

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES  
AND INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP ORGANIZATIONS  
CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS,  
LIBRARIES AND INTERNATIONAL  
INTERGROUP ORGANIZATIONS

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December 18, 2025  
Start: 10:11 a.m.  
Recess: 10:15 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING  
ROOM 3

B E F O R E: Erik D. Bottcher, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

David M. Carr  
Crystal Hudson  
Chi A. Ossé  
Sandra Ung  
Nantasha M. Williams

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Gale A. Brewer

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2 INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP ORGANIZATIONS

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, good  
3 morning. This is a microphone check on the Committee  
4 of Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International  
5 Intergroup Relations, recorded by James Marino, in  
6 the Hearing Room 3 on 12-18-2025.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, good  
8 morning.

9 Welcome to the New York City Council vote  
10 on the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and  
11 International Intergroup Organizations.

12 At this time, please silence all  
13 electronics and do not approach the dais.

14 Chair, you may begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON BOTTCHER: [GAVEL] Good  
16 morning. I am Council Member Eric Bottcher, Chair of  
17 the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and  
18 International Intergroup Organizations.

19 Today, the Committee will consider  
20 Proposed Resolution Number 649-A, sponsored by  
21 Council Member Gale Brewer, which would call on the  
22 United States Congress to pass and the President to  
23 sign legislation allocating funds for the restoration  
24 of the SS United States for its relocation to the  
25 City of New York.

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2                   And we will hear a Pre-Considered  
3 Resolution sponsored by the Public Advocate, Mr.  
4 Williams, and Council Member Keith Powers, which  
5 would celebrate the New York Knicks in a spectacular  
6 win of the 2025 Emirates NBA Cup Championship.

7                   Now, I would like to thank the Committee  
8 Staff who worked on preparing for today, including  
9 Christina Yellamaty, the Committee's Counsel; Regina  
10 Paul, the Committee's Senior Policy Analyst who  
11 worked on both Resolutions; and Sandra Gray, the  
12 Committee's Financial Analyst.

13                   And if there's no public testimony, oh,  
14 hi, Council Member Brewer. Now, let me ask Council  
15 Member Brewer to deliver remarks on her Resolution.

16                   COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very  
17 much.

18                   I am talking about 649-A, and basically  
19 it is a Resolution in support of the SS United  
20 States. This is a ship that is presently in  
21 Mississippi. It was in Philadelphia, but it started  
22 in New York City, and it's one of the unique examples  
23 of a liner that crossed the seas many, many times.  
24 The challenge is that apparently a, I would say a  
25 county in Florida has decided that it's better to

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2 have it as a coral reef than as a ship. So we are  
3 trying as a last-ditch effort with many of the people  
4 who love the SS United States to maintain it. The  
5 outside is still intact, the bow and the stern. The  
6 inside has been somewhat demolished, I will say. So  
7 I'm here to say thank you to all who are interested  
8 in this crazy idea that we want to save this ship,  
9 and it is stunning. I think if you were at the  
10 hearing, you would have seen a huge photograph of  
11 this amazing ship, and it is a shame that it would  
12 not continue so we're still trying. It may be a Hail  
13 Mary, but we are still trying to save it, and I thank  
14 everybody who signed on as a co-sponsor, and yay to  
15 the SS United States. Thank you very much.

16 CHAIRPERSON BOTTCHER: Florida is at it  
17 again.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Florida is at it  
19 again.

20 CHAIRPERSON BOTTCHER: Thank you, Council  
21 Member Brewer.

22 We are ready for the vote, Billy.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
24 you. Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk.  
25 Roll call vote, Committee on Cultural Affairs,

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2 Libraries and International Intergroup Organizations.

3 Both items are coupled.

4 Chair Bottcher.

5 CHAIRPERSON BOTTCHER: Aye on all.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Louis.

7 Hanif. Hanks. Hudson.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ossé.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ung.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Williams.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Carr.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye on all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a  
18 vote of six in the affirmative, zero in the negative,  
19 and no abstentions, both items have been adopted by  
20 the Committee.

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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 December 29, 2025