

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

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May 3, 2016

Start: 1:17 p.m.

Recess: 1:36 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm,  
14th Fl.

B E F O R E:

LAURIE A. CUMBO  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Darlene Mealy  
Elizabeth S. Crowley  
Karen Koslowitz  
Ben Kallos

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

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: Good afternoon. I'm Laurie Cumbo, Chair of the Women's Issues Committee; today is May 3rd, 2016 and we are here today for Proposed Int. 1137-A, a Local Law to amend the New York City Charter in relation to recreating a Commission on Gender Equity. I wanna thank all that are here today.

Good afternoon, I am Council Member Laurie Cumbo; this hearing of the Committee on Women's Issues is now called to order.

I'd like to thank you all for coming today; I'd especially like to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito for her leadership and for co-sponsoring Int. No. 1137 along with me.

I'd also like to thank the members of the Committee on the Women's Issues that are present; Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, representing Queens, as well as Council Member Ben Kallos of the He for She Committee, representing Manhattan.

And I'd also like to thank the staff of the Committee on Women's Issues; our Counsel, Aminta Kilawan and our Policy Analyst, Joan Povolny, for their work in preparing for today's hearing.

1  
2 Finally, I want to thank all of the  
3 advocates who worked tirelessly to ensure that the  
4 barriers women and girls in our city face are broken  
5 down and pave the way for a transformative future.

6 I'd also like to thank Monica Abend on my  
7 staff for all of her work in making today possible.

8 In June of 2015, Mayor de Blasio issued  
9 Executive Order No. 10, which established the  
10 Commission of Gender Equity. The commission was  
11 established to ensure that the women of the city live  
12 with dignity and equity and to be free from violence  
13 and discrimination based on gender.

14 Today we are voting on legislation that  
15 would ensure this commission exists well into the  
16 future and not just during the current  
17 administration; that is such a critical part of  
18 what's happening today. New York City is already a  
19 trailblazer when it comes to finding innovative ways  
20 to ensure gender equity becomes a reality in the  
21 future.

22 Since September of last year, community-  
23 based organizations, grassroots partners and many  
24 young women themselves convened in working groups for  
25 the New York City Council's Young Women's Initiative;

1 I was very proud to be a part of the numerous  
2 meetings that brought together some of the most  
3 brilliant minds in our city. This was the first of  
4 its kind in the nation to deeply examine and combat  
5 the undeniable inequality young women and girls face  
6 each day. I am proud to say that we are collectively  
7 investing \$20 million to ensure that girls, young  
8 women and trans youth of color are fully supported in  
9 their lives. The administration responded  
10 positively, participating in the Young Women's  
11 Initiative and also created a Commission on Gender  
12 Equity to work across city agencies to reduce gender-  
13 based inequality and to level the playing field for  
14 women and girls.  
15

16 Even in a city as progressive and  
17 forward-thinking as ours, more needs to be done to  
18 address the inequalities that women and girls face.  
19 In New York City, among the close to 60,000 residents  
20 who experience homelessness every night, we know that  
21 most are children and families led by women. The  
22 statistics are even worse for women and girls of  
23 color. In 2013, 20 percent of black and Latina women  
24 between the ages of 16 and 24 were out of school and  
25 out of work, which translates to approximately 59,000

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2 people. Black and Latina women in the five boroughs  
3 had the highest share of new HIV diagnoses among  
4 women in New York City, at 64 percent and 27 percent  
5 respectively. The average household income of the  
6 homes that they live in is \$59,000, compared to  
7 \$87,000 for the entire population; much more needs to  
8 be done.

9           Women in our city deserve better, they  
10 deserve equity in all aspects of their lives, in  
11 education, healthcare, economic opportunity, and  
12 access to justice. I am glad and proud that the  
13 Mayor created the Commission on Gender Equity to work  
14 on ensuring that women and girls are given equal  
15 opportunities to reach their fullest potential and I  
16 am proud that today, by voting on Int. No. 1137 we at  
17 the Council are making sure that this conversation  
18 continues for years and years to come. This is  
19 certainly historical, this piece of legislation that  
20 we are going to support today.

21           I also would like to acknowledge at this  
22 time we have joined by the Honorable Council Member  
23 Karen Koslowitz, representing Queens and we are so  
24 happy to have you here today, and we are now going to  
25 do our roll call.

1  
2 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,  
3 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Women's  
4 Issues, Int. 113-A [sic]. Chair Cumbo.

5 CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: I proudly vote aye  
6 and I'm so proud that my colleagues are here today  
7 with me and we are certainly making history and we  
8 are going to make New York City a more fair,  
9 equitable and safe place for all residents,  
10 particularly women and girls. I proudly vote aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote aye and  
13 congratulations to the Committee Chair.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye and  
16 I'd like to be added to this bill, and  
17 congratulations.

18 CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: Thank you.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Congratulations,  
21 Chair Cumbo; proud to be a member of the He for She  
22 Caucus; I vote aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the  
24 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
25 item has been adopted.

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COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

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CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: Thank you to all my  
colleagues. We'll keep the vote open so that the  
entire caucus can vote on this particular piece of  
legislation. Thank you. [background comments]

We're gonna keep the vote open for about  
another ten minutes. [background comments]

Thank you, colleagues.

[pause]

[background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote, Committee  
on Women's Issues, Int. 1137-A, is adopted by a vote  
of 4 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no  
abstentions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: Thank you and the  
vote is closed.

[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 May 18, 2016