

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

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April 27, 2015  
Start: 10:42 a.m.  
Recess: 11:05 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Room  
14th Floor

B E F O R E: LAURIE A. CUMBO  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Darlene Mealy  
Elizabeth S. Crowley  
Karen Koslowitz  
Ben Kallos

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

2 [sound check, pause]

3 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Quiet, please.

4 [background comments and noise]

5 [gavel]

6 CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: Good morning,  
7 everyone. I am Laurie Cumbo. Just last week the  
8 Committee on Women's Issues, which I chair, held a  
9 joint hearing with the Committee on Civil Service and  
10 Labor on a package of bills related to worker rights.  
11 This package included Resolution 649, which is a  
12 resolution calling upon the New York State Assembly  
13 to pass, and the Governor to sign A.6075, which would  
14 amend the Labor Law in relation to the prohibition of  
15 differential pay based on gender. I'm a proud  
16 sponsor of this resolution along side Council Member  
17 Corey Johnson. As it stands, there is not a single  
18 country in the entire world where a woman earns as  
19 much as a man for doing the exact same job.  
20 According to a 2014 report by the World Economic  
21 Forum, the United States ranks 65th in wage equality  
22 among the 142 countries studied. We should be number  
23 one.

24 When we rallied in large numbers on the  
25 steps of City Hall for Equal Pay Day, we wore red to

2 signal that women are in the red when it comes to  
3 their pay. Next year, I hope we will be able to wear  
4 green, because we'll finally have something to  
5 celebrate. I hope that by then, equal pay will be  
6 achieved.

7           As I mentioned at the hearing last week,  
8 the only way to shatter glass ceilings is to keep on  
9 addressing issues that hold women back from getting  
10 what they rightfully deserve, equality in all  
11 aspects. I'm glad that today we will be voting on a  
12 resolution in support of a state bill that will  
13 champion this issue with specific regard to income  
14 equality. The bill that Resolution 649 supports  
15 would guarantee workers in New York State the right  
16 to discuss their salary information without being  
17 penalized. This would make instances of wage  
18 discrimination easier to spot and to address. The  
19 bill would also discourage employers from unfair pay  
20 practices and increase damages up to 300% of unpaid  
21 wages for those who have been discriminated against.

22           I want to acknowledge members of the  
23 committee who are here today, Council Member Crowley  
24 as well as Council Member Kallos. And I'd also like  
25 to mention at this time that I was very proud to

2 stand with Council Member Crowley as we held the--the  
3 presentation that we did on Pay Equity together on  
4 the steps of City Hall. I also want to thank the  
5 staff of the Committee on Women's Issues, Counsel  
6 Aminta Kilawan, who is here to my right. And Policy  
7 Analyst Joan Polvony for their continued hard work.  
8 I'd also like to thank my staff Drew Gabriel and  
9 Monica Aban [sp?] Now, that we have a quorum, I am  
10 going to ask Billy Martin to do the roll call as we  
11 vote on Resolution 649.

12 CLERK: Committee Clerk Matthew  
13 DeStefano. Roll call vote Committee on Women's  
14 Issues, Resolution 649. Council Member Cumbo.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

16 CLERK: Crowley.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I proudly vote  
18 aye. I want to commend my colleague Council Member  
19 Laurie Cumbo for her unwavering support for equal  
20 rights for women, and I'd like to be listed as a co-  
21 sponsor. Thank you.

22 CLERK: Kallos.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I'm proud to join  
24 Council Member Crowley as a co-sponsor, and I vote  
25 aye.

2 CLERK: By a vote of 3 in the  
3 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstention, the  
4 resolution has been adopted.

5 CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: Thank you.

6 [background comments, pause]

7 CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: Can I ask permission  
8 to keep the vote open for Council Members Koslowitz  
9 and Council Member Mealy, who I know are very  
10 enthusiastic about demonstrating their support.

11 CLERK: Yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: Thank you. With  
13 that, I look forward to the entire Council passing  
14 this resolution next, and to the Governor signing  
15 A.6075 at the State level to ensure that women in New  
16 York State get the equal pay that they deserve. Now  
17 is the time and I am so proud that collectively in  
18 the City Council as well as on the Assembly and as  
19 well as on the Senate level that we are going to make  
20 history that so many women have been fighting for,  
21 for generations. And I am confident that this will  
22 spread all throughout the world, and I'm glad that we  
23 are doing it here in New York State. Thank you for  
24 all that voted for this, and I'm looking forward to

25

2 the continued support of everyone to make sure that  
3 this is a reality.

4 [gavel]

5 CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: We are going to  
6 extend the vote to be open for another 20 minutes to  
7 allow Council Members Koslowitz and Mealy to also  
8 vote, and we'll be here for the next 20 minutes.

9 [off mic] Oh, Karen, how are you?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I'm good.

11 CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: You are welcome.

12 Very nice.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: You look beautiful.

15 CLERK: Continuation of the roll call  
16 vote Committee on Women's issues, Council Member  
17 Koslowitz.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye.

19 CLERK: The vote stands 4 in the  
20 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

21 [background comments]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Roll call. Thank  
23 you.

24 CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: Council Member Mealy,  
25 we are voting on Resolution calling upon the New York

2 State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign A.  
3 6075, which would amend the Labor Law in relation to  
4 the prohibition of differential pay based on gender.  
5 This is Resolution No. 649.

6 CLERK: Continuation of the roll call  
7 vote. Council Member Mealy.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I want to thank  
9 the Chair on this great legislation and my  
10 colleagues, and I vote aye.

11 CLERK: Okay. The final vote stands as  
12 follows: 5 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and  
13 no abstentions.

14 CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: Thank you. We are  
15 officially going to close this vote, and I am so  
16 proud that all of my colleagues were here to vote  
17 unanimously on Resolution 649, which is going to  
18 create equality throughout New York State, and I am  
19 confident throughout the world. Thank you.

20 [gavel]

21 CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: Whoo-hoo.

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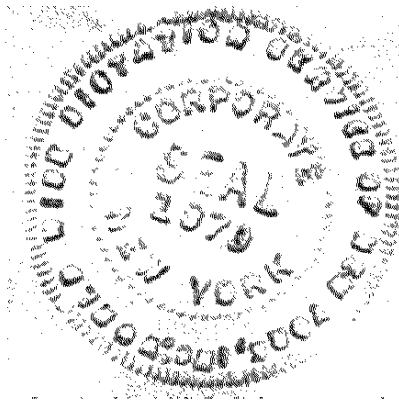


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COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

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 5, 2015