

COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH, DISABILITIES

AND ADDICTION

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH,
DISABILITIES AND ADDICTION

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December 17, 2025
Start: 1:08 p.m.
Recess: 1:16 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING
ROOM 1

B E F O R E: Linda Lee, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shaun Abreu
Erik D. Bottcher
Tiffany Cabán
Shahana Hanif
Farah N. Louis
Darlene Mealy

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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
check for the Committee on Mental Health,
Disabilities and Addiction recorded on December 17,
2025, located in Hearing Room 1 by Nazly Paytuvi.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good afternoon, and
welcome to today's New York City Council vote for the
Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities and
Addiction.

At this time, please silence all cell
phones and electronic devices to minimize disruptions
throughout the proceeding.

At any time throughout today's
proceeding, please do not approach the dais.

We thank you for your kind cooperation.

Chair, we are ready to begin.

CHAIRPERSON LEE: [GAVEL] Good afternoon.
My name is Council Member Linda Lee, Chair of the
Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities and
Addiction. Today, the Committee will consider the
following legislation. Proposed Introduction Number
868-A sponsored by Council Member Feliz, which would
prohibit mobile syringe service programs from
distributing syringes and needles within any
playground, within 50 feet of a playground as

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2 practicable, on any school premise, or adjacent to
3 any school premises; and Proposed Introduction Number
4 1169-A, also sponsored by Council Member Feliz, which
5 would require all syringe service programs to provide
6 participants with guidance on safe disposal of used
7 needles and syringes, provide information about
8 nearby disposal sites, and offer portable disposable
9 containers.

10 Before we begin, I'd like to acknowledge
11 that we're joined by Council Members Cabán, Abreu,
12 Louis, and Mealy, and we have Council Member Hanif
13 online and Council Member... oh, he's not. Okay.

14 Harm reduction is a public health
15 priority, and these programs save lives by reducing
16 the spread of disease and connecting people to vital
17 support and treatment. Our challenge as legislators
18 is to find balanced solutions that protect public
19 health while maintaining safe, clean public spaces,
20 ensuring that compassion and community safety go hand
21 in hand.

22 And with that, Clerk, I think we're ready
23 to begin the vote.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
25 afternoon. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call

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2 vote Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities and
3 Addiction. Both items are coupled.

4 Chair Lee.

5 CHAIRPERSON LEE: Aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Louis.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Cabán.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Chair, permission
10 to explain my vote?

11 CHAIRPERSON LEE: Go ahead.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you. You
13 know, discarded needles in public parks are a public
14 health issue, and I support Council Member Feliz's
15 goals to ensure areas in and around schools and
16 playgrounds are clean. However, I think we need
17 legislation that solves the underlying problem
18 instead of further stigmatizing necessary harm
19 reduction and public safety interventions. With that,
20 I do believe that while well-intentioned, Intro. 868
21 has a result of sort of tinkering around the edges
22 while undercutting some of the harm reduction efforts
23 in the city. I think the real solution is more
24 coordination and capacity to clean up and prevent
25 syringes. And this looks like increasing the capacity

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2 of Sanitation and Parks for clearing litter from
3 high-need areas, funding dedicated teams to clean up
4 areas, and responding to the needs of people
5 congregating in these locations, and these approaches
6 to keeping streets and playgrounds clean would
7 complement Intro. 1169. And I support Intro. 1169
8 because it increases knowledge about safe disposal,
9 gives individuals more access to safe disposal
10 containers, and encourages more planning and
11 coordination between agencies and providers about how
12 to address syringe litter. So with that, I vote aye
13 on Intro. 1169 and no on Intro. 868. Thank you,
14 Chair.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
16 you.

17 Abreu.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: I vote aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Bottcher.
20 Hanif.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
23 you.

24 Mealy.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Chair, may I
3 explain my vote?

4 CHAIRPERSON LEE: Yes, go ahead.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I just would like
6 to say I wasn't on these bills, but I will be getting
7 on. But I hope in the future we think about churches
8 also. People are shooting up on church steps and
9 sometimes ODing on church steps. So, to have the
10 Parks Department and everyone else involved in this
11 legislation, I believe it should be, especially with
12 1169-A, disposing of needles should be churches
13 included in this legislation. I'm looking forward to
14 the Sponsor Feliz to make sure that we amend this. We
15 can't leave the churches out just as well if we're
16 going to do the parks and everyone else so I vote aye
17 on both. Thank you. Thank you, Feliz, for this
18 legislation.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
20 you.

21 Following results. Proposed Introduction
22 1169-A is adopted by the Committee with six in the
23 affirmative, zero in the negative, no abstentions;
24 and Proposed Introduction 868-A is also adopted by
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2 the Committee but with a vote of five in the
3 affirmative, one in the negative, and no abstention.

4 The roll will be held open at request of
5 the Chair.

6 Continuation roll call. Items are
7 coupled.

8 Council Member Bottcher.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Final
11 vote is now Proposed Introduction 868 with six in the
12 affirmative, one in the negative, no abstentions; and
13 Introduction 1169-A has seven in the affirmative,
14 zero in the negative, and no abstentions.

15 Madam Chair, that is a full Committee.

16 CHAIRPERSON LEE: Great. Thank you.

17 And with that we are closing out the
18 vote. [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 December 28, 2025