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COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

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February 2, 2023
Start: 11:18 a.m.
Recess: 11:24 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Diana Ayala, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Tiffany Caban
- Crystal Hudson
- Linda Lee
- Chi A. Osse
- Lincoln Restler
- Kevin C. Riley
- Althea V. Stevens
- Sandra Ung
- Nantasha M. Williams

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee on General Welfare, located
4 in Chambers, recorded on February 2, 2023, by Nazly
5 Paytuvi.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
7 welcome to the Committee on General Welfare.

8 At this time, we ask if you can place
9 phones on vibrate or silent mode. Thank you for your
10 cooperation.

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Thank you. [GAVEL]
13 Good morning, everyone, and welcome to today's
14 hearing. My name is Diana Ayala, and I am the Deputy
15 Speaker of the New York City Council and Chair of the
16 General Welfare Committee.

17 Today, our Committee is here to vote on
18 two bills. The first bill, Proposed Intro 92-A which
19 I am a proud sponsor, would create an advisory board
20 for accessibility in our city shelters. People living
21 with disabilities are at a greater risk of entering
22 into homelessness due to discrimination, long-term
23 employment issues, challenges, securing benefits, and
24 so many more barriers. We need to be sure that our
25 shelter system is as accessible as possible for this

2 population. We also need to uplift the perspectives
3 of those with lived experience as we create
4 solutions. We have heard anecdotally about shelter
5 residents with disabilities being placed in
6 facilities with no working elevator and therefore
7 have no way to get to their bed. We've heard of
8 facilities where access to electrical outlets is very
9 limited, where bathrooms are inaccessible. My bill
10 will convene an advisory board comprising of those
11 living with disabilities who have experienced or are
12 currently experiencing homelessness as well as city
13 agencies and advocates. It would open up
14 opportunities for dialogue between the necessary
15 stakeholders.

16 The second bill that we are voting on
17 today, Property Intro 421-A, is sponsored by Council
18 Member Riley and would require the Department of
19 Homeless Services to report on the number of families
20 with children in shelter.

21 I want to thank the advocates and the
22 individuals with lived experience that have informed
23 and helped us shape this legislation.

2 At this time, I'd like to acknowledge my
3 Colleagues who are here, Council Members Caban,
4 Hudson, Lee, Riley, Restler, Osse, Stevens, and Ung.

5 Also, I'd like to thank the Committee
6 Staff who worked to prepare this hearing. Aminta
7 Kilawan, David Romero, Cristy Dwyer, Julia Haramis,
8 Rose Martinez, Nicholas Montalbano, and finally my
9 Staff, Elsie Encarnacion, Malek Al-Shammary.

10 Now, I would like to turn it over to
11 Council Member Riley for remarks on his legislation.
12 Council Member Riley.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Good morning and
14 thank you, Chair Ayala and to my fellow Colleagues.
15 I'm here today to ask for your support on my bill,
16 Intro 421-A. Knowledge is power, and having further
17 insight to the needs of families with children in
18 shelter systems would empower the City to provide
19 adequate services and support our underserved
20 communities. As a result of this previous hearing,
21 Intro 421-A has deepened further data transparency by
22 ensuring reports have truly effective data metrics
23 that seek to provide insight to the needs of some of
24 the most vulnerable New York families with children.
25 By now proposing for mandated quarterly reporting, we

2 are able to measure change and accountability more
3 urgently.

4 I would like to thank my Colleagues who
5 are also leading to co-sponsor this piece of
6 legislation. This is important to identify and
7 address the needs of families with children dealing
8 with homelessness as well as unmasking flaws within
9 our infrastructure.

10 Thank you, Chair Ayala.

11 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Thank you. I would
12 like to acknowledge that we've also been joined by
13 Council Member Williams.

14 With that, I would like to turn it over
15 to the Clerk to do the roll call for this vote.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
17 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
18 vote, Committee on General Welfare. Items are
19 coupled. Chair Ayala.

20 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: I vote aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Riley.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Caban.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CABAN: Aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hudson.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye, and I'd like
3 to be added to both. Thank you.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Lee.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: I vote aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Osse.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSE: I vote aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: I vote aye and
10 congratulate my Colleague, Kevin Riley, on a great
11 bill.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ung.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Williams.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye, and
18 I'd like to be added to 92-A. Thank you.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote
20 of 10 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and
21 no abstentions, both items are adopted by the
22 Committee. Madam Chair, that is a full Committee.

23 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Thank you. With that,
24 we are adjourned.

25

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 February 9, 2023