trained in addressing  
25 the diverse and specific needs of these individuals.

2 I look forward to the passage of this legislation and  
3 to supporting the work of this commission in any way  
4 that I can.

5 Thank you to the Members of the Committee  
6 on Aging for being here, thank you to Council Member  
7 Cabán for your leadership and partnership on this  
8 legislation, and thank you to the advocates and  
9 members of the public who helped shape this  
10 legislation. I would also like to thank my Staff,  
11 Casie Addison and Andrew Wright, and Aging Committee  
12 Staff, Christopher Pepe, Chloë Rivera, and Saiyemul  
13 Hamid.

14 I will now turn it over to Council Member  
15 Cabán to deliver a statement on the legislation we  
16 are voting on today.

17 I want to acknowledge, just before I do  
18 that, that we've been joined by Council Members  
19 Dinowitz, Lee, Schulman, Cabán, and Marte.

20 Council Member Cabán.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you. Good  
22 morning.

23 Our city has always been a leader in the  
24 fight for dignity and freedom for queer people. After  
25 all, the modern queer liberation movement was born

2 with a riot on Christopher Street, and, sadly, too  
3 many from the Stonewall generation are no longer with  
4 us. To honor them, the movement for queer liberation  
5 must support our elders before they become our  
6 ancestors. Queer elders deserve to live and grow old  
7 with dignity, with comfort, with joy, and with family  
8 and with love but with something else as well,  
9 stewardship of our culture, and we deserve to be in  
10 rich community with our elders so that they are able  
11 to pass along their stories and teachings to help us  
12 build a society where we are all free to be who we  
13 are.

14           Earlier this year, my LGBTQIA+ Caucus Co-  
15 Chair, Council Member Crystal Hudson, and I released  
16 the Marsha and Sylvia plan in honor of Marsha P.  
17 Johnson and Sylvia Rivera. In it, we called for a  
18 commission within the Department for the Aging  
19 charged with helping our City improve the quality of  
20 life of LGBTQIA+ older adults, and hopefully by  
21 passing this legislation later today, we will create  
22 that commission, and I look forward to remaining  
23 involved with the Administration next session helping  
24 to identify commissioner appointments and developing  
25 requirements for their report.

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2           This legislation would not have been  
3 possible without tireless advocacy from directly  
4 impacted individuals, steadfast organizations like  
5 SAGE, AARP, (INAUDIBLE) LiveOn NY, NYLAG, Stonewall  
6 Community Development Corporation, VNS Health, and,  
7 of course, my amazing Legislative Director Madhuri  
8 Shukla. Thank you so much.

9           CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Thank you, Council  
10 Member.

11           I will now turn it over to the Clerk to  
12 call the roll.

13           COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good  
14 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call  
15 vote Committee on Aging. Chair Hudson.

16           CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Aye.

17           COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Dinowitz.

18           COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

19           COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Lee.

20           COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

21           COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Marte.

22           COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye.

23           COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Mealy.

24 Richardson Jordan. Schulman.

25           COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a  
3 vote of five in the affirmative, zero in the  
4 negative, and no abstentions, the item has been  
5 adopted by the Committee.

6 CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Wonderful. Thank you  
7 so much. This meeting is adjourned. [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 November 17, 2023