

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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September 28, 2023

Start: 11:17 a.m.

Recess: 11:21 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Carlina Rivera, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shaun Abreu
David M. Carr
Shahana Hanif
Mercedes Narcisse
Lincoln Restler
Lynn C. Schulman
Althea V. Stevens

1 COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee on Criminal Justice. Today's
4 date is September 28, 2023. We're located in the
5 Council Chambers. Recording done by Rocco Massini
6 (phonetic).

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
8 welcome to the Committee on Criminal Justice.

9 At this time, we ask if you could please
10 place phones on vibrate or silent mode. Thank you.

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: [GAVEL] Good morning.
13 I am Council Member Carlina Rivera, Chair of the
14 Council's Committee on Criminal Justice.

15 I'd like to welcome you to our vote today
16 on legislation sponsored by Public Advocate Jumaane
17 Williams, Proposed Introduction number 349-A.

18 I want to recognize my Colleagues who are
19 here, Council Members Stevens, Carr, Abreu, Schulman,
20 Narcisse, Restler, and I believe we are joined by
21 Hanif virtually.

22 The legislation we are voting on today
23 will establish a firm timeline for the Department of
24 Correction to begin screening and providing evidence-
25 based treatment for those in custody with dyslexia.

2 According to the International Dyslexia Association,
3 15 to 20 percent of the population has a language-
4 based learning disability, and as much as 80 percent
5 of those individuals have deficits in reading
6 associated with dyslexia. Based on the available
7 research, the incarcerated population is likely over-
8 represented with people who would be considered
9 dyslexic. A study of Texas prisoners in 2000 found
10 that 48 percent were dyslexic, and a 2014 study by
11 the Department of Education found that about a third
12 of prisoners surveyed at 98 prisons struggled to pick
13 out basic information while reading simple texts.
14 Despite these alarming facts, most state and local
15 detention facilities do not conduct dyslexia
16 screenings or offer treatment modalities. With the
17 passage of this legislation, New York City has an
18 opportunity to lead the way in screening and
19 providing educational services that can drive down
20 recidivism rates and create new opportunities for
21 returning citizens. This legislation would require
22 DOC to screen and offer evidence-based interventions
23 to individuals between 18 and 21 years old in custody
24 who self-report that they do not have a high school
25 diploma or its equivalent for dyslexia immediately.

2 This mandate to offer screening and evidence-based
3 intervention for dyslexia would then expand to the
4 entire jail population by December 31, 2025.

5 The bill also requires DOC to coordinate
6 with the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and City-
7 contracted programs that serve justice-involved
8 individuals to provide dyslexia interventions after
9 individuals are released from custody.

10 Finally, to monitor progress on
11 implementation, the bill requires quarterly public
12 reports on how many individuals in custody
13 disaggregated by age and ZIP code are being screened
14 for dyslexia and enrolling in available programming.

15 I'm proud to support this legislation to
16 bring these much-needed services to our jail system
17 and urge my Colleagues to vote yes.

18 With that, I will now call on the Clerk
19 to call the roll.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
21 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
22 vote on Committee on Criminal Justice, Proposed
23 Introduction 349-A. Chair Rivera.

24 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: I vote aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Abreu.

1 COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanif.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
6 you. Narcisse.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Schulman.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Carr.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a

17 vote of eight in the affirmative, zero in the
18 negative, and no abstentions, items is adopted by the
19 Committee. Madam Chair, that is a full Committee.

20 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you. With that,
21 we adjourn this Committee meeting. Thank you. [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 September 29, 2023