

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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January 21, 2015
Start: 10:13 a.m.
Recess: 10:20 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway- Committee Rm, 16th

Fl.

B E F O R E:

COREY D. JOHNSON
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

INEZ D. BARRON
JAMES G. VAN BRAMER
MARIA DEL CARMEN ARROYO
MATHIEU EUGENE
PETER A. KOO
RAFAEL L. ESPINAL, JR.
ROBERT E. CORNEGY, JR.
ROSIE MENDEZ

1 [gavel]

2 CHAIRPERSON JOHNSON: Good morning

3 everyone. I'm Corey Johnson, Chair of the Council's
4 Committee on Health. I want to the thank the
5 Speaker for bringing attention to this issue that
6 we're dealing with today, we're dealing with
7 proposed resolution number 531-A, a resolution
8 recognizing January Cervical Health Awareness Month
9 in New York City and proposed resolution number
10 532-A, resolution calling upon the state, the New
11 York State Legislature to pass legislation
12 permitting health care practitioners to provide
13 treatment to youth for the prevention of Human
14 Papilloma Virus, a common virus that can cause
15 cancer. I want to thank Council Member Cumbo, Chair
16 of the Women's Issues Committee who co-chaired a
17 hearing with me on these resolutions earlier this
18 month. HPV is so common that nearly all sexually
19 active men and women get it at some point in their
20 lives. While this infection often resolves on its
21 own for too many the consequences can be serious.
22 The American Cancer Society estimates that HPV
23 infections are responsible for nearly all cervical
24 cancer and anal cancers, about 70 percent of all
25 vaginal, and vulva cancers, roughly 60 percent of

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2 all penile cancers, and over 70 percent of all oral
3 cancers. Significantly while cervical cancer rates
4 have been declining for decades anal and oral
5 cancer rates have begun increasing. HPV infections
6 account for approximately five percent of all
7 cancers worldwide. Cervical cancer is the most
8 common HPV associated cancer but it is also the
9 only one with a routine screening method. Proposed
10 resolution number 531 A would recognize January
11 cervical health awareness month in New York City
12 and would seek to bring attention to prevention and
13 screening so we can eliminate cervical cancer.
14 Another method for eliminating all HPV associate
15 cancers is increasing access to the HPV vaccine.
16 While minors in New York state can access sexual
17 and reproductive health services without parental
18 consent preventive services are not specifically
19 spelled out in state law and is being permitted
20 without parental consent. Proposed resolution
21 number 532-A would call upon the New York state
22 legislature to do just that. This resolution would
23 call for legislation permitting healthcare
24 practitioners to provide treatment to youth for the
25 prevention of sexually transmitted infections

1 including the HPV virus. It is rare in healthcare
2 to have a vaccine that can effectively prevent
3 against certain types of cancers. By giving young
4 people the tools they need to prevent STIs,
5 educating parents on the benefits of the vaccine,
6 and getting providers to strongly recommend the
7 vaccine we can get closer to eliminating these HPV
8 associate cancers. This is why I'm proud to co-
9 sponsor both of these resolutions. Our hearing on
10 January 8th was the beginning of a conversation. We
11 must continue to bring this topic out in the open
12 and end stigma to help save the lives of thousands
13 of people who otherwise could be claimed by HPV
14 associated cancers. I want to acknowledge my
15 colleagues in the Health Committee who have joined
16 us; Majority Leader Van Bramer, Council Member Koo,
17 Council Member Arroyo, Council Member Espinal, and
18 of course we're joined by Council Member Cumbo. And
19 I just want to thank my Legislative Director Louis
20 Cholden Brown, Health Committee Council Dan Hafitz,
21 Policy Analyst for the Health Committee Crystal
22 Pond, and Carrilian Francisco the Finance Analyst
23 for the Health Committee for their work in
24 preparing today's resolutions. And I want to turn
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2 it over... Before we, before we give it to Council
3 Member Cumbo I'm going to let Majority Leader Van
4 Bramer vote because he has to go chair a hearing.
5 So...

6 COMMITTEE CLERK PEN: Van Bramer.

7 MAJORITY LEADER VAN BRAMER: [off mic] I
8 vote aye thank you.

9 CHAIR: Thank you. And with that I want
10 to turn it over to Council Member Van, Council
11 Member Cumbo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: [off mic] Can
13 call me Majority Leader. [on mic] Good morning. I
14 am Laurie Cumbo. Earlier this month the Committee
15 on Health and Committee on Women's Issues which I
16 chair held a hearing on Resolution 531, a
17 resolution recognizing January as Cervical Health
18 Awareness month in New York City and on Resolution
19 number 532, a resolution calling upon the New York
20 state legislature to pass legislation permitting
21 healthcare practitioners to provide treatment for
22 youth for the prevention of HPV, a common virus
23 that can cause cancer. I'm a proud sponsor of both
24 of these resolutions alongside Speaker Melissa Mark
25 Viverito and Council Member Corey Johnson. At the

1 hearing we heard about the negative stigma
2 surrounding HPV and the completely unfounded idea
3 that getting the HPV vaccine contributes to
4 promiscuity and sexual activity among young people.
5 We heard from healthcare experts about how critical
6 awareness, education, and treatment are to
7 preventing HPV and ultimately preventing cancer. We
8 had an important and healthy conversation to bring
9 this issue to the forefront. My hope is that
10 ultimately we can eradicate any shame associated
11 with HPV and cervical cancer. The bottom line is
12 this is about saving lives. I'm very very pleased
13 that at the hearing we heard about Gardasil 9, a
14 new vaccine that will be distributed beginning
15 February 2015. It prevents nine forms of HPV and
16 has the potential to prevent up to 90 percent of
17 cervical, vulvar, vaginal, and anal cancers as well
18 as genital warts. We heard that one of the key
19 barriers to preventing HPV is that parental consent
20 is required for the vaccine to be administered to
21 young people. I am happy to be here as the
22 Committee on Health votes on a resolution in
23 support of providing health practitioners with the
24 chance to prevent HPV and cancer. Without this
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2 issue, without this barrier being an issue. I'm
3 also glad that the committee will be voting on a
4 resolution recognizing January as Cervical Health
5 Awareness month, awareness and education are
6 critical to prevention, and I will be proud to
7 joint my colleagues in Albany in order to take this
8 issue all the way to the state of New York. Thank
9 you.

10 CHAIR: Thank you very much. And I want
11 to turn it over to the clerk to call the role.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK PEN: Kevin Pen,
13 Committee Clerk. Role call in the Committee on
14 Health; Resolutions 531-A and 532-A. Council Member
15 Johnson.

16 CHAIR: I vote aye on all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK PEN: Arroyo.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [off mic] Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK PEN: Eugene.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK PEN: Koo.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: [off mic] Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK PEN: Espinal.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye on all.
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COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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COMMITTEE CLERK PEN: By a vote of six in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no abstentions all items have been adopted.

CHAIR: And we are going to leave the role open for 15 minutes. Thank you very much.

COMMITTEE CLERK PEN: Council Member Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Vote stands at seven in the affirmative. Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Vote stands at eight in the affirmative. Final vote in the Committee on Health; eight in the affirmative, zero in the negative, no abstentions.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Health Committee for January 21st, 2015 is now adjourned.

[gavel]

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 January 28, 2015