

COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
VOTE*

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Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Start: 10:17 a.m.

Recess: 10:21 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Hon. Althea Stevens, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Rita C. Joseph

Linda Lee

Julie Menin

Chi A. Ossé

Nantasha M. Williams

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: This is a microphone check for
3 the Committee on Children and Youth, located in the
4 Chambers; recorded on March 12, 2025 by Pat Cuzner
5 (phonetic), check, check.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Good morning, welcome to
7 today's vote for Children and Youth Committee. I am
8 Council Member Althea Stevens, Chair of the
9 Committee.

10 Today, we're voting on three critical bills that
11 aim to strengthen the accountability and transparency
12 within the foster care system ensuring that voices
13 and experiences of foster care youth are heard and
14 acted upon.

15 These bills recognize the fundamental
16 responsibilities we have to young people in the city
17 and care that their representation is important and
18 steps towards a more just and responsive child
19 welfare system (sic).

20 Introduction 56-A, sponsored by Council Member
21 Ossé, this bill would require expansion of the foster
22 youth experience survey that the Administration for
23 Children's Services (ACS) is required to distribute
24 annually to foster youth, by requiring surveying
25 foster youth as to their LGBTQIA+ and racial

1 identities, and requiring ACS to report annually on
2 such responses as they relate to placement of foster
3 youth into permanent homes.

4 Introduction 81-A, sponsored by Council Member
5 Riley, strengthens oversight by requiring ACS to
6 conduct annual audits of foster care placement
7 notifications. This bill ensures that any placement
8 changes are permanently communicated to the court and
9 the attorney representing foster care/foster youth as
10 required by state law. Timely and complete
11 information is critical for those advocating on
12 behalf of these children and these bills reinforce
13 that obligation.

14 Introduction 1052-A, sponsored by Council Member
15 Hudson, expands the ACS foster care youth experience
16 survey to include all vital questions about how
17 foster youth are treated by their foster parents and
18 ACS provider. By centering the lived experiences of
19 foster youth, we identify gaps in care and work
20 towards a foster care system that truly respects and
21 affirms young people.

22 Together these bills uphold the data and
23 oversight and must serve a greater purpose, ensuring
24 that no young people in foster care are left without
25

2 a voice or a support system that seems... that sees
3 them for who they truly are. I urge my colleagues to
4 support these bills and help us continue the work of
5 making our child welfare system more transparent,
6 accountable, and youth centered.

7 I would like to thank my committee staff for
8 their hard work in preparing for this vote, Christina
9 Yellamaty, Legislative Counsel, and Elizabeth Arzt,
10 Senior Policy Analyst, as well as my staff, the A-
11 Team.

12 I will now turn, it back over to the Clerk to
13 call the roll.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, William Martin,
15 Committee Clerk, roll call vote; Committee on
16 Children and Youth. All items are coupled.

17 Chair Stevens?

18 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: I vote aye on all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: I vote aye on all. And
21 thank you for giving a voice to foster youth who
22 enter this system due to no fault of their own, thank
23 you.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Lee?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all, congrats.

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COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Menin?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of 6 in the affirmative, 0 negative, and no abstentions, all items have been adopted by the Committee. Madam Chair, that is a full committee.

(PAUSE)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: I close this vote.

(GAVEL SOUND) (GAVELING OUT)

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 March 28, 2025