

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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July 18, 2024  
Start: 10:42 a.m.  
Recess: 10:45 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Sandy Nurse  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shaun Abreu  
Diana I. Ayala  
Tiffany Cabán  
Shahana K. Hanif  
Christopher Marte  
Mercedes Narcisse  
Lincoln Restler  
Althea V. Stevens

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

1  
2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning and  
3 welcome to today's New York City Council hearing for  
4 the Committee on Criminal Justice. At this time,  
5 please silence all cell phones and electronic devices  
6 to minimize disruptions throughout the hearing.  
7 Thank you for your cooperation. Chair, we're ready  
8 to begin.

9 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: [gavel] Good morning.  
10 I am Council Member Nurse, Chair of the Council's  
11 Committee on Criminal Justice. I'd like to welcome  
12 you to today's vote on my Resolution authorizing the  
13 Speaker to take legal action on behalf of the Council  
14 to defend Local Law 42, the law banning solitary  
15 confinement in New York City jails. I want to  
16 recognize my colleagues who are here, Council Members  
17 Abreu, Narcisse, Stevens, Hanif, and Cabán on Zoom,  
18 and Ayala. Oh, thank you. Thanks for joining us.  
19 It's unfortunate that we're convening today to defend  
20 our institutional prerogative, but after overriding  
21 the Mayor's veto to enact this legislation, it's now  
22 clear that this Administration will seek to suspend  
23 most of the requirements of Local Law 42 in court.  
24 By passing this resolution, we will reaffirm the  
25 Council's commitment to use all the tools at our

1 disposal to end the human rights and safety crisis on  
2 Rikers Island. Solitary confinement by any name has  
3 proven to cause physical, psychological, and  
4 emotional harm and its use has contributed to  
5 continued violence and death on Rikers Island. If  
6 properly enacted, Local Law 42 would end the practice  
7 of isolation as punishment. It would limit the  
8 Department's ability to use restraints  
9 indiscriminately, rid facilities of locked de-  
10 contamination showers, and require a rationale and  
11 fixed duration for emergency lock-ins. Despite  
12 misleading rhetoric, the law does not prevent the  
13 Department from separating people from the general  
14 population who engage in violent behavior. It does  
15 not bar the use of restraints, and it still allows  
16 the Department to make distinctions in how people are  
17 supervised in custody. The Council stands today by  
18 its decision to pass Local Law 42 to advance a new  
19 approach to reduce violence and prioritize safety.  
20 For those who endured those horrific conditions, we  
21 will continue to fight to change the status quo. I  
22 urge all my colleagues to vote aye on this  
23 resolution. I now turn to the Clerk to call the roll.  
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25

1 COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE 5

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Good morning.

3 William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call vote

4 Committee on Criminal Justice, Preconsidered

5 Resolution. Chair Nurse?

6 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: I vote aye.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabán?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: I vote aye.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Abreu?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Hanif?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Marte? Narcisse?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Restler? Stevens?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: With a vote of 7 in the

20 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,

21 item has been adopted by the Committee.

22 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: Thank you. Closing

23 the vote. [gavel]

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COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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 July 30, 2024