

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND  
INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND  
INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS

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Thursday, May 1, 2025

START: 10:34 a.m.

RECESS: 11:01 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: Zhuang

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A P P E A R A N C E S

**[NONE]**

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SERGEANT MESITI: This is a microphone check for  
the Committee on Cultural Affairs. Today's date is  
May 1, 2025 — located in the Chambers, recording is  
done by Rocco Mesiti.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Quiet down, please. Good  
morning and welcome to today's New York City Council  
vote for the Committee on Cultural Affairs,  
Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations. At  
this time, we ask that you please silence all  
electronic devices, and at no time are you to  
approach the dais.

Chair Rivera, we are ready to begin.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: [GAVEL] Thank you.

Good morning, I'm Council Member Carlina  
Rivera, Chair of the Committee on Cultural Affairs,  
Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations.

Today, the Committee will vote on two  
resolutions:

Resolution Number 741, which I have co-  
sponsored with Council Member Nantasha Williams, and  
which May 10th annually as Judith Jamison Day in the  
City of New York to honor her life and legacy as a  
dancer, choreographer, and longtime artistic director

of the groundbreaking Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

And Resolution Number 844, with Council Members Susan Zhuang and Robert Holden have co-sponsored and which recognizes May 10th annually as Chinese American Railroad Workers Memorial Day in New York City.

Now I would like to ask Council Member Zhuang to provide remarks on Resolution Number 844.

COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Thank you, Chair. I will make everything sweet and short.

Today is the first day of AAPI month. I want to thank everyone who sponsored this resolution, and also I want to give special thanks to Regina Paul who helped to draft this resolution. And I want to thank everyone, also our chair, to pass this resolution today.

And also, it's significant for our AAPI community, because we feel finally we get recognized here. And also, now the whole environment is so against immigrants, and we need to talk about those immigrants' stories and cherish their history and thank them for contributing to our country. Thank you.

(PAUSE)

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you, Council Member Zhuang. Well said, thank you very much.

And let me just say a few words about my Resolution Number 741, this resolution is about the brilliant and talented Judith Jamison, a dance icon who did it all. She performed on Broadway, on stages across the country, and on most continents, usually to a standing ovation. She danced with Mr. Ailey's company for 15 years and led it for another 21. Mr. Ailey choregraphed what would become her signature solo cry, a legendary tribute to, as Mr. Ailey said, "...all Black women everywhere, especially our mothers." Mr. Jamison was also the genius behind building the state of the art Ailey headquarters at West 55th Street and 9th Avenue, after bringing Mr. Ailey's company into a financially stable future. She was much loved by Ailey dancers and staff for decades.

I would like to thank my staff, as well as the Committee staff who worked on preparing this legislation including Katie Loeb, my Chief of Staff; Edward Amador, Director of Legislation; Christina Yellamaty, Committee's Counsel; Regina Paul, the

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Committee's Senior Legislative Policy Analyst, who  
also drafted the resolutions, and Sandra Gray, the  
Committee's Financial Analyst.

I now open the hearing for public testimony,  
but seeing none, I will close it.

I think now we are ready for the vote.

COMMITTEE CLERK: (UN-MIC'D) (INAUDIBLE)

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: All right, Billy, thank  
you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, William Martin,  
Committee Clerk; roll call vote for the Committee on  
Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International  
Intergroup Relations, Resolutions 741 and 844; items  
are coupled.

Chair Rivera?

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Louis?

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Permission to explain my  
vote?

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes, of course.

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: First, I just want to say  
congratulations to both bill sponsors, and, in  
particular, I'd like to thank you, Council Member  
Rivera... Chair Rivera for this particular bill.

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Judith Jamieson, Alvin Ailey are heroes of mine as a  
former modern dancer and tap dancer. Very happy to  
see that you are getting this piece of legislation  
passed. So, for all the dancers out there, this is  
for all of you who consider Judith Jamieson a hero.  
Thank you.

(PAUSE)

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Hanif?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: (MEDICAL)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Council Member  
Hanks.

Council Member Hudson?

COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ung?

COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Carr?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: (NO RESPONSE)

COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of 7 in the  
affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions  
both items have been adopted by the Committee. And  
the roll will be held open at the request of the  
Chair.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you.

(PAUSE)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Excuse me, continuation roll  
call, Committee on Cultural Affairs, Resolutions 741  
and 844, Council Member Carr?

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote, both items have  
been adopted by the Committee with 8 in the  
affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions.  
Chair River to close.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you so much, Billy.  
The vote is now closed. And we adjourn. [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: June 12, 2025