

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR

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December 6, 2023
Start: 11:06 a.m.
Recess: 11:21 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Carmen N. De La Rosa, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Erik D. Bottcher
Tiffany Cabán
Eric Dinowitz
Oswald Feliz
Kamillah Hanks
Rita C. Joseph
Julie Menin
Francisco P. Moya
Sandy Nurse

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee on Civil Service and Labor,
4 recorded on December 6, 2023, in the Council Chambers
5 by Giselle Rivera.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
7 welcome to the Committee on Civil Service and Labor.

8 At this time, we ask if you could please
9 place phones on vibrate or silent mode.

10 Thank you.

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Good morning. I
13 am Council Member Carmen De La Rosa, Chair of the
14 Committee on Civil Service and Labor. Thank you for
15 joining us for today's vote on Resolution 547, which
16 calls upon the New York City School Construction
17 Authority and the New York City Department of Design
18 and Construction to reconsider their decision to
19 substitute precast concrete wall panels in place of
20 traditional handset brick and block walls on public
21 projects in New York City. The use of precast
22 concrete wall panels undercuts city industry, harms
23 the environment, and increases the cost of City
24 projects. According to the bricklayers and allied
25 trades, the use of concrete panels eliminates the job

2 of 40 bricklayers and 20 laborers on each school
3 building. The effects of the non-construction
4 workforce are also damaging. The primary block
5 manufacturer, Glenwood Masonry, located in Brooklyn
6 is a certified minority or women-owned business that
7 employs roughly 80 middle-class workers. Since the
8 City started using precast panels, their sales have
9 declined by 30 percent. In addition to the damage to
10 local industry, cement panel production releases
11 sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and carbon monoxide
12 emissions, which have detrimental effects on the
13 environment. Furthermore, employees who work with
14 concrete panels are constantly exposed to toxic
15 chemicals which results in adverse effects on the
16 cardiovascular, reproductive, and nervous systems. In
17 stark contrast, New York City's block manufacturers
18 use carbon-captured and recycled glass in their block
19 production, which helps to reduce the amount of
20 harmful carbon in the air and reduce glass waste.

21 Lastly, the use of precast concrete costs
22 1 to 3 percent more than traditional handset brick
23 and block. The return to the use of handset brick on
24 City projects is a clear and commonsense choice.
25 Earlier this year, this Committee held a hearing on

2 this resolution where we heard meaningful testimony
3 from the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local
4 Union number 1, the Mason Tenders' District Council,
5 and the New York State Concrete Masonry Association
6 about the ramifications of this decision on their
7 industry. I am proud to stand with the unionized
8 construction workforce and support the return to
9 handset brick and block on public projects.

10 I'd like to thank the Committee Staff for
11 their work in preparing this vote, Senior Policy
12 Analyst Elizabeth Arzt, Legislative Counsel Rie
13 Ogasawara. I'd also like to thank my Staff, James
14 Burke, Kiana Diaz, and Fray Familia.

15 Now I turn to the Clerk to call the roll.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
17 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
18 vote Committee on Civil Service and Labor on
19 Resolution 547. Chair De La Rosa.

20 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Moya.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
24 you. Dinowitz.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Feliz.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Bottcher.

5 Cabán.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanks.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Joseph.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Menin.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

14 you. Nurse.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a

17 vote of nine in the affirmative, zero in the

18 negative, and no abstentions, Resolution has been

19 adopted by the Committee.

20 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you all.

21 We'll hold the vote open for a few more minutes.

22 Thank you.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

24 Continuation roll call Committee on Civil Service and

25 Labor, Resolution 547. Council Member Bottcher.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye on all.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Final
4 vote is now 10 in the affirmative, zero in the
5 negative, and no abstentions.

6 Madam Chair, that is a full Committee.

7 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you. This
8 meeting is adjourned. We want to congratulate the
9 bricklayers and allied trades. Thank you.
10 Congratulations. [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 December 11, 2023