

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND
INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS 1
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS,
LIBRARIES AND INTERNATIONAL
INTERGROUP RELATIONS

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June 22, 2023
Start: 9:50 a.m.
Recess: 9:54 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY
HALL

B E F O R E:
Chi A. Ossé, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Amanda Farías
Crystal Hudson
Rita C. Joseph
Farrah N. Louis
Francisco P. Moya
Sandra Ung

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Charles Barron
Nantasha N. Williams

1 COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND
INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Microphone check. This
3 is a prerecorded sound check on Committee on Cultural
4 Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup
5 Relations. Today's date is June 22, 2023, recorded
6 by Walter Lewis in the Chambers.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
8 welcome to today's New York City Council hearing for
9 the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and
10 International Intergroup Relations.

11 We ask that you silence cell phones and
12 electronic devices to minimize disruptions throughout
13 the hearing. We thank you for your cooperation.

14 Chair, we are ready to begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON OSSÉ: [GAVEL] Good morning.
16 I'm Council Member Chi Ossé, Chair of the Committee
17 on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International
18 Intergroup Relations. My pronouns are he/him/his.

19 Today, the Committee will vote on five
20 pieces of legislation.

21 Resolution 199, a resolution declaring
22 June Caribbean Heritage Month.

23 Proposed Resolution 285-A which is a
24 resolution calling upon the United States Congress
25 and President to end the Cuban embargo and Cuban

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2 travel ban and to remove Cuba from the State Sponsors
3 of Terrorism List due to the unjust harm it causes to
4 the Cuban people.

5 Resolution 623, a resolution designating
6 May 21st annually as Christopher "Biggie Smalls"
7 Wallace Day in the City of New York and recognizing
8 his contributions to the cultural landscape of his
9 home borough of Brooklyn and to hip-hop worldwide.

10 Resolution 624, a resolution designating
11 July 8th annually as Reggie "Combat Jack" Osse Day in
12 the City of New York and honoring his multifaceted
13 contributions to the hip hop industry as a lawyer,
14 executive, editor, and podcaster.

15 Proposed Resolution 645A, a resolution
16 designating June as Fatherhood Recognition Month
17 annually in the City of New York to honor and support
18 the contributions of fathers to family and community
19 life.

20 First, I am pleased to say a word in
21 favor of the two resolutions that I have sponsored to
22 celebrate the lives of two leaders in the world of
23 hip hop. Biggie, arguably the greatest rapper of all
24 time, and my father, Reggie, a multihyphenate in the
25 hip hop industry who also happened to be the greatest

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2 father of all time. I'm happy that some of my
3 father's friends are, not here this morning but they
4 will be here later for Stated.

5 Now, I would like to recognize and thank
6 the other resolution sponsors, Council Member Hudson,
7 Riley, and Barron, and want to invite Council Member
8 Barron who is present to offer remarks on his
9 legislation. Council Member Barron.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you very
11 much. I want to thank you, Chair, for working with
12 our office to see to it that this resolution comes
13 forth, and also I have to thank the Speaker as well
14 for when we sat with her, she also was very
15 supportive.

16 Cuba has always been a shining point in
17 our movement. I happened to visit Cuba myself on a
18 couple of occasions, but on one occasion I visited
19 their superior medical institution and medical school
20 and, to my surprise, when I spoke to the students,
21 two students were from East New York getting their
22 full tuition paid, and Cuba historically has helped
23 Africa and its liberation, provided technical
24 assistance to medical assistance to states, countries
25 all over the world in Latin America, in Africa, and

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2 in struggling countries around the world so Cuba now
3 should be taken off the terrorist list and
4 normalizing of relationship should occur, and they
5 definitely should be, knock the sanctions because
6 sanctions don't hurt the leaders that you're afraid
7 of. It hurts the people of Cuba, and it hurts people
8 all over the world when Cuba can't function.

9 I thank you once again.

10 CHAIRPERSON OSSÉ: Thank you, Council
11 Member Barron, and thank you for your work on this
12 critical resolution.

13 Finally, I would like to thank all Staff
14 who worked on preparing this legislation, and I think
15 we are now ready for the vote. Billy, please take it
16 away.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
18 you. Good morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk.
19 Roll call vote Committee on Cultural Affairs,
20 Libraries and International Intergroup Relations.
21 All items are coupled. Chair Ossé.

22 CHAIRPERSON OSSÉ: I vote aye on all.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Moya.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.
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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
3 you. Louis.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Farías.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hudson.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye on all.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Joseph.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye on all.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ung.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote
14 of seven in the affirmative, zero in the negative,
15 and no abstentions, all items have been adopted by
16 the Committee. It's up to you if you want to leave
17 it open.

18 CHAIRPERSON OSSÉ: All right. Without
19 further ado, this hearing is adjourned. [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 June 26, 2023