

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND
INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS

1

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND
INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS

VOTE*

----- X

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Start: 10:15 a.m.

Recess: 10:20 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: *Hon. Carlina Rivera, Chair*

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

David M. Carr
Shahana K. Hanif
Kamillah M. Hanks
Crystal Hudson
Farah N. Louis
Chi A. Ossé
Sandra Ung
Nantasha M. Williams

Other Council Members Attending: Banks and Bottcher

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND
INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS

A P P E A R A N C E S

(NONE)

1
2
3 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, and welcome to
4 today's New York City Council Vote for the Committee
5 on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International
6 Intergroup Relations.

7 At this time, please place all electronic devices
8 to vibrate or silent mode, and at no time are you to
9 approach the dais.

10 Chair Rivera, we are ready to begin.

11 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: (GAVEL SOUND) (GAVELING IN)

12 Thank you, good morning, I'm Council Member
13 Carlina Rivera, Chair of the Committee on Cultural
14 Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup
15 Relations.

16 Today, the Committee will hear and vote on two
17 resolutions:

18 Proposed Resolution Number 720-A, which I have
19 sponsored, calling on the New York State Legislature
20 to pass, and the Governor to sign, A.50/S.1077,
21 sponsored by Assemblymember Robert Carroll and State
22 Senator Julia Salazar, known as the New York City
23 Arts Space Act, to promote the development of
24 affordable arts spaces in New York City.
25

1
2 We will also hear Resolution Number 792,
3 sponsored by Council Members Tiffany Cabán and Amanda
4 Fariás, declaring March 25 as Greek Cultural
5 Appreciation and Independence Day annually to honor
6 both the perseverance of the Greek people in their
7 own fight for freedom and their integral place in the
8 culture and history of the City of New York.

9 Now, I would like to invite Council Member Cabán
10 to provide remarks on Resolution Number 792.

11 Council Member?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you very much, Chair.

13 Today, I'm proud that this Resolution is being
14 heard, alongside, Majority Leader, Amanda Fariás,
15 declaring March 25th Cultural... Greek Cultural
16 Appreciation and Independence Day.

17 This Resolution honors Greeks... Greece's fight
18 for independence and the enormous impact Greek
19 immigrants and Greek Americans have had in our city.

20 Since the turn of the twentieth century, many
21 thousands of Greek immigrants have made their way to
22 New York City, and a significant number of them have
23 found a home in the heart of my district, Astoria.
24 Today, about 70,000 Greek New Yorkers are crucial
25 members of our city.

1
2 March 25 is the day on which the Greek people
3 celebrate the Greek revolution of 1821 and greet each
4 other by saying, "Hronia polla" (phonetic), which
5 means live many years.

6 Today, we recognize the Greek community in my
7 district, the deep bond between Greece and The United
8 States, and the social and cultural contributions of
9 Greek Americans in New York City. So, Hronia polla,
10 and thank you very much. Thanks, Chair.

11 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you, Council Member.

12 And a few words on my Resolution Number 720, this
13 Resolution expresses the Council's support for the
14 State Legislatures New York City Arts Space Act which
15 would extend property tax benefits to building owners
16 and developers for the creation of long-term,
17 affordable artist work spaces in commercial buildings
18 being converted for residential use. This is just one
19 way we can help increase access to affordable arts
20 spaces, that can be rented or leased by nonprofit
21 arts organizations as studios, rehearsal spaces, or
22 performance spaces, or as spaces for producing arts
23 and cultural programming open to the public.

24 I have heard loud and clear from organizations
25 and workers in the cultural sector that rising rents

1
2 and financial instability are among their most
3 pressing challenges. Arts organizations have been in
4 survival mode for far too long, struggling to stay
5 afloat as market forces and inadequate support make
6 it increasingly difficult for artists and cultural
7 workers to build sustainable careers.

8 The New York State Arts Space Act would help
9 bolster one of our greatest assets and ensure that
10 New York can remain a place where artists can thrive.

11 I would like to thank my staff as well as
12 Committee staff, who worked on preparing this
13 legislation: Katie Loeb, my Chief of Staff, Eddie
14 Amador, Director of Legislation, Christina Yellamaty,
15 the Committee's counsel, Regina Paul, the Committee's
16 Policy Analyst, who also drafted the Resolution, and
17 Sandra Gray, the Committee's Financial Analyst.

18 Is there anyone here who would like to give
19 public testimony on the Record? If you do, please see
20 the Sergeant at Arms and fill out an appearance card.

21 All right, well, let's get to the hearing; I will
22 actually go to the Committee Clerk to call the roll.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, William Martin,
24 Committee Clerk; roll call vote the Committee on
25

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND
INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS

7

1
2 Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International
3 Intergroup Relations, both items are coupled.

4 Chair Rivera?

5 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: I vote aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Louis?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: (ABSENT)

8 (PAUSE)

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ung?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Williams?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: (ABSENT)

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Carr?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Zito I Ellas, aye on all.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of 7 in the
24 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions
25 both items have been adopted by the Committee.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you so much.

3 I want to thank my colleagues for being here
4 today, and, of course, to the sponsoring members of
5 the body for their thoughtful resolutions.

6 And with that, we adjourn. (GAVEL SOUND)

7 (GAVELING OUT)

8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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 April 1, 2025