

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY  
CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUITY

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November 25, 2025  
Start: 12:08 p.m.  
Recess: 12:15 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING  
ROOM 1

B E F O R E: Farah N. Louis, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Tiffany Cabán  
Jennifer Gutiérrez  
Kevin C. Riley  
Inna Vernikov

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Selvena N. Brooks-Powers

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone check for the hearing on Women and Gender Equity here in Hearing Room 1, recorded on November 25th, 2025, by Pat Kurzyna.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good afternoon. Welcome to the New York City Council vote on the Committee on Women and Gender Equity.

At this time, please silence all electronics and do not approach the dais.

Chair, you may begin.

CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: [GAVEL] Good afternoon everyone, my name is Farrah Louis, and I'm the Chair of the Committee on Women and Gender Equity.

Today, the Committee will vote on the following pieces of legislation. Intro. 691-A sponsored by myself amending the Administrative Code of the City of New York in relation to the annual reporting on racial and gender disparities in STEM education for high school students; Proposed Intro. 1297-A sponsored by Council Member Brooks-Powers amending the Administrative Code of the City of New York in relation to reopening the look-back window to the victims of Gender-Motivated Violence Protection Law; Proposed Intro. 1216-A sponsored by Council

Member Lee amending the Administrative Code of the City of New York in relation to cosmetology establishments displaying resources regarding gender-based violence; and Resolution 889 sponsored by Council Member Menin declaring New York City's commitment to affirm and defend continued access for reproductive rights.

First, I would like to acknowledge my Colleagues who are present, Council Members Cabán, Gutiérrez, and Riley's on his way.

On this day, I am proud to be the lead sponsor of Intro. 691-A. The equal participation and leadership of women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math, also known as STEM, is more important than ever. Yet the numbers tell a stark story. Women comprise only 28 percent of the global STEM workforce, and these disparities are even more pronounced when we examine race and ethnicity alongside gender. As we enter a transformative era defined by artificial intelligence and technological advancement, we cannot afford to leave half of our talent on the sidelines. We need more women in STEM to drive innovation through diverse perspectives, inclusive products and solutions, and to close the

persistent gender pay gap that limits economic mobility across our city. Intro. 691 requires the Department of Education to conduct annual surveys of high school students, particularly those in career and technology education programs, also known as CTEs, to assess and report on racial and gender disparities in STEM education participation. High school is the critical gateway to STEM careers, and this data-driven approach will also allow us to identify barriers, measure progress, and implement targeted interventions where they're needed the most. By surveying our students, we can understand who is participating, who's being left out, and why. In a city as diverse, innovative, and forward-thinking as New York, we have both an opportunity and an obligation to lead on gender equity in STEM. When women are included in STEM fields, we see more creative problem solving, better designed technologies that serve a wider population, and a more robust competitive and equitable economy. The future of science and innovation depends on who gets to participate. Let's make sure it includes everyone.

I urge my Colleagues to vote in favor of 691 and all of the following bills on today's calendar.

We've also been joined by Council Member Vernikov, Brooks-Powers, and Riley.

And now I would like to invite sponsor of Intro. 1297, Council Member Brooks-Powers to provide remarks.

COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you and good morning. I would like to begin by thanking you, Chair Louis, for your commitment ensuring this legislation receives the thoughtful and urgent consideration it deserves.

Intro. 1297 restores what was always the intent of the Gender-Motivated Violence Act, that survivors should have a meaningful path to justice, not only against individual abusers, but also against the institutions that enabled harm. After a recent court ruling narrowed the law, hundreds of survivor cases were suddenly placed at risk. That cannot be allowed to stand. The testimony we heard in October made it made clear what is at stake. Survivors were harmed in places meant to protect them. Juvenile facilities, hospitals, schools. Their cases deserve

to be heard, not dismissed on a technicality. This bill reopens the look-back window, clarifies institutional liability, and ensures survivors are not pushed back into the shadows. I thank Chair Louis and all of my Colleagues who have stood with survivors. I look forward to bringing this to a full Council for a vote, and I urge my Colleagues to support this bill. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you.

Finally, I'd like to thank my own Staff and the Members of the Women and Gender Equity Committee Staff, Senior Committee Counsel Julia Goldsmith-Pinkham; Legislative Policy Analysts Katie Salina, Daniel Heredia, who worked to prepare this hearing today.

Clerk, we are ready for the vote.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good afternoon. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call vote, Committee on Women and Gender Equity. All items are coupled.

Chair Louis.

CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Aye on all.  
Congratulations to all bill sponsors.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Riley.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Cabán.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
6 you.

7 Gutiérrez.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
10 you. Vernikov.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye on all  
12 except Resolution 889, of which I'm a no.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
14 you.

15 Following results. Proposed Introduction  
16 691-A, 1216-A, and 1297-A are adopted by the  
17 Committee with five in the affirmative, zero in the  
18 negative, and no abstentions; and Resolution 889 is  
19 adopted by the Committee with a vote of four in the  
20 affirmative, one in the negative, no abstentions.

21 Madam Chair, that is a full Committee.

22 CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you so much.

23 This hearing is 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 interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date December 14, 2025