

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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November 15, 2023
Start: 10:33 a.m.
Recess: 10:39 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Julie Won, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joann Ariola
Linda Lee
Sandy Nurse

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Althea V. Stevens
Lynn C. Schulman

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

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

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

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON WON: Good morning and welcome
13 to New York City Council's Committee on Contracts.
14 Today is Wednesday, November 15, 2023. My name is
15 Julie Won, and I am the Chair of this Committee.

16 The purpose of today's hearing is to vote
17 on an important piece of legislation pertaining to
18 procurement reform and accountability in our city.

19 I would like to extend my thanks to
20 Council Member Althea Stevens for her leadership on
21 this issue and sponsoring legislation before
22 Committee today.

23 The City Council has long advocated for
24 reforms to the City' contracting process, especially
25 when it comes to those contracts in human services

2 sector that are lifeblood of the City's non-profits
3 to provide critical services to the most vulnerable
4 New Yorkers. Through various procurement reform
5 initiatives, the Council has worked to increase
6 accountability, transparency, and efficiency in a
7 process that has historically been opaque and
8 burdensome for providers for the people they served.

9 Intro. 511 continues this Council's
10 efforts by requiring a comprehensive study and
11 establishment of enforceable timelines for
12 procurement of human service contracts. The bill
13 requires the City's Chief Procurement Officer to
14 analyze each step of contracting process for every
15 contracting agency, evaluate the time required to
16 complete those steps, and provide recommendations for
17 standard procurement schedules to the Procurement
18 Policy Board. The study and the result schedules
19 created by the Procurement Policy Board will bring
20 much needed clarity and structure to what sadly
21 remains a cumbersome and convoluted contracting
22 system. By also requiring regular reporting on agency
23 compliance with those schedules, Proposed Intro 511-A
24 promotes ongoing accountability. Shortening
25 procurement timelines will reduce delays and strains

2 for human service providers that disrupt their
3 programming. This bill will shed light on delays,
4 where bills originate and how long each step should
5 reasonably take.

6 I'd like to thank Contracts Committee
7 Staff, Senior Counsel Alex Paulenoff, Policy Analysts
8 Alex Yablon, Finance Unit Head Florentine Kabore, and
9 Principal Financial Analyst Nia Hyatt for their hard
10 work in developing and negotiating the legislation
11 and ensuring it made it to a vote.

12 I'll now invite Council Member Althea
13 Stevens to offer a few remarks on her bill.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Good morning.
15 Sorr, I'm getting myself together. Sorry.

16 As Chair of the Youth Services Committee
17 and long-time non-profit worker and advocate, I'm
18 beyond honored to be passing legislation that will
19 bring out ground-breaking moves towards enhancing
20 efficiency, transparency, and accountability in the
21 procurement process for the human service sector.
22 This is an in-depth examination that will allow us to
23 identify any inefficiencies in current processes,
24 ultimately working to streamline the process and
25 ensuring timely deliverance of services provided by

2 non-profit organizations to young people, families
3 who need them the most. Our city cannot run without
4 the work of the human service sector as in the City's
5 most vulnerable times they have time and time again
6 showed up to do the job and get the work done.

7 I would like to thank Committee Staff,
8 Alex, who worked so hard with me on this bill to
9 ensuring that we got it to the place that we need it
10 to be. Although I am not 100 percent happy, we have
11 made moves in the right direction to make the
12 procurement process a little bit more transparent.
13 Thank you, Speaker Adams, and everyone who signed
14 onto this bill, and I hope everyone votes aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON WON: Congratulations, Council
16 Member.

17 Now, I'll pass it to the Clerk to call
18 the roll call.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
20 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
21 vote Committee on Contracts, Proposed Introduction
22 511-A. Chair Won.

23 CHAIRPERSON WON: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Gennaro.
25 Lee.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Nurse.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

5 Congratulations.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ariola.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
9 vote of four in the affirmative, zero in the
10 negative, and no abstentions, item has been adopted
11 by the Committee.

12 CHAIRPERSON WON: We're going to leave it
13 open for Council Member Gennaro.

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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