

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

1

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

----- X

June 22, 2023
Start: 11:34 a.m.
Recess: 11:37 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Althea V. Stevens, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alexa Aviles
Chi A. Osse

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Check one, two. Check
3 one, two. This is a prerecorded sound test for the
4 Committee on Youth Services. Today's date is June 22,
5 2023. It's being recorded by Michael Leonardo in the
6 Council Chambers.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
8 welcome to today's New York City Council hearing for
9 the Committee on Youth Services.

10 At this time, we ask that you silence
11 cell phones and electronic devices to minimize
12 disruptions throughout the hearing. We thank you for
13 your cooperation.

14 Chair, we are ready to begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: [GAVEL] Good
16 morning. Welcome to today's vote on Youth Services
17 Committee. I'm Council Member Althea Stevens, Chair
18 of the Committee.

19 Today, we'll be voting on Intro. 54
20 sponsored by Council Member Farah Louis. This bill
21 will require the Department of Youth and Community
22 Development, DYCD, to include financial empowerment
23 components to their youth employment and their
24 runaway homeless youth programs.

25

2 Such training would include instructions
3 on banking, budgeting, credit, debit, savings,
4 investments, and taxes. DYCD would be required to
5 issue an annual report on how many participants
6 received financial empowerment training, the methods
7 and manner in which the topics were covered, and the
8 amount of time spent covering such topics.

9 In April, members of New York City Youth
10 Action Board attended our hearing on the needs of
11 runaway and homeless youth and spoke in support of
12 Intro. 54 based on their lived experience and
13 sustainable housing young adults. Zaqanah Stevens
14 spoke passionately about how she still feels the
15 effects of financial mistakes she made as an unstable
16 housed teen a decade later, and Mr. Walker
17 underscored the importance of teaching young people
18 about taxes, credit building, and budgeting in order
19 to reach a place of stability. Mr. Walker said it
20 best when he testified "in the city where the cost of
21 living is the highest on earth, why wouldn't
22 financial literacy resources be a priority?"
23 Financial literacy is a crucial skill that helps
24 young people make informed choices to reach self-
25 sufficiency. Whether you are a full-time student or

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

4

2 enrolled in a Summer Youth Employment Program or
3 unstable housed young person in need of resources to
4 help you get back on your feet, you deserve access to
5 those tools to help build a sound financial future.
6 I'm proud to co-sponsor this bill and eager to
7 advance this legislation.

8 I would like to thank Committee Staff for
9 their hard work in preparing for this vote, Committee
10 Counsel Christina Yellamaty, Policy Analyst Elizabeth
11 Arzt as well as Chief-of-Staff Kate Connolly.

12 I will now turn to the Clerk to call the
13 roll.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
15 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
16 vote Committee on Youth Services on Proposed
17 Introduction 54A. Chair Stevens.

18 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Aviles.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILES: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Osse.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSE: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote
24 of three in the affirmative, zero in the negative,

25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

5

2 and no abstentions, item has been adopted by the
3 Committee.

4 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Thank you. This vote
5 is now closed. [GAVEL]

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

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 June 26, 2023