

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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DECEMBER 10, 2018  
Start: 1:18 P.M.  
Recess: 1:23 P.M.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - COMMITTEE RM. 14<sup>TH</sup> FL

B E F O R E: MARK LEVINE, CHAIR

COUNCIL MEMBERS: ALICKA AMPRY-SAMUEL  
INEZ D. BARRON  
MATHIEU EUGENE  
KEITH POWERS  
YDANIS RODRIGUEZ

1 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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2 SARGEANT AT ARMS: Check, check, check.  
3 One, two, one, two. Today's date is December 10<sup>th</sup>,  
4 2018. This is the Committee on Health being recorded  
5 by McKinley Joseph.

6 CHAIR MARK LEVINE: Welcome everybody to  
7 the most punctual Committee on the New York City  
8 Council except for the Chair. Uhm I'm Mark Levine,  
9 Chair of the City Council's Committee on Health and I  
10 am pleased that we are joined by fellow Committee  
11 Members, Council Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel, Council  
12 Member Keith Powers, Council Member Dr. Mathieu  
13 Eugene and uhm we are also joined by our colleague  
14 Ydanis Rodriguez and Council Member Inez Barron. And  
15 we are going to be voting today on Resolution 470. I  
16 am going to read my statement after the vote in case  
17 any of my colleagues are in a hurry. Uhm so I am  
18 going to ask uhm our Committee Clerk, Isaiah Manuel,  
19 sorry Billy Martin is going to call the, call the  
20 roll for us. Take it away, Billy.

21 BILLY MARTIN: Billy Martin, Committee  
22 Clerk Roll Call, vote Committee on Health, Resolution  
23 470, Chair Levine?

24 CHAIR MARK LEVINE: I vote aye.

25 BILLY MARTIN: Eugene?

2 MATHIEU EUGENE: I vote aye.

3 BILLY MARTIN: Barron?

4 INEZ BARRON: I vote aye and ask to be  
5 added to the Resolution if I am not already on it.  
6 Thank you.

7 CHAIR MARK LEVINE: Great.

8 BILLY MARTIN: Ampry-Samuel?

9 ALICKA AMPRY-SAMUEL: I vote aye.

10 BILLY MARTIN: Powers?

11 KEITH POWERS: I vote aye.

12 BILLY MARTIN: By a vote of five in the  
13 affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstention  
14 the item has been adopted by the Committee.

15 CHAIR MARK LEVINE: That is very  
16 exciting. This is such an important resolution which  
17 we had a blockbuster hearing on last week and I want  
18 to thank all of my colleagues uhm for being part it  
19 uhm and especially Council Member Powers who helped  
20 Chair in hour five or six when I had to leave. We  
21 had over 75 people speak on this issue and by my  
22 tally, 73 were in favor and two were against,  
23 reflecting an overwhelming consensus amongst  
24 advocates and experts that we heard from. Uhm, uhm  
25 I'm going to forgo reading the lengthy statement and

2 uhm simply point out to you that in the richest  
3 economy on Earth it is a moral outrage that we don't  
4 provide every one of our people access to healthcare  
5 and we have a system that is working for people who  
6 receive Medicaid and Medicare and working in  
7 countries like Canada, a simple para-model where a  
8 Government pays the bills and private non-profits and  
9 other providers offer the medical service and it  
10 offers a pathway to universal coverage which we want  
11 here in America and while we wait for uhm hostile  
12 forces to clear in Washington we have a chance to do  
13 something really great here in New York and so our  
14 hearing on this Resolution is in favor of uhm New  
15 York Health Act championed by Assembly Member  
16 Godfreed, carried in the Senate but our friend,  
17 Senator Gustafo Rivera, both of them Chair their  
18 respective Health Committees and with Democrats in  
19 control of the Senate this is a live option and I am  
20 very excited that we had a chance to put ourselves on  
21 the record in support of the New York Healthcare Act  
22 and with the addition of our colleague, Council  
23 Member Barron we now up to no fewer than 31 co-  
24 sponsors in the New York City Council which I am one,  
25 and of course our Council Speaker who is actually the

2 prime sponsor of this Resolution is amongst those who  
3 are sponsoring it. So, uhm do we have any other  
4 formal items of business? Alright, uhm I don't know  
5 whether our colleague, Ydanis, you came to make a  
6 statement?

7 YDANIS RODRIGUEZ: Yes, thank you Chair,  
8 as a co-sponsor of this Bill, for me it is very  
9 important to be working with Speaker Johnson and your  
10 uhm leadership of this Committee and my colleague  
11 knowing that Universal Healthcare is critical and we  
12 are at a moment where the City and the State have  
13 this great opportunity to send a message that we care  
14 for the working class and middle class. Still today,  
15 all of us struggle to get the best healthcare  
16 services in our City and I think that with this  
17 Resolution we are sending the message that we are  
18 working with our colleagues at the State of New York  
19 we will be able to get the support that we need to be  
20 sure that every single working class and middle-class  
21 New Yorkers will have access to healthcare. Thank  
22 you.

23 CHAIR MARK LEVINE: Thank you Council  
24 Member Rodriguez for being here and for your

1 COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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2 statement and thank you to my colleagues, this

3 concludes our hearing. (gavel pounding).

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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           JANUAR