

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH AND
SUBSTANCE USE ***VOTE**

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Thursday, May 14, 2026
Start: 10:37 A.M.
Recess: 10:40 A.M.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - 8th Floor
Hearing Room 2

B E F O R E: Hon. Tiffany L. Cabán, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shirley Aldebol
Joann Ariola
Simcha Felder
Ty Hankerson
Linda Lee
Althea V. Stevens

COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE

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2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: This is sound check on
3 Committee on Mental Health and Substance Use. Today's
4 date is May 14th, 2026. We are on HR-2, and this was
5 recorded by Roman Petrov.

6 (PAUSE)

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Okay. Good morning,
8 ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the New York City
9 Council vote for the Committee on Mental Health and
10 Substance Use.

11 At this time, I'd like to remind everyone
12 to please silence all devices, and at no point during
13 the vote may you approach the dais.

14 Chair, we are ready to begin.

15 CHAIRPERSON CABÁN: Thank you. [GAVEL]
16 Good morning, everyone. My name is Council Member
17 Tiffany Cabán. I am the chair of the New York City
18 Council's Committee on Mental Health and Substance
19 Use.

20 I'd like to recognize Council Members
21 Aldebol, Hankerson, and Felder who have joined us
here today. We have on Zoom, uh, Council Member Lee
and Council Member Ariola.

Today the Committee is going to consider
proposed introduction number 741-A, sponsored by

2 Council Member Linda Lee and me, in relation to the
3 establishment of a Department of Health and Mental
4 Hygiene task force on New York City 988 and a public
5 education campaign and reporting on NYC 988.

6 NYC 988 is a lifeline staffed by trained
7 mental health professionals available in multiple
8 languages. It's confidential, it's free, and when
9 someone is in crisis, a call to 988 can mean the
10 difference between getting care and getting a knock
11 at the door from someone who provides the opposite.

12 However, a lifeline that no one knows
13 about saves no one, and right now too many New
14 Yorkers have never heard of it. And that's the gap
15 this bill begins to close by requiring DOHMH
16 (Department of Health and Mental Hygiene) to launch a
17 real, robust, multilingual public education campaign
18 on 988. We are making a commitment that those who
19 have been failed by our mental health system and most
20 harmed by over policing will finally know that this
21 option exists.

22 New Yorkers deserve to know that 988 is
23 not 911. It will not criminalize their pain. It will
24 pick up the phone and connect them to care. That's
25 not a radical idea. That is the bare minimum of what

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2 a city that is serious about mental health owes to
3 its people.

4 So, Clerk, we are ready to begin the
5 vote-- Oh, wait, Council Member Lee, would you like
6 to make a statement?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: No, just, uh, thank
8 you for your partnership for this bill, Chair, and I
9 am excited to pass it.

10 CHAIRPERSON CABÁN: This is a good one,
11 Council Member. I'm grateful for your leadership
12 here.

13 All right, Clerk, we're ready.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Good morning.
15 William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call vote.
16 Committee on Mental Health and Substance Use.
17 Proposed introduction 741-A.

18 Chair Cabán?

19 CHAIRPERSON CABÁN: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Lee?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: (ABSENT)

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: (ABSENT)

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: (ABSENT)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Felder?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Aldebol?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member

Hankerson?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: (NO RESPONSE)

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye. Can
you hear me?

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Council
Member. Got it.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Sorry about that.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: No worries. Thank you.

14 With a vote of 6 in the affirmative, 0 in
15 the negative, and no abstentions, the item has been
adopted by the Committee.

16 CHAIRPERSON CABÁN: Great. The vote is now
17 closed. [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 no interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date August 15, 2026