

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE
VOTE*

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Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Start: 9:59 a.m.

Recess: 10:04 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Hon. Diana I. Ayala, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alexa Avilés
Chris Banks
Tiffany Cabán
Chi A. Ossé
Lincoln Restler
Kevin C. Riley
Althea V. Stevens
Sandra Ung

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2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Check, check, this is a mic
3 check for the Committee on General Welfare; located
4 in the Chambers; recorded on March 12, 2025 by Pat
5 Cuzner, check, check.

6 (PAUSE)

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: As we are about to begin,
8 settle down. Good morning, good morning; welcome to
9 the New York City Council Vote for the Committee on
10 General Welfare. At this time, please silence all
11 electronics and no not approach the dais- I repeat,
12 please do not approach the dais. Thank you for your
13 cooperation.

14 Chair, you may begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: (GAVEL SOUND) (GAVELING IN)

16 Thank you. Good morning, everyone, and welcome to
17 today's hearing. My name is Diana Ayala, and I am the
18 Deputy Speaker of the New York City Council and the
19 Chair of the General Welfare Committee.

20 Today, our committee will be voting on two
21 resolutions:

22 Proposed Resolution Number 41-A, sponsored by
23 Council Member Alexa Avilés, calling on the New York
24 State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign,
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2 S.2082/A.3474 to create the New York State Working
3 Families Tax Credit.

4 And Proposed Resolution 57-A, which I have
5 sponsored, calling on New York state to create a
6 program to provide food benefits for those not
7 eligible for existing benefits, including anyone over
8 55 meeting income eligibility.

9 Over one million New Yorkers are food insecure.
10 However, around 40% of food insecure New Yorkers have
11 incomes too high to be eligible for the Supplemental
12 Nutrition Assistance Program.

13 Proposed Resolution 57-A calls on the State to
14 create a program to support these food insecure New
15 Yorkers who are excluded from federal benefits.
16 Research has shown that reducing food insecurity has
17 a profound and positive impact on the health of
18 recipients. And decreasing food insecurity would
19 decrease the State's health care burden and improve
20 the well-being of the most vulnerable New Yorkers.

21 At this time, I'd like to acknowledge my
22 colleagues who are here today: Council Member Cabán
23 is joining us virtually, Council Member Avilés,
24 Council Member Ossé, Council Member Restler, Council

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2 Member Stevens, Council Member Ung, and Council
3 Member Banks.

4 I'd also... oh, also, I would like to thank the
5 committee staff who worked to prepare this hearing
6 and vote: Sahar Moazami, Assistant Deputy Director;
7 Penina Rosenberg, Policy Analyst; Phariha Rahman,
8 Financial Analyst; and finally, my staff, Elsie
9 Encarnacion, my Chief of Staff.

10 I would now like to call on Council Member Avilés
11 to deliver a statement on her resolution.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Thank you so much. Thank
13 you, Chair Ayala, as well as cosponsors on Resolution
14 41, for your support. And I also would like to thank
15 Senator Gounardes for centering working families at
16 the state level.

17 Resolution 41 is near and dear to our hearts in
18 our work to try to reverse childhood poverty trends
19 that have impacted not only my district, but New York
20 City. Through this legislation, we'll have an
21 opportunity, where the federal government has failed,
22 by increasing support to those families most in need.
23 So under this legislation, tax benefits would be
24 offered to families with children through the age of
25 17.

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2 So I just want to thank you for taking seriously
3 an effort to support our working families all across
4 New York City and the state. Thank you, colleagues.

5 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Thank you, Council Member
6 Avilés.

7 I would now like to turn it over to the Clerk to
8 do the roll call for this vote.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, good morning, William
10 Martin, Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on
11 General Welfare on Proposed Resolutions 41-A and 57-
12 A; items are coupled.

13 Chair Ayala?

14 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: I vote aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Riley?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: (ABSENT)

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: I vote aye on all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

20 Council Member Avilés?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Restler?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye, and congratulations
to Council Member Avilés.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ung?

COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Banks?

COUNCIL MEMBER COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of 8 in the
affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions,
both items have been adopted by the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Thank you, and with that, this
vote is closed. (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