

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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May 30, 2017
Start: 10:32 a.m.
Recess: 10:49 a.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 [sound check, pause][gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Good morning. I'm
4 Council Member Mathieu Eugene, and I'm the Chair of
5 the Youth Services Committee. Thank you for making
6 the time to come and vote on this important piece of
7 legislation concerning disconnected youth. This
8 really is a continuation of our effort to improve the
9 quality of services available to the disconnected
10 youth in our city, and our quest to end the
11 disconnected youth–youth crisis in New York City. As
12 you may recall, in their program, the City Council
13 voted another bill that I introduced. It was 708-A,
14 which will created a disconnected youth taskforce.
15 Both bills got their start last year when we had a
16 hearing on disconnected youth where the
17 Administration testified on what it was doing to help
18 this population. Advocates are also testifying to
19 the wide range of services they offer the
20 disconnected youth and recommended ways in which the
21 city can improve service delivery to disconnected
22 youth, and have their achieve their full potential.
23 At the last census in 2010, there were approximately
24 170,000 disconnected youth. I would not be surprised
25 if that number has increased today. But despite its

2 existence of both public and private programming
3 serving disconnected youth, there hearing reveal that
4 those programs are not enough to meet the demand of
5 disconnected youth. Additionally, advocates were
6 quick to put out that some of the programs already in
7 existence were not adequately meeting the specific
8 needs of disconnected youth. It was clear from the
9 hearing that we have enough work to do to better move
10 to the need of the city's-city's disconnected youth
11 population. This bill takes us in that direction.
12 Beyond their testimony, many advocates are
13 enlightened (sic) that the Department of Small
14 Businesses Disconnected Youth Job Program was not
15 comprehensive enough to meet the demand of the
16 disconnected youth. Other concerns are enlightened
17 that having a disconnected youth program in SBS was a
18 duplication of services because of SBS already
19 provides job placement services through its Workforce
20 Center, which are designed to serve adults and are
21 better suited to serve adults who are there in the
22 workforce. In fact, many advocates express their
23 preference for DYCD's Disconnected Youth Program,
24 which they have stressed has served disconnected
25 youth well. While I appreciated the concern and

2 recommendation, I am enlightened by the advocates. I
3 also realized that the importance of ensuring that if
4 SBS was going to serve disconnected youth, it was
5 important to ensure that services that are provided
6 were adequate to meet the need of this vulnerable
7 population. As a result, we took into consideration
8 the concern of the advocates and modified the
9 legislation to reflect those concerns. The
10 legislation now requires, as we see, SBS to provide
11 services such as referring disconnected youth to
12 agencies or community-based organizations that will
13 help them deal with issues such as mental health,
14 child care, Criminal Justice issues or trans-or
15 transportation. Additionally, the legislation
16 requires SBS to give up and implement education and
17 job training programs included as part of their skill
18 training to provide follow-up services and
19 information on needed-needed or receive education.
20 It is important to note that the DYCD, the Department
21 of Education, the Human Resources Administration, and
22 the Mayor's Office will be involved in the
23 implementation of this program. I am excited that
24 this bill ensure that LDS (sic) Disconnected Youth
25 Program will provide targeted services that will

2 promise to equip our disconnected youth with and
3 education and work skills better suited to move
4 through the challenges of the 21st Century because
5 they, too, deserve the opportunity—the opportunities
6 to succeed.

7 I want to thank the Committee staff led
8 by our Counsel Keanu Disharu (sp?) Policy Analyst
9 Michael Benjamin; Senior Financial Analyst Jessica
10 Ackerman and my Legislative and the Budget Direction
11 Aton Tucker, and I want to thank also all my
12 colleagues and members of the Youth Services
13 Committee for all their help and their participation,
14 and I want, you know, also to thank all of you here
15 present. This is a very important moment when we are
16 going to vote on this very important legislation that
17 will—I'm sure will make a difference in the life of
18 all disconnected youth. Thanks—thank you again to
19 each one and everyone of you for what you do on a
20 daily basis for the disconnected youth in New York
21 City. Let me say that we have been—we have been
22 joined also by, you know, from my left and from my
23 right [laughter] Council Member Annabel Palma,
24 Council Member Laurie Cumbo, Council Member Margaret
25 Chin and also Council Member Darlene Mealy. Thank

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

7

2 you very much. Will you please call the vote?

3 Anybody want to speak? Alright, will you please call
4 the vote? Thank you very much.

5 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,
6 roll call vote Committee on Youth services,
7 Introduction 709-A. Chair Eugene.

8 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I vote aye.

9 CLERK: Palma.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: I vote aye and I
11 request that my name be added to the bill.

12 CLERK: Mealy.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye, and I
14 request my name to be added to the bill also, and
15 thank you, Chair Mathieu.

16 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: And thank you vey
17 much. Thank you.

18 CLERK: Chin.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye, and I'm
20 happy to be a co-sponsor, and I wanted to
21 congratulate our Chairman that we're finally going to
22 really focus on our disconnected youth. Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you. Thank
24 you, much.

25 CLERK: Cumbo.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission to
3 explain my vote? [background comments] Okay.

4 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I'll take that
6 permission.

7 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Absolutely.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I just wanted to
9 congratulate you. This is such an important piece of
10 legislation. It's something that you and the
11 committee have worked hard on. We've heard numerous
12 testimony about our disconnected youth, and what
13 happens to that population between the ages of 16 and
14 24, and what I really appreciate about this
15 legislation is that it's not just simply finding them
16 something to do, but it's also about ensuring that
17 they're going to have the educational opportunities
18 to continue their education and job training so that
19 they can actually create a career path. And I think
20 that this is really important because we know that
21 many young people between the ages of 16 and 24 if
22 they don't receive that proper involvement, if they
23 don't receive proper training, if they don't have the
24 opportunity to continue their education, that many of
25 them will be stuck in the situations that they are in

2 generationally. So, this is really powerful
3 legislation. I'm proud to support it. I, too, would
4 also like to be added to the bill, and I congratulate
5 you, and I proudly vote aye.

6 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much,
7 Council Member Cumbo.

8 CLERK: By a vote of 5 in the
9 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions,
10 the item has been adopted by the committee.

11 [background comments, pause]

12 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Okay, now we are
13 going to leave it open for Council Member Greenfield.

14 He's on his way. [background comments, pause]

15 [background comments]

16 CLERK: Continuation of roll call, the
17 Committee on Youth Services, Introduction 709-A.

18 Council Member Greenfield.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you,
20 Mr. Chairman for your leadership. I vote aye on all.

21 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much,
22 Council Member Greenfield. Thank you.

23 CLERK: The vote now currently stands at
24 6 in the affirmative. [background comments]

25 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

2 CLERK: The final vote on Introduction
3 709-A, Committee on Youth Services has been adopted
4 by a vote of 6 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative
5 and no abstentions.

6 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much,
7 and the meeting is 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 June 26, 2017