

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND
GENDER EQUITY

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January 28, 2026
Start: 9:52 a.m.
Recess: 10:19 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - 8th Floor - Hearing
Room 1

B E F O R E: Amanda C. Farias
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Shirley Aldebol
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Kayla Santosuosso
Lynn C. Schulman

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY

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SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning ladies and gentlemen. This is a mic check for the Committee on Women and Gender Equity vote. Today's date is January 28, 2026. We're in Hearing Room 1 and it is being recorded by Mike Kane (SP?).

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning and welcome to today's New York City vote on the Committee of Women and Gender Equity. At this time, please silence all cell phones and you may silence all cell phones and no one may approach the dais. Chair, you may begin.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Thank you Sergeant. Good morning everyone. I'm Council Member Amanda Farias and I'm pleased to join the Committee on Women and Gender Equity as its new Chair. Welcome to our first meeting of the Committee for the Council's 2026 to 2029 legislative session.

First, I'd like to acknowledge my colleagues who are present, Council Members Gutiérrez, Aldebol and Schulman and thank you all for being here. Today, the Committee will consider whether to recommend the override of the Mayor's veto of Introduction 1297-A, sponsored by Council Member Brooks-Powers, relating to the gender-motivated violence protection law. This bill would create a civil cause of action for

crimes of violence motivated by gender that occurred prior to January 9, 2022. The Committee previously held a vote on Intro. Number 1297-A on November 25, 2025, where it was approved by a unanimous vote. The bill was sent for approval by the full Council where it was approved by a vote of 48 in the affirmative. Despite the overwhelming support for Introduction 1297 on December 24, 2025, Mayor Eric Adams issued a veto of this bill.

Intro. 1297 represents a major shift in how the city enables survivors to hold individuals and institutions accountable. Survivors of domestic violence often take months or even years to report abuse due to intense fear of reprisal, deep seeded shame, emotional trauma, financial dependency, and the psychological effects of corrosive control.

Consequently, traditional statutes of limitations fail to work because they impose arbitrary deadlines that do not account for the complex, long term, psychological process of healing or the time needed to safely escape a dangerous situation. These strict time limits effectively punish survivors for their trauma induced delay in reporting, allowing abusers to evade justice.

This bill would open a clear pathway for survivors to pursue justice, laying out a legal framework to give survivors an avenue to accountability and resolution of their lawsuits. That is why I urge my fellow Council Members to vote yes to override Mayor Adams veto of the bill.

I'd like to take a moment to read remarks from Council Member Brooks-Powers, who couldn't be here today but did send them over. Again, I'm waiting these remarks on behalf of Council Member Brooks-Powers on her bill.

Thank you Chair Farias and thank you to the members of this Committee for advancing Intro. 1297 and standing firmly with survivors. This legislation is about restoring clarity, strength and integrity to the Gender Motivated Violence Act. A law that this Council passed unanimously because survivors and advocates made clear that justice must be real, enforceable and accessible.

When an appellate ruling introduced uncertainty and when the Mayor vetoed this bill on Christmas Eve, survivors were left facing closed courthouse doors, through no fault of their own. Intro. 1297 corrects that. It restores that 18 month lookback window and

1 makes it unmistakably clear that institutions that
2 enable abuse can be held accountable alongside
3 individual perpetrators.
4

5 That clarity matters in courtrooms to survivors
6 and to the strength of our laws. I want to thank the
7 advocates and survivors who worked with us and I want
8 to thank this Committee for recognizing the urgency
9 of getting this right. I look forward to the full
10 Council reaffirming our commitment to justice and
11 accountability.

12 Thank you for those remarks Council Member
13 Brooks-Powers. Finally, I'd like to thank my own
14 staff and the members of the Women and Gender Equity
15 Committee Staff, Senior Committee Counsel Julia
16 Goldsmith-Pinkham and Legislative Policy Analyst
17 Katie Salina who worked to prepare this meeting.

18 Clerk, we are ready to begin the vote.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning. William Martin,
20 Committee Clerk roll call vote Committee on Women and
21 Gender Equity. Both items are coupled. Chair
22 Farias?

23 CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: I vote aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gutiérrez?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: I vote aye.

1 COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY 6

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Schulman?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: I vote aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Aldebol?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: I vote aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Santosuosso? With a vote of
7 four in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
8 abstentions, Introduction 1297-A has been readopted
9 by the Committee and M14 has been approved to file.

10 CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Thank you Clerk. I'm going
11 to hold the vote open for Council Member Santosuosso
12 to join us and I leave my colleagues from there and
13 thank you so much. [00:05:02-00:08:59].

14 Clerk, can you call the vote?

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning. Excuse me.

16 Council Member Santosuosso?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSSO: I vote aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Final vote on both
19 items is now five in the affirmative, zero in the
20 negative, no abstentions. Madam Chair, that is a
21 full Committee.

22 CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Thank you so much. This
23 hearing is now adjourned.

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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 February 2, 2026