

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

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December 4, 2025

Start: 11:10 a.m.

Recess: 11:14 a.m.

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

B E F O R E: Diana Ayala, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alexa Avilés  
Chris Banks  
Tiffany Cabán  
Chi A. Ossé  
Lincoln Restler  
Kevin C. Riley  
Althea V. Stevens  
Sandra Ung

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. This is a  
3 microphone check for the Committee on General  
4 Welfare. Today's date is December 4th, 2025, located  
5 in the Hearing Room 2, recording done by Pedro Lugo.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. Welcome  
7 to today's New York City Council vote on the  
8 Committee of General Welfare.

9 At this time, please silence all  
10 electronic devices.

11 Chair, you may begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: [GAVEL] Good morning,  
13 everyone, and welcome to today's hearing. My name is  
14 Diana Ayala, and I am the Deputy Speaker of the New  
15 York City Council and the Chair of the General  
16 Welfare Committee.

17 Today, our Committee will be voting to  
18 override the Mayor's Veto of Introduction Number  
19 1372, which I have sponsored. We will also consider  
20 whether to recommend that veto message M0194-2025 be  
21 filed. We heard this bill in October of this year.  
22 The bill passed in our Committee with a unanimous  
23 vote on October 9th, and the full Council voted to  
24 pass the bill later that month with a clear veto-  
25 proof majority. The goal of Intro. 1372 is to prevent

the Department of Social Services from requiring participants in the CityFHEPS program, starting in the sixth year, to contribute 40 percent of their income to rent, up from a previous 30 percent. Given this Mayor's history, I was not surprised by this decision to veto a bill intended to ensure that lower-income workers were not put in a position where they would be seriously rent-burdened. We are experiencing record levels of housing insecurity in the City, on top of growing income inequality and people being priced out due to affordability. Instead of standing on the side of vulnerable New Yorkers who are just trying to get by, Mayor Adams is using his final weeks in office to further demonstrate his utter incompetence and total disregard for policies that would benefit the people that he represents. This Council recognizes that we are in a homelessness and housing crisis. As I said the last time, the Mayor vetoed bills that would improve the CityFHEPS programs, this crisis is only going to get worse if we do not do something about it. This is one of the single biggest challenges New York City has had to grapple with in recent years. Rents are through the roof and evictions are on the rise. To say the least,

the Mayor's veto is short-sighted and inhumane. We need to think in the long term about solutions to help New Yorkers exit and avoid homelessness. This is one of the ways that we are going to meaningfully shift to the City's homelessness and housing crisis.

There were many people who played a pivotal role in helping us to see this legislation to the finish line and will continue to advocate as the Mayor pushes his opposition. Today, I want to thank all of the advocates and impacted individuals who informed and helped us shape this legislation.

At this time, I'd like to acknowledge my Colleagues who are here today. Council Members Riley, Cabán who's joining us remote, Avilés, Ossé, Restler, Stevens, and Banks.

I would also like to thank the Committee Staff who worked to prepare this hearing and veto override. Aminta Kilawan, Senior Legislative Counsel; Penina Rosenberg, Senior Policy Analyst; Justin Campos, Policy Analyst; Elisabeth Childers-Garcia, Finance Analyst; Phariha Rahman, Finance Analyst; and Julia Haramis, Unit Head. And finally, my Staff, Elsie Encarnacion, Chief-of-Staff.

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2 I would now like to turn it over to the

3 Clerk to do the roll call for this vote.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good

5 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll Call

6 vote Committee on General Welfare. Items are coupled.

7 Chair Ayala.

8 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Riley.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Cabán.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: I vote aye. Thank

13 you.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

15 you.

16 Avilés.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ossé.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ung.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Banks.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a  
5 vote of nine in the affirmative, zero in the  
6 negative, and no abstentions, both items have been  
7 approved by the Committee as described by the Chair.

8 Madam Chair, that is a full Committee.

9 CHAIRPERSON AYALA: Thank you.

10 And with that, this vote is closed.

11 [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