

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

CHARTER MEETING

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Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Start: 12:32 P.M.

Recess: 1:41 P.M.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Mr. Michael McSweeney, City Clerk

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Adrienne E. Adams  
Joann Ariola  
Alexa Avilés  
Diana I. Ayala  
Chris Banks  
Joseph C. Borelli  
Erik D. Bottcher  
Justin L. Brannan  
Gale A. Brewer  
Selvena N. Brooks-Powers  
Tiffany Cabán  
David M. Carr  
Carmen N. De La Rosa  
Eric Dinowitz  
Amanda Farias  
Oswald Feliz  
James F. Gennaro  
Jennifer Gutiérrez  
Shahana K. Hanif

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL CHARTER MEETING  
COUNCIL MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Kamillah Hanks  
Robert F. Holden  
Crystal Hudson  
Rita C. Joseph  
Shekar Krishnan  
Linda Lee  
Farah N. Louis  
Kristy Marmorato  
Christopher Marte  
Darlene Mealy  
Julie Menin  
Francisco P. Moya  
Mercedes Narcisse  
Sandy Nurse  
Chi A. Ossé  
Vickie Paladino  
Keith Powers  
Lincoln Restler  
Kevin C. Riley  
Carlina Rivera  
Yusef Salaam  
Rafael Salamanca, Jr  
Pierina Ana Sanchez  
Lynn C. Schulman  
Althea V. Stevens  
Sandra Ung  
Inna Vernikov  
Nantasha M. Williams  
Julie Won  
Kalman Yeger  
Susan Zhuang

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL CHARTER MEETING  
A P P E A R A N C E S

INVOCATION DELIVERED BY:

Imam Shaykh Safraz Bacchus, Imam and Spiritual  
Leader, Masjid Alabidin, located at 104-14 127  
Street, Queens NY 11419

Letitia James,  
New York State Attorney General

1 SERGEANT BIONDO: Test, one, two, two, two, this  
2 is microphone test. Today's date is January 3, 2024.  
3 Recording of the Charter Meeting, being recorded by  
4 John Biondo in Council Chambers.  
5

6 CLERK: Good afternoon, can I have your attention,  
7 please? Can we close those doors, please, thank you.  
8 Thank you, quiet, at this time, please place all  
9 electronic devices to vibrate or silent mode. Mr.  
10 City Clerk?

11 CITY CLERK: Good afternoon, and welcome to the  
12 Charter Meeting of January 3, 2024. I am Michael  
13 McSweeney, the City Clerk and Clerk of the Council,  
14 and I would like to thank you for joining us.

15 I call this meeting to order pursuant to Section  
16 42 of the Charter of the city of New York.

17 Please join us for the Pledge of Allegiance.

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

19 ALL: [PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE]

20 CITY CLERK: On December 20, 2023, the Council of  
21 the city of New York Received, Ordered, Printed and  
22 Filed a communication from the New York City Board of  
23 Elections entitled M 184 of 2023, which certifies the  
24 election of all 51 members of The City Council in the  
25 2023 General Election. I now direct the clerk to call

2 the roll of those duly elected members of the Council  
3 for the purposes of ascertaining the presence of a  
4 quorum.

5 CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Present

7 CLERK: Council Member Adams?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Present

9 CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: [NO RESPONSE]

11 CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Presente

13 CLERK: Council Member Ayala?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present

15 CLERK: Council Member Banks?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Present

17 CLERK: Council Member Borelli?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: [NO RESPONSE]

19 CLERK: Council Member Bottcher

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: Present

21 CLERK: Council Member BRANNAN?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Present

23 CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here

25 CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Here

3 CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Present

5 CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present

7 CLERK: Council Member Carr?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: [NO RESPONSE]

9 CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Here

11 CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Present

13 CLERK: Council Member Farías?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Present

15 CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Presente

17 CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here

19 CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: [NO RESPONSE]

21 CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Here

23 CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Present

25 CLERK: Council Member Holden?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here

3 CLERK: Council Member Carr?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Present

5 CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Present

7 CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Present

9 CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Here

11 CLERK: Council Member Lee?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Here

13 CLERK: Council Member Louis?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present

15 CLERK: Council Member Marte?

16 CITY CLERK: Council Member Marmorato

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: [NO MIC] Present

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Present

19 CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present

21 CLERK: Council Member Menin?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Here

23 CLERK: Council Member Moya?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Present

25 CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Present

3 CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Present

5 CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Present

7 CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Present

9 CLERK: Council Member Powers?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Here

11 CLERK: Council Member Restler?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Here

13 CLERK: Council Member Riley?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present

15 CLERK: Council Member Rivera?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present

17 CLERK: Council Member Salaam

18 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Present

19 CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: [NO RESPONSE]

21 CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aquí

23 CLERK: Council Member Borelli?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Present

25 CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here

3 CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Here

5 CLERK: Council Member Ung?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: [ABSENT]

7 CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Here

9 CLERK: Council Member Williams?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [NO RESPONSE]

11 CLERK: Council Member Won?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Present

13 CLERK: Council Member Yeger?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here

15 CLERK: Council Member Zhuang?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Here

17 CLERK: Mr. City Clerk, we have a quorum.

18 CITY CLERK: Thank you. Seeing that a quorum is

19 present, I now request that all council members

20 please stand for the oath of office.

21 CITY CLERK: Council Members, please raise your

22 right hand and repeat after me:

23 I state your name.

24 ALL: I [NAME]

25

2 CITY CLERK: Do solemnly swear solemnly swear or  
3 affirm...

4 ALL: Do solemnly swear solemnly swear or  
5 affirm...

6 CITY CLERK: that I will support the constitution  
7 of the United States...

8 ALL: that I will support the constitution of the  
9 United States...

10 CITY CLERK: and the constitution of the State of  
11 the New York.

12 ALL: and the constitution of the State of the New  
13 York.

14 CITY CLERK: and that I will faithfully  
15 discharge...

16 ALL: and that I will faithfully discharge...

17 CITY CLERK: the duties of the office of...

18 ALL: the duties of the office of...

19 CITY CLERK: Council Member...

20 ALL: Council Member.

21 CITY CLERK: in the, state your district...

22 ALL: [STATE THEIR DISTRICTS]

23 CITY CLERK: in the, state your borough...

24 ALL: [STATE THEIR BOROUGHES]

25 CITY CLERK: in the, state your county...

2 ALL: [STATE THEIR COUNTYS]

3 CITY CLERK: in the city of New York...

4 ALL: in the city of New York...

5 CITY CLERK: according to the best of my  
6 ability...

7 ALL: according to the best of my ability...

8 CITY CLERK: Council Members, congratulations!

9 [APPLAUSE]

10 CITY CLERK: We will now have today's invocation,  
11 which will be delivered by Imam Shaykh Safraz  
12 Bacchus, Imam and Spiritual Leader, Masjid Alabidin,  
13 which is located at 104-14 127 Street, Queens NY  
14 11419. Please rise.

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

16 IMAM SHAYKH SAFRAZ BACCHUS: Let us pray together.

17 In the name of God, the most gracious, the most  
18 merciful, the sun has risen upon our land, and the  
19 new year has dawned upon us. We thank you, O Lord,  
20 for the immense blessings you have showered upon us.  
21 O mighty God, make this year better than the last.  
22 Grant us good health, peace, and security. We beseech  
23 you, O creator and sustainer, make us the means by  
24 which we feed the hungry, cloth the naked, shelter  
25 the homeless, and bring hearts together for your

1  
2 sake. Strengthen our resolve to be champions of a  
3 good that blotches out evil, and a light that  
4 eliminates darkness. We are weak, O Lord, so grant us  
5 the ability to fulfill the oaths we have taken to  
6 serve the citizens of our city and our nation. We  
7 pray for peace, O Lord, lord of beauty and happiness.  
8 O Lord, you are the eternal, you are eternal life and  
9 everlasting peace by your essence and attributes,  
10 everlasting peace is from you, and it returns to you  
11 only. O sustainer, grant the life of true peace and  
12 usher into the boat of peace. O glorious and  
13 bounteous one, you are the blessed and sublime,  
14 shower us with a love that causes hate to dissipate,  
15 unite us on the truth no matter who stands opposed,  
16 rectify our fears that make us people who guard the  
17 scales of justice, grant the men and women of this  
18 chamber the wisdom and courage to uphold and promote  
19 the values of our great nation. May we honor one  
20 another and glorify your holy name in unison, and  
21 inspire in us the ability to make this world a better  
22 place for generations to come in your great and  
23 magnificent name we pray, Amen.

24 ALL: Amen.

1  
2 CITY CLERK: Thank you, I now recognize Council  
3 Member Adrienne Adams to spread the invocation on the  
4 record.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk, Imam  
6 Shaykh Safraz Bacchus of Masjid Alabidin, in our  
7 beloved Richmond Hill, Queens, my brother has been an  
8 inclusive and dynamic faith leader in our community  
9 for many years. He has worked closely with health  
10 care institutions and our local precinct to provide  
11 spiritual guidance and pastoral care. During the  
12 pandemic, Imam Bacchus helped keep our neighborhoods  
13 safe by encouraging vaccinations and supporting  
14 community members of all backgrounds. Imam Bacchus is  
15 a true servant leader who cares deeply about the  
16 well-being of his community, and I am personally  
17 honored to know him and to have worked with him in my  
18 district and across the borough of Queens. His words  
19 have very special meaning for me, especially today as  
20 we kick off the new legislative session. My brother,  
21 Imam, I thank you for all that you do for the Great  
22 28, and for our entire city. And I make a motion to  
23 spread the Invocation in full upon the record.

24 CITY CLERK: Thank you, so ordered.  
25

2 We now move to move to M 1 of 2024, the  
3 continuation of the 2022-2023 Rules of the Council.

4 I now recognize Council Member Diana Ayala to  
5 make a motion regarding the Rules of the Council.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I make motion pursuant to  
7 Section 46 of the New York City Charter that the 2022  
8 to 2023 Rules of the Council as amended be continued  
9 and in effect until new rules shall be adopted or set  
10 rules shall be otherwise amended or modified.

11 CITY CLERK: I will call for a voice vote on the  
12 motion.

13 Will all those in favor please say aye.

14 ALL: Aye

15 CITY CLERK: All opposed, please say nay.

16 ALL: [SILENT]

17 CITY CLERK: Any abstentions?

18 ALL: [SILENT]

19 CITY CLERK: The ayes have it.

20 We will move onto M 2 of 2024, the nomination of  
21 the Speaker. I hereby open the floor to nominations  
22 for the Office of Speaker of The City Council  
23 pursuant to Section 44 of the Charter for the term  
24 commencing January 1, 2024 and terminating December  
25 31, 2025.

2 I recognize Council Member Ayala.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Thank you, I would like to  
4 nominate Adrian Adams for the Speaker of the New York  
5 City Council.

6 [APPLAUSE]

7 CITY CLERK: I now recognize Council Member  
8 Selvena Brooks-Powers.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I would like to  
10 nominate Adrian E Adams for the position for Speaker  
11 of the New York City Council.

12 [APPLAUSE]

13 CITY CLERK: I now recognize Council Member Justin  
14 Brannan.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: I would like to nominate  
16 Council Member Adrienne E. Adams for the position of  
17 Speaker of this body.

18 [APPLAUSE]

19 CITY CLERK: I now recognize Council Member  
20 Crystal Hudson.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Permission to have a  
22 couple of minutes?

23 CITY CLERK: So ordered.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Thank you.

1           Good afternoon, I'm honored to join many of my  
2 colleagues to nominate Adrian Adams to continue her  
3 historic legacy as Speaker for another term and lead  
4 this majority women body for another two years. As I  
5 said when I voted for Speaker Adams two years ago,  
6 our existence as Black women is deemed impossible. We  
7 are too this, were are too that, but we women - Black  
8 women, Latinx women, Asian women, queer women, trans  
9 women, disabled women, immigrant women, we are  
10 enough. And this speaker has proven something we all  
11 know, in politics if you want something done, ask a  
12 woman.  
13

14           Under the leadership of this city's first Black  
15 City Council Speaker, we made history last session  
16 and tackled our city's most pressing issues. We  
17 passed more than 288 bills, outpacing the last two  
18 year sessions in 2001 and 2003. This included  
19 legislation to address the Black maternal mortality  
20 crisis, bolster CityFHEPS program, expand childcare  
21 access, enhance mental health supports, and protect  
22 LGBTQIA+ folks receiving gender affirming care, or  
23 birthing people seeking abortions in New York City  
24 from retaliation. If that's what we've accomplished  
25 in two years, I can't wait to see what another two

2 will bring under this speaker's leadership. I'm proud  
3 today to nominate my Spellman sister, Speaker Adrian  
4 Adams, to continue her work as a Speaker of The City  
5 Council. Thank you

6 [APPLAUSE]

7 CITY CLERK: I now recognize Council Member  
8 Amanda Fariás.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: I would like to nominate  
10 Council Member Adrienne E. Adams for the position of  
11 Speaker of the New York City Council.

12 [APPLAUSE]

13 CITY CLERK: I now recognize Council Member  
14 Carlina Rivera.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you so much.

16 Today we assembled to start our new term and  
17 elect a speaker who will lead with courage and  
18 compassion. I proudly speak in favor of Adrian Adams,  
19 a person of incredible grace and dignity, a  
20 tremendous public servant, and an elected official  
21 who has never strayed from doing what is right and  
22 what is the priority for those who need our support  
23 the most. From focusing on green energy goals,  
24 expanding equitable economic opportunities for New  
25 Yorkers, putting children, family, seniors, and our

1  
2 working class first, to transportation improvements,  
3 small business help, [TIMER CHIMES] and advocating  
4 for our disabled neighbors and LGBTQIA+ people, she  
5 has done it. This work in the complex and diverse  
6 issues we face are in constant demand of our  
7 attention, and all of it made the Council's agenda in  
8 just two years with Speaker Adams rising to every  
9 occasion.

10 Let me get personal for a minute and attest to  
11 what I've seen in the most grounded way possible -  
12 after all I am a Capricorn and it is our season.  
13 [LAUGHTER] In a majority women Council operating  
14 within an industry that can be unforgiving to women,  
15 to Black women especially, making decisions when  
16 others seek to discredit, Council Member Adams  
17 climbed and climbed, pulling up every single person  
18 she could. In accomplishments in fighting for  
19 reproductive justice and abortion access, and  
20 asserting that housing is truly a human right, and  
21 being brave enough to take on reform within our  
22 criminal legal system, I say thank you, Madam  
23 Speaker, and ask that we once again nominate Adrian  
24 E. Adams Speaker of the New York City Council, and  
25 lead the greatest place on earth, our home.

2 [APPLAUSE]

3 CITY CLERK: Are there any other nominations?

4 Hearing none, I now close nominations and direct the  
5 clerk to call the roll.

6 Council Members, when your name is called, please  
7 state the name of the nominee you are voting for.

8 CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: I vote in support of  
10 Speaker Adrienne E. Adams. Congratulations, Madam  
11 Speaker.

12 CLERK: Council Member Adams?

13 [LAUGHTER]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: I vote aye

15 [LAUGHTER]

16 CLERK: Thank you.

17 Council Member Ariola?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote in support of  
19 Speaker of Adrienne Adams.

20 CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: I vote Adrienne E. Adams.

22 CLERK: Council Member Ayala?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Adrienne E. Adams.

24 CLERK: Council Member Banks?

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: I proudly vote in support  
3 of Adrienne E. Adams.

4 CLERK: Council Member Borelli?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: I thought this was my  
6 chance. It wasn't. [LAUGHTER] I support Adrienne E.  
7 Adams. Congratulations

8 CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: I proudly support  
10 Adrienne E. Adams.

11 CLERK: Council Member BRANNAN?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: I vote for Adrienne  
13 Adams.

14 CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote for Adrienne E.  
16 Adams; she's nice, she's normal, and she's a good  
17 manager.

18 [LAUGHTER]

19 CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Permission to  
21 explain my vote?

22 CITY CLERK: So ordered.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Good afternoon  
24 colleagues, two years ago I rose in this chamber to  
25 nominate Adrian Adams as the first-ever Black speaker

1 of this council. We knew the election of our class  
2 was a beacon of hope to so many in our communities.  
3 We were the first ever majority women Council in the  
4 City's history, and the most diverse council in its  
5 history - full of clear-eyed leaders with a passion  
6 for making New York work for everybody. But the  
7 promise of that election was rivaled by an  
8 uncertainty about our future. We were still in the  
9 thick of the COVID-19 pandemic, another wave of  
10 infection and death had just crested and crashed over  
11 our city. At that crucial moment we chose Adrian  
12 Adams as our speaker. We believed she had the vision  
13 and the compassion to honor the promise of this  
14 Council and the strength and the experience to  
15 confront the challenges we face. After two years, it  
16 is abundantly clear, we were right. Speaker Adams has  
17 executed a bold agenda to improve the lives of every  
18 New Yorker irrespective of race or class or  
19 neighborhood. She has usher to passage transformative  
20 legislation across issue areas. She has sought to  
21 increase affordable housing access. Under her watch  
22 we have built tens of thousands of new housing units,  
23 reformed the for the CityFHEPS Voucher Program, and  
24 established a fair housing plan that will guide  
25

1 development in the years to come. She has fought to  
2 protect the right of every woman seeking an abortion.  
3 She has championed investments in public safety. She  
4 has child care programs, secured nearly \$100 million  
5 in annual funding for Fair Fares - the list goes on.  
6 She has led this city council through two budget  
7 cycles during which she has defended the essential  
8 public services and programs on which our  
9 constituents depend. This City is stronger, safer,  
10 cleaner, and kinder as a direct result of her  
11 leadership. Today we herald the start of a new  
12 session. This moment is no less urgent than the last.  
13 The needs of our communities are still great. We must  
14 build more housing, strengthen our schools, increase  
15 access to healthcare. We face economic headwinds that  
16 put pressure on our budget in the years to come. But,  
17 the promise of this council endures and it is  
18 stronger than ever. We have an opportunity to build  
19 on the bold work of these past two years, to move  
20 ahead an agenda that uplifts New Yorkers in every  
21 corner of this city. [TIMER CHIMES] Speaker Adams has  
22 proven that she is the right person for the job, and  
23 I could not be prouder to serve under her leadership  
24 as we enter into this new term. So with great pride,  
25

2 I nominate my friend, representative of the Great 28,  
3 Adrian Adams, Speaker of the New York City Council.

4 [APPLAUSE]

5 CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: I cast my vote for my  
7 Council Member Adrienne E. Adams.

8 CLERK: Council Member Carr?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: I vote for Adrienne E.  
10 Adams.

11 CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: I vote in support of  
13 Adrienne E. Adams. Congratulations, Madam Speaker.

14 CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: I vote for Adrienne E.  
16 Adams.

17 CLERK: Council Member Farías?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Permission to explain my  
19 vote?

20 CITY CLERK: So ordered.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Thank you. I am pleased  
22 express my whole hearted support for Council Member  
23 Adrian Adams as the next New York City Council  
24 Speaker. Adrian's unwavering dedication to public  
25 service, coupled with her extensive experience and

1           NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING           24  
2 proven leadership, make her the ideal candidate to  
3 lead our Council.

4           Council Member Adams has consistently  
5 demonstrated a deep commitment to addressing the  
6 diverse needs of our communities, through her tenure  
7 in the Council, and previous as speaker, she has  
8 advocated for the initiatives that prioritize  
9 education, affordable housing, and economic  
10 development - all that impact to the most  
11 marginalized throughout this city. Her focus on  
12 fostering inclusivity and equitable opportunities for  
13 all New Yorkers aligns seamlessly with the values we  
14 hold dear. In times of unprecedented challenges,  
15 Council Member Adams' resilience and ability to  
16 collaborate across party lines shine through. She has  
17 a track record of bringing people together to find  
18 practical solutions to complex issues. As we navigate  
19 the current landscape of our city, her leadership  
20 will be invaluable in the next two years. Council  
21 Member Adams possesses the vision, experience, and  
22 dedication needed to effectively lead the New York  
23 City Council. I'm confident that under her  
24 stewardship our city will continue to thrive and  
25 remain a beacon of progress for all of its residents.

2 And with that, I support and vote for my Soror, and  
3 Council Member, Adrian E. Adams as the next New York  
4 City Council Speaker.

5 [APPLAUSE]

6 CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Permission to explain my  
8 vote?

9 CITY CLERK: So ordered.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: I proudly vote for Council  
11 Speaker, Adrian E. Adams. These past two years, we've  
12 done so much for the people of the city of New York.  
13 We prioritized issues that they care about including  
14 affordable housing, including safety - public safety  
15 and fire safety - including education, and so much  
16 more. We've done so much for the people of the city  
17 of New York, and I look forward to continue resolving  
18 problems and prioritizing issues that the people of  
19 New York City care about. Speaker Adrian Adams is a  
20 great listener. Speaker Adrian Adams is a great  
21 problem solver. So, I proudly vote for Speaker Adrian  
22 Adams, and I look forward to continuing the great  
23 work. Thank you.

24 [APPLAUSE]

25 CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you. I proudly and  
3 wholeheartedly support Adrienne E. Adams for the  
4 position of speaker, and I wish to be associated with  
5 the remarks of Council Members Brooks-Powers and  
6 Fariás, thank you.

7 CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: [NO RESPONSE]

9 CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: I vote in support of  
11 Adrienne E. Adams.

12 CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: I proudly stand in support  
14 of Council Member Adrienne E. Adams for speaker,  
15 congratulations.

16 CLERK: Council Member Holden?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote for Adrienne E.  
18 Adams for speaker.

19 CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: I proudly vote for  
21 Adrienne E. Adams.

22 CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Permission to explain my  
24 vote?

25 CITY CLERK: So ordered.

1 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: I rise today to vote for  
2 Speaker Adams, also known as my sister speaker. The  
3 past two years under your leadership have been a  
4 beacon of hope and a testament of tenacity, the  
5 embodiment of poise and determined values. Your  
6 historic ascension as the first Black woman to lead  
7 this body shows us that it is possible, but most  
8 importantly, staying focused on the purpose to win  
9 victories for those who have been forgotten for so  
10 long. Under your leadership we have a majority-led  
11 women council. We pass historic legislation from  
12 criminal justice, education, housing, abortion  
13 access, and so much more. Today I publicly thank you  
14 and give you the flowers you so deserve. This is a  
15 passionate body where we hold values and visions near  
16 and dear to our hearts. You've listened,  
17 collaborated, steered us in the right direction,  
18 leading with compassion, courage, and love. We have  
19 we have major issues to tackle, but there's no one  
20 better to lead the charge other than our speaker,  
21 Adrienne E. Adams, and I vote for you, thank you.

22 [APPLAUSE]

23 CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?  
24  
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: I probably vote for  
3 Adrienne Adams as speaker of our next City Council.  
4 Congratulations, Madam Speaker, and I look forward to  
5 our continued work together fighting for all our  
6 communities across our city, congratulations.

7 CLERK: Council Member Lee?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: I probably vote for Adrian E.  
9 Adams as our next speaker. And I want to thank you,  
10 Speaker, for always being such an amazing voice for  
11 the voiceless and most marginalized in our  
12 communities. So, thank you and congratulations.

13 CLERK: Council Member Louis?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I proudly support Adrienne  
15 E. Adams, congratulations, Madam Speaker.

16 CLERK: Council Member Marmorato?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: I vote in support of  
18 Adrienne E. Adams.

19 CLERK: Council Member Marte?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: I vote for Adrienne E.  
21 Adams.

22 CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I support Adrienne E.  
24 Adams.

25 CLERK: Council Member Menin?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: I am proud to support  
3 Adrienne E. Adams, congratulations, Madam Speaker.

4 CLERK: Council Member Moya?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I proudly support Adrienne  
6 E. Adams, congratulations, Madam Speaker.

7 CLERK: Thank you.

8 Council Member Narcisse?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Permission to explain my  
10 vote?

11 CITY CLERK: So ordered.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: If you are wondering who  
13 I'm voting for, my vote is very important. [LAUGHTER]  
14 And, for me, for those that know and understand me, I  
15 don't say anything that don't mean. And I really,  
16 like I said, as a nurse I clean, but I don't do  
17 blank, and I'm not gonna tell you. [LAUGHS] It is  
18 with immense pride and full of optimism that I vote  
19 for Speaker Adrian Adams. As we embark on the new  
20 session under the exemplary leadership or Speaker  
21 Adrian Adams, I am filled with admiration and respect  
22 for the transformative influence she has brought to  
23 the Council. Adrian Adams, you have a unique blend of  
24 compassion, resilience, and unwavering commitment.  
25 You have infused a woman's touch and a heart into our

2 proceedings. Your leadership not only resonates with  
3 a sense of inclusivity and understanding, but also  
4 leads into a future with every voice is heard and  
5 valued. I'm honored to work under your guidance, and  
6 I look forward to the remarkable strives we will  
7 achieve together for the betterment of the entire  
8 City. You have touched our sickness, you understand  
9 it, you have touched our economy, you know that some  
10 voices and some of us were not being heard.  
11 Education, environment, no matter what I talk to you  
12 about, you always have that tender approach to  
13 understand even when you don't talk much. You're very  
14 quiet in many ways, and that's what I admire about  
15 you, because I talk a lot. [LAUGHS] I thank you for  
16 your understanding. I thank you for understanding  
17 that our voices need to be part of the equation.  
18 [TIMER CHIMES] And we have to start from the bottom  
19 up. So, I thank you for that. Thank you, and  
20 Adrienne 100 percent, and if there is more it's more,  
21 it's more too, thank you.

22 [APPLAUSE]

23 CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote Adrienne E. Adams,  
25 congratulations, Speaker.

2 CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote Adrienne E. Adams,  
4 congratulations, Madam Speaker.

5 CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: I vote for Adrienne E.  
7 Adams, congratulations, Madam Speaker.

8 CLERK: Council Member Powers?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I vote for Adrienne E.  
10 Adams, congratulations.

11 CLERK: Council Member Restler?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Permission to explain my  
13 vote?

14 CITY CLERK: So ordered.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Thank you. At the last  
16 Stated Meeting in December 2023, thanks to the  
17 leadership of Speaker Adams, we passed transformative  
18 criminal justice legislation - bills that multiple  
19 mayors and multiple speakers had either been  
20 unwilling or unable to get over the finish line. We  
21 cleaned up the Right to Know Act and passed the How  
22 Many Stops Act to bring real accountability to the  
23 NYPD. We are ending torture in our jails with the end  
24 of solitary confinement. And thanks to Council Member  
25 Powers' legislation, we are ending discrimination

2 against formally incarcerated people who need  
3 housing. This was an inspiring package, one that I  
4 was proud to vote for, and one that would not have  
5 gotten over the finish line if not for the leadership  
6 of Speaker Adams, and I'm proud for her today to  
7 continue on as our speaker. Thank you.

8 [APPLAUSE]

9 CLERK: Council Member Riley?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: I am proud to vote for my  
11 Divine Nine sister, Adrienne E. Adams as Madam  
12 Speaker. Congratulations, Madam Speaker.

13 CLERK: Council Member Rivera?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I just want to align  
15 myself to all the comments of my colleagues, uh,  
16 especially Gale's "nice and normal" comment.

17 [LAUGHTER] And I proudly support and vote for  
18 Adrienne E. Adams, Madam Speaker.

19 CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: I proudly vote aye in  
21 support of Adrienne E. Adams, felicidades.

22 CLERK: Council Member Salaam?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: As one of the newest  
24 members of this body, I am in proud support of voting  
25 for Adrienne E. Adams, congratulations.

2 [APPLAUSE]

3 CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I proudly support  
5 Adrienne E. Adams, congratulations, Madam Speaker.

6 CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Permission to explain my  
8 vote?

9 CITY CLERK: So ordered.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: [SPEAKING SPANISH] For  
11 your fierce leadership of all of our communities in  
12 the city of New York, but especially for those like  
13 mine who need us the most, I vote for Adrienne E.  
14 Adams. Congratulations, Madam Speaker.

15 [APPLAUSE]

16 CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: As the council member  
18 for the Devine 29, I proudly... [LAUGHTER] I vote  
19 proudly vote for Adrienne E. Adams in the adjourning  
20 district of the Great 28. [LAUGHTER]

21 CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: I proudly cast my vote  
23 for Speaker Adrienne Adams, and continue to lead with  
24 love, light, and openness.

25 CLERK: Council Member Ung?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: [ABSENT]

3 CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: I vote for Adrienne E.  
5 Adams. Congratulations, Madam Speaker.

6 CLERK: Council Member Williams?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I proudly vote for my  
8 South East Queens big sister, from inside the 27th  
9 council district, my favorite flex, proud  
10 representative of the Great 28. [LAUGHTER] I vote for  
11 Adrienne E. Adams, thank you.

12 CLERK: Council Member Won?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: I proudly vote for Adrienne  
14 E. Adams, congratulations.

15 CLERK: Yeger?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: I vote for Madam Speaker,  
17 one of the last remaining members of the Class of  
18 2017. We came in together. I congratulate you, Madam  
19 Speaker, and wish you the best 23 months and 28 days  
20 left that we have together. [LAUGHTER] [APPLAUSE] I  
21 vote for Adrienne Adams.

22 CLERK: Council Member Zhuang?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: I just realized I will  
24 always be the last member. This is, as the first  
25 Chinese-American city council member in Brooklyn

1 history, and I am proud to vote for Adrienne E. Adams  
2 for our speaker, thank you, congratulations.

3 [APPLAUSE]

4 CITY CLERK: By a vote of 50 votes in the  
5 affirmative, 0 in the negotiate, and 0 abstentions,  
6 the Council has duly elected the speaker of the City  
7 Council for the term commencing January 1, 2024 and  
8 terminating December 31, 2025, Council Member  
9 Adrienne Adams!  
10

11 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

12 CITY CLERK: I will now introduce the attorney  
13 general of the state of New York, Leticia James, to  
14 administer the oath of office to Speaker Adams.

15 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

16 [PAUSE]

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: It's great to be in a  
18 body, in light of the fact that we live in a  
19 polarized and fractured world, and it's great to be  
20 in a body where we welcome a Council Member Schulman  
21 into the Divine Nine, that's really a special, it's  
22 got to be a real special place. [LAUGHTER] And it's  
23 great to see that you've left my chair empty, thank  
24 you so much. [LAUGHTER]

1           She is wise, she's intelligent, she's sharp,  
2 she's insightful, she's focused, she is committed,  
3 and she is talented. That is your speaker, Speaker  
4 Adrian E Adams, and I am proud and honored to be here  
5 amongst all of you. As a fellow public servant, and  
6 it's important that we all recognize and remember  
7 that we are not here to serve ourselves, but to serve  
8 others and to serve constituents who desperately need  
9 us at a time like this.

11           As was mentioned, Adrienne E. Adams has broken  
12 barriers, and all of New York City is fortunate for  
13 that fact. And she is an instrument for a larger  
14 cause of justice. She's relied on her lived  
15 experiences and the wisdom that she and all of you,  
16 her colleagues, have amassed to help move New York  
17 City forward. Adrienne has led this city council in  
18 a number of bills that have been mentioned to address  
19 persistent racial disparities and maternal health,  
20 and to expand access to reproductive rights. Under  
21 her leadership, she has expanded support for crime  
22 victims in communities that experience high levels of  
23 violence, but who are underserved by traditional  
24 services, so that they too can enjoy the bounty of  
25 this city.

2 She's created a \$5.1 million budget initiative to  
3 fund community safety and victim services at the  
4 neighborhood level, because by repairing the breach,  
5 we improve public safety all throughout the city of  
6 New York.

7 She secured funding to establish New York State's  
8 first for trauma recovery centers for those who are  
9 struggling with drug abuse, struggling,  
10 unfortunately, of opioid abuse, fentanyl, and  
11 xylazine, and all of us must work to address these  
12 issues.

13 Adrienne E. Adam, and all of you in this room,  
14 have prioritized addressing fairness in this city's  
15 workforce, striking a mighty blow against structures  
16 that breed inequities by passing legislative packages  
17 to confront the historic lack of diversity and  
18 gender, and embraced base pay disparities that impact  
19 at workforce.

20 She also established the CUNY Reconnect Program  
21 that has helped thousands of working-age New Yorkers  
22 return to college, because she understands that  
23 education is transformative and can transform the  
24 lives of countless New Yorkers.

2 I can stand here and cite all of the  
3 accomplishments that this young woman has made during  
4 these past two years, but I know that God is not  
5 finished with you yet and that more is expected. And  
6 I also know that as someone said, "Hope is the  
7 companion of power and the mother of success," and in  
8 this woman, she is both hopeful and successful and  
9 that is why she is the speaker of this body.

10 You are truly an inspirational Council speaker, a  
11 role model to many little girls, Black, and white,  
12 and Latino, and Asian they all look to you. And I am  
13 sure that you will be just as effective and dynamic  
14 as you have been in your in your last term, as you  
15 will be in the next.

16 I thank my friend, Adrian E. Adams, on a great  
17 four years, and I know we are looking forward to what  
18 comes next. All that I say is that God surround you  
19 and keep you safe, and that you walk with him, and  
20 when you walk with him you feel his presence and know  
21 that he is with you in each and every decision that  
22 you make, and know that God is in control of all of  
23 us.

24

25

2 And, so, I have the honor and privilege of  
3 issuing the oath of office. And, so, Madam Speaker,  
4 if you would please join me, as well as your husband.

5 Please raise your left hand and repeat after me.

6 I...

7 SPEAKER ADAMS: I...

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: Please state your name...

9 SPEAKER ADAMS: Adrienne E. Adams...

10 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: do solemnly swear or  
11 affirm...

12 SPEAKER ADAMS: do solemnly swear or affirm...

13 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: that I will support the  
14 constitution of the United States.

15 SPEAKER ADAMS: that I will support the  
16 constitution of the United States...

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: and the constitution of  
18 the state of New York...

19 SPEAKER ADAMS: and the constitution of the state  
20 of New York...

21 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: and the Charter of the  
22 city of New York...

23 SPEAKER ADAMS: and the Charter of the city of New  
24 York...

2 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: and that I will  
3 faithfully discharge...

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: and that I will faithfully  
5 discharge...

6 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: the duties of...

7 SPEAKER ADAMS: the duties of...

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: the Office of...

9 SPEAKER ADAMS: the Office of...

10 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: the Speaker of the New  
11 York City Council.

12 SPEAKER ADAMS: the Speaker of the New York City  
13 Council...

14 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: in the 28th District...

15 SPEAKER ADAMS: in the 28th, the Great 28th  
16 District...

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: not in Brooklyn, but in  
18 but in Queens...

19 [LAUGHTER]

20 SPEAKER ADAMS: not in Brooklyn, Tish.

21 [LAUGHTER]

22 SPEAKER ADAMS: but in Queens.

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: in the city of New  
24 York...

25 SPEAKER ADAMS: in the city of New York...

2 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: according to the best of  
3 my ability...

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: according to the very best of my  
5 ability...

6 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: Congratulations, Madam  
7 Speaker.

8 [APPLAUSE]

9 [PAUSE]

10 CITY CLERK: Madam Speaker, you have the floor.

11 SPEAKER ADAMS: Good afternoon to everyone and  
12 what a happy new year! I of course want to recognize  
13 and thank my sister in service in New York Attorney  
14 General, Leticia James!

15 [APPLAUSE]

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: Tish, with everything that you're  
17 working on in the interest of the people of the state  
18 of New York, I really appreciate you taking time out  
19 of your incredibly busy schedule, and doing what we  
20 know you got to do, to be here for me and with me  
21 today.

22 In case you all don't know, Tish has been a  
23 constant mentor and inspiration for me even before I  
24 first stepped foot in this council chamber seven  
25 years ago. And as our public advocate, Tish

1  
2 flawlessly officiated our Stated Meetings - as she  
3 said, promptly stayed seated in that starred red  
4 chair. And she's been such a powerful, positive  
5 influence for me and countless women throughout our  
6 city. Tish your trailblazing work continues to uplift  
7 all New Yorkers and we're so proud, so proud of you  
8 leadership, so proud of your persistence, so proud of  
9 your fearlessness in the pursuit of justice and  
10 equity for the people of the state of New York. I  
11 love you and I thank you so much.

12 [APPLAUSE]

13 SPEAKER ADAMS: Next, want to take a moment to  
14 thank the hard-working staff of the New York City  
15 Council. Thank you all staff, every unit, every  
16 department!

17 [APPLAUSE]

18 My sergeants, my security, my detail, and of  
19 course, I cannot leave out my own District 28 office  
20 team, which is led by my district Chief of Staff,  
21 Tyrell "Ty" Hankerson.

22 [APPLAUSE]

23 SPEAKER ADAMS: Ty has been with me since day one  
24 of my membership on the City Council, and I thank him  
25 for his dedicated public service, we could not have

1  
2 accomplished what we did over these years without  
3 your commitment to this city. We're so grateful for  
4 your contributions to this council, and we truly look  
5 forward to the next two years, or as Kalman said...  
6 Kalman's got the stopwatch on, because it's his  
7 stopwatch too, 23 months and 28 days... We didn't get  
8 to the seconds, thank you Kalman, thank you for that  
9 too.

10 And, finally, thank you to our partners in labor,  
11 advocacy, and government who continue to support the  
12 health and safety of New Yorkers day in and day out.  
13 Your partnership is vital to the success of this  
14 legislative body and to all New Yorkers. We cannot  
15 thank you enough.

16 Two years ago, I was proud to become the first  
17 Black speaker of the New York City Council; the first  
18 wife, the first mother, the first grandmother chosen  
19 for this position by the first women majority, and  
20 the very most diverse council elected by New Yorkers  
21 in our history. And once again we have historically  
22 gotten a diverse council and our *women* majority  
23 remains - and the men that get it. Together we do  
24 reflect the rich diversity of our great city. We're  
25 made up of New Yorkers from all different backgrounds

1 - we're nurses, social workers, educators, community  
2 leaders, advocates, small business owners, and so  
3 much more. Our members have various experiences with  
4 how the systems of our government impact the people  
5 in our communities. We have children, grandchildren,  
6 and family members whose current and future well-  
7 being depends on the work we accomplish, just as it  
8 does for each of our constituents. The diversity of  
9 this council and its women majority have led us to  
10 govern differently than our predecessors. Our  
11 perspectives have shaped our legislative priorities,  
12 empowering us to address long-standing issues that  
13 have not been adequately prioritized. Our  
14 relationships to our communities have been enabled us  
15 to unlock equitable opportunities that were  
16 previously inaccessible to so many New Yorkers who  
17 look like us. This allowed us to make strides in  
18 confronting ingrained challenges within our city and  
19 society, which will require our sustained commitment  
20 to fully address.

22 For example, we took action to improve maternal  
23 health for all New Yorkers, passing a historic  
24 package of laws to push this city towards addressing  
25 the severe racial disparities that disproportionately

1           harm Black women, and birthing people and other  
2           people of color. When Black New Yorkers are nine  
3           times more likely to die from a pregnancy related  
4           issue than white New Yorkers, our attention must be  
5           focused on resolving this long-standing crisis. We  
6           knew this, though, as more than a statistic as  
7           mothers, and grandmothers, parents, and spouses and  
8           loving friends, our experiences and stories,  
9           including my own informed, our work is lawmakers. We  
10          must renew our commitment and build upon our efforts  
11          to end this persisting injustice that continues to  
12          harm families.

14           We advanced our Mental Health Roadmap, which  
15          recognizes community based care programs as proven  
16          solutions to promote well-being and prevent crises.

17           We expanded the City's commitment of resources to  
18          these underinvested in programs as part of a critical  
19          intervention to address the mental health crisis.

20          However, getting New Yorkers the help they need will  
21          require us to make even deeper investments into our  
22          communities, which we are prepared to do.

23           To bolster economic and educational opportunities  
24          we expanded the City's Summer Youth Employment  
25          program and pioneered CUNY Reconnect to help working

1  
2 age New Yorkers finish their degrees to improve their  
3 earning potential. Thousands of New Yorkers seized  
4 this opportunity. We quickly blew past our initial  
5 goal to reenroll 10,000 students to reach over 25,000  
6 New Yorkers, the majority of whom are women and  
7 people of color who previously left school because of  
8 family or work obligations. This is tremendous.

9 Together we have prioritized equitable access to  
10 opportunity by expanding Fair Fares, creating  
11 pipelines to civil service jobs, and advancement for  
12 women people of color and marginalized New Yorkers,  
13 supporting a healthier industrial sector in our city  
14 and promoting entrepreneurial and small business  
15 growth for underserved communities.

16 We must continue to take critical steps forward  
17 to improve equitable economic outcomes for all New  
18 Yorkers and working families across our city.

19 We're most effective when we treat our challenges  
20 as the interconnected issues they are rather than as  
21 isolated ones. The Council's approach to public  
22 safety has been a prime example. Public safety is  
23 access to mental health as well as resources and  
24 opportunities that help New Yorkers meet their basic  
25 needs. We have prioritized pushing the City to be to

1 better meet the needs of crime survivors and  
2 communities that experience violence the most -  
3 rather than simply paying lip service and using their  
4 tragedies to advance in effective policies that make  
5 us less safe as so often happens. Our city and  
6 communities deserve a more sensible conversation on  
7 public safety that advances new comprehensive safety  
8 solutions and is built upon lessons learned from our  
9 past mistakes. We have pursued an all-of-the-above  
10 approach to public safety, because this is the  
11 pathway to contend with the legacies of harm that  
12 have impacted generations of New Yorkers -  
13 particularly and underserved Black and Latino  
14 communities.

16 We have also recognized housing as public safety,  
17 and begin confronting our City's housing crisis as  
18 the pathway to a safer New York.

19 We started to shift how the Council approaches  
20 equitable housing development by making clear that we  
21 are most successful when all stakeholders work  
22 together, and all of us contribute to solving the  
23 housing crisis.

24 The Council will have to be a constructive force  
25 in helping our city emerge stronger from the severe

2 lack of homes that is deepened our crisis of  
3 affordability and homelessness. By treating housing  
4 as a part of an ecosystem that can help deliver  
5 health, safety and prosperity, we are better able to  
6 utilize housing as a tool to invest holistically in  
7 the strength of our New Yorkers. That is how we can  
8 help New Yorkers remain here in the city they love.

9 We passed critical laws to advance climate  
10 leadership and environmental justice in our city, as  
11 well as so many other critical solutions, while  
12 prioritizing our oversight role to hold city agencies  
13 and the administration accountable.

14 We stood are ground on principled fights when the  
15 best interest of New Yorkers and our city were at  
16 stake. We exercised our role as the equal branch of  
17 government through checks and balances to executive  
18 authority, which helped to strengthen our democracy  
19 and the governance of New York.

20 We worked with our leaders in government - our  
21 elective leaders - as we shoutout today Congressman  
22 Gregory Meeks...

23 [APPLAUSE]

24 SPEAKER ADAMS: Congressman Adriano Espaillat...

25 [APPLAUSE]

2 SPEAKER ADAMS: and our former colleague, Paul  
3 Vallone.

4 [APPLAUSE]

5 SPEAKER ADAMS: We have so much to be proud of.  
6 Our work over these past two years has made a marked  
7 difference in our constituents' lives.

8 To our returning members, I thank you. Your  
9 tenacity, thoughtfulness, and service on behalf of  
10 your districts and our city make our city stronger.  
11 Your leadership is critical to this body.

12 To our new members, Yusef, Kristy, Chris, Susan,  
13 we welcome you!

14 [APPLAUSE]

15 SPEAKER ADAMS: The various experiences and  
16 expertise you bring to this body will be so important  
17 for the challenges ahead of us. I encourage you all  
18 to rely on my office, central staff, and your  
19 colleagues as resources to navigate the intricacies  
20 of your new roles and the legislative process.

21 While we each represent unique districts with  
22 many distinct needs together, colleagues, we make up  
23 one city and one body. Our shared commitment to  
24 service and the goal to improve life for all New  
25 Yorkers is the north star that must unite us all. As

2 a body, we are stronger together, and can succeed by  
3 working together.

4 While we helped our city emerge from the worst of  
5 a global pandemic, our work is not yet finished. Our  
6 efforts towards a full recovery are just as critical  
7 as they were before.

8 Our full leadership team will be announced in the  
9 coming days. Today I can say that the selections for  
10 part of it will include Diana Ayala as our Deputy  
11 Speaker...

12 [APPLAUSE]

13 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amanda Fariás as our Majority  
14 Leader.

15 [APPLAUSE]

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: And Selvena Brooks-Powers as  
17 Majority Whip - placing all women in the top  
18 leadership positions of the Council and a Latina as  
19 Majority Leader for the first time in history.

20 [APPLAUSE]

21 SPEAKER ADAMS: I am confident that together we  
22 will help lead this council and prepare the  
23 institution for future success.

24 And, colleagues, I especially want to thank  
25 Council Member Keith Powers and express my gratitude

1           NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING           51  
2     for his leadership, which will remain integral to our  
3     team and to this council.

4           [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

5           SPEAKER ADAMS: As a body, we must be tenacious in  
6     our leadership and remain clear, focused, and humble  
7     in the face of our challenges, because they are  
8     deeply ingrained in our society.

9           We will need to renew our efforts to address the  
10    pre-existing disparities widened by the pandemic that  
11    block women, working families, and our communities of  
12    color from securing stability and opportunity.

13    Although the equitable future we seek may take years  
14    to arrive, every ounce of progress we secure today  
15    will bring us closer to what New Yorkers deserve. And  
16    when the path forward feels muddled, we can work with  
17    advocates, organizations, and community stakeholders  
18    to clear the way, because they are our partners.

19           When the challenges feel too big to handle on our  
20    own, we can work with our colleagues across all  
21    levels of government, because the crises we face  
22    require our collective efforts to solve. And when  
23    we're short on answers, colleagues, we can sit with  
24    our constituents and hear their stories and  
25    solutions, because they possess a wealth of

2 experiences, and knowledge that can guide our way  
3 forward.

4 Colleagues, together we can chip away at the  
5 injustices that our communities have endured for too  
6 long and deliver more of what New Yorkers deserve. We  
7 can move our city forward.

8 And as I look at this brand new body, I have such  
9 high hopes for what we all will accomplish together.  
10 It is an honor of a lifetime to serve the great  
11 people of New York City alongside of all of you, and  
12 to serve all of you. Thank you!

13 [APPLAUSE]

14 CITY CLERK: Messages & Papers From the Mayor?

15 CLERK: None.

16 CITY CLERK: Communication from City, County &  
17 Borough Offices?

18 CLERK: None.

19 CITY CLERK: Petitions and Communications?

20 CLERK: M 3 Nomination and Election of the  
21 Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections?

22 SPEAKER ADAMS: I make a motion to elect the  
23 following council members as members of the Committee  
24 on Rules, Rules, Privileges and Elections: As  
25 temporary Chair of this committee, I nominate Council

2 Member Diana Ayala. I also nominate Council Members  
3 Joseph Borelli, Justin Brannan, Gale Brewer, Selvena  
4 Brooks-Powers, Crystal Hudson, Keith Powers, Rafael  
5 Salamanca, and Sanchez as members of the Rules  
6 Committee.

7 CLERK: M 4 Nomination and Election of Deputy  
8 Speaker?

9 SPEAKER ADAMS: I also hereby move that Council  
10 Member Diana Ayala be designated as Deputy Speaker  
11 for the Council.

12 I now ask for a roll call vote on the motion to  
13 adopt these nominations, please call the roll, Mr.  
14 Clerk.

15 CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye

17 CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye

19 CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye

21 CLERK: Council Member Ayala?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I have heard really good  
23 things about Ayala, so I vote aye.

24 [LAUGHTER]

25 CLERK: Council Member Banks?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye

3 CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye

5 CLERK: Council Member BRANNAN?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye

7 CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye

9 CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Aye

11 CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye

13 CLERK: Council Member Carr?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye

15 CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye

17 CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye

19 CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye

21 CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye

23 CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye

25 CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye

3 CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye

5 CLERK: Council Member Holden?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye

7 CLERK: Thank you

8 Council Member Hudson?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye

10 CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye

12 CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye

14 CLERK: Council Member Lee?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye

16 CLERK: Council Member Louis?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye

18 CLERK: Council Member Marmorato?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Aye

20 CLERK: Council Member Marte?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye

22 CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye

24 CLERK: Council Member Menin?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye

2 CLERK: Council Member Moya?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: [NO RESPONSE]

4 CLERK: Council Member Moya?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: [NO RESPONSE]

6 CLERK: We'll come back.

7 CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye

9 CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

11 CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Aye

13 CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye

15 CLERK: Council Member Powers?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye

17 CLERK: Council Member Restler?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye

19 CLERK: Council Member Riley?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye

21 CLERK: Council Member Rivera?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye

23 CLERK: Council Member Salaam

24 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Aye

25 CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye

3 CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye

5 CLERK: Thank you

6 Council Member Schulman?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye

8 CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: I proudly vote aye for my  
10 mentor.

11 CLERK: Council Member Ung?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: ABSENT]

13 CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye

15 CLERK: Council Member Williams?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

17 CLERK: Council Member Moya?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

19 CLERK: Thank you, sir.

20 Council Member Won?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye

22 CLERK: Council Member Yeger?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye

24 CLERK: Council Member Zhuang?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Aye

2 CLERK: Council Member Borelli?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye

4 CLERK: Council Member Farías

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye.

6 CLERK: Speaker Adams?

7 SPEAKER ADAMS: I vote aye.

8 CITY CLERK: Today's General Calendar items are  
9 adopted by a vote of 50 in the affirmative, 0 in the  
10 negative, and 0 abstentions.

11 CITY: M 5 and M 6 Designation of Majority Leader  
12 and Majority Whip?

13 SPEAKER ADAMS: Received, Ordered, Printed and  
14 Filed.

15 CLERK: M 7 Designation of Minority Leader?

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: After a duly convened meeting of  
17 the Republican Council, Council Member Joseph C.  
18 Borelli was elected Minority Leader of the City  
19 Council. Mr. Minority Leader, would you like to make  
20 a statement?

21 [APPLAUSE]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: You know, unlike the  
23 Speaker, my standing ovation usually happens when I  
24 sit down. [LAUGHTER] You all get excited.

25

1 First, I want to congratulate the Speaker, for a  
2 number of reasons, many of which were highlighted  
3 before, but one thing that was left unsaid was that  
4 she is the first speaker, in over a decade, to have  
5 to be speaker and deal with the challenges of office  
6 while at the same time running for reelection and  
7 worrying about the Council's reelection. That hasn't  
8 been done in a decade, and to that particular  
9 speaker's credit, she didn't know she was running for  
10 reelection up until about three months - four months  
11 before she had to start running. So you really had a  
12 more challenging experience than many speakers who  
13 came before you, and that should be a part of this  
14 record and part of your commendation.

15 [APPLAUSE]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: So, I'd like to briefly  
17 welcome the new members today. And to remind us all  
18 that we are going to be part of this body on the  
19 400th Anniversary of this city. For 400 years, four  
20 centuries, people have sat in these seats before us,  
21 and each with their own unique visions and goals and  
22 agendas and ideas of what makes a New Yorker New  
23 Yorker. They've managed to keep this city going for a  
24 long time. This office that we inherited - with all  
25

1           NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING           60  
2           due respect my friends in Congress - this is 200  
3           years older than your office.

4           [LAUGHTER]

5           COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: And I had to look it up,  
6           it's actually a year older than the attorney general  
7           - wherever she happened to be right now. But, don't  
8           forget that.

9           And in this building there's so many paintings  
10          and plaques dedicated to people who have come before  
11          us. And I sat in the Minority Leader's Office for two  
12          years now - a little over two years - and I finally  
13          decided to look up who is the subject of this massive  
14          painting that happens to be located behind my desk.  
15          It's a guy named Ward Benjamin Burnett. And he was a  
16          general in the Mexican American War, and that's not  
17          why his picture is here in New York City in City  
18          Hall. His here because in the 1850's he was tasked  
19          with creating the water system that was to supply the  
20          140,000 people who lived in the city of Brooklyn at  
21          that time. And when he got the job, when he was hired  
22          as the chief engineer, he said it would cost  
23          \$4,025,000. Job gets done a few years later, he has  
24          to produce a report to the Common Council. It turns  
25          out 167 years ago, they liked reporting bills, too.

2 So, he gives this report and he says the final price  
3 is \$4,025,000. So the imparting wisdom I'll leave  
4 with you is that if you are diligent and careful with  
5 the public's money, and you treat it as your own,  
6 even in the headwinds of this budget crisis that  
7 we're about to confront, you too can have your  
8 portrait in the Minority Leaders Office, thank you.

9 [LAUGHTER]

10 CLERK: M 8 Designation of Minority Whip?

11 SPEAKER ADAMS: Received, Ordered, Printed and  
12 Filed.

13 CITY CLERK: Thank you. I will now call upon  
14 Speaker Adrienne Adams to close today's Stated  
15 Meeting.

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The Charter  
17 Meeting of January 3, 2024 is hereby adjourned!

18 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date January 9, 2024