



Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

7:00 PM

City Hall – City Council Chambers 4th Floor

City Council of Yonkers Stated Meeting

**PRESENT: PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL
LAKISHA COLLINS-BELLAMY**

DISTRICT:

4	MAJORITY LEADER JOHN RUBBO
1	MAJORITY WHIP DEANA R. ROBINSON
5	MINORITY LEADER MICHAEL B. BREEN

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

DISTRICT:

2	CORAZON PINEDA-ISAAC
3	TASHA DIAZ
6	ANTHONY MERANTE

Roll Call

Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a minute of silence to invoke God's guidance and Blessing upon our deliberations.

Minutes of the stated meeting held on March 25, 2025 approved on motion of
Majority Leader Rubbo.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

COMMUNICATIONS - GENERAL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

INDEX

1. RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL URGING THE NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY AND THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE TO PASS LEGISLATION TO CREATE A HOUSING ACCESS VOUCHER PROGRAM, AND FOR GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO SIGN THE LEGISLATION INTO LAW
2. RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO PASS AND THE GOVERNOR TO SIGN S.1896/A.1028, S.3734/A.5402 AND S.4882/A.2877 TO RELIEVE YONKERS RESIDENTS FROM THE BURDEN OF HIGH ENERGY UTILITY RATES
3. RESOLUTION - SETTLEMENT - JOHN OSORIO - CVA CASE - \$375,000.00
4. A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YONKERS TO RECOGNIZE THE WEEK OF APRIL 13 -19, 2025 AS NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK IN THE CITY OF YONKERS

COMMITTEE REPORTS



RESOLUTION

BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT COLLINS-BELLAMY, MAJORITY LEADER RUBBO,
MAJORITY WHIP ROBINSON, MINORITY LEADER BREEN,
COUNCILMEMBERS, PINEDA -ISAAC, DIAZ AND MERANTE:

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL URGING THE NEW YORK STATE
ASSEMBLY AND THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE TO PASS LEGISLATION TO
CREATE A HOUSING ACCESS VOUCHER PROGRAM, AND FOR GOVERNOR
HOCHUL TO SIGN THE LEGISLATION INTO LAW

WHEREAS, homelessness in New York State has grown sharply, according
to a report issued in January, 2025, by New York State Comptroller Thomas P.
DiNapoli; and

WHEREAS, homelessness in the State more than doubled between January
2022 and January 2024, growing by 53.1% from January 2023 to January 2024
alone, more than 4 times the rest of the nation; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Housing and
Urban Development ("HUD"), in 2024 there were more than 158,000 homeless New
Yorkers, or about 1 in 5 of the nation's homeless population; and

WHEREAS, New York State's rate of homelessness, at about 8 per 1,000
people, was higher than all the other states, except Hawaii, and the District of
Columbia; and

WHEREAS, the number of homeless children increased from 20,299 to
50,773 in 2024 and almost 1 in 3 of New York State's homeless are children, one of
the highest shares in the country; and

WHEREAS, while New York City accounted for much of the increase in the
state's homeless population, other parts of the state have experienced double and
triple-digit rate increases; and

WHEREAS, homelessness has also affected the City of Yonkers, where,
according to the New York State Continuum of Care, there were 1,611 homeless
people in Yonkers, Mt. Vernon and Westchester County in 2024, with
homelessness in the region increasing between 2022 and 2024 by 19%, homeless
children under the age of 18 increasing by 17% and homelessness among people
living in families increasing by 22%; and

WHEREAS, according to HUD, homelessness in New York State has,
among other factors, increased because of eviction proceedings, lack of affordable
housing, increased rents, and an influx of asylum seekers; and

WHEREAS, rental assistance can help overcome these dual challenges, by
furnishing the resources necessary to both retain housing (for people to remain in
place) and address homelessness, and by subsidizing existing housing and
providing the ability to pay rent; and

WHEREAS, a bill has been introduced into each of the New York State Assembly and the New York State Senate (A1704 and S72), to establish a housing access voucher program, which would provide the commissioner of the Division of Housing and Community Renewal the authority to (i) implement a program of rental assistance in the form of housing vouchers for eligible individuals and families who face the imminent loss of housing or homelessness and (ii) designate local administrators in the State to administer the program; and

WHEREAS, although lower-income New Yorkers experiencing or at-risk of homelessness already have access to a patchwork of existing rent subsidies, the proposed housing access voucher program would create a stable resource and reach far more people in need, including households working minimum-wage jobs; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a housing access voucher program and the submitted bills are widely supported, including, without limitation, by tenant organizations, renter groups, real estate business groups, landlord interest groups, and other housing and real estate advocates; and

WHEREAS, while the contemplated housing access voucher program would constitute a significant financial investment in housing, housing access voucher programs have historically been among the most successful means to help the homeless into permanent housing, to reduce shelter costs, and to provide a stable resource for persons otherwise at the mercy of the market; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this legislative body hereby supports New York State Assembly Bill A1704 and New York State Senate Bill S72, urges the New York State Assembly and the New York State Senate to pass legislation establishing a housing access voucher program, and for Governor Hochul to sign said legislation into law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council hereby directs the City Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to the Hon. Kathy Hochul (Governor), Hon. Speaker Carl E. Heastie (Speaker), Hon. Assemblywoman Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes (Majority Leader), Hon. Assemblyman William A. Barclay (Minority Leader), Hon. Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins (President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader), and Hon. Senator Robert G. Ort (Minority Leader), for review and consideration.

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL URGING THE NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY AND THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE TO PASS LEGISLATION TO CREATE A HOUSING ACCESS VOUCHER PROGRAM, AND FOR GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO SIGN THE LEGISLATION INTO LAW

BUDGET IMPACT

(Completed by operating department and reviewed by Finance Department or Council Staff)

A) ☐ General Fund ☐ Board of Education ☐ Special Revenue fund or District

B) EXPENSES AND REVENUES

Total Current Year Cost: _____

Total Current Year Revenue: _____

Source of Funds (Check one): ☐ Current Appropriations ☐ Additional

Appropriations ☐ Transfer of Existing Appropriations ☐ Fee/Fine/Tax/Other (Explain) Identify

Accounts: _____

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses: _____ Annual

Amount: \$ _____

Describe: _____

Potential Related Revenues: _____ Annual

Amount: \$ _____

Current Year: _____

Next 5 years: _____

Anticipated Savings: _____ Annual

Amount: \$ _____

Current Year: _____

Next 5 years: _____

C) FISCAL IMPACT

Potential for additional personnel: _____

Prepared By: Hon. Collins-Bellamy

Title: City Council President

Department: City Council

Reviewed By: _____

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

If you need more space, attach additional sheets.

SPONSOR'S MEMORANDUM

SPONSOR: Council President Collins-Bellamy

TITLE OF BILL: RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL URGING THE NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY AND THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE TO PASS LEGISLATION TO CREATE A HOUSING ACCESS VOUCHER PROGRAM, AND FOR GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO SIGN THE LEGISLATION INTO LAW

PURPOSE: To urge the New York State Assembly and the New York State Senate to pass legislation establishing a housing access voucher program, and for Governor Hochul to sign said legislation into law.

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS: To urge the creation of a housing access voucher program, to provide the resources necessary to both retain housing (for people to remain in place) and address homelessness, by subsidizing existing housing and providing the ability to pay rent

JUSTIFICATION: To assist lower-income New Yorkers experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.

IMPACT OF REGULATION ON BUSINESS AND INDIVIDUALS: Positive

CRIMINAL SACTION IMPACT: N/A

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY: N/A

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: Neutral

EFFECTIVE DATE: This resolution shall take effect immediately.



RESOLUTION

BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT COLLINS-BELLAMY, MAJORITY LEADER RUBBO,
MAJORITY WHIP ROBINSON, MINORITY LEADER BREEN,
COUNCILMEMBERS, PINEDA -ISAAC, DIAZ AND MERANTE:

RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO
PASS AND THE GOVERNOR TO SIGN S.1896/A.1028, S.3734/A.5402 AND
S.4882/A.2877 TO RELIEVE YONKERS RESIDENTS FROM THE BURDEN OF
HIGH ENERGY UTILITY RATES

Whereas, among the most significant expenses residents of the City of Yonkers must manage is utility costs, such as electricity, telecommunications, water and gas;

Whereas, more significantly, electricity and gas are undeniably critical essential utilities that Yonkers residents and all New Yorkers use to heat, cool and light their homes in addition to preparing, cooking and preserving their food such that these are basic human necessities that must remain accessible and affordable to everyone;

Whereas, historically, rates for these essential utilities move in one direction: they go up.

Whereas, however, in recent months electricity and gas costs have skyrocketed far outpacing inflation and leaving utility consumers exasperated and regularly trying to decide between keeping the heat on or buying groceries as they are completely uncertain of how they will be able continue to pay for their utility services;

Whereas, it is unfair and inhumane to allow utility company profits to outweigh the basic household needs of Yonkers families;

Whereas, the New York Public Service Commission regulates and oversees utility providers and has enormous power and responsibility over the utility industry including the power to set utility rates;

Whereas , three recently proposed bills now before the New York State Legislature, all sponsored by New York State Senator Shelley Mayer, would protect residents, business owners and all utility consumers from unfair and excessive utility rate increases;

Whereas, the first such measure, S.1896/A.1028, recently passed by the Senate, requires certain utilities to adopt the common equity ratio and rate of return

on equity as authorized by the Public Service Commission in order to establish a more accurate standard upon which regulated utilities may earn a fair and reasonable rate of return for the provision of utility services while prioritizing and protecting the consumers right to have affordability and stability in their utility costs;

Whereas, the second measure, S.3734/A.5402, protects consumers and makes utility costs more affordable and stable by prohibiting the Public Service Commission from approving any rate increase that allows a utility provider to recover, in excess of one hundred thousand dollars, operating expenses associated with its attendance, participation, preparation or appeal of a rate proceeding or employee or executive salaries in excess of the current salary of the New York State Governor;

Whereas, the third measure, S.4882/A.2877, protects consumers by making utility service more reliable and resilient by forcing providers to invest in their personnel and facilities in order to strengthen utility storm response and compliance by giving the Public Service Commission greater flexibility to assess penalties against utility providers for violations of storm response and compliance regulations thereby reducing the frequency and duration of power outages;

Whereas, the foregoing proposed legislation would relieve Yonkers residents, business owners, and all energy utility consumers from utility rate increases;

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved, that this City Council hereby calls on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign the three proposed bills described herein;

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

BUDGET IMPACT

(Completed by operating department and reviewed by Finance Department or Council Staff)

A) General Fund

B) EXPENSES AND REVENUES

Total Current Year Cost: \$0_____

Total Current Year Revenue: \$0_____

Source of Funds (Check one): Current Appropriations; Additional Appropriations Transfer of Existing Appropriations; Fee/Fine/Tax/Other (Explain)

Identify Accounts:_____

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses: Annual Amount:\$ _____ Describe:

Potential Related Revenues: Annual Amount:\$ _____ Current Year:

Next 5 years:

Anticipated Savings: Annual Amount:\$ _____ Current Year:

Next 5 years:

C) FISCAL IMPACT

Potential for additional personnel:_____

Prepared By: Hon. Deanna Robinson

Title: Majority Whip _____

Department: City Council _____

Signature:_____

Reviewed By:_____

Signature: _____

Date:_____

INTRODUCER'S MEMORANDUM

(SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION §C4-6 OF THE CHARTER)

SPONSOR: Majority Whip Deanna Robinson

TITLE OF BILL:

RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO PASS AND THE GOVERNOR TO SIGN S.1896/A.1028, S.3734/A.5402 AND S.4882/A.2877 TO RELIEVE YONKERS RESIDENTS FROM HIGH ENERGY UTILITY RATES

PURPOSE: To help Yonkers residents, business owners, and all energy utility consumers with excessive and unfair energy utility costs in an industry.

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS: A resolution supporting 3 state legislative measures that address utility rate increases and utility providers' compliance with storm response and compliance regulations

JUSTIFICATION: Utility rates continue to increase, necessitating legislation that would bring greater fairness to the Public Service Commission's consideration of utility rate increases as well as power to hold utility providers accountable for violations of storm response and compliance.

IMPACT OF REGULATION ON BUSINESS AND INDIVIDUALS: N/A

CRIMINAL SANCTION IMPACT: N/A

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY: N/A

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: None

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately



RESOLUTION

BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT COLLINS-BELLAMY, MAJORITY LEADER RUBBO,
MAJORITY WHIP ROBINSON, MINORITY LEADER BREEN,
COUNCILMEMBERS, PINEDA -ISAAC, DIAZ AND MERANTE:

RESOLUTION - SETTLEMENT - JOHN OSORIO - CVA CASE - \$375,000.00

RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Yonkers, in meeting assembled:

That the settlement by the Corporation Counsel in the amount of THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS and CENTS (\$375,000.00) of the action entitled, "JOHN OSORIO against THE CITY OF YONKERS, YONKERS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, and PS 10", Defendants", for personal injuries allegedly sustained by the plaintiff as a result of conduct by a school teacher while plaintiff was a student at School 10 in 1978, be and the same hereby is approved and the Comptroller of the City of Yonkers is directed to draw his warrants in amounts not to exceed a cumulative total of THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS and CENTS (\$375,000.00) in favor of "Herman Law Firm PA, 1800 N. Military Trail, Suite 140, Boca Raton, Florida 33431, as attorneys for John Osorio" to be paid on or before June 30, 2025.



RESOLUTION

BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT COLLINS-BELLAMY, MAJORITY LEADER RUBBO,
MAJORITY WHIP ROBINSON, MINORITY LEADER BREEN,
COUNCILMEMBERS, PINEDA-ISAAC, DIAZ AND MERANTE:

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YONKERS TO
RECOGNIZE THE WEEK OF APRIL 13 -19, 2025 AS NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY
TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK IN THE CITY OF YONKERS

WHEREAS, Every year during the second week of April, the telecommunications personnel in the public safety community, are honored. This week-long event, initially recognized in 1981 by the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office in California, as a time to celebrate and thank those who dedicate their lives to serving the public so everyone can be made aware of their hard work and dedication; and

WHEREAS, The Yonkers Police Department continues to recognize National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week and to offer Tips for calling 9-1-1 and accessing emergency services; and

WHEREAS, in Yonkers, these unsung heroes who serve our communities answer and dispatch 911 calls by managing thousands of calls for service annually, making sure Police, Fire, and EMS get to the people who need our help; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Dispatchers are trained in the Enhanced-911 telephone system, the language line translation service, the computer-assisted dispatch system (CAD), and NYSPIN systems. The Enhanced-911 enables Public Safety Dispatchers to know the name, address, and telephone number connected with the telephone dialing a "911" call.

WHEREAS, National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week is a time to thank those who dedicate their lives to serving the public. A week set aside to make everyone aware of their hard work and dedication.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Yonkers City Council pause in its deliberations to recognize the significance of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week as an important time to acknowledge and thank the Emergency Dispatchers who are on the front line of public health safety and welfare by commemorating April 13-19, 2025 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in the City of Yonkers.