

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS  
CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND  
INVESTIGATIONS

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July 14, 2025  
Start: 12:38 p.m.  
Recess: 12:45 p.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Gale A. Brewer, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chris Banks  
Rita C. Joseph  
Shekar Krishnan  
Lincoln Restler  
Nantasha M. Williams

1 COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone  
3 check for the Committee on Oversight and  
4 Investigations, located in the Chambers on July 14,  
5 2025, by Pat Kurzyna.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good afternoon, good  
7 afternoon. Welcome to the New York City Council vote  
8 on the Committee on Oversight and Investigations.

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

11 Chair Brewer, you may begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Thank you very much.  
13 I am Gale Brewer, [GAVEL] Chair of the Committee on  
14 Oversight and Investigations. I'd like to begin by  
15 thanking my Committee Colleagues who have joined us  
16 here today, Council Member Krishnan, Council Member  
17 Williams, Council Member Banks, Council Member  
18 Joseph, and I believe Council Member Restler is on  
19 his way.

20 Today, the Committee will vote on two  
21 bills that I sponsor, Proposed Introduction 1020-A  
22 and Proposed Resolution 560-A.

23 Proposed Introduction 1020-A would  
24 require the New York City Department of Investigation  
25 to report on the subject matter of any investigation,

review, study, or audit relating to the New York City Police Department that has been open for more than three years, the number of incidents when NYPD restricted or significantly delayed access to any information that the Inspector General for the NYPD required or interfered with the Inspector General's duties in closed investigations that have been open for more than three years, and the number and subject matters of investigations, reviews, studies, and audits relating to NYPD that were closed without issuing a report during the preceding calendar year. This data would help the Council assess the scope and scale of the critical work of the Office of the Inspector General for NYPD, which is a very important office. The Inspector General's mandate is to provide a systemic review of NYPD policies and practices via thorough investigations and reporting. Over the years, the Office has undertaken groundbreaking investigations leading to real improvements at the Police Department. But the Office has faced significant challenges, such as NYPD's failure to provide information needed for investigations and a lack of transparency on the content of severely delayed investigations. These issues, many of which

this Committee explored in detail during our Oversight hearing in January, have contributed to variations in the number and quality of the Office's investigative reports, its main oversight tool. Today, this Committee is voting on Proposed Intro 1020-A to address these problems. I would like to acknowledge the hard work and partnership of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law School, the Surveillance Technology Oversight Project, and Latino Justice, Peril Deaf (phonetic), on this bill, all of whom testified.

Finally, the second discussion for today is Proposed Resolution 560-A, which would direct DOI, the Department of Investigation, to conduct an investigation to ascertain the knowledge possessed by mayoral administrations on environmental toxins produced by September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the World Trade Center, and to submit a report to the Council thereon. This legislation, which has been in the discussion for many years, is a direct response to the Adams Administration's refusal to release the documents, despite requests from members of Congress, everything from Congress Member Nadler, Goldman, Maloney, advocates, and the media. Using a novel

approach, if passed, this Resolution would represent the first time the City Council as a body has invoked the authority granted by Section 803 of the New York City Charter to direct the Department of Investigation, DOI, to conduct an investigation through a binding resolution. This is an unusual kind of resolution. DOI would be required to complete a comprehensive public report on the findings no later than two years after the adoption of the resolution. As I think we all know, more people have died in the years since the attack than died on the day itself from respiratory issues, cancer, and other diseases caused by the toxins at Ground Zero and the surrounding areas of Manhattan and Brooklyn. When I was Borough President, I spent a great deal of time with these individuals. This resolution would finally reveal what City government knew about environmental toxins produced by the September 11th attacks and when. This transparency is particularly relevant in this moment when trust in government is severely lacking. The findings would also inform the City's response to future toxic emergencies, which I hope we don't have, but you never know. I would be remiss if

I did not recognize the tireless work of the 9/11 Health Watch on this bill, particularly Ben Shabbat.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank the following Council Staff for their work on this hearing. From the O and I Committee staff, Nicole Catá, Erica Cohen, Alex Yablon, and Owen Kotowski. From the Division of Legislative Counsel, Wes Jones, Juanita John, Stephanie Ali, and Pauline Cernick. And from the O and I Division staff, Meg Powers and Zachary Meher-Casallas. And from my Staff, the great Sam Goldsmith. Everyone working in the background has made this hearing run smoothly.

And we want to thank Council Member Restler for joining us. I mentioned earlier that he would be. I thank him. I recommend a yes vote and ask the Clerk to call the roll. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Good afternoon. This is the roll call vote on the Committee on Oversight and Investigations on Intro 1020-A and Resolution 560-A. Chair Brewer.

CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Yes. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Joseph.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Krishnan.

1 COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Restler.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Banks.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye and  
9 congratulations.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chair Brewer, by a vote  
11 of six in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and  
12 zero abstentions, both items have been adopted.

13 CHAIRPERSON BREWER: Thank you very much.  
14 This hearing is concluded. 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 1, 2025