

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

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September 28, 2023

Start: 10:08 a.m.

Recess: 10:27 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Sandra Ung, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gale A. Brewer

Shahana Hanif

Lincoln Restler

Lynn C. Schulman

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 test for the vote on Governmental Operations. Today's
4 date is September 28, 2023. We're located in the
5 Council Chambers. The recording is done by Rocco
6 Massini (phonetic).

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

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 UNG: Good morning. I'm
13 Council Member Sandra Ung, Chair of the Committee on
14 Governmental Operations.

15 I'd like to welcome my Colleagues who
16 have joined us this morning. Council Members
17 Schulman, Restler, and Council Member Hanif on Zoom.

18 At today's hearing, the Committee will be
19 voting on a bill sponsored by Council Member
20 Salamanca that will provide greater accountability
21 for certain City employees whose jobs require them to
22 question members of the public. New Yorkers interact
23 with City employees every day. Often, those
24 employees, particularly the employees who have the
25 ability to issue a summons or notice of violation,

2 are required to question individuals as part of their
3 jobs. While most of the time this questioning occurs
4 without a problem, often there will be times when it
5 does not. In those circumstances, it is essential
6 that members of the public know who they're being
7 questioned by and how to contact them so that they
8 may resolve any issues that arise during the
9 questioning. Currently, only members of the NYPD are
10 required to identify themselves. It is important that
11 we introduce the same accountability and transparency
12 to the myriad of other agencies that also interact
13 with the public. The bill we are hearing today,
14 Intro. 743-A, will increase the accountability and
15 transparency by requiring City employees who can
16 issue a summons or notice of violation to identify
17 themselves during encounters with the public. They
18 would be required to provide preprinted, handwritten,
19 or electronic business card with identifying
20 information upon request. If a business card is not
21 available, employees could instead provide the
22 identifying information verbally. The business card
23 should include the employee's name and agency, a
24 telephone number and an email address that can be
25 used to contact the agency. Employees who engage in

2 agency-approved undercover activities, who must take
3 immediate action or providing identifying information
4 through a (INAUDIBLE) inspection, notice of
5 violation, or similar documents are exempt from
6 requirements of this bill. This bill should provide
7 additional transparency and accountability without
8 placing a significant burden on either City employee
9 or the relevant agencies.

10 With that, I'd like to thank Jayasri
11 Ganapathy and Erica Cohen from the Central Staff for
12 their work in putting this hearing together as well
13 as my own Chief-of-Staff Alexander Hart and
14 Communications Director Shane Miller for their
15 assistance.

16 Now, I will turn it to the (INAUDIBLE) to
17 take the vote.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
19 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
20 vote Committee on Governmental Operations, Proposed
21 Introduction 743-A. Chair Ung.

22 CHAIRPERSON UNG: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanif.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye. Thank you.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
3 you. Restler.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Schulman.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
8 vote of four in the affirmative, zero in the
9 negative, and no abstentions, item has been adopted
10 by the Committee, and the roll will be held open at
11 request of the Chair.

12 Continuation roll call Committee on
13 Governmental Operations, Proposed Introduction 743-A.
14 Council Member Brewer.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye. Thank
16 you.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Final
18 vote is now five in the affirmative, zero in the
19 negative, and no abstentions. Council Member Brewer
20 to close.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: The meeting is
22 adjourned. Thank you very much.

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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