

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

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

11 At this time, please silence all
12 electronic devices.

13 Chair, you may begin.

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

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

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

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

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you, Chair
9 Hudson.

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

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

2 And now, for Reso. 1063, to my Sorers,
3 especially to those who stood with courage and
4 conviction last month, taking time from your busy
5 lives to testify before this Council in support of
6 this Resolution, today marks a historic moment that
7 belonged to you. This is the fruit of your
8 dedication, your perseverance, and your refusal to
9 let our voices go unheard. Reso. 1063 is now before
10 us for a vote. It will pass, and it will be enshrined
11 in the fabric of our city as a lasting testament to
12 the excellence, grace, and positive change that Sigma
13 Gamma Rho Sorority Incorporated represents. November
14 12 will forever serve as a reminder that when women
15 come together in sisterhood bound by shared values
16 and a commitment to uplift others, they create
17 ripples of change that transform our communities. Our
18 legacy of scholarship inspire young minds to reach
19 higher. Our commitment to service touch lives in ways
20 both seen and unseen. Our sisterhood demonstrate the
21 power of unity, love, and the collective purpose, and
22 our impact on this city, our city, will now be
23 recognized and celebrated every single year. Thank
24 you for your sisterhood, which strengthen us all.
25 Thank you for your tireless work, which make our

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

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

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

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

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

22 Council Member Hudson.

23 ACTING CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Bottcher.
25 Louis.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanif.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
6 you.

7 Hanks.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ossé.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ung.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Williams.

14 Carr.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
17 you.

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

21 ACTING CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Thank you so
22 much. This hearing is adjourned. [GAVEL]

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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 15, 2025