

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

***VOTE**

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Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Start: 12:06 P.M.

Recess: 12:10 P.M.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - 8th Floor -
Hearing Room 1

B E F O R E: Hon. Crystal Hudson, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alexa Avilés

Darlene Mealy

Frank Morano

Sandy Nurse

Althea V. Stevens

Sandra Ung

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

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SERGEANT HUANG: Sound check for the Committee on General Welfare. Today's date is May 13th, 2026, being recorded by Danny Huang in Hearing Room 1.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good afternoon, welcome to today's New York City Council vote for the Committee on General Welfare. Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices. Friendly reminder: please do not approach the dais.

Chair, we're ready to begin.

CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Thank you. [GAVEL]
Good afternoon and welcome to today's hearing. I'm Crystal Hudson, General Welfare Committee Chair, and my pronouns are she/her.

Today we are voting on Proposed Introduction Number 139-A by Council Member Tiffany Cabán.

We are additionally joined by Council Member Morano, Council Member Avilés, Council Member Ung, Council Member Nurse, and Council Member Cabán.

Proposed Intro 139-A would require the Department of Social Services to provide confirmation notice electronically via ACCESS HRA to applicants of public assistance regarding their benefits interview.

1 The notice would include a confirmation number, the
2 date, time, and location of the interview, the type
3 of benefit for which the interview was conducted, and
4 any other relevant information. The bill would take
5 effect one year after it becomes law.

6 Council Member Cabán's bill would improve
7 transparency and ensure that HRA clients are
8 empowered with the necessary knowledge to track and
9 follow up on the status of their benefits
10 applications.

11 I'd like to thank the committee staff for
12 their work on this hearing: Aminta Kilawan, Nina
13 Rosenberg, Justin Campos, Phariha Rahman, and
14 Elisabeth Childers-Garcia. I would also like to thank
15 my staff, Andrew Wright, Erika Ruintan, and Demi
16 Brown.

17 I will now pass the mic to Council Member
18 Cabán for remarks on her bill.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you, Chair.
20 This legislation came out of another related bill
21 that I passed last year called the R.E.C.E.I.P.T.S.
Act (Records Ensuring Clarity, Equity, and Integrity
in Public Transactions and Services). That law
required DSS and HRA to provide a detailed

1 confirmation notice or a receipt when people apply or
2 recertify benefits like cash assistance and SNAP, or
3 when they submit documents in support of their
4 application.

5 When we were working on that bill,
6 advocates and constituents alike kept asking if we
7 could do something about another part of the
8 application process, the eligibility interview. And
9 this has always been a confusing part of the process
10 for applicants. In fact, according to a story in City
11 Limits, failure to complete the eligibility interview
12 is by far the biggest reason applications for cash
13 assistance are being rejected. So we worked with
14 advocates to craft this small but really impactful
bill that will help millions of New Yorkers who rely
on cash assistance and food stamps.

15 As was mentioned, the bill's going to
16 require DSS to provide benefits interview
17 confirmation notices, and they'll have to provide
18 these within 72 hours after conducting an eligibility
19 or a recertification interview for cash assistance or
20 SNAP. And the confirmation notice must be provided in
21 writing, and it applies to a range of assistance
types, including emergency grants.

The notice will include a confirmation number for the interview, as well as details like the date, the type of benefit the interview was for, and the applicant's number if it was just a phone interview.

I want to thank Melissa Correa (phonetic), who is my former Constituent Services Director, for bringing to our attention this obstacle that our constituents are facing in accessing assistance. And also thank you to Jonah Birch, my indefatigable legislative director, for his work to bring the small but again important piece of legislation that we're going to be voting on today.

So thank you, Chair.

CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Thank you so much, Council Member.

And now I'd like to turn it over to the Clerk for the roll call for the vote.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Good afternoon. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call vote, Committee on General Welfare, proposed introduction 139-A.

Chair Hudson?

1 COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

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2 CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Aye. And, I just want
3 to say this is a testament to legislating with those
4 who are directly impacted at the center, so thank
5 you, Council Member Cabán.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Proudly vote aye.
8 Thank you, Council Member Cabán.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: (MEDICAL)

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: (ABSENT)

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ung?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Morano?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Aye. And
19 congratulations, Council Member Cabán.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thanks, Frank.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: With a vote of 5 in the
affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions,
the item has been approved by the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON HUDSON: Thank you so much--
thank you so much. We're adjourned. [GAVEL]

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