

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022

START: 3:31 P. M.

RECESS: 3:37 P. M.

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 1)

B E F O R E: ROBERT F. HOLDEN, CHAIR

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

JOANN ARIOLA
SANDY NURSE
VICKIE PALADINO
KRISTIN RICHARDSON JORDAN

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

ERIC DINOWITZ

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS
A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)
[N/A]

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2 SERGEANT SADOWSKY: [NO AUDIO] [INAUDIBLE
3 00:00:01] recordings.

4 SERGEANT BIONDO: Cloud to pc underway.

5 SERGEANT SADOWSKY: Recording to cloud all set.

6 And, good afternoon, and welcome to today's
7 remote New York City Council vote of the Committee on
8 Veterans.

9 At this time, would all council members and staff
10 please turn on their video?

11 To minimize disruptions, please place all
12 electronic devices to vibrate or silent mode.

13 Thank you for your cooperation, we are ready to
14 begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: [GAVELING IN] [GAVEL SOUND]

16 Good afternoon, I am Council Member Holden, and I
17 am Chair of this City Council's Committee on
18 Veterans. And, welcome to this afternoon's hearing.

19 Today, the Veterans Committee will vote on
20 Resolution 0021-2022, sponsored by Council Member
21 Dinowitz, which would reaffirm New York City's status
22 as the Purple Heart City; a call on State Legislature
23 to pass, and the Governor to sign, legislation
24 designating the State of New York a Purple Heart
25 State.

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2 Purple Heart decoration is the oldest and among
3 the most venerated military decorations in present
4 day use.

5 The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the
6 President of the United States to those wounded or
7 killed in combat by enemy action or posthumously to
8 the next of kin.

9 There are currently 42 municipalities; 12
10 counties; six colleges and universities, six Purple
11 Heart trail routes, and six other locations that
12 already have the Purple Heart designation within the
13 state.

14 In 2015, the New York City Council issued a
15 proclamation declaring New York City a Purple Heart
16 City. By adopting the Purple Heart designation
17 statewide, New York State can take another critical
18 step in recognizing the heroic sacrifices our
19 nation's service members have made to protect our
20 great country.

21 The committee will also be voting on Resolution
22 0041-2022, sponsored by the Public Advocate, Jumaane
23 Williams, calling on Congress to pass, and the
24 President to sign, legislation that allows service
25 members, veterans and eligible surviving spouses to

1
2 use the United States Department of Veteran Affairs
3 home loans to purchase cooperative apartments. This
4 is a very important feature.

5 The VA Loan Program administered by the United
6 States Department of Veterans Affairs allows service
7 members and veterans to mortgage a home with little
8 to no down payment, no private mortgage insurance,
9 and limited closing costs.

10 The program also offers competitive interest
11 rates and flexible re-payment plans. However,
12 despite these benefits, the VA loan cannot be used to
13 purchase cooperative residential housing -- units
14 commonly referred to as co-ops.

15 If the veterans are excluded from co-ops,
16 purchasing a home in New York City may not be a
17 realistic option for many, because co-ops often
18 account for a sizable share of the available housing
19 stock in New York City. So, extending the VA loan
20 benefits to the purchasers of resident co-op units,
21 would be a boon to the City's service members and
22 veterans.

23 So, thank you very much, uh, to the advocates,
24 and impacted individuals who brought attention to
25 these issues and helped shape these resolutions.

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2 And, I want to thank the Veterans Committee staff
3 for their work on these two pieces of legislation,
4 uh, especially Committee Counsel, uh, Bianca Vitale;
5 Committee Counsel, Nicholas Connell; and Policy
6 Analyst, Elizabeth Arzt.

7 At this time, I would like to turn it over to my
8 colleague, Council Member Dinowitz, to make a
9 statement on his Resolution 0021-2022.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: I simply want to thank
11 you, Chair, for bringing this to a vote, and of
12 course, to Bianca Vitale and Elizabeth Arzt for their
13 help in crafting this resolution. I think this
14 resolution will help ensure that our service members,
15 those who receive the Purple Heart for making their
16 sacrifice, that they get the recognition that they
17 deserve.

18 And, as we move forward, in our city, in our
19 state, in our country, ensuring that those veterans,
20 those service members who volunteer to potentially
21 lay down their lives, or who do lay down their lives,
22 are recognized in the way that they deserve to be
23 recognized.

24 So, I want to thank you again, Chair, and the
25 committee staff for moving this forward, thank you.

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2 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Thank you, Council Member
3 Dinowitz, for this great resolution, and I will turn
4 it back to our... over to the Clerk, William Martin,
5 to call the roll.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, sir. William Martin,
7 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on
8 Veterans; Resolutions 21 and 41; items are coupled.

9 Chair Holden?

10 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Aye on all.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

12 Nurse?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Aye on all.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

15 Richardson Jordon?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Aye on all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

18 Ariola?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye on all.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

21 Paladino?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye on all.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

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2 By a vote of 5 in the affirmative, 0 in the
3 negative, and no abstentions, both resolutions have
4 been adopted by the committee.

5 Mr. Chair, that is a full committee; you can
6 close at your convenience.

7 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Thank you, uh, Mr. Martin,
8 and I'll officially close this hearing, thank you,
9 everyone for attending.

10 [GAVELING OUT] [GAVEL SOUND]

11 UNKNOWN: Thank you.

12 UNKNOWN: Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Thank you, glad you made it.
14 Thanks.

15 UNKNOWN: Be well.

16 CHAIRPERSON HOLDEN: Bye.

17 UNKNOWN: Take care.

18 UNKNOWN: Bye.
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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 July 5, 2022