

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS, STATE
AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL
OPERATIONS, STATE AND FEDERAL
LEGISLATION

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March 12, 2025
Start: 11:12 a.m.
Recess: 11:20 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Lincoln Restler, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gale A. Brewer
David M. Carr
James F. Gennaro
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Shahana Hanif
Lynn C. Schulman
Inna Vernikov

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS, STATE AND
FEDERAL LEGISLATION

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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a mic check for
the Committee on Governmental Operations, State and
Federal Legislation in the Chambers on March 12,
2025, by Pat Kurzyna. Check, check.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, good
morning. Welcome to the New York City Council vote on
the Committee on Governmental Operations, State and
Federal Legislation.

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

Thank you for your cooperation.

Chair, you may begin.

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Good morning.

[GAVEL] My name is Lincoln Restler, and I have the
privilege of Chairing the Committee on Governmental
Operations, State and Federal Legislation. I would
like to start by thanking my Colleagues who have
joined us for today's vote, including Council Member
Gale Brewer, Council Member Lynn Schulman, Council
Member David Carr of Brooklyn and my neighbor,
Council Member Shahana Hanif, and Council Member
Jennifer Gutiérrez is online, and Council Member Jim

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2 Gennaro is online. Thank you both for being with us
3 this morning.

4 Today, we'll be voting on Resolution 740
5 and Intro 564-A, sponsored by Council Member Gale
6 Brewer.

7 I'll first speak to Resolution 740, which
8 I'm the lead sponsor on. This is a resolution that
9 calls on the state to pass legislation sponsored by
10 the great State Senator Liz Krueger and
11 Assemblymember Tony Simone, and eliminates the power
12 of Mayors to block Charter revision proposals from
13 local legislatures and from voters. Currently, the
14 Mayor can block any Council or voter proposal that
15 could reach the ballot by hastily convening his own
16 Charter Commission, which Mayor Adams has now done
17 not once, but twice. He first blocked the Speaker's
18 Advice and Consent legislation, and now is blocking
19 the Speaker's Charter Commission. Under the proposed
20 legislation, all proposals would move forward to the
21 ballot for a vote, leave it up to the voters. Mayor
22 Adams' repeated politicization of the Charter
23 revision process demonstrates the importance and the
24 urgency of this legislation. It is essential that we
25 restore the balance to the Charter revision process

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2 and allow an avenue for thoughtful, meaningful
3 proposals to reach voters. I greatly appreciate
4 Speaker Adrienne Adams' leadership in pushing for
5 this legislation and making it a top priority for the
6 Council in Albany this year, and for her dedication
7 to ensuring there's an opportunity for meaningful
8 proposals to reach the voters. I'd also like to thank
9 the 20-plus Colleagues who signed on as co-sponsors
10 of this legislation, including Council Members on the
11 Committee, Jim Gennaro, Gale Brewer, and Shahana
12 Hanif. I just want to say that over many
13 administrations, as far back as I can count, mayors
14 have used this power of creating a Charter revision
15 commission to block good proposals from reaching
16 voters. This isn't just an Eric Adams problem. This
17 is a good governance problem, and this proposal that
18 really has been spearheaded originally by Dick
19 Gottfried way back when, and now by Tony Simone and
20 Liz Krueger in Albany, and by our Speaker here at
21 City Hall, is a smart way for us to ensure that good
22 ideas can reach voters and that we can make
23 meaningful changes to our Charter as needed.

24 Intro. 564-A, sponsored by Council Member
25 Gale Brewer, would require the Department of Records

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2 to create a public database of social media posts
3 from official government accounts. DORIS has
4 incredible archives of our city's history, and it is
5 essential that we ensure that it continues moving
6 forward and into the 21st century. Records that omit
7 social media accounts are inherently incomplete. I
8 really appreciate Council Member Brewer's commitment
9 to DORIS always. Over many decades, she has been the
10 leading champion for DORIS and smartly worked to
11 preserve municipal records, and social media accounts
12 are the latest area where she is having a lasting
13 impact.

14 With that, I will turn it over to Council
15 Member Brewer.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very
17 much, Chair Restler, and yes, as you suggested, 564
18 is really about social media posts because they are
19 now official government records. 564 requires DORIS,
20 which is both records and the Municipal Library, to
21 maintain a publicly accessible and searchable online
22 database of the social media posts and websites of
23 government officials and requires city agencies and
24 officials to provide DORIS with a list of each social
25 media account in use. I do want to thank Pauline

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2 Toole, who is a Commissioner and a great Commissioner
3 at that, and the reason I'm so supportive of this is
4 I believe in archives. When I was in the City Council
5 previously, to the credit of Mayor Bloomberg, he was
6 trying to save money, so he was going to incorporate
7 DORIS into DCAS. I was then Chair of Government
8 Operations. I had a fit, and then when de Blasio came
9 in, to his credit, he undid any operational merger,
10 so today we have a separate agency, and I learned as
11 a result, having met with literally every archivist
12 in the city, if not the State of New York, in trying
13 to keep the two agencies separate, the importance of
14 our archives, and I just want to shout out to all the
15 people in the past, and I know who they are, who have
16 not given their papers to DORIS. This would also add
17 the social media accounts. Thank you very much.

18 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Council Member

19 Brewer, while you're on the record, is there anyone
20 who you'd like to call out by name?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: No, but I could
22 give it to you offline. Thank you very much.

23 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Thank you. I
24 appreciate it, and thank you for this great bill, and
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2 thank you for your kind words about Commissioner
3 Pauline Toole. She is a treasure.

4 With that, I'd like to thank Erica Cohen
5 and Jayasri Ganapathy for their hard work on this,
6 and my Chief-of-Staff, Molly Haley, who does a
7 phenomenal job.

8 With that, I'll now ask the Clerk to call
9 the roll.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
11 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
12 vote Committee on Governmental Operations, State and
13 Federal Legislation on Proposed Introduction 564-A
14 and Resolution 740. Items are coupled. Chair Restler.

15 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Aye on all.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Gennaro.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
19 you. Brewer.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:
22 Gutiérrez.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
25 you. Hanif.

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COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Schulman.

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Carr.

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Permission to
explain my vote?

CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Thank you, Chair. I
just want to say a few words about the resolution
with respect to the Charter Revision Commission. You
know, primarily, I see the revision of the Charter as
a legislative matter, and so, to me, it's quite
appropriate that the Council should always retain the
ability to put referenda on the ballot for Charter
revisions, regardless of whether there is a
contemporaneous Charter Revision Commission that is
ongoing. And this isn't about whether I support or
oppose the particular ballot measures that we've
attempted to put on the ballot in the last couple of
years. It's really just a matter of process. And to
me, there is a sufficient check on this Council in
the form of the Mayoral veto, which is maintained,
even if this revision were to take effect. And so,
you know, in my opinion, that this is simply giving

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2 to the legislative body a more balanced fighting
3 posture when it comes to the revision of the Charter,
4 which, again, I see as a fundamentally legislative
5 process so it's not any comment on any particular
6 matter that's before the voters, or could be, but I
7 do think that it's appropriate for the Council to
8 always maintain the prerogative, either with the
9 consent of the Mayor or through an override of a
10 Mayoral veto to put a measure on the ballot before
11 the public, and ultimately, it's they that get to
12 decide whether the Charter gets revised. So, with
13 that being said, I vote aye on all.

14 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Thank you, Council
15 Member Carr. I'd like to associate myself with those
16 thoughtful remarks.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Vernikov.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Paladino.

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

23 CHAIRPERSON RESTLER: Great. Are we
24 waiting for Vicki? Then we're going to adjourn. Thank
25 you so much. [GAVEL]

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TRANSCRIBER'S NOTE: Vote Correction:

Eight affirmative, zero negative, and zero
abstentions.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, STATE AND FEDERAL
LEGISLATION

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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 March 29, 2025