

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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June 23, 2025

Start: 1:02 p.m.

Recess: 1:08 p.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Julie Won, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Testing one, two, one,
3 two. Today's hearing is Committee on Contracts.
4 Today's date is June 23, 2025, being recorded in the
5 Chambers by Keith Polite.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good afternoon, and
7 welcome to today's New York City Council hearing for
8 the Committee on Contracts.

9 At this time, we ask that you silence all
10 electronic devices, and at no time is anyone to
11 approach the dais.

12 If you would like to sign up for in-
13 person testimony, please see one of the Sergeant-at-
14 Arms.

15 Chair Won, we are ready to begin.

16 CHAIRPERSON WON: [GAVEL] Good afternoon
17 and welcome to this hearing of New York City
18 Council's Committee on Contracts. Today is Monday,
19 June 23, 2025, the day before election day. My name
20 is Julie Won, and I have the privilege of chairing
21 this Committee. I would like to thank the Members of
22 this Committee for not coming today to today's
23 hearing, and I would also like to thank the
24 representatives of the Mayor's Office of Contracts
25 for not showing up today. And other stakeholders

2 joining to testify. I'd like to note that we've been
3 joined by Council Members, myself.

4 And this hearing focuses on three
5 critical pieces of legislation that will strengthen
6 New York City's procurement system by enhancing
7 transparency, accountability, and environmental
8 responsibility across the City's 32.25-billion annual
9 contracting operations.

10 As we've consistently highlighted, the
11 City's procurement system continues to face
12 significant challenges that undermine public trust
13 and operational efficiency. Recent events, including
14 the devastating 2024 NYCHA bribery scandal, where 70
15 NYCHA employees were charged in the largest single-
16 day bribery takedown in DOJ history, have exposed
17 fundamental weaknesses in our oversight and conflict
18 prevention mechanisms. Corruption scandals like these
19 underscore the urgent and ongoing need for reforms we
20 are considering today. The data tells a troubling
21 story. In Fiscal Year 2024, 80.65 percent of all
22 procurement contracts were registered late, meaning
23 contractors had begun work before the City finalized
24 contracts or initiated payments. For human services
25 contracts specifically, the situation is even worse

2 with over 90 percent registered retroactively. This
3 forces non-profit organizations and other contractors
4 to rely on expensive loans and lines of credit while
5 awaiting reimbursement, creating barriers to
6 participation, and undermining service delivery to
7 vulnerable New Yorkers. The bills before the
8 committee today represent different approaches to
9 addressing these systemic issues. Intro. 479, which I
10 am proud to sponsor, would require the establishment
11 of standards and procedures to determine the
12 existence of conflict of interest and other
13 misconduct concerning City contracts. This
14 legislation directly addresses the corruption
15 vulnerabilities in the City's contracting system that
16 cost taxpayers millions and undermine fair
17 competition.

18 Intro. number 482, which I am also a
19 sponsor of, would establish a comprehensive public
20 procurement database. Currently, our transparency
21 system contains critical gaps. PASSPort routinely
22 experiences slowness on timeout issues, while other
23 databases like Comptroller's Checkbook New York City
24 provide fragments of contract information at best.
25 This bill would create a single searchable database

2 covering all stages of the procurement process in
3 order to improve transparency and ensure that the
4 taxpaying public can see where the dollars are being
5 spent and enable better vendor participation on our
6 procurement process.

7 Finally, Intro. 741, sponsored by Council
8 Member Bottcher, would prohibit City agencies from
9 procuring single-use plastic water containers. The
10 straightforward sustainability measure addresses some
11 of the City's tremendous waste generation issues, the
12 City's purchase of at least one million single-use
13 plastic beverage bottles annually, which does not
14 align with our One New York City 2050 carbon
15 neutrality goals. This bill would eliminate the
16 option of single-use plastic bottles and bring us
17 closer together for achieving those milestones. These
18 reforms are not occurring in isolation. They build
19 upon ongoing procurement reform efforts, including
20 Speaker Adams' Comprehensive Procurement
21 Modernization Agenda and the work of the Joint Task
22 Force to Get Non-profits Paid on Time. However,
23 despite these initiatives, fundamental challenges
24 persist. Despite improvements to systems like
25 PASSPort in recent years, our procurement system

2 remains deeply flawed as it is unnecessarily complex
3 and still only offers a limited degree of
4 transparency. Introductions 479 and 482 represent two
5 essential components of comprehensive procurement
6 modernization. Enhanced conflict identification
7 procedures will help reduce the corruption that has
8 plagued our system. A unified procurement database
9 will enable better public oversight and vendor
10 participation. And Council Member Bottcher's Intro.
11 741 will align the City's purchasing with our
12 environmental standards and commitments to
13 sustainability.

14 Since the Administration has not come, I
15 want to make it clear that we will be fast-tracking a
16 lot of these bills, and we will have a veto-proof
17 majority. If you are not going to be a good partner
18 to us, then we have no reason to consider any of your
19 concerns or whatever it may be, and we will push our
20 bills through, so if that's how you guys want to
21 negotiate, that is how we will negotiate.

22 We want to thank our Committee Staff,
23 Senior Counsel Alex Paulenoff; Policy Analyst Alex
24 Yablon; and Senior Financial Analyst Owen Kotowski,
25 as well as my Legislative Director Neily Vera

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2 Martinez, and my Chief-of-Staff Nick Gulotta for
3 their hard work in putting this hearing together.

4 So now that there's no... okay, and now we
5 are going to adjourn because tomorrow is a very
6 important day and we all got to get to work. Okay,
7 bye! And now this is officially 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 July 30, 2025