

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL AND  
HUMAN RIGHTS

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November 18, 2024  
Start: 10:39 a.m.  
Recess: 10:47 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: Nantasha Williams  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Rita C. Joseph  
Christopher Marte  
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.  
Kevin C. Riley

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

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS

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SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good morning and welcome to today's New York City Council vote for the Committee on Civil and Human Rights. At this time, please silence all electronic devices. No one may approach the dais at any time through today's vote. Chair, you may begin.

CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Good morning everyone. My name is Nantasha Williams and I serve as Chair to the Committee on Civil and Human Rights. I want to start off by thanking everyone joining us this morning. Today we are voting on Resolution 280 sponsored by Council Member Louis which would designate November 30<sup>th</sup> annually as Shirley Chisolm Day in the City of New York. As a native New Yorker, Shirley Chisolm dedicated much of her life to serving the people of New York City. She was the first Black woman ever elected to the United States House of Representatives, representing New York's 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District for seven terms from 1969 to 1983, during which time she was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. She went on to become the first Black candidate to seek a major party's presidential nomination and the first woman to run for the Democratic Party's nomination. And

seeing as her birthday is November 30<sup>th</sup>, there would be no better day to celebrate her contributions to this great city as an educator, activist, and elected official. She's also my sorority sister. So, shout out to Deltas across the world, really, but definitely Delta in New York City. I will now turn it over to Council Member Louis for some remarks on her resolution.

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Thank you, Chair Williams. Good morning everyone, and Chair Williams, I want to thank you for your partnership and commitment to share this shared mission of lifting up black voices, women's voices to create a more equitable New York City. It is an honor to have Resolution 280 voted on today, a bill that would designate November 30<sup>th</sup> annually as Shirley Chisolm Day in the City of New York. This legislation is more than a recognition, but an affirmation of the contributions of Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisolm who unlocked and opened doors for generations of political leaders who were excluded simply for being Black. After becoming the second Black person elected to the New York State Assembly in 1964, she shattered glass ceilings as the first Black woman

1 elected in U.S. House of Representatives four years  
2 later, serving seven terms, representing New York's  
3 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District which overlaps with the  
4 modern day 45<sup>th</sup> District of the City of New York.  
5 Her bold pursuit of equality extended her historic  
6 presidential campaign in 1972 as the first Black  
7 person and first woman to seek the Democratic Party's  
8 nomination. Her slogan, "unbought and unbossed"  
9 exemplified her commitment to challenging the status  
10 quo and her refusal to be silenced. Born in Brooklyn  
11 to parents from Guyana and Barbados, Shirley  
12 Chisolm's story is deeply tied to the fabric of our  
13 city. Her famous words, "If they don't give you a  
14 seat at the table, bring a folding chair," resonate  
15 as a call to action to ensure every voice is heard  
16 and every barrier broken. The passing of this  
17 resolution today is not just about honoring her  
18 legacy, it's about showing young women in our city,  
19 particularly Black women and women of color, that  
20 their dreams are valid, their voices matter, and  
21 their leadership can transform our society. By  
22 designating Shirley Chisolm Day, we are breaking  
23 glass ceilings so that thousands of young women  
24 pursuing opportunities educationally, professionally  
25

and civically, New York City values equity, representation and the courage to lead. We must continue the work Shirley Chisolm started to dream bigger, fight harder, and never stop advocating for a seat at the table. Together, we can continue to uplift Black voices, women's voices, and the voices of those that are marginalized. Thank you again, Chair Williams, for your support, and I urge my colleagues to vote yes.

CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Thank you. I will now ask the Clerk to call the vote.

COUNCIL CLERK: Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Civil and Human Rights, Resolution 280. Chair Williams?

CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Proudly vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca? Riley? Marte?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: I vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Joseph?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: I vote aye, and she shares a birthday with my mom.

COUNCIL CLERK: With a vote of 3 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,

2 Resolution has been adopted by the Committee, and the  
3 roll will be held open at request of the Chair.

4 Continuation roll call, Committee on Civil and Human  
5 Rights, Resolution 280. Council Member Riley?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Vote is now 4 in the  
8 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions.

9 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: This committee  
10 vote is closed.

11 [gavel]

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COMMITTEE ON CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS

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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 interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date November 19, 2024