

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

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May 25, 2023  
Start: 11:22 a.m.  
Recess: 11:27 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Jennifer Gutierrez, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shaun Abreu  
Robert F. Holden  
Vickie Paladino  
Julie Won

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone  
3 check for the Committee on Technology. Today's date  
4 is May 25, 2023. Located in Council Chambers.  
5 Recorded by Steve Sadowsky.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and  
7 welcome to the Committee on Technology.

8 At this time, we ask if you could place  
9 phones on vibrate or silent mode. Thank you.

10 Chair, we are ready to begin.

11 CHAIRPERSON GUTIERREZ: [GAVEL] All right,  
12 good morning. Thank you all. I'm Council Member  
13 Jennifer Gutierrez, and I'm the Chair of the  
14 Committee on Technology.

15 I would like to thank my Colleagues from  
16 the Committee on Technology for joining today,  
17 Council Member Vickie Paladino, Council Member Shaun  
18 Abreu, Council Member Julie Won, and Council Member  
19 Bob Holden who is joining us through Zoom.

20 Today, we'll be voting on two bills aimed  
21 at closing the digital divide in our city. These two  
22 bills are targeted important programs that will help  
23 our seniors navigate the increasingly online world we  
24 live in and use the resources of the City, in this  
25 case the surplus computers and computer equipment, to

2 support organizations who train, teach, and otherwise  
3 help New Yorkers in need. These bills represent  
4 straightforward and effective ways to make our City  
5 more technologically knowledgeable and, by doing so,  
6 making our City more equitable.

7 Proposed Intro. 664A which I sponsored  
8 would require DCAS to implement a process to donate  
9 unneeded and unused computers and equipment to public  
10 schools, libraries, other secular educational  
11 programs, and not-for-profit institutions serving  
12 persons with disabilities, senior citizens, or low-  
13 income individuals. The donation recipient must  
14 provide the Department with a specific plan for the  
15 beneficial use of such equipment and software with  
16 public schools and libraries receiving first priority  
17 for any donation. The bill also requires an annual  
18 report to the Mayor and the Speaker of the City  
19 Council on the donations made in the last year. This  
20 Local Law would take effect 120 days after it becomes  
21 law.

22 Proposed Intro. 665A which I also  
23 sponsored would require the Department for the Aging,  
24 or DFTA, in collaboration with the Department of  
25 Information Technology and Telecommunications along

2 with any relevant stakeholders to establish and  
3 implement an online digital literacy program to serve  
4 older adults by December 31, 2024. The program would  
5 be offered at no cost and would include information  
6 on various topics including navigating telehealth  
7 services, social media platforms, and government  
8 benefit websites. It would also focus on identifying  
9 and avoiding online scams. The program would be  
10 offered in one senior center or library in each  
11 Community District in the city in the appropriate  
12 prevalent spoken languages.

13 I'm excited to move these bills forward  
14 after hearing from advocates and New Yorkers about  
15 the impact they would have. The City, through donated  
16 computers, can help schools, libraries, and non-  
17 profits, both big and small, to further their mission  
18 to help New Yorkers and will prevent these computers  
19 and other equipment from going to landfills.

20 In regards to 665A, testimony in support  
21 of a digital literacy program for seniors showed just  
22 how much our seniors are in need of continued digital  
23 skill building. These skills will mean that seniors  
24 stay connected to their friends, families, and  
25

2 communities to have the full and dignified life they  
3 deserve.

4 I would like to thank my staff, both Anya  
5 Lehr and Anna Bessendorf, and the Staff, Charles and  
6 Irene and Connor, for the Committee on Technology for  
7 their work on these bills.

8 With that, I will now turn it over to the  
9 Clerk to roll call.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:  
11 Greetings. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call  
12 vote Committee on Technology. Items are coupled.  
13 Chair Gutierrez.

14 CHAIRPERSON GUTIERREZ: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Holden.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
18 you. Abreu.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Congrats, Chair, on  
20 these bills. I vote aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Won.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Kagan.  
24 Paladino.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye, and I would  
3 like also to congratulate our Chairwoman on these  
4 bills. Thank you very much.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote  
6 of five in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and  
7 no abstentions, both items have been adopted by the  
8 Committee.

9 CHAIRPERSON GUTIERREZ: 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 May 31, 2023