

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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May 27, 2021  
Start: 9:43 a.m.  
Recess: 9:59 a.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing, Virtual Room 1

B E F O R E: Darma V. Diaz  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Darma V. Diaz  
Laurie A. Cumbo  
James F. Gennaro  
Ben Kallos  
Brad S. Lander  
Helen K. Rosenthal  
Farah N. Louis

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

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SERGEANT AT ARMS: PC has started.

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SERGEANT AT ARMS: Cloud has started.

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SERGEANT AT ARMS: Backup is rolling.

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SERGEANT AT ARMS: Sergeant Martinez, can you give us the opening, please?

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SERGEANT AT ARMS MARTINEZ: Good morning and welcome to today's remote New York City Council hearing of the Committee on Women and Gender Equity. At this time would all panelists please turn on their video. To minimize disruption, please silence your electronic devices. Thank you for your cooperation. We are ready to begin.

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CHAIRPERSON DIAZ: Good morning. I'm Council Member Darma Vanessa Diaz. My pronouns are she, her, and hers, chair of the Committee on Women and Gender and Equity. Today the committee will vote on Council Member Chin's proposed resolution number 920-A, a resolution [inaudible] United States Congress and New York State Legislature to support a woman's right to abortion and oppose a ban on sex selection abortions with racial stereotypes and undermine access to care. Before we move on I would like to welcome my colleague, Council Member Chin, to say a few words about her resolution.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. Good  
3 morning, thank you, Chair Diaz, ah, for bringing this  
4 resolution to a vote. And I wanted to also thank  
5 Council Member Rosenthal, who is the former chair of  
6 this committee, ah, for the holding the hearing, ah,  
7 last year, especially this time right now where a  
8 woman's right to choose is under attack. Ah, Roe v  
9 Wade is under attack, and we need to send a strong  
10 message, um, to Washington and also to the state.  
11 They have to stop, you know, sponsoring legislation  
12 that really perpetuates stereotype, especially for,  
13 you know, Asian, ah, Pacific Islander women. Ah, so  
14 I am so glad that we finally, ah, bring this  
15 resolution to a vote. And also thank you to all the  
16 committee staff who have worked so hard on this and  
17 all the advocates who have been showing their support  
18 all these years. Thank you very much. And I urge my  
19 colleague to support. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON D. DIAZ: Again, thank you,  
21 Member Chin, for sponsoring this very important  
22 resolution, as well as Speaker Johnson for pushing it  
23 forward, and to former chair Helen Rosenthal, thank  
24 you for your continued commitment and support as we  
25 move forward with our agendas. Before we move on to

1  
2 a vote, I would also like to thank my staff, Karen  
3 Kay, my chief of staff, Richard Lories, legislative  
4 director, and additionally thank the committee staff  
5 for working and preparing this hearing and looking  
6 forward to including [inaudible] and, and definitely  
7 I want to make sure to, um, push forward and let you  
8 all know that we can only do with our supportive  
9 staff. Brenda, thank you for your counsel. Rivera,  
10 thank you for assisting with policy moving forward,  
11 and, and Tamani, thank you. Um, my understanding is  
12 today is your last day. You're, you're definitely  
13 gonna, gonna be missed. Thank, yes, thank you for  
14 allowing for those late calls and again, that, that  
15 support that you've given me. I'd like to, um, again  
16 encourage my, my colleagues to support today as we  
17 move this bill forward. Billy, please take the vote.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, Chair.

19 This is the May 27, 2021, Committee on Women and  
20 Gender Equity. The vote is on proposed resolution  
21 90, 920. I'm sorry, 920. We'll start with Chair  
22 Diaz.

23 CHAIRPERSON D. DIAZ: Yes.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Lander.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Ah, with thanks  
3 to Council Member Chin and Chair D. Diaz, ah, I vote  
4 aye. Thank you.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member  
6 Rosenthal.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Um, permission  
8 to explain my vote? Just real quick?

9 CHAIRPERSON D. DIAZ: Of course.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: You know,  
11 Chair Diaz, Diaz, once again you're picking up the  
12 ball so beautifully. Thank you for your kind words,  
13 but also noting the, noting the importance of passing  
14 this resolution. Council Member Chin, you, from the  
15 beginning, yeah, I know you've worked on this for  
16 quite some time and one of the things I found most  
17 notable at the hearing when we discussed this  
18 resolution was like we had quite a few, um, people  
19 who wished to speak. And, ah, the Asian American  
20 community, women community, came out so beautifully,  
21 ah, in support of this resolution and, um, I just,  
22 um, I, I'm, I'm, you know, a little, a lot of times  
23 when I feel proud of this council and this is  
24 definitely one of them. Um, you're really leading

2 the way on this. Thank you. Um, with that I vote  
3 aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Council  
5 Member Kallos. Council Member Louis.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gennaro.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Chair D.  
10 Diaz, by a vote of 6 in the affirmative, zero in the  
11 negative, and zero abstentions the item is adopted.

12 CHAIRPERSON D. DIAZ: Again, thank you  
13 all for your support and due diligence. I know it's  
14 been a hard road, but thank you. Thank you. Our  
15 government should not intercede in women's right to  
16 choose. Thank you. It is now at 9:58. This hearing  
17 is closed.

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: PC started.

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Cloud has started.

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Backup is rolling.  
21 We're reopening the Committee on Women and Gender  
22 Equity. You can go ahead, ah, Chair Rosenthal.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you so  
24 much. Um, Helen Rosenthal, former chair of the  
25 Committee on Women and Gender Equity. We're

2 reopening this hearing, ah, to add an additional  
3 vote.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Chair. This  
5 is a continuation of the roll call vote on the  
6 Committee on Women and Gender Equity, May 27, 2021,  
7 on proposed resolution 920-A. Majority Leader Cumbo.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, and I  
9 proudly vote aye, and I thank you, Council Member  
10 Rosenthal, for reopening the vote for me. I was  
11 here, but I was missed. I think I didn't have on my  
12 red lipstick today so it might have thrown you off.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Majority  
14 Leader.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: But thank you.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: You and me  
18 both.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chair Rosenthal, the  
20 revised vote is 7 in the affirmative, zero in the  
21 negative, and zero abstentions.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Right, and  
23 with that we'll close the hearing. Thank you very  
24 much. [gavel]

25 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY

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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 July 12, 2021