

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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July 18, 2024  
Start: 11:19 a.m.  
Recess: 11:22 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: Julie Won  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Eric D. Bottcher  
Sandy Nurse  
Althea V. Stevens  
Inna Vernikov

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

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2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning and  
3 welcome to today's New York City Council vote on  
4 Contracts. At this time, we ask that you silence all  
5 electronic devices and at no time would you please  
6 not approach the dais. Chair, we're ready to begin.

7 CHAIRPERSON WON: [gavel] Good morning and  
8 welcome to this Committee vote of New York City  
9 Council's Committee on Contracts. Today is Thursday,  
10 July 18<sup>th</sup>. My name is Julie Won. I have the  
11 privilege of chairing this committee. Today marks a  
12 significant moment for the Committee as we prepare to  
13 vote on Proposal Intro. 863A. This legislation  
14 sponsored by Council Member Justin Brannan represents  
15 a crucial step in our ongoing efforts to reform and  
16 modernize New York City's procurement process. for  
17 years we've grappled with a contracting system that  
18 while well-intended has often fallen short in  
19 practice. We've heard countless stories from  
20 nonprofit providers about the burdens of excessive  
21 paperwork, lengthy delays and financial strain caused  
22 by late payments. These issues don't just affect the  
23 organizations themselves, they ripple through our  
24 communities, impacting the delivery of essential  
25 services to our most vulnerable residents. Let me

1 walk you through the key provision of this bill.  
2 Intro 863A will raise the threshold for in-depth  
3 contract review from \$200,000 to \$1 million. This  
4 change reorganizes the reality of today's contracting  
5 landscape and allows us to focus our scrutiny where  
6 it matters most, on high-value contracts with the  
7 potential impacts on city service resources. Second,  
8 Intro 863A would close a significant loophole by  
9 applying these review requirements to amendments on  
10 service contracts that will push contracts value over  
11 \$1 million. This ensures that major changes to  
12 existing contracts received the same level of  
13 scrutiny as new contracts. Third, this bill would  
14 streamline contracting processes by reducing public  
15 notice period for unplanned contracts from 60 to 10  
16 days. This ensures that as we evolve our contracting  
17 processes we're inadvertently opening doors to  
18 outsourcing city jobs. Before, I want to emphasize  
19 that these changes aren't happening in a vacuum.  
20 They build upon stakeholder input when we heard this  
21 bill last month on recommendations of the 2022 joint  
22 Mayoral Comptroller Taskforce to get nonprofits paid  
23 on time and they're part of a broader effort to  
24 create a more responsive, efficient, and transparent  
25

1  
2 procurement process. Now, I recognize that  
3 procurement reform is complex issue and there's still  
4 a lot of work to be done. Intro 863 represents  
5 significant step forward. It demonstrates our  
6 commitment of balancing efficiency with oversight to  
7 supporting our nonprofit partners while protecting  
8 our citywide workforce to ensure that our contracting  
9 processes serves the best interest of all New  
10 Yorkers. Before we vote, I want to thank Council  
11 Member Brannan again for his leadership on this  
12 issue, and I'd like to thank the Committee staff,  
13 Senior Counsel Alex Paulenoff, Policy Analyst, Alex  
14 Yablon [sp?], Principle Financial Analyst Nia Hyatt  
15 [sp?], Finance Unit Head, Florentine Kabore for their  
16 hard work in putting this hearing together and  
17 preparing today's vote. With that, I'll ask the  
18 Clerk for a roll call.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Good morning. William  
20 Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call vote, Committee  
21 on Contracts, Proposed Introduction 863A. Chair Won?

22 CHAIRPERSON WON: Aye.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Bottcher?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Nurse?

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COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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CHAIRPERSON NURSE: I vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Stevens?

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Vernikov? By a vote of 4  
in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no  
abstentions, item has been adopted by the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON WON: Thank you so much, and  
this hearing-- or this vote is adjourned. Thank you.

[gavel]

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COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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 July 30, 2024