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THE COUNCIL
OF

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Yusef Salaam

COUNCIL MEMBER, 9th DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

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COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITINGS,
AND DISPOSITIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES

Summary of Res. 0743-2025: Support for the Earned Time Act (S.342/A.1085) to Expand Early Release Opportunities

Purpose:

This resolution expresses the New York City Council's support for the **Earned Time Act (S.342/A.1085)**, which would expand and strengthen **early release opportunities** for incarcerated individuals through increased access to **good time** and **merit time** credits.

Key Points:

1. *What the Earned Time Act Does:*

- **Expands eligibility** for incarcerated individuals to earn sentence reductions through **good behavior** and participation in **rehabilitative programs**, regardless of the offense committed.
- Requires that **earned credits vest annually**, ensuring incarcerated people retain credits year to year.
- Sets **stricter standards for revoking credits**, offering greater protection and incentive to participate.
- Encourages **correctional facilities** to offer more meaningful **education, substance use treatment, job training, and community service programs**.

2. *Why It Matters:*

- **Rehabilitation-focused:** Emphasizes personal growth, mental health, and hope.
- **Improves public safety:** Reduces recidivism by equipping people with tools and incentives to succeed after release.
- **Economic benefit:** Reduces incarceration costs for taxpayers.
- **Safer prisons:** Promotes better behavior and relationships between staff and incarcerated individuals.
- **Corrects past setbacks:** Rebuilds rehabilitative infrastructure reduced in the 1990s, such as cuts to college-in-prison programs.

Sponsors:

Introduced by Council Member Yusef Salaam and co-sponsored by 14 others.

Legislative Status:

In **committee** as of February 13, 2025; not yet adopted by the full NYC Council.