

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

----- X

June 26, 2019  
Start: 11:42 a.m.  
Recess: 11:50 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room, City Hall

B E F O R E: KEITH POWERS  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Alicka Ampry-Samuel  
Robert Holden  
Donovan Richards  
Carlina Rivera

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Sound check. Today's  
3 date is June 26, 2019. This is a committee hearing  
4 on Criminal Justice being recorded by Sergeant-at-  
5 arms [Inaudible] Lopez.

6 CHAIR POWERS: [gavel] Good morning, I'm  
7 Council Member Keith Powers and I'm Chair of the  
8 Committee on Criminal Justice and I'm joined here  
9 today by Council Member Carlina Rivera, Council  
10 Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel, and Council Member  
11 Donovan Richards. I think we're expecting a few more  
12 here as well. We're here today to vote on four  
13 pieces of legislation relating to transgender, gender  
14 non-conforming, gender non-binary and intersex  
15 individuals in DOC custody. These issues are the  
16 results of a hearing we had a few months ago. The  
17 first two bills proposed Introductions number 1513  
18 and 1514A by Council Member Ayala aimed to ensure  
19 that those housing units which house TGNCNBI  
20 populations have the same access to mental health and  
21 substance abuse treatments as the units that house  
22 [Inaudible] gender populations. The third is Council  
23 Member Moya's bill, proposed Introduction number  
24 1530A which would require the department to issue  
25 comprehensive reporting on the application process

2 for the transgender housing unit and finally is  
3 Council Member Rosenthal's bill proposed 1535A which  
4 requires the Board of Corrections to convene a task  
5 force to include formerly incarcerated individuals to  
6 address policies related to the treatment of  
7 transgender, gender non-conforming, non-binary and  
8 intersex individuals in the Department of Correction.  
9 Before I bring it to a vote, I just wanted to,  
10 Council Member Rosenthal asked me to read just a  
11 quick statement from her on her legislation since she  
12 could not be here today, and I will read it to you.  
13 The recent death of Layleen Polanco, a young  
14 transgender woman in custody at Rikers represents a  
15 terrible failure by the City of New York. This  
16 tragedy underscores the need for greater  
17 accountability and transparency on how the City  
18 treats transgender, gender non-conforming, non-binary  
19 and intersex people in its custody. Council Member  
20 Rosenthal's legislation, Intro 1535, will require the  
21 Board of Corrections to convene a task force to  
22 review the Department of Corrections policies  
23 relative to this particularly vulnerable population  
24 and make recommendations for immediate improvement.  
25 Critically, this task force will bring people with

2 lived experience to the table as well as experts in  
3 transgender policy to ensure safe, humane and  
4 respectful treatment of TGNCNBI persons in custody.  
5 This is one step of many that are necessary to reform  
6 our criminal justice system. The circumstances  
7 surrounding Layleen Polanco's death are too common.  
8 A younger person of color is arrested on a low-level  
9 charge, cash bail is required, and time is spent in  
10 solitary confinement. This system can ruin lives and  
11 we must change it. With that being said, I want to  
12 thank our staff for helping put together the hearing  
13 that we had earlier this year and for today's hearing  
14 and I want to thank all the Council Members in  
15 attendance here and we will, with that move on to a  
16 vote. Thank you.

17 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,  
18 roll call vote Committee on Criminal Justice. All  
19 items are coupled. Chair Powers?

20 CHAIR POWERS: I vote aye.

21 CLERK: Richards?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I vote aye.

23 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye.

25 CLERK: Rivera?

1 COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

6

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

3 CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the  
4 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,

5 CHAIR POWERS: I think we're gonna just  
6 keep it open. We're expecting another Council  
7 Member.

8 CLERK: All items have been adopted by  
9 the Committee.

10 CHAIR POWERS: Okay, I will keep it open.  
11 Thanks.

12 [pause]

13 CHAIR POWERS: All right, we'll continue  
14 the roll call.

15 CLERK: Continuation roll call, Committee  
16 on Criminal Justice. Council Member Holden?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here, aye.

18 CLERK: Final vote, all items on today's  
19 Criminal Justice Committee agenda have been adopted  
20 by a vote of 5 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative  
21 and no abstentions.

22 CHAIR POWERS: Thank you. [gavel]

23

24

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 July 8, 2019