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COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
VOTE*

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Monday, July 14, 2025

Start: 11:09 a.m.

Recess: 11:14 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: HON. ALTHEA STEVENS, CHAIR

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

RITA C. JOSEPH

LINDA LEE

JULIE MENIN

CHI A. OSSÉ

NANTASHA M. WILLIAMS

SERGEANT WHITE: Good morning, good morning, this is a microphone check for the Committee on Children and Youth. Today's date is July 14, 2025. The location is the Chambers, and this recording is done by Keith Polite.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning, good morning, welcome to the New York City Council Vote on the Committee on Children and Youth. At this time, please silence all electronic devices and do not approach the dais.

Chair Stevens, you may begin.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: [GAVEL] Good morning, and welcome to today's vote of the Children and Youth Committee. I'm Council Member Althea Stevens, Chair of the Committee.

Today, I am proud to bring forward a slate of thoughtful and compassionate legislation that reflects our collective commitment to improving the lives of young people in New York City's foster care and juvenile justice system.

Today, we will vote on four bills that address the longstanding gaps in support, dignity, and opportunity for youth navigating these complex systems.

First, Introduction 1077, sponsored by Council Member Joseph, responds to an issue we have heard about, time and time again, from young people in foster care: the indignity of having to carry their belongings in trash bags.

This bill would require the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) to provide proper luggage to youth entering the foster care system, transitioning between foster homes, or exiting the foster care system. It also assures transparency and accountability through annual reporting on efforts, barriers, and plans for improvement.

Second, 1245, sponsored by Speaker Adams, strengthens data reporting on foster care by requiring the data to be disaggregated by age. This bill would also require information to be collected on the council district where supportive housing placements occur. Those additional data points will allow us to identify where services are concentrated or lacking and better target our investments and advocacy.

Third, 1246, also sponsored by Speaker Adams, would codify Fair Futures, a comprehensive

evidence-based support program for youth currently in foster care, as well as youth who have exited the foster care system, by providing long-term coaching, academic support, career development guidance, mental health resources, and housing assistance. This bill would make permanent the kind of consistent wrap-around support young people need and deserve as they navigate a critical transition to adulthood.

Intro 1259, sponsored by Council Member Lee, addresses a vital aspect of safety and well-being in the juvenile detention system. This bill would require foundational training in behavioral support strategies for all direct service staff, not already certified in the relevant mental health or medical field. The focus on de-escalation and crisis prevention techniques, guidance on incorporating trauma-informed and culturally competent practices, reflects our understanding that healing, not harm, must be at the center of any youth justice response.

Taken together, these bills represent a forward-thinking, youth-centered approach to government.

I would like to thank the bill sponsors, the Speaker's Office, the partners at ACS, and young

people, advocates, and providers who have spoken out and shaped this work. I would like to thank the Committee staff for their work in preparing for this vote, Christina, Legislative Counsel, Elizabeth, Senior Policy Analyst, as well as my staff back at District 16.

I now turn it over to Council Member Joseph for her statement on this bill.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you, Chair Stevens.

Good morning, Chair Stevens and Members of the Committee on Children and Youth. I'm proud today that we are voting on Intro 1077, a Local Law to amend New York City's administrative code to ensure youth in foster care receive proper luggage.

As you may know, children in foster care are often given black plastic trash bags to carry their belongings when they enter the system, move between homes, or leave care. This is wrong, and my bill aims to change that.

Intro 1077 would require ACS to provide appropriate luggage to youth during these transitions. It also requires ACS to report on its efforts, note any challenges they face, and outline

steps they will take in the coming years to address those challenges.

This bill is long overdue. I saw this firsthand when my two boys came to me with black plastic trash bags.

So thank you so much, and thank you to the advocates. Thank you to the young people who this bill will have a great impact on. I ask you to vote "yes" to end this unacceptable practice. Thank you.

(PAUSE)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: I will now turn it over to the Committee Clerk for a roll call vote.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Matthew DiStefano, Committee Clerk, Committee on Children and Youth, roll call vote, all items are coupled.

Chair Stevens?

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Lee?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Menin?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: (MEDICAL)

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Williams?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 5 in the
6 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions,
7 the items have been adopted.

8 (PAUSE)

9 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: This hearing is
10 adjourned. [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 no interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date August 26, 2025