

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY

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December 10, 2020

Start: 11:06 AM

Recess: 11:12 AM

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 1)

B E F O R E: Helen K. Rosenthal, Chair

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

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

1 COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY

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2 MALE SPEAKER: PC recording has started

3 According to the Cloud all set.

4 MALE SPEAKER: Backup is rolling.

5 MALE SPEAKER: Thank you and Sergeant Jones, if
6 you would be able to start with your opening
7 statement.

8 SERGEANT JONES: Good morning everyone, and
9 welcome to today's remote New York City Council
10 hearing on Committee on Women and Gender Equity.
11 At this time would al panelists please turn on
12 their videos, and to minimize disruption, please
13 place electronic devices to vibrate or silent, and
14 thank you for your cooperation and Chair, we are
15 ready to begin.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSENTHAL: Terrific. (gavel)
17 Thank you so much. Good afternoon. I am Council
18 Member Helen Rosenthal. My pronouns are see her
19 first, Chair of the Committee on Women and Gender
20 Equity, and for the record I would like to note
21 that we are joined by Council Members Koslowitz,
22 Ayala, Lander, Kallos, Majority Leader Cumbo. Thank
23 you all for joining us today. Today the committee
24 will vote on two resolutions, Resolution Number
25 923, which would declare the City Council's support

2 for S2243-A654 sponsored by Senators Hoylman and
3 Assembly Member Paulin, which repeals Penal Law
4 Section 240.37 known as walking, the Walking Mile
5 Trans Van. Also, Resolution 1444-A, which would
6 call the New York State Legislature to pass and the
7 Governor to sign a bill to amend the Criminal
8 Procedure Law to allow convictions for loitering
9 for the purposes of engaging in prostitution
10 Offense, Penal Law Section 240.37 to be sealed and
11 have the law apply retroactively. We are here today
12 for a simple reason Penal Law Section 240.37 known
13 widely as the ban on walking while trans needs to
14 go. The data related to Penal Law 240.37 is simple
15 and paints the picture of a large systemic and
16 racist problem. In 2019, more than 90% of the
17 arrests involved trans women of color. We already
18 know that trans women of color. We already know
19 that trans women in New York City have been
20 targeted for over four decades under this statute
21 that is just too broad, and at last week's hearing
22 on these two resolutions we hear heart breaking
23 first hand accounts of how this law has impacted
24 our fellow, our fellow New Yorkers. Available data
25 reinforces the stories we have heard about the

1 disproportionate and dire consequences. We have
2 seen that this law also disproportionately impacts
3 immigrants and particularly trans immigrants. The
4 majority of arrests under this statute occur in
5 five police precincts all predominantly black and
6 brown low-income immigrant neighborhoods. While a
7 violation under 240.37 can bar individuals' play,
8 it's important to note that a violation under
9 Section 240.37 can bar individuals from becoming a
10 permanent resident of obtaining Visas. Enough is
11 enough. I commend Council Member Rivera on these
12 two important resolutions of which I'm a proud
13 sponsor, and want to thank the advocates for your
14 tireless dedication, advocacy and partnership.
15 Before I turn to Billy Martin to call the roll on
16 the vote I would also like to thank my staff Chief
17 of Staff and Departmental Legislative Director
18 Madhuri Shukla as well as the committee staff for
19 their work in preparing for this hearing Brenda
20 McKinney, Counsel Chloe Rivera, Senior Policy
21 Analyst, Monica Pepple Finance Analyst, Elizabeth
22 Arts, Community Engagement and John Blosco, the
23 Council's LGBTQ+ Liason. Billy, when you're ready
24 could you please call the roll.
25

2 CLERK: So, good morning everyone. It's
3 still morning right? Yes. William Martin Committee
4 Clerk roll call vote Committee on Women and Gender
5 Equity on Resolutions 923 and 1444-A. The items are
6 coupled. Chair Rosenthal.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSENTHAL: I vote aye.

8 CLERK: Cumbo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I proudly vote aye
10 and I want to congratulate Helen Rosenthal on her
11 leadership. This is herstoric, and certainly
12 extraordinary. Thank you for your leadership and I
13 proudly vote aye.

14 CLERK: Kallos.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I'm proud to be a
16 sponsor, proud to be opening more homeless services
17 in the neighborhood and I proudly vote aye.

18 CLERK: Lander.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: With gratitude to
20 the Chair and to Council Member Rivera, I vote aye.

21 CLERK: Ayala.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I vote aye.

23 CLERK: By a vote of five in the
24 affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions,

2 both items have been adopted by the committee. Thank
3 you.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSENTHAL: Terrific. With
5 that I close this hearing to a close. Thank you very
6 much. (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 December 17, 2020