

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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February 27, 2025
Start: 11:13 a.m.
Recess: 11:16 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Linda Lee
Julie Menin
Nantasha M. Williams

2 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: I am Council Member
3 Althea Stevens, Chair of the Committee. Today, we
4 have the opportunity to advance two critical pieces
5 of legislation that will strengthen the protection
6 for children, support families, and amplify the
7 voices of young people in shaping the policies that
8 impact their lives. Introduction 9-B, sponsored by
9 Deputy Speaker Ayala, recognizes a fundamental right
10 of parents and guardians to have access to legal
11 information at the very first point of contact with
12 the Administration for Children's Services by
13 ensuring that families are made aware of where they
14 can obtain legal support at the onset of ACS
15 investigations. We are promoting transparency, due
16 process, and fairness in child welfare proceedings.
17 When families are informed, they are better equipped
18 to navigate those often complex and high stakes
19 solutions, which ultimately benefits the well-being
20 of children involved.

21 The second, Intro. 794-A, sponsored by
22 myself, acknowledges the critical role that young
23 people must play in decisions that affect their
24 future. By ensuring that youth board appointees
25 prioritize individuals with experience in youth

2 welfare or child welfare in young people, and
3 requiring that at least three board members between
4 the ages of 16 and 24, we are taking a meaningful
5 step towards true youth representation. Lived
6 experience is invaluable in crafting effective policy
7 and legislation and ensures that the voices of young
8 people are not just heard, but are embodied in the
9 decision-making process.

10 Both of these bills align with our
11 Committee's mission to protect children, strengthen
12 families, and empower youth. I urge my Colleagues to
13 support these measures as we work towards a more
14 just, equitable, and inclusive system for the
15 children, youth, and families of our city.

16 I'd like to thank my Committee Staff for
17 their hard work in preparing for this vote, Committee
18 Counsel, Christine Yellamaty, and Policy Analyst,
19 Elizabeth Arzt, as well as my staff, the A-team.

20 And I would now like to turn it over to
21 the Clerk to call the roll.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: One
23 moment. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll Call
24 Vote Committee on Children and Youth. Items are
25 coupled. Chair Stevens.

1 COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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2 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Joseph.

4 Lee.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Menin.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ossé.

9 Williams.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
12 vote of four in the affirmative, zero in the
13 negative, and no abstentions, both items have been
14 adopted by the Committee. Chair Stevens to close.

15 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: The hearing is
16 adjourned. Thank you. [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 February 28, 2025