

COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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July 14, 2025

Start: 12:45 p.m.

Recess: 12:49 p.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM, CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Sandy Nurse, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shaun Abreu  
Tiffany Cabán  
Mercedes Narcisse  
Lincoln Restler  
Althea V. Stevens

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Carlina Rivera

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone  
3 check on the Committee of Criminal Justice recorded  
4 by James Marino in the Committee Room on July 14,  
5 2025.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and  
7 welcome to today's New York City Council vote for the  
8 Committee on Criminal Justice.

9 At this time, we ask that you please  
10 silence all electronic devices and at no time are you  
11 to approach the dais.

12 Chair Nurse, we're ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: [GAVEL] Good  
14 afternoon, I'm Council Member Sandy Nurse, Chair of  
15 the Council's Committee on Criminal Justice. I'd like  
16 to welcome you to today's vote on Proposed  
17 Introduction Number 423-A, sponsored by Council  
18 Member Rivera. The Colleagues that are here today are  
19 Council Member Abreu, Stevens, Narcisse, Rivera, and  
20 Restler, also Cabán and Hanif online.

21 I'm going to pass it over to Council  
22 Member Rivera to make some remarks about her bill  
23 today.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you, Chair  
25 Nurse. Good afternoon. Today, this committee will

vote on my bill, Introduction 423, legislation that will require real oversight, transparency, and accountability when someone dies in the custody of the Department of Correction. Thank you, Chair Nurse, for your leadership and for holding this vote today.

In May 2023, the Department of Corrections Commissioner stated they would stop telling the public when someone dies in their custody, and this legislation is a direct response to that announcement, as well as to the painful stories shared by families who lost loved ones in jail custody. Since Mayor Adams took office, 41 people have died in DOC custody. We know that too many families have sat before this Council grieving and pleading for reform after losing a loved one in our city jails. The mothers and family members who testified at these hearings asked for the basics, public notifications, answers and information related to what happened, and access to their loved ones belongings. A jail sentence should never be a death sentence, and our City agencies must be held accountable when someone is harmed in their care. The law will put clear rules in place. Families must be notified quickly. The public must be told when

someone dies in custody. Independent investigations must happen. The Department of Correction can't refuse to be held accountable when someone dies in their custody. If there's wrongdoing, the public will know. When there is no transparency, there is no trust. At this point, we really must be diligent in defining the protocols DOC must follow when notifying the person in custody, especially their family, of course, who either died or suffered a medical emergency. Amid continued brutality and neglect, this Council is stepping up to demand accountability and action. New Yorkers deserve nothing less.

I want to thank Freedom Agenda, Urban Justice Center, my Legislative Director, Eddie Amador, and of course the justice-impacted families who helped us craft this bill. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NURSE: Thank you, Council Member Rivera, for sponsoring this legislation and the advocates who shared their personal experiences with this Committee during our hearing last year, which has helped to shape the legislation we are voting on today.

I'm going to ask the Clerk to call the vote.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

3 Committee Clerk Matthew DiStefano, Committee on

4 Criminal Justice. Roll call vote on Proposed Intro

5 423-A. Chair Nurse.

6 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Ayala.

8 Cabán.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: I vote aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Thank

11 you.

12 Abreu.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: Hanif.

15 Marte. Narcisse.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I vote aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

18 Restler.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO:

21 Stevens.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK MATTHEW DISTEFANO: By a

24 vote of six in the affirmative, zero in the negative,

25 and no abstentions, the item has been adopted.

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2 CHAIRPERSON NURSE: Hanif, are you on?

3 Council Member Hanif? Oh, okay. Sorry. Thanks.

4 All right. Thank you so much. We now  
5 close the Committee hearing. Thank you. [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 August 31, 2025