

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES  
  
Of the  
  
COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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December 18, 2017  
Start: 11:15 a.m.  
Recess: 11:20 a.m.

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

B E F O R E: MATHIEU EUGENE  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Annabel Palma  
Darleen Mealy  
Margaret S. Chin  
David G. Greenfield  
Andy L. King  
Laurie A. Cumbo

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

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

4 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Good morning. I'm  
5 Council Member Mathieu Eugene, Chair of the Committee  
6 on Youth Services. This morning we will vote on two  
7 bills that will improve services Runaway and Homeless  
8 Youth. Proposed Intro 1619-A, sponsored by Council  
9 Member Johnson, would require DYCD to report the  
10 number of youth who are not able to access bed and  
11 the Runaway and Homeless Youth shelter services.  
12 This bill will better enable the City of New York  
13 understand the size of this population, and what  
14 additional services are needed to ensure that all  
15 youth who need a bed are able to access one. And we  
16 ae also voting on Proposed Intro 1705-A sponsored by  
17 Council Member Salamanca, which requires DYCD and DHS  
18 to develop a system to alert youth who have reached  
19 the age of time limits and are in RHY shelters to  
20 directly enter a DHS shelter, and by passing the DHS  
21 entry and assessment facilities. I want to thank  
22 our—the Sponsors of this bill Council Member  
23 Salamanca and Council Member Johnson for their work,  
24 and I urge my colleagues to vote yes. But before we  
25 vote, I want to take the opportunity to thank also

2 the members of the Youth Services Committee for their  
3 work to make this impossible—this vote possible:  
4 Andrea Vazquez, the Acting Counsel; Jessica Ackerman,  
5 Finance; and Michael Benjamin, Policy Analyst, and I  
6 want also to mention that we have been joined also by  
7 Council Member Chin, Greenfield, Cumbo and Council  
8 Member Rose, Council Member Levin, and Council Member  
9 Johnson that are with me (sic), and at this time I  
10 want to call one of the sponsors Council Member  
11 Johnson who is going to give some remarks. Council  
12 Member Johnson.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr.  
14 Chair. There are few crises more heartbreaking than  
15 that of youth homelessness. Every night large  
16 numbers of young people sleep on our streets and  
17 subways, many of whom were forced out of their homes  
18 due to abuse, and familial rejection. It is  
19 inconceivable that this could be allowed in New York  
20 City. These young people are among the most  
21 vulnerable members of our society, and we have a  
22 special responsibility to take care for them, to keep  
23 them safe and to let them know that they are valued  
24 and loved. Our city has allocated significant  
25 resources to this issue in recent years expanding the

2 number of youth shelter beds available to this  
3 population. We must do more. In September, my  
4 colleagues and I introduced a package of legislation  
5 that would dramatically increase the availability of  
6 youth shelter in New York City. Introduction 1619  
7 require the Department of Youth and Community  
8 Development to provide a quarterly count of Runaway  
9 and Homeless Youth who have been turned around from  
10 DYCD RHY shelter. This information is crucial if we  
11 are truly going to be able to address this problem.  
12 I'd like to thank you, Chair Eugene for your support  
13 in this package of bills, and I would encourage my  
14 colleagues to vote yes on Introduction 1619. I'd  
15 like to also say, you know, this time of year is  
16 actually really, really difficult and heartbreaking  
17 for Runaway and Homeless Youth, the holidays when  
18 they're away from their families. It's a particularly  
19 difficult and traumatic time of the year. So, I'm  
20 glad we're passing this piece of legislation just  
21 before the holiday season. It's really important  
22 for the youth of New York City. I ask my colleagues  
23 to vote aye. Thank you very much.

24 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much,  
25 Council Member Johnson. I want to thank you and

2 commend you for this very important bill that address  
3 the—the need and the issues of the young people who  
4 are homeless in New York City. This is a very  
5 important portion of our community and we have, as  
6 you said, we have to do more and they deserve more  
7 than what they receive, and I want also to mention  
8 that we as with also Council Member Cumbo and Council  
9 Member Chin. Thank you very much. Now, I would like  
10 to ask the Clerk to call the vote.

11 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,  
12 roll call vote Committee on Youth Services. The  
13 items are coupled. Chair Eugene.

14 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I vote aye.

15 CLERK: Chin.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye and  
17 pleas add my name to the—both legislations. Thank  
18 you.

19 CLERK: Greenfield.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I vote aye  
21 and ask that my name be added to the legislation as  
22 well.

23 CLERK: Cumbo.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Congratulations,  
25 Council Member Corey Johnson. I vote aye, and I also

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2 request my name to be added to the legislation.

3 Thank you.

4 CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the  
5 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
6 both items have been adopted by the-by the committee.

7 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much,  
8 and the meeting is adjourned. [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 January 13, 2018