

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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May 3, 2016

Start: 1:17 p.m.

Recess: 1:36 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm,
14th Fl.

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)

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: Good afternoon. I'm Laurie Cumbo, Chair of the Women's Issues Committee; today is May 3rd, 2016 and we are here today for Proposed Int. 1137-A, a Local Law to amend the New York City Charter in relation to recreating a Commission on Gender Equity. I wanna thank all that are here today.

Good afternoon, I am Council Member Laurie Cumbo; this hearing of the Committee on Women's Issues is now called to order.

I'd like to thank you all for coming today; I'd especially like to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito for her leadership and for co-sponsoring Int. No. 1137 along with me.

I'd also like to thank the members of the Committee on the Women's Issues that are present; Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, representing Queens, as well as Council Member Ben Kallos of the He for She Committee, representing Manhattan.

And I'd also like to thank the staff of the Committee on Women's Issues; our Counsel, Aminta Kilawan and our Policy Analyst, Joan Povolny, for their work in preparing for today's hearing.

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2 Finally, I want to thank all of the
3 advocates who worked tirelessly to ensure that the
4 barriers women and girls in our city face are broken
5 down and pave the way for a transformative future.

6 I'd also like to thank Monica Abend on my
7 staff for all of her work in making today possible.

8 In June of 2015, Mayor de Blasio issued
9 Executive Order No. 10, which established the
10 Commission of Gender Equity. The commission was
11 established to ensure that the women of the city live
12 with dignity and equity and to be free from violence
13 and discrimination based on gender.

14 Today we are voting on legislation that
15 would ensure this commission exists well into the
16 future and not just during the current
17 administration; that is such a critical part of
18 what's happening today. New York City is already a
19 trailblazer when it comes to finding innovative ways
20 to ensure gender equity becomes a reality in the
21 future.

22 Since September of last year, community-
23 based organizations, grassroots partners and many
24 young women themselves convened in working groups for
25 the New York City Council's Young Women's Initiative;

1 I was very proud to be a part of the numerous
2 meetings that brought together some of the most
3 brilliant minds in our city. This was the first of
4 its kind in the nation to deeply examine and combat
5 the undeniable inequality young women and girls face
6 each day. I am proud to say that we are collectively
7 investing \$20 million to ensure that girls, young
8 women and trans youth of color are fully supported in
9 their lives. The administration responded
10 positively, participating in the Young Women's
11 Initiative and also created a Commission on Gender
12 Equity to work across city agencies to reduce gender-
13 based inequality and to level the playing field for
14 women and girls.
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16 Even in a city as progressive and
17 forward-thinking as ours, more needs to be done to
18 address the inequalities that women and girls face.
19 In New York City, among the close to 60,000 residents
20 who experience homelessness every night, we know that
21 most are children and families led by women. The
22 statistics are even worse for women and girls of
23 color. In 2013, 20 percent of black and Latina women
24 between the ages of 16 and 24 were out of school and
25 out of work, which translates to approximately 59,000

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2 people. Black and Latina women in the five boroughs
3 had the highest share of new HIV diagnoses among
4 women in New York City, at 64 percent and 27 percent
5 respectively. The average household income of the
6 homes that they live in is \$59,000, compared to
7 \$87,000 for the entire population; much more needs to
8 be done.

9 Women in our city deserve better, they
10 deserve equity in all aspects of their lives, in
11 education, healthcare, economic opportunity, and
12 access to justice. I am glad and proud that the
13 Mayor created the Commission on Gender Equity to work
14 on ensuring that women and girls are given equal
15 opportunities to reach their fullest potential and I
16 am proud that today, by voting on Int. No. 1137 we at
17 the Council are making sure that this conversation
18 continues for years and years to come. This is
19 certainly historical, this piece of legislation that
20 we are going to support today.

21 I also would like to acknowledge at this
22 time we have joined by the Honorable Council Member
23 Karen Koslowitz, representing Queens and we are so
24 happy to have you here today, and we are now going to
25 do our roll call.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
3 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Women's
4 Issues, Int. 113-A [sic]. Chair Cumbo.

5 CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: I proudly vote aye
6 and I'm so proud that my colleagues are here today
7 with me and we are certainly making history and we
8 are going to make New York City a more fair,
9 equitable and safe place for all residents,
10 particularly women and girls. I proudly vote aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote aye and
13 congratulations to the Committee Chair.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye and
16 I'd like to be added to this bill, and
17 congratulations.

18 CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: Thank you.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Congratulations,
21 Chair Cumbo; proud to be a member of the He for She
22 Caucus; I vote aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 4 in the
24 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
25 item has been adopted.

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COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

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CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: Thank you to all my
colleagues. We'll keep the vote open so that the
entire caucus can vote on this particular piece of
legislation. Thank you. [background comments]

We're gonna keep the vote open for about
another ten minutes. [background comments]

Thank you, colleagues.

[pause]

[background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote, Committee
on Women's Issues, Int. 1137-A, is adopted by a vote
of 4 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no
abstentions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CUMBO: Thank you and the
vote is closed.

[gavel]

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 18, 2016