

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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September 22, 2014  
Start: 12:09 p.m.  
Recess: 12:16 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway-Committee Rm, 16th Fl.

B E F O R E:

COREY D. JOHNSON  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.  
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.  
Rosie Mendez  
Mathieu Eugene  
Peter A. Koo  
James G. Van Bramer  
Inez D. Barron  
Maria del Carmen Arroyo

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COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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CHAIRPERSON JOHNSON: Good afternoon.

I'm Council Member Corey Johnson, chair of the Council's Committee on Health. I want to thank Council Member Rafael Espinal for sponsoring the resolution we are considering today and for being a true leader in addressing this incredibly important issue.

Today the Committee is voting on Proposed Resolution Number 380-A, which will recognize September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in New York City. The American Cancer Society estimates that almost 22,000 women will receive a new diagnosis of ovarian cancer and over 14,000 women will die from ovarian cancer in the United States in 2014. Ovarian cancer ranks fifth in cancer deaths among women. Currently there are no reliable screening tests for ovarian cancer and researchers are continuing to look for new tests to help diagnose ovarian cancer early. For this reason, it is all the more important that New York City raises awareness about this issue so that we can spread the word to women and practitioners to be on the lookout for symptoms and risk factors. Too many people lose their lives to

1  
2 this form of cancer and we must do whatever we can to  
3 fight it.

4 I would like again to thank Council  
5 Member Espinal, the sponsor of this resolution, the  
6 advocates who came and testified last week at the  
7 great hearing that we had; I know that I learned a  
8 lot; for their work on raising awareness on this  
9 incredibly important issue and I want to turn it over  
10 to the sponsor of this resolution, Council Member  
11 Espinal, but before I do that, I want to recognize my  
12 colleagues who are here today: Council Member  
13 Cornegy, Council Member Mendez, Council Member Eugene  
14 and we had... so no, that's it, so with that, Council  
15 Member Espinal.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Thank you,  
17 Chairman Johnson. I just want to thank you for  
18 taking this on and holding a hearing last week on  
19 this important issue. I was personally affected by  
20 this when my mom passed away three years ago.  
21 Yesterday would've actually been her 62nd birthday,  
22 so I'm very proud to carry this resolution. I'm very  
23 excited to see it pass in tomorrow's Stated Meeting  
24 and tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. on the steps we are  
25 holding a press conference and hopefully we can have

1  
2 you, Chairman Johnson, there and members of the  
3 Women's Caucus on the steps who bring awareness on  
4 this important issue. Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON JOHNSON: Thank you, Council  
6 Member. Anyone want to make any comments on this or  
7 we can get to a vote? Oh, yes, Council Member  
8 Eugene.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very  
10 much, Mr. Chair. I want to commend you also for your  
11 leadership on this issue and I want to thank and  
12 commend Council Member Espinal because ovarian cancer  
13 is a very, very important issue affecting womens  
14 [sic], not only in New York City and the state of New  
15 York, but throughout the world, and the best thing  
16 that we can do as a city; as a society is to do  
17 awareness. Awareness works because I know what I'm  
18 talking about. I know firsthand because I spent many  
19 time of my life you know organizing... you know I had  
20 symposium... excuse me, and had affairs to raise  
21 awareness you know about many disease and that make a  
22 difference. By making awareness we can save so many  
23 life because in medicine, we usually say that the  
24 best medicine is preventive medicine because many  
25 people die or they reach a point when they... when it

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2 is almost impossible to do something in medicine  
3 because they didn't know. They didn't understand the  
4 symptom and the sign. Well, it does make a  
5 difference when people know exactly what you know the  
6 signs mean; what the symptom means and I commend you  
7 again you know, Council Member Espinal and Mr. Chair,  
8 Chair Johnson, for bringing this bill you know to be  
9 voted today and I will be with you and I think all of  
10 us we got to continue to make awareness, especially  
11 for ovarian cancers because it is necessary for  
12 people to die so early some of the time because of  
13 lack of knowledge; because of lack of awareness.  
14 Congratulations, Council Member Espinal.

15 CHAIRPERSON JOHNSON: Thank you, Council  
16 Member. Coun...

17 [crosstalk]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you, Mr.  
19 Chair.

20 CHAIRPERSON JOHNSON: Thank you. Council  
21 Member Mendez.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you, Mr.  
23 Chair and thank you, Council Member Espinal. While  
24 this has become a personal issue for you, it is  
25 wonderful that you're using this as a way of

1  
2 educating an entire city so that hopefully this will  
3 not happen to another person or it can be caught in  
4 time, and in my community we're actually dealing with  
5 this with a close friend of ours, so it's an  
6 important issue and I look forward to next year,  
7 organizing with you an event for Ovarian Awareness  
8 Month. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

9 CHAIRPERSON JOHNSON: Thank you, Council  
10 Member Mendez. We've been joined by Council Member  
11 Koo and Council Member Van Bramer and with that, I  
12 believe we are ready to vote, so if the clerk would  
13 call the roll.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Kevin Pinn, [phonetic]  
15 Committee Clerk, roll call on the Committee on  
16 Health, Resolution 380-A. Council Member Johnson.

17 CHAIRPERSON JOHNSON: I proudly vote aye  
18 with congratulations to my colleague, Council Member  
19 Espinal.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I vote aye and  
22 ditto.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye and  
25 congratulations, Council Member Espinal.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye and  
congratulations to Council Member Espinal.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye  
and I would like to congratulate Council Member  
Espinal as well and thank Chair Johnson.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I vote aye.  
Great work, Council Member Espinal.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I proudly vote  
aye and I want to thank the chair and my colleagues  
for voting yes on this resolution.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 7 in the  
affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
the item has been adopted. Members, please sign the  
Committee Report.

CHAIRPERSON JOHNSON: Thank you and we're  
going to keep the roll open for an additional 30  
minutes. We're waiting on a couple of other  
colleagues that are on their way and do want to vote  
on this today. Thank you again for being here today.  
Everyone have a great day. Thanks.

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[Pause]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vote stands at 8 in the affirmative.

[Pause]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: The final vote on the Committee on Health 9 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Health Committee hearing September 22nd, 2014 now 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 09/24/2014