

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN

----- X

October 15, 2018
Start: 1:13 p.m.
Recess: 1:20 p.m.

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

B E F O R E: HELEN K. ROSENTHAL
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Diana Ayala
Laurie A. Cumbo
Ben Kallos
Brad A. Lander

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

2 [sound check] [pause] [background
3 comments]

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSENTHAL: Great. Good
5 afternoon. [gavel] I am Chair—I'm Council Member
6 Helen Rosenthal, Chair of the Committee on Women.
7 Welcome everyone. Today, the committee will vote out
8 our Mother's Day package of legislation. As a
9 society we often fall short when it comes to
10 supporting parents and caregivers. The Mother's Day
11 Legislative package, which was introduced right
12 around mother's day--so it was relevant at one point--
13 it represents a first step toward improving health
14 outcomes for pregnant--pregnant mothers and persons
15 particularly for pregnant people of color, and will
16 provide much needed support for families. The bills
17 will first--were first heard on June 19th, and since
18 then we've heard from advocates and stakeholders to
19 provide the most impactful legislation as possible.
20 This afternoon, we will be voting on the following
21 bills: Intro 878, sponsored by Council Member Robert
22 Cornegy, which will require all city jails and police
23 precincts to provide lactation space for visitors.
24 Intro 879, sponsored by Council Member and Majority
25 Leader Laurie Cumbo, which will require employers to

2 provide a lactation room to employees needing to
3 express breast milk and a refrigerator to store
4 breast milk. Intro 905 sponsored by Council Member
5 Carlina Rivera, which will require employers to
6 develop a written policy regarding implementation of
7 a lactation room accommodation policy. Intro 913
8 sponsored by myself, which will require the
9 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to assess the
10 needs of pregnant people across New York City, and to
11 create a plan to increase access to doulas for
12 populations experiencing disproportionately high
13 rates of maternal mortality. Every year—so in nine
14 months they are going to have to reveal their first
15 plan of action for what they're going to do to reduce
16 the disparity between maternal mortality, between
17 white women and black and Latino women, and every
18 year thereafter they are going to have to report on
19 and updated that plan of action. Finally, Intro 914
20 also sponsored by myself, which will require the
21 Department of Health and Mental Health to annually
22 report on maternal mortality, and morbidity and again
23 report on a plan to decrease the gap of outcomes.
24 Taken together, these bills expand protections,
25 confront flawed processes and establish new reporting

2 mechanisms for accountability. Most importantly,
3 they are just the beginning steps of sustained
4 efforts to support pregnant persons and families in
5 New York City. Studies have proven that doulas
6 improve pregnancy outcomes and outcomes for their
7 infants. As a result of Intro 913, beginning in June
8 2019, the department will have to provide a plan to
9 increase access to doulas for the city's more
10 vulnerable pregnant people. Similarly, the
11 legislation introduced on lactation spaces will
12 preserve the dignity of breast feeding mothers. We
13 cannot stop here. The rates of maternal mortality
14 especially among black women represent a public
15 health crisis, and requires a sustained multi-faceted
16 approach. Before we start the vote I'd like to thank
17 Speaker Corey Johnson for his leadership and
18 partnership in putting this package together, and I
19 also want to thank everyone here at the Council who
20 worked so unbelievably hard with quite a few late
21 nights to implement this vision including my
22 Legislative Director, Ned Terrace, and Finance
23 Analyst Daniel Kroop and I also want to thank Andrea
24 Vazquez and her entire team in the Council's Human
25 Services Division including Brenda McKinney, my

2 Lawyer and Chloe Rivera my Policy Analyst. Emphasis
3 on mine. I'm so proud of this strong women power
4 here, and I'd now—I'd like to welcome Council Members
5 Kallos and Ayala to the—to our meeting today, and I'd
6 like to ask the Clerk to call the roll.

7 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk, roll
8 call vote Committee on Women. All items are coupled.
9 Chair Rosenthal.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSENTHAL: I vote aye on all.

11 CLERK: Kallos.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you to the
13 leadership of our Chair Helen Rosenthal, and I vote
14 aye on all and happy belated Mother's Day. [laughter]

15 CLERK: Ayala.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye on all.

17 CLERK: By a vote of 3 in the affirmative, 0
18 in the negative and no abstentions, all items have
19 been adopted by the committee.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSENTHAL: With that, we are
21 onward to the next stage for women and I'm calling
22 this committee hearing to a close. [gavel]

23

24

25

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 31, 2018