

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR

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July 13, 2023

Start: 9:40 a.m.

Recess: 9:44 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Carmen N. De La Rosa, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Erik D. Bottcher

Tiffany Caban

Eric Dinowitz

Rita C. Joseph

Julie Menin

Francisco P. Moya

Sandy Nurse

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a sound check
3 for the Committee on Civil Service and Labor. Today's
4 date is July 13, 2023, being recorded by Danny Huong
5 (phonetic) in the Committee Room.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
7 welcome to today's Committee on Civil Service and
8 Labor.

9 Place all electronic devices to vibrate
10 or silent mode. Thank you for your cooperation.

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: [GAVEL] Good
13 morning and welcome to today's vote of the Civil
14 Service and Labor Committee.

15 I am Council Member Carmen De La Rosa,
16 Chair of the Committee, and today we are voting on
17 the following bill, Intro. 645-B sponsored by Speaker
18 Adams in relation to civil service examinations for
19 justice-involved individuals.

20 Re-entry into the workforce after release
21 from jail is crucial to the stability of formerly
22 incarcerated people, their families, and society at
23 large. Research shows that steady employment and
24 reliable income reduces recidivism, thereby
25 increasing public safety. The New York City Council

2 Civil Service Exam system is an entryway into the
3 municipal workforce. Civil service employment offers
4 job security, health, and labor benefits, and long-
5 term promotional career opportunities. In order to
6 qualify for over 80 percent of City Government
7 positions, applicants must pass the exam, which
8 covers a wide range of disciplines such as landscape
9 architects, electricians, sanitation workers. The
10 exam system is intended to ensure fairness and equal
11 opportunity to produce a municipal workforce that
12 reflects the diversity of the City.

13 Intro. 645-B requires DOC and DCAS to
14 facilitate the opportunity to join the civil service
15 by offering exams and exam preparation to those in
16 DOC custody as well as those who have been released
17 within the past year. The bill requires the
18 Commissioners of both agencies to administer the
19 civil service examinations for individuals
20 incarcerated for a period of 10 days or longer in
21 borough-based jails.

22 Additionally, the bill requires DOC to
23 collaborate with DCAS to provide exams, preparation
24 to incarcerated individuals including guided
25

2 instruction, study materials, practice tests, and
3 civil service employment application counseling.

4 This bill would also authorize DCAS to
5 waive the civil service exam fee for eligible
6 populations.

7 Lastly, this bill requires DCAS to issue
8 an annual report on the number of individuals who
9 participated in City-provided exams, preparation, or
10 programming.

11 This legislation has the potential to
12 make civil service more inclusive of justice-involved
13 individuals and help formerly incarcerated
14 individuals secure well-paying jobs that can lead to
15 long-term careers.

16 I believe employment is the cornerstone
17 of stable re-entry and facilitating civil service
18 exam administration sets the foundation for success.

19 I'd like to thank our Committee Staff for
20 their hard work in preparing for this vote, Policy
21 Analysts Elizabeth Arzt and Rie Ogasawara as well as
22 my Staff, Chief-of-Staff James Burke, Legislative
23 Director Kiana Diaz, and Comms Director Fray Familia.

24 I will now turn it over to the Clerk to
25 call the roll.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
3 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
4 vote Committee on Civil Service and Labor, Proposed
5 Introduction 645-B. Chair De La Rosa.

6 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Moya.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
10 you. Dinowitz.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Feliz.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: (NO RESPONSE)

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Bottcher.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Caban.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CABAN: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanks.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: (NO RESPONSE)

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Joseph.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Menin.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

25 you. Nurse.

1 COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Aye.

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

7 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you. This
8 concludes the Committee's work today. Thank you.

9 [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 July 14, 2023