

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

VOTE*

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Thursday May 1, 2025
Start: 11:20 a.m.
Recess: 11:24 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Hon. Julie Won, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Erik D. Bottcher
Sandy Nurse
Althea V. Stevens
Inna Vernikov

Other Council Members Attending: Brooks-Powers

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS
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2 SERGEANT MESITI: This is a mic check for the
3 Committee on Contracts. Today's date is May 1, 2025;
4 the location is the Chambers. This is being recorded
5 by Rocco Mesiti.

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

9 At this time, we ask that you please silence
10 all electronic devices. And at no time are you
11 approach the dais.

12 Chair Won, we are ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON WON: [GAVEL] Good morning, and
14 welcome to this Committee vote of the New York City
15 Council's Committee on Contracts. Today is Thursday,
16 May 1, 2025. My name is Julie Won, and I have the
17 privilege of chairing this committee.

18 Today marks a crucial moment in the Council's
19 ongoing efforts to improve New York City system for
20 supporting minority and women owned business
21 enterprises seeking public contracts.

22 We're voting on a bill today sponsored by our
23 colleague, Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers,
24 Proposed Introduction 23-A.

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2 This legislation will require the Comptroller
3 to publish an annual report on citywide purchases of
4 goods and services from minority and women owned
5 business enterprises or MWBEs.

6 Proposed Intro 23-A provides needed
7 transparency into the state of MWBE contracting. The
8 granting of contracts to MWBE firms is one of the
9 most powerful tools the City has to increase business
10 opportunities for marginalized communities.

11 Reporting requirements do exist informing
12 lawmakers on agency progress and meeting MWBE goals.
13 However, gaps also exist in agency reporting, and the
14 Comptroller's office has shown continued dedication
15 to neutral and more detailed reporting.

16 The citywide report will give policy makers,
17 advocates, and businesses seeking work with agencies
18 a clearer picture of whether we are making good on
19 promises to expand these contracting opportunities
20 year over year. It will also further demonstrate
21 which parts of the city government need to do a
22 better job of meeting MWBE contracting goals.

23 The reports mandated by this bill will not be
24 enough to the on their own to remedy the year of the
25 years of discrimination that makes special MWBE

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2 contracting programs necessary in the first place,
3 but they will provide information that will be an
4 essential starting point to future discussions of the
5 City's effort to diversify its vendor selection.

6 I urge my colleagues to consider the impact
7 that this of this bill will have and vote in favor.

8 I'd to give Council Member, Selvena Brooks-
9 Powers, an opportunity to talk about her bill.

10 And before we vote, I'd like to thank the
11 committee staff, Alex Paulenoff, Senior Legislative
12 Counsel; Kristoffer Sartori, Senior Legislative
13 Counsel; Alex Yablon, Legislative Policy Analyst; and
14 Owen Kotowski, Senior Financial Analyst for their
15 hard work in putting this hearing together and
16 preparing us for the vote.

17 I'm going turn it over to Council Member
18 Brooks- Powers to share her statement on her bill.

19 MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you and good
20 morning. I'd like to begin by thanking Chair Won for
21 her leadership on this committee and consistent
22 commitment to equity in city contracting.

23 Today, I'm proud to sponsor Intro 23, a bill
24 that brings needed transparency to how the City
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2 engages with minority and women owned business
3 enterprises.

4 The city of New York has a moral obligation to
5 ensure that its procurement process reflects the
6 diversity of our communities and provides equitable
7 opportunities to those who have historically been
8 excluded from public contracting. This legislation
9 requires the Comptroller to publish an annual report
10 showing how much of our city's contracting dollars
11 are awarded to MWBE's broken down by agency,
12 industry, contract value, and ethnic ethnic and gender
13 categories. This level of detail will help identify
14 where progress is being made, and just as
15 importantly, where barriers still persist.

16 By increasing visibility into our procurement
17 practices, we empower agencies, advocates, and MWBEs
18 themselves with the information needed to push for
19 meaningful reform. This is a step toward
20 accountability and toward creating a procurement
21 system that truly reflects the values of equity and
22 inclusion.

23 Thank you again, Chair Won, and to the members
24 of this committee for hearing this bill and to my
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2 cosponsors for standing with me in this important
3 effort. Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON WON: With that, I will ask the
5 Clerk to call the roll for a vote.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, William Martin,
7 Committee Clerk; roll call vote for the Committee on
8 Contracts on Proposed Introduction Number 23-A.

9 Chair Won?

10 CHAIRPERSON WON: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: (NO RESPONSE)

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: (ABSENT)

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of 4 in the
20 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions
21 the item has been adopted by the Committee.

22 CHAIRPERSON WON: Congratulations, Council
23 Member Selvena Brooks-Powers. And I hereby state that
24 this committee has been adjourned. [GAVEL]

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 June 12, 2025