

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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November 25, 2025
Start: 11:46 a.m.
Recess: 11:54 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING
ROOM 3

B E F O R E: Linda Lee, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Eric Dinowitz
Mercedes Narcisse

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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
check on the Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities
and Addiction, recorded by James Marino, in Hearing
Room 3, on November 25th, 2025.

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

At this time, I'd like to remind everyone
to please silence their electronic devices, and at no
point going forward is anyone to approach the dais.

Chair, we are ready to begin.

CHAIRPERSON LEE: Great. [GAVEL] Good
morning. My name is Linda Lee, Chair of New York City
Council's Mental Health, Disabilities and Addiction
Committee. I'm joined by Council Member Mealy,
Council Member Cabán, Council Member Dinowitz,
Council Member Narcisse, Council Member Hanif,
Council Member Louis, and Council Member Abreu.

And today, we will consider voting on
Intro. 163-A, sponsored by Council Member Eric
Dinowitz, to establish accessibility guidelines for
printed documents; Introduction 1004-A, sponsored by
Council Member Mercedes Narcisse, to provide

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information on wheelchair repair providers;
Resolution 736, sponsored by Council Member Tiffany
Cabán, calling on the State to increase funding for
assertive community treatment teams; and Resolution
1049, sponsored by Council Member Pierina Ana
Sanchez, calling on the federal government to
incorporate mental wellness trainings with OSHA 10
and OSHA 30 trainings.

We have several important items before us
that share a common goal, making our city more
accessible, supportive, and responsive to all needs
of New Yorkers. Whether we're talking about improving
access to clear and readable information, helping New
Yorkers repair mobility devices that they rely on,
strengthening community based mental health supports,
or incorporating wellness into workplace safety
training, each of these measures moves us toward a
more inclusive city. All these bills are amazing, by
the way.

I want to thank the sponsors of these
bills and resolutions, along with the advocates and
agencies who helped shape them. Your work ensures we
are advancing policies that reflect real needs and
experiences.

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Before we begin the vote, I'd like to
give the sponsors a chance to make a brief statement
on their legislation.

Let's start with Council Member Dinowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Thank you,
Chair, for recognizing me and for bringing this bill
forward today, and to all of my Colleagues for your
engagement throughout this process. Now, our City has
a lot of great programs and information that they
send out to people, but when we say people, we have
to mean everyone. We have to mean all New Yorkers.
And Introduction 163-A is a straightforward and
meaningful step towards fairness, equity, and
accessibility in how our City communicates with the
public, with the entire public. Whether a New Yorker
is printing a form from a website, receiving a flyer
from a City agency, or opening emailed materials,
they should be able to read and understand that
material and information clearly, regardless of age,
vision, disability status, or the device they're
using. So, this bill creates uniform accessibility
guidelines for all printed documents across City
agencies, ensuring consistent font readability,
layout, formatting, and visual clarity. And this is

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about making government more accessible and usable
for everyone. And in my view, too often, when we say
New Yorkers, the disability community is often
excluded. And so, this is about making sure everyone
includes everyone.

I want to thank, of course, Chair Linda
Lee, my co-sponsor on this bill, and all my
Colleagues, and the advocates and community members
and accessibility experts who helped shape this
legislation. And of course, my Staff, Adam Staropoli,
Jenna Klaus, for their work on this as well. Thank
you, Chair.

CHAIRPERSON LEE: Thank you. And as
Commissioner Curry and other disabilities advocates
would say, nothing about us without us, which is very
true.

Okay, and next we have Council Member
Narcisse.

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Thank you,
Chair. Thank you to the Committee on Mental Health
Disabilities and Addiction for advancing Intro. 1004-
A. This bill responds to a real gap that people who
rely on wheelchairs have faced for far too long, the
basic need to quickly find a repair provider they can

trust. I used to own and operate a small surgical supply business and sold wheelchairs myself so I know firsthand how critical timely repairs and clear information are for the people who depend on them. Like I used to tell my staff, whatever a person with disability is using is an emergency because they need it. It's not luxury. By creating a clear, accessible citywide resource, we are reducing delays, cutting frustration, and helping New Yorkers stay mobile and independent. I appreciate the Committee's partnership and support as we work to remove barriers and improve access to our disability community. So, I thank you, Chair, and I thank you, and I'm looking forward for voting yes on this bill. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON LEE: Thank you.

And of course, we have Tiffany Cabán,
Council Member.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you, Chair. I am grateful to sponsor Resolution 736, urging the State to fully fund assertive community treatment teams, otherwise known as ACT teams, which provide mobile behavioral healthcare treatment to people who have documented serious mental illness. ACT teams meet patients where they are. They provide around-

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the-clock care for individuals within their communities, preventing them from being ripped from their homes and preventing taxpayers from bearing the costs of expensive inpatient stays. ACT teams have been proven to work, saving lives, caring for New Yorkers, and supporting our overburdened mental health care systems, but ACT teams are under-resourced and unable to successfully meet the needs of New Yorkers. There are simply too few of them and too many patients who need their care. The wait lists are too long and the need is too dire. So I'm asking my Colleagues to join me in voting for the resolution so we can send a clear message to the Governor and State Legislature that we need full funding for data-driven, compassionate mental health care resources. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON LEE: Thank you. Second that one.

Clerk, we are ready to begin the vote.

COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:
Matthew DiStefano, Committee Clerk. Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities, and Addiction, roll call vote. All items are coupled.

Chair Lee.

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CHAIRPERSON LEE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Louis.

Cabán.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye on all, and
congrats to my Colleagues.

COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Abreu.

COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:
Bottcher. Hanif.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: By a
vote of six in the affirmative, zero in the negative,
and no abstentions, the items have been adopted.

CHAIRPERSON LEE: Congrats.

And with that, we are done. [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 December 14, 2025