

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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December 19, 2011
Start: 3:23 p.m.
Recess: 4:35 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
JOEL RIVERA
Majority Leader

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Christine C. Quinn, Speaker
Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Charles Barron
Gale A. Brewer
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret S. Chin
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Elizabeth S. Crowley
Inez E. Dickens
Erik Martin Dilan
Daniel Dromm
Mathieu Eugene
Julissa Ferreras

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Lewis A. Fidler
Helen D. Foster
Daniel R. Garodnick
James f. Gennaro
Vincent J. Gentile
David Greenfield
Daniel J. Halloran III
Vincent M. Ignizio
Robert Jackson
Letitia James
Peter A. Koo
Karen Koslowitz
Brad S. Lander
Jessica S. Lappin
Stephen T. Levin
Melissa Mark-Viverito
Darlene mealy
Michael C. Nelson
James S. Oddo
Annabel Palma
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Diana Reyna
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Deborah L. Rose
James Sanders, Jr.
Larry B. Seabrook
Eric A. Ulrich
James Vacca
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.
James G. Van Bramer
Albert Vann
Mark S. Weprin
Jumaane D. Williams
Rubin Wills

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Dori Breen
Principal
Immaculate Conception

Ivan Mrakovcic
President
Richmond Hill Historical Society

Andrew Koslowski
Chairman
The Josephine Foundation

Rabbi Avrohom Hecht
Jewish Community Council of Canarsie

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: We have... Thank you
3 everybody for accommodating us on the late start
4 today. I very much appreciate that, as I know
5 Council Member Dilan does, who was with me out at
6 the funeral this morning. And I also want to
7 thank the two council members who agreed to
8 postpone their ceremonials to the New Year. But,
9 we have one timely ceremonial that's very holiday
10 related. So, let me give the mic to Council
11 Member Crowley, and the Richmond Hill Historical
12 Society, which is celebrating the 100th
13 Anniversary of Christmas Caroling in American.
14 Who knew?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Good
16 afternoon. If I could have the students from
17 Immaculate Conception School please come up.
18 Leaders from the Richmond Hill Historical Society,
19 the Josephine Foundation and the Maple Grove
20 Cemetery.

21 This year marks a 100th Anniversary
22 of Christmas Caroling in America, through the
23 historical documentations brought together by the
24 Richmond Hill Society and the Immaculate
25 Conception School, we have found out that Jacob

1
2 Riis brought Christmas Caroling to American 100
3 years ago in 1911, and the students were kind
4 enough, as they do Christmas caroling every year--
5 to work with the Richmond Hill Historical Society
6 and put a book together called Jacob's Gift, which
7 has a historical encounter step by step. I'd like
8 to ask Council Member Jim Gennaro to say a few
9 words, who represents the students from Immaculate
10 Conception.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you,
12 Liz. It's really great that we're doing this
13 proclamation. It ties a whole bunch of council
14 districts together. This is about Jacob Riis,
15 that used to live in Liz's district, but the
16 school kids live in my district. And it's all
17 about Christmas Caroling, and it's really, really
18 wonderful. And I think I was--I would be really
19 grateful for, if the principal of the school,
20 Principal Breen, would come forward and just say a
21 few words also. And so, thank you for bringing
22 your wonderful kids to the school.

23 DORI BREEN: Thank you. Thank you
24 very much. My name is Dori Breen. I am the
25 Principal of Immaculate Conception School in

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2 Jamaica. I am extremely proud of my students and
3 Mr. Ballenas, for all their hard work and research
4 and producing many, many projects that serve the
5 community very well. I especially want to thank
6 Council Members Elizabeth Crowley, James Gennaro,
7 Ruben Wills, Karen Koslowitz, and Eric Ulrich, for
8 this opportunity, as well as all members of the
9 City Council for this recognition. We are very
10 proud to be here. We are very honored to be here,
11 and we thank you very much. This will be an
12 experience that we will never forget. Thank you.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Great.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I'm going
15 to ask Ivan Mrakovcic, who is the president of the
16 Richmond Hill Historical Society, to say a few
17 words.

18 IVAN MRAKOVVIC: Thank you, Council
19 Member. Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Ivan
20 Mrakovcic, President of the Richmond Hill
21 Historical Society. I'm proud to be here with
22 board members Helen Day, Ellen Leone, Kevin
23 McLaughlin, and Carl Ballenas. I'm pleased to
24 represent an organization that seeks to work with
25 likeminded organizations and groups that seek to

1
2 teach the rest of the city and the world through
3 the internet about the wonderful history that our
4 community has to offer. The Richmond Hill
5 Historical Society takes an active leadership and
6 collaborative role in preserving and revitalizing
7 historic Richmond Hill through education and
8 resource exchange. We collaborate with so many
9 likeminded organizations and celebrate that
10 wonderful heritage that we share in common,
11 including The Spirits Alive Program. In 2004 the
12 first Spirits Alive presentation took place at
13 Maple Grove Cemetery, represented here today by
14 our wonderful Bonnie Dixon, director of Maple
15 Grove, and channeled the wonderful spirits of
16 those wonderful characters and people who lived in
17 our community over the centuries. Board members
18 of the Historical Society, including Helen Day and
19 myself, we didn't get any Tony Awards, but we
20 portrayed the characters as best as possible. And
21 among those great portrayals, students from the
22 Immaculate Conception School were also in
23 attendance, and they performed quite a lot of
24 those personalities.

25 The Aquinas Society and Jacob's

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2 Gift are another prime example of that
3 collaboration. This is the same student body
4 contacted by Lela Riis, great-great-granddaughter
5 of Jacob Riis himself, and Elizabeth Riis. They
6 made Jacob Riis their historical patron and
7 created projects based on his life.

8 In 2006 they uncovered the
9 newspaper articles about Christmas Caroling in
10 America that Jacob brought from Europe in 1911.
11 They were given a grant by the Alive In Hope
12 Foundation and wrote the story and named it
13 Jacob's Gift. In 2007 and 8, the students
14 performed a dramatic version of Jacob's Gift at
15 the Riis family church in Richmond Hill, the
16 Church of the Resurrection. They also performed
17 Jacob Riis at Riis Park in New York City and the
18 Great Hall in Ellis Island. In 2010, the students
19 raised the funds and commissioned the artist,
20 David Ostro, to replace the stolen bronze bust of
21 Jacob Riis, stolen from Riis Park in the Rockaways
22 four decades ago. The new bronze bust was
23 unveiled and dedicated in 2010 at the Federal
24 National Jacob Riis Park. It was given to the
25 people of America by the Aquinas Honor Society

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Students.

We're honored by today's recognition of the Richmond Hill Historical Society, Maple Grove Cemetery, and the Aquinas Honor Society Students. On behalf of our membership, I'd like to wholeheartedly thank the City Council and Council Member Elizabeth Crowley. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Yay.

Thank you Richmond Hill Historical Society. And our last speaker is going to work with the students to do a brief presentation, and that's Andrew Koslowski.

ANDREW KOSLOWSKI: On behalf--as Chairman of the Josephine Foundation, an organization which whose mission is to support these kinds of events with these young students, we're very proud that these students have been recognized by the City Council here today. And we thank the City Council Members for taking the time to recognize the hard work of these students and everything that they've done to bring about this marvelous event. What we're about to do is to do a slight little skit regarding the actual story of

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the Jacob's gift.

So, if we can give us just a moment to get into line, we'll begin this. Let me have the speakers up front. Anybody that has a speaking role, put them here. Okay? All right. So when it's your turn to speak, just give me a little--okay. And I'll do it from behind you, so this way we'll be all right. All right. Here we go.

Jacob's Gift, written by the Immaculate Conception Aquinas Honor Society of Jamaica Estates, Queens, New York.

Christmas was coming and little Dallas was overjoyed. Excitement filled the room. And when he heard voices outside, he hurried to the window. In the gently falling snow, a group of Christmas carolers could be seen singing songs of holiday cheer.

[singing]

ANDREW KOSLOWSKI: Watching quietly from her chair, his mother, Lela, called softly to him, and he ran to sit on her lap. Dallas hugged her with a warm embrace and asked, Mommy, will you tell a Christmas story. She replied:

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2 STUDENT 1: Dallas, I will tell you
3 a very special Christmas story. It includes your
4 great-great-great grandparents, Jacob and
5 Elizabeth Riis. It happened on this very day, the
6 day before Christmas, many years ago.

7 ANDREW KOSLOWSKI: And due to the
8 time restrictions, this is how we're going to have
9 to end it, but this is how the story began, with
10 Jacob then bringing a group of people in the
11 community around, to a young lady who was unable
12 to make it at the Chapel for services that night,
13 and sang Christmas carols outside that window.
14 these students, with their performance and their
15 work at Flushing Town Hall in Queens last year, as
16 part of Noel: A Night of Everlasting Love Concert,
17 brought about in a video the very first production
18 of Jacob's Gift. So, we are again thankful to
19 City Council, and City Councilwoman Elizabeth
20 Crowley, for bringing this forward. Thank you.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
22 much. Thank you children so much. Happy
23 holidays, and that concludes today's ceremonials.
24 Thank you.

25 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Ladies and

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2 gentlemen, can I have your attention, please? Can
3 I please have your attention. At this time please
4 place all cell phones and pagers to vibrate.

5 Thank you. Will all non-council employees please
6 leave the main floor of the chambers? Thank you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Ladies and
8 gentlemen, my colleagues, please rise for the
9 Pledge of Allegiance.

10 UNISON: I pledge allegiance to the
11 flag, of the United States of America, and to the
12 republic for which it stands, one nation, under
13 God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for
14 all.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
16 very much. Roll call.

17 THE CLERK: Arroyo.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

19 THE CLERK: Barron.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I'm right
21 here.

22 THE CLERK: Thank you. Brewer.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

24 THE CLERK: Cabrera.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

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2 THE CLERK: Chin.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

4 THE CLERK: Comrie.

5 [pause]

6 THE CLERK: Crowley.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [off mic]

8 THE CLERK: Dickens.

9 [pause]

10 THE CLERK: Dilan.

11 [pause]

12 THE CLERK: Dromm.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

14 THE CLERK: Eugene.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

16 THE CLERK: Ferreras.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

18 THE CLERK: Fidler.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

20 THE CLERK: Foster.

21 [pause]

22 THE CLERK: Dilan.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

24 THE CLERK: Garodnick.

25 [pause]

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2 THE CLERK: Gennaro.
3 [pause]
4 THE CLERK: Gentile.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I'm here.
6 THE CLERK: Gonzalez.
7 [pause]
8 THE CLERK: Greenfield.
9 [pause]
10 THE CLERK: Halloran.
11 [pause]
12 THE CLERK: Ignizio.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.
14 THE CLERK: Jackson.
15 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.
16 THE CLERK: James.
17 [pause]
18 THE CLERK: Koo.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.
20 THE CLERK: Koppell.
21 [pause]
22 THE CLERK: Koslowitz.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.
24 THE CLERK: Lander.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

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THE CLERK: Lappin.

[pause]

THE CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

THE CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Also

here.

THE CLERK: Mealy.

[pause]

THE CLERK: Mendez.

[pause]

THE CLERK: Nelson.

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.

THE CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

THE CLERK: Recchia.

[pause]

THE CLERK: Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

THE CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

THE CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

THE CLERK: Sanders.

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here.

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Present.

THE CLERK: Seabrook.

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Still

THE CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

THE CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

THE CLERK: Vallone.

[pause]

THE CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

THE CLERK: Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.

THE CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

THE CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

THE CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Here.

THE CLERK: Oddo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

THE CLERK: Rivera.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

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THE CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Quorum is present. Before we go on to the invocation, I want to call on two members who have to vote. We first start off with Council Member Ruben Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: I request permission to vote on all general orders.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Thank you.
I vote Aye.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: And next we have Council Member Lew Fidler.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Majority Leader, I ask for consent to vote on all items on the general order calendar.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I vote Aye on all.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. Next we move on to the Invocation, today being delivered by Rabbi Avrohom Hecht, from the Jewish Community Council of Canarsie in Brooklyn.

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2 RABBI AVROHOM HECHT: Our Father in
3 Heaven, as we give thanks to you, bestow up on
4 this gathering of New York City Council Members
5 representing our great city, from each and every
6 unique and precious neighborhood, the wisdom,
7 strength and fortitude to bring your collective
8 thoughts and aspirations together for the common
9 good of those you have been appointed to
10 represent. We derive strength from our diversity,
11 and our ability to come together as one, united,
12 in helping the less fortunate, protecting the at-
13 risk, and addressing our safety, our educational
14 system, and so much more. Just as the Almighty
15 lovingly views each and every human being as
16 sacred, you too should be uplifted by the noble
17 mantle of leadership you have accepted, in
18 remembering that our city is made up of
19 distinguished individuals, each made with the
20 lofty stamp of the Creator. May you all be
21 uplifted in your quest to bestow kindness, grace
22 and council to humanity. Amen.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
24 very much. Council Member Fidler? Can we check
25 the mic? See if it's working.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: How about
3 this one? Okay, I think so. Before I move to
4 spread the invocation on the record, I just want
5 to acknowledge our friend and neighbor--

6 SPEAKER QUINN: [interposing]
7 Quiet.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Our friend
9 and neighbor, Rabbi Avrohom Hecht, who is known
10 not just to the Jewish community in Canarsie and
11 Starrett City, but to every person in our
12 neighborhood as someone who is always there for
13 everybody, particularly the elderly and the poor,
14 who can be counted on in times of need by
15 everybody. And we are truly blessed to have you
16 here today, Rabbi Hecht. And with that, I move to
17 spread the invocation upon the record.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So--

19 SPEAKER QUINN: [interposing] And
20 if I...

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes. Go
22 ahead.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: If I could ask my
24 colleagues to please rise, we actually have,
25 unfortunately, the passing of four individuals

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2 that we need to make note of today. The first, on
3 December 12th, 2011, Police Officer Peter J.
4 Figoski, 47, of West Babylon, was shot in the face
5 and killed while responding to a home invasion
6 robbery in Cypress Hills, Brooklyn. Officer
7 Figoski's partner, Police Officer Glen Estrada,
8 was struggling with another suspect at the scene
9 when he heard a shot fired and began chasing the
10 shooter for four blocks before capturing him.
11 There were also five other suspects who were
12 apprehended after that. Officer Figoski was a 22-
13 year veteran of the New York Police Department.
14 He was the second-most senior member of the 75
15 precinct. During his career, he earned 12
16 Department commendations, and his inspector said
17 that, "Peter loved being a cop, and loved being a
18 patrol cop." In fact at his funeral today, they
19 talked about he had gotten a desk job, a paper
20 job, and he did that for a couple months and he
21 hated it and he had to, like, get back out on
22 patrol. A fellow officer said that Peter lived
23 for two things, "his four daughters that he did
24 everything for, and for being a police officer.
25 There was no third thing in his life, that was it.

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2 He lived for those four girls. That was all he
3 talked about." With his seniority, he could have
4 worked or acquired a day shift, but he worked the
5 midnight shift so he could be home during the day
6 so he could care for his daughters, go to their
7 school and sporting events. Police Officer Peter
8 Figoski is the second NYPD officer to die in the
9 line of duty this year. He is survived by his
10 four daughters: Christine, 20, a student at SUNY
11 Oneonta; Caitlyn, 18, a student at SUNY
12 Plattsburg; Carolyn, 16, and Corrine, 14, both
13 high school students. He is also survived by his
14 parents, Frank and Maryann, and his brothers,
15 James and Robert, one of whom is a retired Transit
16 Police Officer. His funeral was held this
17 morning, and I want to thank everyone for
18 accommodating myself and Council Member Dilan, who
19 attended the funeral, and moving the Stated back a
20 little bit later in the day. I just would also
21 make note that one of the members of our security
22 detail here, Detective Ray Hoddy [phonetic],
23 served with Officer Figoski in the 75 Precinct and
24 said he never once in the time they were together
25 there ever saw him unhappy, only saw him happy,

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2 only saw him smiling and laughing. And sometimes
3 you'd ask him, you know, Peter, what are you
4 smiling about, what happened? And he'd say, I'm
5 just happy. And from all accounts of what
6 everyone said, that's the kind of guy he was and
7 clearly he lived a hero and died a hero. Let me
8 now call on my colleague, Council Member Erik
9 Dilan, whose district Officer Figoski was
10 protecting when he was struck down in the line of
11 duty.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Thank you,
13 Madam Speaker. I didn't have the pleasure of
14 knowing Officer Figoski, but I just would like to
15 say thank you for serving the 75th precinct well,
16 which I share with Council Member Barron. And on
17 behalf of a great city, your loss will certainly
18 be felt for a long time to come. There's a lot of
19 people and a lot of guys in the 75th precinct that
20 talk well about you, and the 75th precinct has
21 been moving around with heavy hearts for the past
22 couple of days, especially the guys on the
23 midnight tour. And for everybody who serves in
24 uniform on behalf of this great city, we certainly
25 love and respect you all, and wish that you all

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2 get home safe to your children every time you go
3 out to work. So I'd like to thank you, Madam
4 Speaker, and thank you to all the men and women
5 who serve.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. And
7 Council Member Dilan, I also just want to thank
8 you for the guy buyback you did on Saturday, which
9 will help make sure the other members of the 75 do
10 get home safe at night to their families.

11 On December 16th, 2011, former New
12 York City Police Commissioner Patrick Murphy, who
13 was 91, passed away in North Carolina. He was
14 born in 1920. He flew Navy bombers in WWII before
15 joining the NYPD in 1945. He rose through the
16 ranks and was appointed Police Commissioner in
17 1970 by Mayor Lindsay. He steered the Department
18 through one of its rockiest periods, following the
19 release of the Knapp Commission Report, and
20 instituted reforms that are still used to this
21 day. His "cop on the block" program, in which
22 officers were encouraged to get to know the people
23 on their beat to gain their trust is what we now
24 know as community policing. Commissioner Ray
25 Kelly said that Patrick Murphy was, "the visionary

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2 embodiment of police reform, and he revolutionized
3 the policy to restrain the use of deadly force."

4 His emphasis on better education helped transform
5 American police work into a profession. Patrick
6 Murphy is survived by: his wife, Martha; his seven
7 children; his 21 grandchildren; and his 17 great-
8 grandchildren.

9 This past June many of us joined in
10 a ceremony led by myself and our Deputy Majority
11 Leader, Leroy Comrie, to honor all the incredible
12 48-year career at HPD of Ruben Wolf. Ruben served
13 under 19 commissioners and seven mayors, beginning
14 with Robert Wagner in 1963. Sadly, this past
15 Friday, December 16th, Ruben passed away after
16 suffering a second heart attack in a two-week time
17 period.

18 Lastly, on December 17th,
19 sanitation worker Thomas Lermand, 48, collapsed
20 while on his Nostrand Avenue collection route. He
21 passed away a short while later. Thomas Lermand
22 was a 16-year Southern Brooklyn veteran of the
23 Department who Commissioner Doherty described as a
24 tireless worker who, "always had a big hello in
25 the morning and never left in the afternoon

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2 without saying goodbye." He is survived by his
3 wife, Barbara, and his two daughters.

4 Today we sadly note the passing of
5 four dedicated and devoted public servants whose
6 combined service to this City was for over 110
7 years.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you,
9 Mr. Majority Leader.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you,
11 Madam Speaker. Adoption of the minutes. Council
12 Member Melissa Mark-Viverito.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: I
14 motions that the minutes of the Stated Meeting of
15 November 29th, 2011, be adopted as printed.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.
17 Messages and papers from the Mayor.

18 THE CLERK: Preconsidered M 733
19 submitting Susan Bellinson for appointment to the
20 Waterfront Management Advisory Board.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges
22 and Elections.

23 THE CLERK: Preconsidered M 734,
24 Submitting Carl Weisbrod for appointment to the
25 Waterfront Management Advisory Board.

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges
3 and Elections.

4 THE CLERK: Preconsidered M 735
5 submitting Robert Yaro for appointment to the
6 Waterfront Management Advisory Board.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges
8 and Elections.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:
10 Communications from City, County and Borough
11 Officers.

12 THE CLERK: None.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Petitions
14 and Communications.

15 THE CLERK: None.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Land Use
17 Call-Ups.

18 THE CLERK: None.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:
20 Communication from the Speaker.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
22 much. We are voting today on two important pieces
23 of legislation that deal with the issue of PCBs in
24 our schools. I want to thank Council Member Jim
25 Gennaro and Council Member Robert Jackson, whose

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2 joint oversight through the Environmental
3 Protection Committee and the Education Committee
4 really helped focus attention on this issue. I
5 also want to thank Council Member Steve Levin, who
6 is the lead sponsor of 566-A. And in particular I
7 want to thank Council Member Vinnie Ignizio, who
8 is the lead sponsor of 563-A, but really is our
9 leader on this issue in large part on the City
10 Council.

11 I also on the staff want to thank
12 Aysha Schomburg, Molly Murphy, Terzah Nasser,
13 Laura Popa. And you know Laura really deserves
14 thanks, because we asked her who to thank and she
15 left herself off the list that I was given. So,
16 is Laura in the room? Oh, well, if she was, we
17 would give her a round of applause, so I'm sure
18 she's hiding in anticipation thereof. But Laura
19 deserves a big round of applause.

20 These two bills together are going
21 to take--and I also just want to thank the
22 advocates. I'm sorry, before I speak of the
23 bills, particularly folks from the New York
24 Lawyers for the Public Interest and also--what's
25 ACORN's new name? Communities for Change, some of

1
2 whom are with us in the balcony today. And also,
3 in addition to the advocates, who are nothing if
4 not subtle in their neon yellow t-shirts, also the
5 work we're doing today is about schoolchildren and
6 employees. And there are no stronger advocates
7 for both than the United Federation of Teachers,
8 who I believe is with us today as well. So, I
9 want to thank the UFT, and if we could give them a
10 round of applause as well.

11 Also, I want to thank the folks in
12 the Mayor's Office, particularly Chancellor
13 Walcott, who as Council Member Ignizio has said,
14 when we went to him with this issue, he was a
15 partner in our efforts and he deserves credit and
16 thanks for that as well.

17 The issue here is we all know that
18 PCBs are not safe. And although the Department of
19 Education has said they are going to replace
20 lights through their energy efficiency program,
21 there are many of us who are concerned that isn't
22 fast enough, but also we all know no matter how
23 quickly that happens, no one really knows what the
24 situation is in their individual school right now.
25 There's over 750 schools who are in a program to

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2 change lighting. Which schools? Why? Is it
3 because there's problems with PCBs I their lights?
4 Is it because of floor tiling? How quickly will
5 it be changed? When will there be change? The
6 truth is, until 563 and 566, we didn't know the
7 answers to these questions. Until this
8 legislation, the Department of Education's plan
9 was potentially nonexistent, but at best, unclear,
10 contradictory and inconsistent. These two bills
11 will make sure that PCBs in lighting fixtures and
12 the issues of calk as it relates to PCBs, will
13 make sure that parents and employees know what is
14 happening in their school, know when it has been
15 found out how it has been found out, and what the
16 timeframe for remediation is, and they will know
17 if the DOE has not made that commitment and
18 timeframe, and if the plan has to be redone for
19 that school. These legislation really speak to
20 the idea of knowledge being power. And all of us
21 working together to make sure our school buildings
22 are as safe as they possibly can be, and also
23 speak to the idea of government being honest with
24 its constituents. We have a problem with PCBs in
25 our school. WE didn't create that problem. It's

1
2 not our fault. But if we ignore it or pretend it
3 isn't there or don't fess up to parents and
4 employees about what the problem is, then that
5 does become our fault. This way we are sending a
6 message. We're going to tell you what's happening
7 in your schools, we're going to be honest about
8 it, and we're all going to work together to fix
9 it.

10 So, I want to thank everyone who
11 has been a part of this legislation. Let me again
12 thank Chair Gennaro and Chair Jackson. Let me
13 first call on Council Member Ignizio, then Council
14 Member Levin, and then Chair Jackson.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you
16 very much, Madam Speaker, and thank you to my
17 colleagues for indulging me for so many times
18 during the time when we were allowed to speak on
19 any subject harping on PCBs in schools and this
20 issue. I really want to thank--the thank yous
21 first and foremost--but without the Speaker and
22 the Chancellor really aggressively being a partner
23 in this, this would not have happen. And without
24 great staff that the Speaker has, such as Laura
25 Popa, Aysha Schomburg, Molly Murphy, Terzah

1
2 Nasser, Rob Newman, and partners in government
3 such as the UFT, New York City Lawyers for the
4 Public Interest and Communities for Change--people
5 you wouldn't anticipate would be working with a
6 conservative Republican from Staten Island. But
7 we did, because we put all the titles, all the
8 conversations aside, and we realized and
9 recognized we had an issue in our schools, and we
10 went at it with a vengeance. And quite frankly,
11 last year at this time, just about during
12 Christmas break, we had lights dripping on the rug
13 where little five-year-olds were sitting during
14 story time. That's how this began. When we
15 peeled back the rug, we found the tile, which was
16 stained. That tile tested at 50 million parts per
17 million of PCBs. In my view, it was a distinct
18 danger to children. And my parents said, we're
19 not sending our kids back. Because of the actions
20 by my parents at PS 36 to say we're not sending
21 our kids backs, that's what, quite frankly,
22 brought the Department of Education to the table.

23 When we went originally to them
24 there was no plan. There was no how we deal with
25 PCBs in the school. And that's the greatest thing

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2 about being a Council Member in this body, because
3 when I went to the speaker and said we have to do
4 this, and I went to the Chancellor, they said, you
5 know something, you're right--we need to do
6 something here. And now every school has been
7 checked. We have a ten-year plan which is far too
8 long, but we do have a ten-year plan where we had
9 nothing. We have legislation, which is probably
10 the most sweeping PCB legislation in the country.
11 We have \$30 million from the Council, a billion
12 dollars from the administration, and a process in
13 place to help protect kids. And that, my friends,
14 is the reason why I'm standing here, grateful to
15 you all for listening to me today, for listening
16 to me in the past. I'm very proud to be a Council
17 Member, because what we did today was help protect
18 children's lives. And so I want to thank you,
19 Madam Speaker, for leading this. I really am
20 happy to work with my colleague, Council Member
21 Levin. We are partners in this. We're going to
22 continue to be. And for my partners in government
23 and outside of government, thank you all very
24 much. I appreciate it, thank you.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: And Vinnie, I just

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2 want to--before we call on Steve, thank you for
3 both being persistent, focused and respectful all
4 at the same time, which is not always easy. And
5 thank you and congratulations. Steve?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you,
7 Madam Speaker. Thank you very much for your
8 leadership on this issue and for your support on
9 these two important pieces of legislation, Intros
10 563-A and 566-A, that will compel the Department
11 of Education to provide vital information about
12 progress being made to clean PCBs from our
13 schools. I want to acknowledge and thank Council
14 Member Vincent Ignizio for really spearheading the
15 Council's engagement on the issue of PCBs in our
16 school. His leadership has been instrumental.

17 Today, as a result of the hard work
18 of the many concerned stakeholders involved, the
19 public, including parents from Brooklyn and
20 throughout the five boroughs, will be better
21 informed about the scope of the PCB contamination
22 in our schools, and better equipped to make
23 decisions about the education of their children.
24 The negative health consequences of PCB exposure,
25 particularly among children and pregnant women is

1
2 widely know, well documented, and it is beyond
3 dispute. It is the consensus in the public health
4 community. The health effects of exposure to
5 elevated PCB levels include learning deficits,
6 endocrine disruption, infertility and cancer.
7 Revelations of PCB contaminated light fixtures and
8 caulking material have justifiably raised alarms
9 for many parents and concerned citizens throughout
10 the city. This council, under the leadership of
11 Speaker Christine Quinn, Education Chair Robert
12 Jackson, and Environmental Protection Chair Jim
13 Gennaro, have held several hearings and moved
14 aggressively to put forward legislation that as
15 Council Member Ignizio has made mention, is the
16 most far-reaching and aggressive PCB legislation
17 in the country today.

18 These two bills that we will be
19 voting on today are part of a multi-tiered
20 approach to shine light on the scope of the PCB
21 contamination and provide families with timely
22 information on what is being done by the
23 Department of Education to rid our schools of this
24 dangerous threat.

25 I want to acknowledge several

1
2 people's remarkable efforts on this issue. I want
3 to first recognize Speaker Quinn and her staff,
4 her legislative staff, particularly Laura Popa,
5 who really worked on this bill and went to bat for
6 this Council and for these bills time and again
7 over the last several weeks and much before that.
8 Terzah Nasser, Molly Murphy, and the fearless
9 leader of the legislative office, Rob Newman. I
10 want to thank Council Member Ignizio's staff, in
11 addition to him; Education Chair Robert Jackson
12 and the Committee Staff, particularly Aysha
13 Schomburg, and Jan Atwell; and the advocacy
14 community, including New York Communities for
15 Change, in particular John Kest and Amelia Adams;
16 the New York Lawyers for Public Interest. And
17 lastly, I want to thank an intern of mine, who
18 last year came up with some of the language to
19 introduce into this intro, and that's Isaac
20 Fleischer, and my chief of staff, Ashley Thompson,
21 Kevin, Peter, Carol and Rami Metal. Thank you
22 very much, Madam Speaker.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you.
24 My colleagues, I rise to speak on this very, very
25 important issue. And in fact at the pre-stated

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2 press conference I said that I would take Ignizio
3 and Levin's hands and I would raise them up,
4 because they are winners for not only their
5 specific communities, but all of the communities
6 of New York City. And obviously under the
7 leadership of our leader, Christine Quinn. Let me
8 just read to you the quote that I submitted on
9 behalf of myself. And it says, PCBs in the
10 schools pose a serious threat to the health of our
11 children. Parents, educators and the rest of the
12 public have a right to know what measures are
13 being taken to protect students from harm, as well
14 as when they are happening. And I congratulate my
15 colleagues, Council Members Ignizio and Levin on
16 their advocacy on this issue. And as a City
17 Council, we have to continue to provide oversight
18 to ensure that our children's health and safety is
19 a number one priority in our schools. And as
20 Chair of the Education Committee, I join Speaker
21 Quinn in making sure that this occurs on a
22 continuous basis. And that's what the most
23 important thing is. Not only should we be the
24 frontrunners and vanguard of the children, our
25 personal children, but all of us. We have 1.1

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2 million children in the school system and we have
3 to ensure their health and safety. And where's
4 Greenfield? Greenfield, even at the hearings,
5 David you talked about when that doctor talked
6 about the health and safety of women that were
7 expecting, that were pregnant, and you kept
8 pushing that issue. So I thank you for doing
9 that, because you along with others have helped to
10 push this forward. And obviously the green shirts
11 up there and the advocacy community, we thank you
12 for doing what you're doing to push us and to tell
13 us what's right. And obviously, as you see, we
14 have listened and we have learned. Thank you very
15 much.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. And I
17 want to thank Chair Jackson for mentioning Council
18 Member Greenfield, whose legislation was basically
19 rolled into the other bills we're passing today.
20 But I want to see if Council Member Greenfield
21 actually wanted to add a little bit, because I
22 think what you mentioned about your wife bears
23 repeating, so. It was a nice thing he said about
24 his wife. We've got to get a mic back there,
25 though.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank
3 you very much. I did want to congratulate, of
4 course, Council Member Vinnie Ignizio, who despite
5 the fact that he's a Republican from Staten Island
6 has shown the kind of impact that one person can
7 have on this body. I say that just to tweak Jimmy
8 Oddo as well. But I want to, I really want to
9 thank him. And I want to congratulate Council
10 Member Steve Levin. I believe this is the first
11 bill that he himself has actually worked on the
12 details of altering, which is I think very
13 exciting. And I want to thank the Speaker for her
14 leadership, and of course our two chairs. And you
15 know, the one thing that struck me when we were
16 sitting at these hearings, and as you know these
17 hearings go on for many hours, was that expert
18 after expert came up and said that the PCBs are
19 not just potentially harmful to children, but are
20 guaranteed to be harmful to unborn children, to
21 pregnant women and to women of reproductive age.
22 And it's something that struck me particularly
23 because my wife was a public school teacher in
24 Brooklyn at PS 257, and while she was a public
25 school teacher there she was actually pregnant.

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2 And only recently did I discover that's one of the
3 754 schools that's on the list that has the
4 potential to have PCB contaminants. And so that's
5 why I originally introduced legislation to ask
6 that the DOE inform teachers when they have
7 potential exposure to PCB. I'm grateful that it
8 was rolled into this legislation. I congratulate
9 all of my colleagues, and I thank all of my
10 colleagues for their support and the speaker for
11 her leadership. Thank you very much.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council
13 Member Greenfield. We are also voting today on
14 three appointments to the Waterfront Advisory
15 Board, and one reappointment to the Board of
16 Corrections. And I want to thank Chuck Davis and
17 Yasmeen Vega [phonetic] and Chair Rivera for their
18 work on these appointments and this reappointment.

19 We're also voting today out of the
20 Housing and Buildings Committee on Intro 746. I
21 want to thank Ben Goodman, Laura Rogers, Mayor
22 Bloomberg and the Mayor's Office of Legislative
23 Affairs for their work on 746. I also want to
24 thank Chair Erik Dilan, whose committee this Bill
25 came out of. This piece of legislation is

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2 sponsored--if we can get a little quiet? By
3 Council Member Weprin, is a piece of legislation
4 which builds on a bill the Council passed in 2004.

5 In 2004 the Council passed
6 legislation requiring that landlords provide
7 carbon monoxide protectors in their apartment
8 buildings. But carbon monoxide detectors only
9 last for about six or seven years, and that bill
10 did not require that the carbon monoxide detectors
11 get replaced. This piece of legislation will
12 require A, that they get replaced, and B, that
13 they get replaced with carbon monoxide detectors
14 that when they are running out of battery or
15 energy so to speak, give out an audible beep so
16 you know that your carbon monoxide detector is on
17 the verge of not working. So, I want to thank
18 Mayor Bloomberg and his office, who really pushed
19 us in the Council to look at this quickly, given
20 the timeframe that's coming up, since we passed
21 this in 2004. Thank Chair Dilan for moving
22 quickly, and Council Member Weprin for sponsoring
23 the legislation. And let me call on Council
24 Member Weprin.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you,

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2 Madam Speaker. I'm glad to be part of the Silent
3 Killer agenda today. This really is another
4 terrible problem that can happen. In this country
5 over 200 people die every year from carbon
6 monoxide poisoning. And the law that was passed
7 was a great law. It protects millions of New
8 Yorkers. Unfortunately the old devices very often
9 don't let you know when they have died and no
10 longer work. Unlike smoke detectors, the older
11 models do not tell you at all. So people right
12 now are maybe sitting at home--

13 SPEAKER QUINN: [interposing] Can
14 we get--I'm sorry. Just get a little quiet for
15 Council Member Weprin.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you.
17 Well, and so the problem arose that many of the
18 older models have no audible indication that they
19 are about to cease operating. And clearly the
20 consequences of not realizing that a CO detector
21 has reached its life are extremely dangerous. So
22 this law will force the hand of the landlords to
23 make sure we replace these devices when the
24 manufacturer lifespan comes to an end. And in the
25 future, obviously if they have the new devices in,

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2 which they're required to do, they will be warned
3 when their device is about to cease to work. So
4 the millions of New Yorkers can be protected. So,
5 I'm delighted to have been involved in this
6 legislation. I want to thank Rob Newman, Chair
7 Dilan and his staff, Laura in particular, and Rob
8 Morelli [phonetic] from my staff, for their help
9 with this legislation. And I urge its passage.
10 Thank you.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
12 much. That concludes communications from the
13 Speaker. I also want to thank--I was just made
14 aware that Chair Vallone and Council Member
15 Halloran were also at the funeral for Police
16 Officer Figoski earlier today with myself and
17 Council Member Dilan. They were in a different
18 section of the building because there was such a
19 large number of people there, but I want to thank
20 both of them for attending as well. And that
21 concludes communications from the Speaker.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you,
23 Madam Speaker. We now move on to discussion of
24 general orders. WE have Council Member Julissa
25 Ferreras.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Thank you. Last week I introduced a bill that would prohibit drivers, owners, or base station licensees for hire vehicles from knowingly allowing such vehicles to be used to promote sex trafficking, subject to a civil penalty and revocation of their license. It would also require the Taxi and Limousine Commission to develop an education program--

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:

[interposing] Pardon me, Council Member. This is actually not on for a vote in today's hearing.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Okay.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: In today's Stated, so.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: All right.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you. Anyone else to speak on discussion of general orders? Seeing none we'll move on to Reports of Special Committees.

THE CLERK: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Reports of Standing Committees.

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THE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Education, Intro 563-A, related to PCBs in schools.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on general orders with a message of necessity.

THE CLERK: Intro 566-A, PCB reported.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on general orders with a message of necessity.

THE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance, Preconsidered Reso 1173 organization funding.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

THE CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 1175, Westchester Square BID.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

THE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 546 and Reso 1179.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

THE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Housing and Buildings. Preconsidered Intro

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746, carbon monoxide alarms.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

THE CLERK: Intro 585-A.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and laid over.

THE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land Use, LU 542 and Reso 1180 and 543 and Reso 1181, sidewalk cafes.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

THE CLERK: LU 544 and Reso 1182, and 545 and Reso 1183, application by the Parks and Transportation Departments.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

THE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections, Preconsidered M 733 and Reso 1184, approving the appointment of Susan Bellinson, Waterfront Management Advisory Board.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

THE CLERK: Preconsidered M 734 and

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Reso 1185, approving the appointment of Carl Weisbrod, Waterfront Management Advisory Board.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

THE CLERK: Preconsidered M 735 and Reso 1186, approving the appointment of Robert Yaro, Waterfront Management Advisory Board.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

THE CLERK: Preconsidered M 736 and Reso 1187, approving the reappointment of Robert Cohen, MD, New York City Board of Correction.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

THE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Transportation, Intro 567-A.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and laid over.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: General Order calendar.

THE CLERK: Resolution appointing various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders, and at this time I'd like to ask for a

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roll call on all items that have been coupled on the general order calendar, please.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

THE CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

THE CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

I really want to take this opportunity to do something that the Speaker didn't allow me to do when it was appropriate. But the officer was also in my district and I went to the hospital when I first found out about it to express my condolences. I also went to the precinct to express my condolences to the command there, and we sent out a press release stating that this was a senseless case of violence and this madness must stop. Nobody printed that. The Speaker should have allowed me to do that with Council Member Dilan. I had longstanding commitments that I had to honor, so I couldn't make the funeral. But I did go to the hospital, I did go to the precinct, and I just wanted to publicly say, nobody deserves to die like that. And of all the accounts that I got about Officer Figoski, he was a courteous person.

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2 When you go into the 75th precinct, sometimes
3 people can be rude, but he was the one who would
4 come out to the front--and no matter who you are,
5 whether you're a council member or just a regular
6 member in our community, he would make those
7 officers respect anybody who came into the 75th
8 precinct. So, I couldn't say it then, but I do
9 want to say it now. And with that I request
10 unanimous consent to vote on all the general order
11 calendar.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

14 Oh, I'll vote Aye on all the items.

15 THE CLERK: Brewer.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

17 THE CLERK: Cabrera.

18 [pause]

19 THE CLERK: Chin.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

21 THE CLERK: Comrie.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

23 THE CLERK: Crowley.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

25 THE CLERK: Dickens.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

THE CLERK: Dilan.

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye on all.

THE CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

THE CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

THE CLERK: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye. And
with permission I vote Aye on all coupled general
orders.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

THE CLERK: Foster.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

THE CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

THE CLERK: Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

THE CLERK: Gentile.

[pause]

THE CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I vote
Aye. I just wanted to take the opportunity to
thank the terrific council staff members,

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2 including Laura Popa, Molly Murphy, Terzah Nasser,
3 Rob Newman, Committee Counsel Aysha Schomburg, for
4 working with me and my staff, especially my
5 legislative director Dough McPherson, on the text
6 of Intro 563-A. Thank you.

7 THE CLERK: Halloran.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: May I be
9 excused to explain my vote?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: I'd like
12 to congratulate my colleague, Vince Ignizio, on
13 his work on the PCBs, keeping our kids safe, for
14 Steve Levin and for Martin Dilan for all they've
15 done. I appreciate it very much. I'd also like
16 to thank the Speaker for everything she did for
17 the family of the police officer whose funeral we
18 attended today. And I thank you for my
19 colleagues, Peter Vallone and Erik Dilan who
20 joined me there. It was a very moving wake this
21 weekend. The four young daughters of this police
22 officer have managed to keep themselves together
23 throughout this. I encourage all my colleagues to
24 give to the police foundation for the college fund
25 that has been set up for this police officer's

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2 family. He was a single parent raising these kids
3 on his own, and they ranged in age up to 18, but
4 two of them were in the school directly across
5 from where we attended the funeral services today.
6 So, to a brave man of the NYPD who will be sorely
7 missed, I salute you and I know my colleagues do
8 as well. I vote Aye on all items. Thank you.

9 THE CLERK: Ignizio.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

11 THE CLERK: Jackson.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on
13 all.

14 THE CLERK: James.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye on all.

16 THE CLERK: Koo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote Aye on
18 all. I'd like to take this opportunity to--I want
19 to use this opportunity to say happy holiday to
20 everyone and good health and prosperity in the
21 coming years.

22 THE CLERK: Koslowitz.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

24 THE CLERK: Lander.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye on all,

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with thanks and congratulations to the sponsors.

THE CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

THE CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye
on all.

THE CLERK: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I wanted to
say my condolences to the officer. In
Brownsville, Brownsville Recreation Center had a
salute to our fallen officer Saturday, with the
PBA also, Mr. Lynch. So Brownsville showed our
condolences more than ever, I must say. And I
want to say kudos to all my colleagues for the
PCB. And I vote Aye on all.

THE CLERK: Mendez.

[pause]

THE CLERK: Nelson.

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye on all.

THE CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye on all.

THE CLERK: Recchia.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye on
all.

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THE CLERK: Reyna.

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye on all.

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THE CLERK: Rodriguez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

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THE CLERK: Rose.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

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THE CLERK: Sanders.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye on

10 all. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays.

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THE CLERK: Seabrook.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye on

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all.

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THE CLERK: Ulrich.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

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THE CLERK: Vacca.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

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THE CLERK: Vallone.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on

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all.

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THE CLERK: Van Bramer.

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CHAIRPERSON VAN BRAMER: Aye on

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all.

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THE CLERK: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye on all.

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THE CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

THE CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

Happy - -

THE CLERK: Oddo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: May I be
excused to explain my vote? Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I would just
like to congratulate my colleagues for their work
on the PCBs. Borough President Molinaro from
Staten Island has a favorite saying and it's,
success has many fathers with failures. And
often, I'm sure there will be lots of folks
outside this building who in their newsletters and
in their press releases will sort of claim victory
on this PCB issue, but I carpool to this building
with Council Member Ignizio, and though he may not
be as vocal as I am and may not yell as often as I
do, he is as dogged as I am. And I heard about
this issue for almost a year straight. And I just
want to commend him. I know how passionate he is,
and it's great to see a council member from the

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2 most southern point of New York City, from the
3 minority party, be able to grab onto an issue,
4 work with his colleagues across the aisle and get
5 something done. Hey, Albany, hey Washington, DC,
6 maybe you should watch this City Council and see
7 how folks from both sides of the party get stuff
8 done. I vote Aye on all.

9 THE CLERK: Lappin.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

11 THE CLERK: Rivera.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote Aye
13 on all.

14 THE CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.

17 All items on today's general order calendar are
18 adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative, with 0
19 in the negative and 0 abstentions. At this point
20 in time we now move on to Introduction and reading
21 of the bills.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: All bills--

23 [applause]

24 SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are
25 referred to committees as indicated on the agenda.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. We now move on to general discussion. Council Member Jackson? Council Member Jackson? Okay. Next we move on to Council Member Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Sorry. Thank you. First I--

SPEAKER QUINN: [interposing] Sorry. Sorry, just can we get quiet for Council Member Williams, please. Thank you. Sorry, Council Member.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: First, I just wanted to publicly offer my prayer--

[pause]

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Can we check his mic?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Testing. Thank you. Am I back on? Just again, offer my public prayer for peace and comfort to the family of Officer Figoski. Also, I want to ask as many people who would like to, to sign on to my resolution, 1178, which is condemning the overly aggressive actions of the Bloomberg Administration that were used to evict the Occupy Wall Street protesters, whether you're in agreeance [sic] with

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2 Occupy Wall Street or not, I think the tactics
3 were overly military style, as well as the arrests
4 of media and arrests of my colleague, Ydanis
5 Rodriguez, show that they used too much aggression
6 in doing this. And lastly, since my colleague
7 probably won't, I want to make sure I give a--with
8 a little bit of envy, but mostly pride, shout out
9 to my colleague, Ydanis Rodriguez, who was
10 mentioned in Time Magazine as part of the
11 protestors of the year. And I'm proud that the
12 City Council, on behalf of Ydanis, was represented
13 in there. Because many of us were supportive of
14 Occupy Wall Street. Thank you.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
16 very much. Next we move on to Council Member
17 James.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: My thoughts
19 and prayers are with the Figoski family at this
20 time. And thank him for making the ultimate
21 sacrifice.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: I'm sorry. Council
23 Members, let's just get a little quiet and put all
24 the time back on the clock so that the Council
25 Member can start over. Just...

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you,
3 Madam Speaker. I just want to thank the Officer
4 for making the ultimate sacrifice, and our
5 thoughts and prayers are with his family during
6 this time. I'm sure all of you have read the
7 horrible and horrendous murder of Dolores
8 Gillespie in my district. She was set on fire in
9 the apartment building elevator. She was 73 years
10 old. Even though there is some question with
11 respect to her age, there is some discrepancies on
12 her birth certificate. But the depravity and the
13 heinous nature of the crime has shocked the
14 conscience not only of the constituents in my
15 district, but all New Yorkers. She fed and
16 clothed the poor in the community and she was
17 active in the Precinct council. And I have set up
18 a fund for the burial for Ms. Gillespie, and a
19 fund for her family. There are no funeral
20 arrangements at this time, because we are awaiting
21 the family members, awaiting their arrival to New
22 York City. But I hope all of you--and I urge all
23 of your support in contributing to this fund for
24 the family. She had four children, three sons and
25 one daughter. And Ms. Gillespie was a postal

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2 worker, who worked in Council Member Barron's
3 district, on Forbell Avenue. And obviously was a
4 woman of very humble means. So, I attended the
5 arraignment of the defendant. He was remanded and
6 he too was injured. But in this particular case
7 there appears to be no doubt. And although I
8 don't support the death penalty, I am close to
9 supporting it on this case. But I would urge, and
10 I have spoken to District Attorney Hines that
11 there not be any plea bargaining related to this
12 case, and that he be prosecuted to the fullest
13 extent of the law, and that we will not accept
14 anything less than a life sentence. I thank all
15 of you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.
17 Next we move on to Council Member Jackson.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,
19 Majority Leader. My colleagues, I rise in order
20 to communicate with you that, obviously the murder
21 and killing of Officer Figoski was a tragedy not
22 only to his immediate family, the NYPD family, but
23 the entire family of New York City. And I wrote a
24 letter to Commissioner Kelly and copied the
25 Speaker and the Mayor expressing my sadness about

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2 this particular murder and killing. And in fact
3 in that letter I said that we need to do
4 everything that we possibly need to do to get
5 illegal and too easily accessible guns off the
6 streets of New York City. And that's why going
7 back from day one, I supported Mayor Bloomberg
8 when he put up these operations, sting operations,
9 to go and buy guns in North Carolina and South
10 Carolina and different other places, to show how
11 easy it is to get guns and bring them to New York
12 City. And as you know, many of the killings that
13 occur on the streets of New York City are as a
14 result of illegal guns. So, I wanted to express
15 that. Obviously his murder, knowing that he has,
16 as indicated by all of the press media, four
17 children, four girls, and two of them in college.
18 And as you know, there is a scholarship fund that
19 is set up for them. So, if you haven't--
20 especially during this time--even if it's a check
21 for \$25, make out a check to the Peter Figoski
22 Scholarship Fund for his girls. And with that, I
23 want to wish all of you a health and safe happy
24 holiday season. And I'll see you when we get back
25 on January 4th. Thank you.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
3 very much. Next we move on to Council Member
4 Brewer.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you
6 very much. I want to congratulate--I think
7 there's a Cornell graduate in our midst from Bay
8 Ridge, so congratulations Vinnie on Cornell. My
9 next issue is in the packet that is presented
10 today there is a bill that I'm introducing. I
11 think some of you are really aware of films in
12 your district, so this would give public notice of
13 film productions. That's Intro 736. And then the
14 resolution is a little bit more complication,
15 1168. It would actually ask Congress to defeat
16 something, something that we've been doing
17 recently, asking Congress not to do something, but
18 basically it's asking Congress not to stop some of
19 the work of pirates. We want to make sure that
20 people still have the opportunity, what they're
21 doing offshore, presenting of intellectual
22 property, that it is not censorship. There's a
23 fine line there. I'd be glad to explain it more.
24 But anyway, this is a bill that is supported
25 strenuously by those who are in the right side of

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many of the technology initiatives in Washington.
Thank you very much. Congratulations, Vinnie.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
very much. Next we have Council Member Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you,
Mr. Majority Leader and my colleagues. Today I
rise, join you in remembering our fallen police
officer, Peter Figoski. If you're wondering how
you can make a difference, there will be a
fundraiser for his family this Thursday.

SPEAKER QUINN: Just, if we could
get a little quiet. I'm sorry, and put some more
time back on the clock for Council Member Ulrich,
please.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you,
Madam Speaker. There will be a fundraiser this
Thursday, December 22nd at St. Mary Gate of Heaven
School auditorium in my district, in Ozone Park.
And I am extending that invitation to all of you,
your friends, and anyone else you know that would
like to come out and support the family. The
scholarship fund that has been set up for the
children of Police Officer Figoski, Congressman
Bob Turner and I have been invited a special

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2 guests, but it's being put together at the last
3 minute. There are some people from the Diocese of
4 Brooklyn, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn,
5 that have been instrumental in helping raise money
6 for that fund. But certainly all of you are
7 invited to stop by, show your support, make a
8 donation to your liking or to your ability, to
9 help support the family and make a difference.
10 Especially around the holiday times. This must be
11 incredibly hard on the family with the Christmas
12 and the New Year holiday coming up. So, we pray
13 for the family, but if you're able to support
14 them, you can go online or you can come in person
15 and express your condolences in person and show
16 your support that way as well. Again, it's this
17 Thursday, December 22nd, at St. Mary Gate of
18 Heaven Church Auditorium in Ozone Park. Thank
19 you, Madam Speaker. Mr. Majority Leader, thank
20 you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
22 very much. Next we have Council Member Rose.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you,
24 Chair. I'd like to first thank and congratulate
25 and thank Vinnie Ignizio for the PCB legislation,

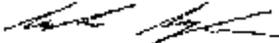
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2 for his diligence and his fortitude, and to my
3 colleague David Greenfield who reminded us that
4 there was another vulnerable population that was
5 being adversely affected by PCBs, and that were
6 women staff that were pregnant. Today I urge my
7 colleagues to sign on to Intro 744, which would
8 require that Mayoral agencies educate business
9 owners in issues concerning access for persons
10 with disabilities. I want to take a moment to
11 thank the Chair of the Mental Health Committee,
12 Oliver Koppell, and to his staff for the oversight
13 hearing that he and I co-chaired this past October
14 that brought this important issue to light. The
15 purpose of this legislation is to ensure that the
16 Mayor's Office of People with Disabilities, the
17 agency responsible for advocating for the rights
18 of the disabled in New York City, works with other
19 relevant mayoral agencies to develop a plan to
20 educate business owners on issues concerning
21 access for disabled persons. This bill would
22 require that the plan would include education on
23 federal, state and local disability access laws,
24 common barriers to accessibility, and methods to
25 help finance modifications that are required to

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2 meet accessible standards. Additionally it also
3 requires that a plan be submitted to the Council
4 that describes in detail their plan within one
5 year of the passage of this legislation. This
6 legislation is part important because--it has high
7 importance because of the high level of disabled
8 persons living in New York. In a City as large
9 and as diverse as New York, the Council has a duty
10 to ensure that businesses need to be aware if they
11 are legally mandated to provide reasonable
12 accommodations for the disabled, and how
13 government can be helpful in providing financing
14 options to make disability access a reality.
15 Thank you and happy holidays to all of you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All right.
17 Thank you very much. Seeing no others, this
18 meeting is adjourned and happy holidays to all.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Erika Swyler certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature 

Date 1/4/2012