

COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH, DISABILITIES AND  
ADDICTION

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the  
COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH, DISABILITIES & ADDICTION  
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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

Start: 2:35 P. M.

Recess: 2:41 P. M.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: Hon. Linda Lee, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shaun Abreu  
Diana Ayala  
Erik D. Bottcher  
Tiffany Cabán  
Shahana K. Hanif  
Darlene Mealy  
Vickie Paladino  
Nantasha M. Williams

Other Council Members Attending: Ossé

COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH, DISABILITIES & ADDICTION  
A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

2 SERGEANT LEONARDO: Check one, two, check one,  
3 two, this is a prerecorded sound test for The  
4 Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities, and  
5 Addiction, it's being recorded by Michael Leonardo in  
6 The Committee Room; today's date is September 13th.

7 CHAIRPERSON LEE: Okay, alright, this will be  
8 quick. Gavel? Okay.

9 [GAVELING IN] [GAVEL SOUND]

10 [INAUDIBLE] we were doing that.

11 Good afternoon, uh, welcome to this hearing of  
12 The City Council's Committee on Mental Health,  
13 Disabilities, and Addiction.

14 Today the committee will vote on Introduction  
15 Number 0056-22 sponsored by Council Member Chi Ossé -  
16 - woohoo! -- which would establish a Nightlife Opioid  
17 Antagonist Program.

18 As many of us know, we are in the midst of a  
19 national public health crisis and ever four hours a  
20 New Yorker loses their life to an opioid overdose.  
21 The City Council is committed to reducing overdose  
22 deaths through evidence based strategies and by  
23 continuing to work with community partners, peers,  
24 and service providers.

2 Of particular concern is the increasing presence  
3 of fentanyl, which has dramatically increased the  
4 rate of unintentional overdose deaths in New York  
5 City since 2015.

6 Intro 0056 would require that DOHMH create the  
7 Nightlife Opioid Antagonist Program which would  
8 permit the City's nightlife establishments to request  
9 up to 10 free doses of an opioid antagonist such as  
10 Narcan to keep on premises and to administer to  
11 anyone experiencing an overdose.

12 The bill would also require DOHMH to offer free  
13 resources and training to staff of participating  
14 nightlife establishments on the administration of  
15 opioid antagonists.

16 And, I have to say, just real quick, that my  
17 office as well as a couple of other state legislator  
18 offices did host, uhm, a Narcan training, and it was  
19 super, super helpful. So, I would recommend all of  
20 our offices to do the same for our districts.

21 And it is my hope that legislation will help  
22 provide New York City residents and venues with easy  
23 access to a critical lifeline to help prevent  
24 needless deaths. And I am proud to be a sponsor of  
25 this bill, and I just want to say congratulations

2 again to Council Member Ossé for this bill. And I  
3 wanted to turn it over to you if you wanted to just  
4 say a few words.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Thank you so much,  
6 Chairwoman, I really appreciate your leadership and  
7 support on this piece of legislation since February.

8 Good afternoon, colleagues and everyone  
9 listening, today I am so excited that the first  
10 legislation I introduced in The Council, Intro 56, is  
11 coming to a committee vote today.

12 Under Intro 56 the NARCAN Behind Every Bar  
13 program will be codified into law. The program will  
14 provide Narcan kits and staff training for bars and  
15 nightlife establishments in the City. I am not going  
16 to go on too long about this, because I am sure  
17 everyone has heard enough about this bill, but...  
18 And, I will share some of these sentiments tomorrow,  
19 but this bill is such a personal bill to me. You  
20 know, while we are seeing this public health crisis  
21 here in the United States of America impacted many  
22 different Americans, I had a personal experience with  
23 this last year. I lost a really good friend to  
24 overdose on fentanyl, and it was a very traumatic  
25 experience not only for his family of course, but,

2 you know, everyone around him. And through our  
3 conversations, you know, advocacy groups and, you  
4 know, even the Office of Nightlife who has been  
5 pushing this program for months now. We know that  
6 every overdose is preventable. With programs and  
7 legislation like this, we could save lives, and that  
8 is why we in The City Council are here, to make the  
9 lives of people here in New York better, but also to  
10 save them. So, I thank every, single one of you for  
11 being a sponsor on this bill -- if you are a sponsor  
12 on this bill. I thank every, single one of you if  
13 you vote aye on this bill. Because I know that my  
14 friend, you know, would still be alive here today if  
15 a piece of legislation like this was, uh, was here  
16 and passed. So, thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON LEE: Thank you. Uh, also, I just  
18 wanted to acknowledge our colleagues who are here  
19 today. We have Council Member Mealy, Council Member  
20 Abreu, of course Council Member Ossé, Council Member  
21 Williams, Council Member Bottcher, Council Member  
22 Hanif, and Council Member Cabán, as well as, uh,  
23 Council Member Ayala as well. So, just wanted to say  
24 thank you to all of you, as well as, uhm, to my  
25 staff, as well as our committee staff, uh, Sara

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2 Sucher, Legislative Counsel; Cristy Dwyer, Senior  
3 Legislative Policy Analyst, who is in the other room,  
4 and Crilhien Francisco, Unit Head of Finance. So,  
5 thank you all.

6 So, we will call for a vote, sorry.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good afternoon, William Martin,  
8 Committee Clerk; roll call vote Committee on Mental  
9 Health, Disabilities, and Addiction, Proposed  
10 Introduction 56-A.

11 Chair Lee?

12 CHAIRPERSON LEE: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ayala?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I vote aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Cabán

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Uh, just a quick gratitude  
19 and congrats to Council Member Ossé, and I vote aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

21 Council Member Bottcher?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Congratulations. Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: [NO AUDIO -- MICROPHONE

25 OFF] [INAUDIBLE]

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

3 Council Member Mealy?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: May I explain my vote?

5 I just want to say congratulations, and I  
6 understand what you're saying about losing a dear  
7 friend with an overdose, so I know this legislation  
8 will help this city of New York, and I condone you  
9 congratulations, and I vote aye.

10 CHAIRPERSON CABÁN: Thank you.

11 Council Member Williams?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Yay, Council Member  
13 Ossé, I vote aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of eight in the  
15 affirmative, zero in the negative, and no  
16 abstentions, item has been adopted by the committee.

17 [CHAMBER CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

18 CHAIRPERSON LEE: Thank you, Yay! This is  
19 exciting, yes, Yay, thank you, Yay. Do I close?  
20 Gavel? Okay

21 [GAVELING OUT] [GAVEL SOUND]

22 So, we are done.

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 September 17, 2022