

1 COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND  
INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS

1

2 CITY COUNCIL  
3 CITY OF NEW YORK

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5 TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

6 Of the

7 COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS,  
8 LIBRARIES AND INTERNATIONAL  
INTERGROUP RELATIONS

9 ----- X

10 March 16, 2023

Start: 9:56 a.m.

11 Recess: 10:00 a.m.

12 HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY  
HALL

13 B E F O R E:  
14 Chi A. Ossé, Chairperson

15 COUNCIL MEMBERS:

16 Eric Dinowitz  
17 Amanda Fariás  
18 Shahana K. Hanif  
Crystal Hudson  
19 Rita C. Joseph  
20 Farah N. Louis  
21 Sandra Ung  
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1 COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND  
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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and  
3 welcome to today's City Council hearing on the  
4 Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and  
5 International Intergroup Relations.

6 At this time, please silence your  
7 cellphones.

8 Chair, we are ready to begin.

9 CHAIRPERSON OSSE: [GAVEL] Good morning.  
10 I'm New York City Council Member Chi Osse. My  
11 pronouns are he/him/his. I'm Chair of the Committee  
12 on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International  
13 Intergroup Relations.

14 Today, the Committee will vote on one  
15 piece of legislation, Resolution 515, co-sponsored by  
16 Council Members Nantasha Williams, Amanda Farias,  
17 Shekar Krishnan, and Shahana Hanif, a resolution  
18 recognizing the month of Ramadan annually in the City  
19 of New York and celebrating the significant role of  
20 Muslims in the multicultural fabric of New York City  
21 communities.

22 New York City is home to thousands of  
23 Muslims who later this month will be observing  
24 Ramadan, a holy month for Muslims dedicated to  
25 spiritual reflection and community. As Chair of this

1  
2 Committee, I'm excited to bring this Resolution to a  
3 vote today. Muslim New Yorkers make up a huge part of  
4 the cultural identity that is New York City and play  
5 a significant role in shaping the vibrant diversity  
6 that makes this City great.

7 I want to recognize and thank the  
8 Resolution's four sponsors, Council Members Williams,  
9 Farias, Hanif, and Krishnan.

10 Finally, I would like to thank my Staff  
11 as well as the Committee Staff and others who worked  
12 on preparing this legislation today including Naomi  
13 Hopkins, my Chief-of-Staff, May Vutrapongvatana, my  
14 Budget and Policy Director, Brenda McKinney, Senior  
15 Counsel to the Committee, Regina Paul, Legislative  
16 Policy Analyst to the Committee who also drafted this  
17 Resolution, and Sandra Gray, our Senior Financial  
18 Analyst.

19 I think we are now ready for the vote.  
20 Billy, please take it away.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good  
22 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call  
23 vote Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and  
24 International Intergroup Relations Resolution 515.  
25 Chair Osse.

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CHAIRPERSON OSSE: I vote aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Moya.

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Louis.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Dinowitz.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Farias.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FARIAS: Permission to

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explain my vote. Reso 515 has been long anticipated

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by our Muslim community citywide. Today, Reso 515 is

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being voted on, and this would recognize the month of

13

Ramadan annually in the City of New York and

14

celebrate the significant contributions of our Muslim

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communities throughout New York City. 9 percent of

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our city's population is Muslim, and New York City

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represents 22 percent of all Muslims living in the

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United States. Ramadan is the most sacred month in

19

Islamic culture, and New York City needs to respect

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that with a formal recognition of this holiday. This

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Resolution is long overdue, and I'm proud and happy

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to have worked with my Colleagues, Council Members

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Williams, Krishnan, and Hanif to make sure this year

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we finally vote it in to our City Charter. With that,

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I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
you. Hanif.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Permission to  
explain my vote.

Thank you. First, I just want to extend  
my gratitude to Chair Osse for hearing this  
Resolution and for the diverse swath of Colleagues  
who support this legislation. We are such a diverse  
community, and it is not surprise that it is in this  
Council Body that we are moving forward to  
acknowledge the sacred month of Ramadan. I'll be  
sharing more reflections during Stated, but I am just  
so proud of this inclusive, progressive City Council  
that acknowledges the contributions of all Muslims  
and recognizes the spiritual month coming up for us,  
and Ramadan Mubarak to all our Muslim New Yorkers.  
Thank you. I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
you. Hudson.

COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye and Ramadan  
Mubarak.

COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Joseph.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye and also Eid  
Mubarak.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ung.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote  
5 of eight in the affirmative, zero in the negative,  
6 and no abstentions, item has been adopted by the  
7 Committee.

8 CHAIRPERSON OSSE: Fabulous. Have a great  
9 day everyone. [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 March 27, 2023