

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND
INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS 1
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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May 24, 2023
Start: 9:45 a.m.
Recess: 9:56 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - COMMITTEE ROOM, 14TH
FLOOR

B E F O R E: Chi A. Osse, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shahana Hanif
Crystal Hudson
Rita C. Joseph
Farrah N. Louis
Francisco P. Moya
Sandra Ung

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Carlina Rivera

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a prerecorded
3 test for the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries
4 and International Intergroup Relations. Today's date
5 is May 24, 2023, and it's being recorded by

6 (INAUDIBLE)

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
8 welcome to the Committee on Cultural Affairs,
9 Libraries and International Intergroup Relations.

10 Please silence all electronic devices.

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON OSSE: [GAVEL] Good morning. I
13 am Council Member Chi Osse. I am Chair of this
14 Committee. Today, the Committee will both hear and
15 vote on one piece of legislation as well as vote on a
16 second piece of legislation, Reso. 550 sponsored by
17 Council Member Hanif, a resolution recognizing May as
18 Lupus Awareness Month in the City of New York and
19 Intro. 590A co-sponsored by Council Members Rivera
20 and myself regarding Open Culture 2.0.

21 Now, I would like to welcome Council
22 Member Hanif to provide remarks on her legislation
23 which the Committee is hearing for the first time
24 today. Council Member.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you so much,
Chair Osse, for including Resolution 550 on today's
agenda.

This resolution, which I was proud to
introduce alongside Bronx Borough President Vanessa
Gibson would establish May as Lupus Awareness Month.
My journey in getting diagnosed with lupus was
extremely challenging as a first-generation young
woman of color, I was only 17, daughter of
Bangladeshi Muslim immigrants paired with the
inequities in our healthcare system. My hope is that
by designating May as Lupus Awareness Month, more
people in our city will keep their eye out for this
complicated disease and get diagnosed and treated and
know that this city is rooted in care for us, that it
won't leave us behind. This is particularly important
for women of color and black women who are
disproportionately affected. I also want to highlight
the policy changes that people with lupus need to
thrive in New York City. We need a fully ADA-
accessible transit system, remote work
accommodations, and free public healthcare. The fight
for a city that prioritizes disability justice

continues. I urge my Colleagues to vote yes on
Resolution 550. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON OSSE: Thank you, Council
Member.

Now, I would like to read a statement
from Council Member Rivera to speak about her
legislation, which I'm happy to co-sponsor. I know
how important this is to the arts and cultural
organizations that this Committee is proud to work
closely with almost every day. A permanent Open
Culture program will ensure that our cultural
organizations have access to more performance spaces
and will expand access to arts and culture to more
parts of the city, especially in areas that are
considered cultural deserts. I thank Council Member
Rivera and her team for championing this critical
piece of legislation for our cultural community.

Council Member Rivera wrote "Good
morning. Thank you to Chair Osse for allowing me to
make short remarks regarding my bill we're voting on
today that would revive and make permanent the Open
Culture program that was a lifeline for arts and
culture organizations through the height of the
pandemic. The legislation would codify the Open

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2 Culture permit to allow eligible arts and culture
3 institutions to obtain permits to use roadways for
4 events. There will be a 25-dollar application fee,
5 and there is no cost for the permit. The arts are our
6 City's lifeblood, something evident in the vibrant
7 and creative communities of District 2 on the East
8 Side. The arts and entertainment sector were hardest
9 hit by the COVID-19 pandemic," maybe I should let her
10 read her statement.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: No, you can read
12 it.

13 CHAIRPERSON OSSE: You sure?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

15 CHAIRPERSON OSSE: Okay. "And are arguably
16 our City's great economic driver. The Open Culture
17 program will help ensure equity and access to the
18 arts, providing a low-barrier way to bring
19 performances and creations outside of buildings and
20 into communities. I encourage my Colleagues to vote
21 yes, and I look forward to passing this legislation
22 tomorrow at our Stated Meeting."

23 Council Member Rivera, would you like to
24 add anything to your statement?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I just want to
3 thank the Chair for your leadership, and I want to
4 thank all of the advocates who have brought this bill
5 finally for a vote and on the verge of being passed
6 and to Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer for
7 introducing it last session. This is how we make arts
8 and culture more accessible, more affordable, and I'm
9 very, very excited to see this in the streets. Thank
10 you.

11 CHAIRPERSON OSSE: Thank you, Council
12 Member.

13 I would also like to recognize the
14 Committee Members who are present for today's hearing
15 and vote. We have Council Member Joseph, Council
16 Member Louis, Council Member Hanif, Council Member
17 Ung, and Council Member Hudson.

18 Finally, I would like to thank my Staff
19 as well as the Committee Staff and others who worked
20 on preparing this legislation.

21 Since there is no Administration
22 testimony today, I will now pass it on to my
23 Committee Counsel to call any witnesses who are
24 present for the public testimony portion of this
25 hearing. Brenda.

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2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Chair. We
3 are checking for any witnesses. We do not have anyone
4 registered for remote testimony at this time. We are
5 waiting to make sure there are no witnesses in the
6 room.

7 We see no hands. We'll wait one moment.

8 Closing public testimony. Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON OSSE: I think we are now
10 ready for the vote.

11 Billy, please take it away.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
13 you. Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk.
14 Roll call vote Committee on Cultural Affairs,
15 Libraries and International Intergroup Relations.
16 Both items are coupled. Chair Osse.

17 CHAIRPERSON OSSE: I vote aye on all.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Moya.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
21 you. Louis.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all.

23 Congratulations to all bill sponsors.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanif.

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COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye on all. Thank
you.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hudson.

COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Joseph.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ung.

COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
vote of seven in the affirmative, zero in the
negative, and no abstentions, both items have been
adopted by the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON OSSE: Thank you, Billy. We'll
keep the vote open for three minutes.

You all are free to go if you'd like to.

Without further ado, I will close today's
Committee vote. [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 May 31, 2023