

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES
AND INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP ORGANIZATIONS 1
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 4, 2025
Start: 10:17 a.m.
Recess: 10:22 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING
ROOM 2

B E F O R E: Crystal Hudson, Acting Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

David M. Carr
Shahana Hanif
Kamillah M. Hanks
Farah N. Louis
Chi A. Ossé
Sandra Ung

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Rita C. Joseph

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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
check, Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries,
International Intergroup Relations, date 12-4-2025,
location Hearing Room 2, recorded by Annie Lin
(phonetic).

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. Welcome
to today's New York City Council vote on Committee on
Cultural Affairs, Libraries, International Intergroup
Relations.

At this time, please silence all
electronic devices.

Chair, you may begin.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: [GAVEL] Good
morning. I'm Council Member Crystal Hudson, Chairing
the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and
International Intergroup Organizations on behalf of
Chair Erik Bottcher.

Today, the Committee will vote on
Resolution Number 987, sponsored by Council Member
Rita Joseph, which would declare July 26th as Haitian
Konpa Day annually to celebrate the legacy of Haitian
music and dance in the cultural landscape of the City
of New York; and Resolution Number 1063, also
sponsored by Council Member Joseph, which would

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designate November 12th annually as Sigma Gamma Rho
Day in the City of New York to recognize the
sorority's commitment to sisterhood, scholarship, and
service, and to positive community impact.

Now, I'd like to ask Council Member
Joseph to deliver remarks on her two Resolutions.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you, Chair
Hudson.

As I've said many times, Haitian culture
has long been woven into the rich and diverse fabric
of our great city. Our food nourishes bodies and
souls. Our dance moves feet and hearts. Our music,
the infectious rhythm of konpa, pulses through the
streets and brings people together in joy and
celebration. These contributions have helped shape
New York City into the vibrant, dynamic metropolis it
is today. Every year, hundreds and thousands of
people sing and dance to our music on Eastern Parkway
during the Labor Day Parade, creating a spectacle of
unity and cultural pride that reminds us all of the
power of heritage and community. Haitian
contributions are everywhere in our neighborhoods,
our businesses, our schools, and our hearts. I am
absolutely delighted that we are formally recognizing

and celebrating the enduring legacy of Haitian konpa music today. So many members of our community are here in person or online watching this historic moment unfold. Others will watch later or read about it in the news, sharing in this milestone from near and far. To all of them, to every person who carries Haitian heritage in their heart, I want to say I am immensely proud of my Haitian roots and all that our culture represents. Just as konpa music bring people together on dance floors across the city, weaving different rhythms into harmonious celebration, we too are united in our strength and resilience. The steady beat of the drum remind us to keep moving forward, no matter what challenges we face. The joyful melodies remind us that even in difficult times, there's beauty, hope, and a reason to celebrate who we are. Despite the hurtful narratives that have come from the highest office in the land, we will never forget our resilience forged through centuries of struggle and triumph. Like the music that has survived and thrived for generations, we too will continue to rise, to persevere, and to contribute our brilliance to the world.

And now, for Reso. 1063, to my Sorers,
especially to those who stood with courage and
conviction last month, taking time from your busy
lives to testify before this Council in support of
this Resolution, today marks a historic moment that
belonged to you. This is the fruit of your
dedication, your perseverance, and your refusal to
let our voices go unheard. Reso. 1063 is now before
us for a vote. It will pass, and it will be enshrined
in the fabric of our city as a lasting testament to
the excellence, grace, and positive change that Sigma
Gamma Rho Sorority Incorporated represents. November
12 will forever serve as a reminder that when women
come together in sisterhood bound by shared values
and a commitment to uplift others, they create
ripples of change that transform our communities. Our
legacy of scholarship inspire young minds to reach
higher. Our commitment to service touch lives in ways
both seen and unseen. Our sisterhood demonstrate the
power of unity, love, and the collective purpose, and
our impact on this city, our city, will now be
recognized and celebrated every single year. Thank
you for your sisterhood, which strengthen us all.
Thank you for your tireless work, which make our

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community better. And thank you for your boundless
love for others, which remind us all of what true
leadership looks like. Every November to come, New
York City will honor us too. Greater service, greater
progress. That is our model, and that is our promise
to this city. Thank you.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Thank you so
much, Council Member Joseph.

I'd like to thank the Committee Staff who
worked on preparing this legislation, including
Christina Yalamaty, the Committee's Counsel; Regina
Paul, the Committee's Senior Policy Analyst who also
drafted both resolutions, and Sandra Gray, the
Committee's Financial Analyst.

I think we're ready for the vote, Billy.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
vote, Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and
International Intergroup Organizations. Both items
are coupled.

Council Member Hudson.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Bottcher.
Louis.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanif.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

you.

Hanks.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ossé.

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ung.

COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Williams.

Carr.

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

you.

With a vote of seven in the affirmative,
zero in the negative, and no abstentions, both items
have been adopted by the Committee.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Thank you so
much. This hearing is adjourned. [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 December 15, 2025