

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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November 2, 2023  
Start: 9:41 a.m.  
Recess: 9:44 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Nantasha M. Williams, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Christopher Marte  
Kristin Richardson Jordan  
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Check one, two. This is  
3 a prerecorded sound test for the Committee on Civil  
4 and Human Rights. Today's date is November 2, 2023.  
5 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 Civil and Human Rights.

10 At this time, please silence cell phones  
11 and electronic devices to minimize disruptions  
12 throughout the hearing.

13 We thank you for your cooperation.

14 Chair, we are ready to begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: [GAVEL] Thank you.  
16 Good morning, everyone. My name is Nantasha Williams,  
17 and I serve as Chair to the Committee on Civil and  
18 Human Rights.

19 I'd like to thank my Colleagues for  
20 joining me today for the vote on Proposed Resolution  
21 number 296-A sponsored by Council Member Althea  
22 Stevens. This resolution calls on the Governor to  
23 sign Senate bill 4266-A, Assembly bill 5088-A, which  
24 establishes a task force on missing women and girls

1 who are black, indigenous, and people of color, also  
2 known as BIPOC.

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4           According to the National Crime  
5 Information Center, there are about 270,000 women and  
6 girls listed as missing in the United States in 2022.  
7 About 98 percent of these women and girls are black  
8 despite only making up about 14 percent of the  
9 overall population. Historical trauma, systematic  
10 racism, sexism, racial stereotyping, and sexual  
11 objectification of BIPOC women and girls have all  
12 contributed to the disparities in missing persons.  
13 These injustices are often further compounded by  
14 poverty, homelessness, child welfare involvement,  
15 domestic violence, sex trafficking, and fear of law  
16 enforcement. While the Senate bills and Assembly  
17 bills are critical to advance equity throughout New  
18 York State, it is particularly relevant for New York  
19 City. In the City, people of color make up nearly 70  
20 percent of the population. This proportion is 1.5  
21 times higher than for the State as a whole. New York  
22 City is also home to the highest number of indigenous  
23 Americans in the country, and the metropolitan area  
24 is home to the largest immigrant population  
25 nationwide.

2           The task force on missing BIPOC women and  
3 girls would work to create policy change in New York  
4 State aimed at addressing the lack of care and  
5 concern over the missing women and girls who are  
6 BIPOC and would also mobilize resources to raise  
7 awareness and provide training within BIPOC  
8 communities to prevent and respond to missing BIPOC  
9 women and girls.

10           I applaud my Colleagues in Albany for  
11 passing this crucial legislation and urge the  
12 Governor to sign as soon as possible.

13           As always, I'd like to thank Committee  
14 Staff and my Staff for their work leading up to this  
15 vote.

16           I will now ask the Clerk to call the  
17 vote.

18           COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good  
19 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call  
20 vote Committee on Civil and Human Rights, Proposed  
21 Resolution 296-A. Chair Williams.

22           CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

23           COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:  
24 Salamanca.

25           COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye.

1 COMMITTEE ON CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
3 you. Joseph. Marte.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:  
6 Richardson Jordan.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: I vote  
8 aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a  
10 vote of four in the affirmative, zero in the  
11 negative, and no abstentions, item has been adopted  
12 by the Committee.

13 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: All right. Thanks.

14 [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 November 7, 2023