

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES  
  
Of the  
  
COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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April 4, 2017  
Start: 12:51 p.m.  
Recess: 1:14 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm.  
16th Fl

B E F O R E: MATHIEU EUGENE  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Annabel Palma  
Darlene Mealy  
Margaret S. Chin  
David G. Greenfield  
Andy L. King  
Laurie A. Cumbo

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

2 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [gavel] Good  
3 afternoon. Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Council  
4 Member Mathieu Eugene, and I'm the Chair of the Youth  
5 Services Committee. Thank you to all my colleagues  
6 who are here today. I want to thank you for making  
7 the time to come and vote on this very important  
8 piece of legislation concerning disconnected youth.  
9 As you may recall, we had a hearing on disconnected  
10 youth last year where the Administration presented  
11 its efforts to help this population. Advocates also  
12 testified to the wide range of services they offer to  
13 disconnected youth, and recommended ways in which the  
14 city could improve services given to disconnected  
15 youth, and help them achieve their full potential.  
16 As of the last census in 2010, there were  
17 approximately 170,000 disconnected youth, and I would  
18 not be surprised if that number has increased today.  
19 Despite an existence of both public and private  
20 programs serving disconnected youth, the hearing  
21 revealed that those programs are not enough to meet  
22 the demands of disconnected youth. Additionally,  
23 advocates who are quick to put that some of the  
24 programs already in existence were not adequately  
25 meeting the specific need of disconnected youth. It

2 was clear from the hearing that we have a lot of work  
3 to do to better understand the city's disconnected  
4 youth population. This giving us the methods to do  
5 just that. The task force would be less responsible  
6 for producing a report that analyzes the problems  
7 that prevent disconnected youth from going to school  
8 or being employed. That report would also examine  
9 the current policies and programs serving  
10 disconnected youth, how the current programs can be  
11 improved, what education or work skill our partners  
12 are looking for and our partners between our  
13 partnerships, between public and private programs  
14 that served disconnected youth can be straddled. I  
15 am excited that this bill promises to finally provide  
16 us with a better and complete understanding of what  
17 it will take for this city to better serve the  
18 disconnected youth population. I'm also sure that  
19 the report will highlight the importance of equipping  
20 disconnected youth with an education and work skills  
21 suited to meet the challenges of the 21st Century  
22 because there, too, they deserve the opportunities to  
23 succeed. Now, I want to thank the committee staff  
24 because they all of them they have been doing a  
25 wonderful job and especially to bring this session to

2 vote. I want to thank Al Conser (sp?), Karu Disharu  
3 (sp?) for his wonderful job. He did a tremendous job  
4 and thank you Karu (sp?). Thank you so much, and I  
5 want to thank also the Policy Analyst Michael  
6 Benjamin, the Legislative Financial Analyst, Jessica  
7 Ackerman, and all my colleagues who are here today to  
8 vote on this legislation, and I want to thank also my  
9 Budget and Director and Lisa the Director, Ethan  
10 Tucker and Adam. Thank you very much, and to all of  
11 you who are here today, thank you and thank you for  
12 what you do every single day on behalf of our young  
13 people, the disconnected youth of New York City.  
14 Now, will you please call—call for the vote? Thank  
15 you.

16 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,  
17 roll call vote Committee on Youth Services,  
18 Introduction 708-A. Chair Eugene.

19 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I vote aye.

20 CLERK: Mealy.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [pause] May I  
22 explain my vote? I just want to thank my colleague  
23 Mathieu Eugene in regards to this first time ever—  
24 ever committee that bi-annually they will talking to  
25 the Mayor and the Speaker giving information how

2 their meetings are going, and I just want to say this  
3 is a great legislation. I'm looking forward to  
4 seeing our youth be their own leaders in this Youth  
5 Committee Advisory Board and I vote aye.

6 CLERK: Chin.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Permission to  
8 explain my vote? I also wanted to thank our Chair,  
9 and I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of the legislation.  
10 I think when we set up this task force to really have  
11 a comprehensive view on how to provide better  
12 services to our disconnected youth. It's critical  
13 and I hope that by all the agencies working together  
14 we will find the best way to provide better services  
15 to help this population. Thank you and I vote aye.

16 CLERK: King.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Permission to  
18 explain my vote. First, I want to thank Chairman  
19 Eugene on helping lead the conversation. In addition  
20 to it, I do have—while this piece of legislation  
21 doesn't have any fiscal impact on the city of New  
22 York by its implementation, I am—I would like to add  
23 for the record I still would like us to figure out  
24 those agencies, those organizations that have been  
25 responsible for delivering for our young people to be

2 more accountable. While we're looking to find avenues  
3 to get the information of where we've gone wrong and  
4 put together a task force to help us get more  
5 clarity, some of the people that are coming to this  
6 team that will be part of this task force have  
7 already got budget funding to deliver on the promise  
8 of taking care of our children, and not disconnected  
9 to the community. So we need to make sure that while  
10 we're creating a task force that people who are in  
11 the line of this fire to deliver for our children are  
12 really held accountable for their mission and their  
13 agencies or their programs whether it's—whether it's  
14 after school or whether it's education, or whether  
15 it's DYCD, or whether it's probation or whether it's  
16 small business, or whoever it is that's from the city  
17 of New York who regularly gets in their budget line  
18 funding to serve this population that they're doing  
19 so. So we don't have to keep spinning the wheel and  
20 creating new—new systems to track the work that  
21 people should already be doing. So that being said,  
22 I still—I still vote aye and thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

2 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you all very  
3 much, and to all of you my colleagues for being here,  
4 and for voting, and we're going to leave the vote  
5 open for a moment for a few minutes, while these 15  
6 or 20 minutes and I'll be here because we are waiting  
7 for other colleagues who are on their way to come  
8 over here to vote. [pause, background comments]

9 CLERK: The final vote in the Committee  
10 on Youth Services Intro 708-A is 4 in the  
11 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

12 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much  
13 and the meeting is now adjourned. [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 April 28, 2017