

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

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June 22, 2023  
Start: 10:29 a.m.  
Recess: 10:35 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Diana Ayala, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Tiffany Caban  
Crystal Hudson  
Linda Lee  
Chi A. Osse  
Althea V. Stevens  
Sandra Ung  
Nantasha M. Williams

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Amanda Farias

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a sound check  
3 for the Committee on General Welfare. Today's date is  
4 June 22, 2023. Being recorded by Danny Huong  
5 (phonetic) in the Committee Room.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and  
7 welcome to the New York City Council vote of the  
8 Committee on General Welfare.

9 At this time, can everybody please  
10 silence your cell phones. Thank you for your  
11 cooperation.

12 Chair, we are ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: [GAVEL] Good morning,  
14 everyone. Good morning and welcome to today's  
15 hearing. My name is Diana Ayala, and I am the Deputy  
16 Speaker of the New York City Council and the Chair of  
17 the General Welfare Committee.

18 Today, our Committee will be voting on  
19 Proposed Intro. 561B sponsored by Council Member  
20 Hudson. Proposed Intro. 561B would authorize the City  
21 to establish or fund one or more pilot programs to  
22 provide direct cash assistance to certain eligible  
23 low-income individuals. As I mentioned when we heard  
24 the bill a few weeks ago, we know how difficult it is  
25 to make ends meet in this city. We know how rampant

2 poverty is. Even before the pandemic, half of the  
3 city's population lived below the poverty line. The  
4 economic pressures of the pandemic could have pushed  
5 New Yorkers even further into poverty, but,  
6 thankfully, every level of government stepped up to  
7 strengthen the safety net, preventing disaster from  
8 hitting many individuals and families. That pandemic  
9 support, which was intended to be temporary, is  
10 quickly coming to an end. What we saw with the  
11 pandemic (INAUDIBLE) policies including expansion of  
12 unemployment insurance, SNAP and childcare tax credit  
13 is that anti-poverty tools do work. It is with this  
14 in mind that we are voting on Proposed Intro. 561B  
15 today, which would support New Yorkers by authorizing  
16 the City to establish a pilot program for the  
17 provision of unconditional direct cash payments.

18 I want to thank the advocates and the  
19 individuals with lived experience that have informed  
20 and helped us shape this legislation.

21 At this time, I'd like to acknowledge my  
22 Colleagues who are here with us today, Council  
23 Members Hudson, Osse, Stevens, Ung, and Williams.

24 Also, I would like to thank the Committee  
25 Staff who worked to prepare this hearing and finalize

2 this bill, Aminta Kilawan, Senior Legislative  
3 Counsel; David Romero, Legislative Counsel; Wesley  
4 Jones, Deputy Director; Jessica Boulet, Legislative  
5 Counsel; and Julia Haramis, Unit Head, and, finally,  
6 my staff, Elsie Encarnacion, Chief-of-Staff.

7 Council Member, would you like to say a  
8 few words on the bill?

9 No? Okay. Thank you.

10 Now, we will turn it over to the Clerk to  
11 do a roll call for this vote.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good  
13 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call  
14 vote Committee on General Welfare on Proposed  
15 Introduction 561B. Chair Ayala.

16 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: I vote aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Riley.  
18 Caban.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CABAN: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
21 you, Council Member. Hudson.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: I vote aye and  
23 just want to thank the Staff for their work and also  
24 the Chair.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Lee.

3 Osse.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSE: I vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

6 Stevens.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ung.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Williams.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote

13 of seven in the affirmative, zero in the negative,

14 and no abstentions, item has been adopted by the

15 Committee.

16 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Thank you. With that,

17 this hearing is adjourned.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Quiet,

19 please.

20 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: At this moment, we're

21 going to open up the vote momentarily to allow

22 Council Member Lee to vote.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Proposed

24 Introduction 561B, Council Member Lee.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: I vote aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Vote is  
3 now eight in the affirmative, zero in the negative,  
4 and no abstentions.

5 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Now, this vote is  
6 concluded. Thank you.

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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 June 26, 2023