

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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October 16, 2017  
Start: 11:23 a.m.  
Recess: 11:27 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm.  
16<sup>th</sup> Fl.

B E F O R E: LAURIE A. CUMBO  
Chairperson  
  
KAREN KOSLOWITZ  
Interim Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Darlene Mealy  
Elizabeth S. Crowley  
Karen Koslowitz  
Ben Kallos

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

2 [sound check, pause] [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: I call the  
4 meeting of the Women's Issue Committee to order.

5 Good morning. I am Council Member Karen Koslowitz,  
6 Interim Chair of the Women's Issues Committee.

7 Today, we are holding this hearing to vote on  
8 Resolution 1292, a resolution calling up on the New  
9 York State Legislature to pass and the Governor to  
10 sign legislation amending the Real Property Law to  
11 allow victims of domestic violence to terminate  
12 leases upon written notice to landlords. Domestic  
13 violence is a pervasive issue that we need to keep on  
14 speaking out about. Domestic violence can happen to  
15 anyone no matter your socio-economic status, your  
16 race or your gender. It can occur a couple of weeks  
17 into a relationship or decades later. Domestic  
18 violence comprises 15% of all violent crime in the  
19 United States. More than 10 million people per year  
20 are victims of domestic abuse. While we know that  
21 domestic violence has no face, we also know that a  
22 disproportionate number of victims are women. In  
23 leading by example, we are voting on a resolution  
24 today, which aims to empower victims of domestic  
25 violence. Many victims of abuse feel trapped in

2 their living situation, and fear suffering financial  
3 penalties, poor tenant history and bad credit from  
4 breaking their lease. Resolution 1292 would call on  
5 the New York State Legislature to guarantee that  
6 there is a safer and faster avenue for domestic  
7 violence victims to terminate their lease. Research  
8 has shown that leaving an abuser is the most  
9 dangerous time for a victim of domestic violence.  
10 This legislation would help eliminate one of the many  
11 obstacles that victims confront when trying to escape  
12 their abusive relationships. The legislation would  
13 also allow thousands of New Yorkers to leave abusive  
14 situations without risking the safety or economic  
15 stability of their families. I'd like thank the  
16 sponsor of the legislation Council Member Rosenthal  
17 and, of course, thank you to the members of the  
18 Committee on Women's Issues that are present, which  
19 is I Council Member Crowley and Council Member  
20 Kallos, and the Committee Staff Counsel Aminta  
21 Kilawan and Policy Analyst Joan Povolny. Now, I'd  
22 like to turn the floor--well-- She's not here so I  
23 can't turn the floor over to Helen Rosenthal, and  
24 with that, we'll have our vote.

1 COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES 5

2 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk.

3 Roll call vote Committee on Women's Issues,

4 Resolution 1992. Council Member Koslowitz.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye.

6 CLERK: Crowley.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote aye.

8 CLERK: Kallos.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I vote aye.

10 CLERK: By a vote of 3 in the  
11 affirmative, 0 in the negative and non abstentions,  
12 the item has been adopted by the committee.

13 CHAIRPERSON KOSLOWITZ: Thank you and  
14 with that, the Committee is over. [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 October 27, 2017