

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

***VOTE**

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Thursday, February 12, 2026

Start: 11:41 a.m.

Recess: 11:46 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: Hon. Farah N. Louis, Acting Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Crystal Hudson
Farah N. Louis
Virginia Maloney
Chi A. Ossé
Althea V. Stevens
Nantasha M. Williams
Sandra Ung

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING: J. Sanchez

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND
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2 SERGEANT MARINO: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee Cultural Affairs, Libraries,
4 and Intergroup Relations –recorded by James Marino in
5 the Committee Room on February 12, 2026.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, and
7 welcome to today's New York City Council Vote on the
8 Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and
9 International Relations. At this time, silence all
10 electronic devices.

11 Chair, you may begin.

12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: [GAVEL] Good
13 morning, I am Council Member Farah Louis, chairing
14 the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and
15 International Relations here today, on behalf of
16 Chair, Dr. Nantasha Williams.

17 Today, the Committee will hear and
18 consider a Preconsidered Resolution, sponsored by
19 Council Members Chi Ossé, Justin Sanchez, Speaker
20 Julie Menin, and Council Members Dr. Nantasha
21 Williams, Tiffany Cabán, Lynn Schulman, and Crystal
22 Hudson.

23 This Resolution would call on the United
24 States Congress to respect the true history and
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2 significance of national park sites, including the
3 Stonewall National Monument.

4 Now, we will hear from Council Member
5 Ossé to deliver remarks on his resolution.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Thank you, stand-in
7 Chair.

8 It has been said that the most effective
9 way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their
10 own understanding of their history. When we preserve
11 and recognize our history, we claim our power. We
12 give ourselves the clarity to understand who we are
13 and how we arrived here. We allow ourselves as
14 people, as a city, and as a nation to confront past
15 wrongs, to correct them, and to honor those who paved
16 the way toward freedom and liberation. The more
17 deeply we know our past, the more boldly we can shape
18 our future.

19 On March 27th of last year, Donald Trump
20 issued an executive order entitled "Restoring Truth
21 and Sanity to American History". In its wake, truth
22 has not been restored, but rather stripped down. What
23 it has delivered instead is a quiet erasure of this
24 country's rich and complicated history, especially in
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2 the commemorations and celebrations that honor the
3 diversity that has always made this nation powerful.

4 It is this executive order that resulted
5 in the erasure of the Stonewall National Monument's
6 history on the National Park Service website—removing
7 all mentions of the word transgender and censoring
8 the contributions of the community that made
9 Stonewall the significant site it is: a site where
10 trans activist, specifically trans women and trans
11 people of color set in motion the movement for queer
12 and trans liberation across the City.

13 It is this executive order that resulted
14 in the removal of the Pride Flag at this monument by
15 the federal government—censoring not just a simple,
16 but a living celebration of queer and trans history.

17 I said this before at the rally today: I
18 think the president is worried about the wrong
19 letters in the alphabet: He's worried about the L,
20 the G, the B, the T; he should really be worried
21 about the P, which stands for pedophile.

22 Therefore, I am introducing a resolution
23 calling on the United States Congress to respect the
24 true history and significance of national park sites,
25 including the Stonewall National Monument. Despite

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2 what the government tries to do, we will be here, we
3 will continue to thrive and grow, to cultivate our
4 stories and our legacy, in spite of those who try to
5 deny us. We are not erasable.

6 I urge all of my colleagues to vote aye
7 today. Thank you.

8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you,
9 Council Member Ossé. We will now hear from Council
10 Member Justin Sanchez.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Thank you
12 so much, Madam Chair.

13 The Reso introduced by Council Member Chi
14 Ossé, myself, and the rest of the colleagues goes
15 beyond just a flag. It really goes to understanding
16 what parks are. They are places where people go to
17 live their lives, see themselves out in nature, and
18 really take in community, and what removing a flag or
19 desecrating any of our parks (INAUDIBLE) does is
20 remove the places and the spaces where we get to see
21 and be ourselves. So, I thank the colleagues of this
22 body. I thank everyone on this committee for
23 considering this resolution. And I look forward to
24 having a city that stands defiantly in the face of
25 adversity. Thank you.

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2 ACTING CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you,
3 Council Member Justin Sanchez.

4 I would like to thank the committee staff
5 who worked on preparing for today's hearing,
6 including Regina Paul, the Committee's Senior Policy
7 Analyst, who drafted the resolution and always does a
8 great job with our resolutions.

9 We are ready to call the vote, Billy.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Good morning,
11 William Martin, Committee Clerk; roll call vote for
12 the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and
13 International Relations on a Preconsidered
14 Resolution.

15 Acting Chair Louis?

16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Aye on all.
17 Congratulations to all of the sponsors.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Williams?

19 DEPUTY SPEAKER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.
20 Thanks, Council Member Louis.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Chair.

22 Council Member Hudson?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: (ABSENT)

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ung?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: I vote aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Maloney?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of 6 in the
9 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions,
10 the Resolution has been adopted by the Committee.

11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: This hearing is
12 now 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 no interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date March 7, 2026