

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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June 13, 2012
Start: 2:20 p.m.
Recess: 3:55 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:

CHRISTINE C. QUINN
Speaker for the Council
INEZ E. DICKENS
President Pro Tempore

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Council Member Charles Barron
Council Member Gale A. Brewer
Council Member Fernando Cabrera
Council Member Margaret S. Chin
Council Member Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Council Member Elizabeth S. Crowley
Council Member Eric Martin Dilan
Council Member Daniel Dromm
Council Member Mathieu Eugene
Council Member Julissa Ferreras
Council Member Lewis A. Fidler
Council Member Helen D. Foster

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Daniel R. Garodnick
Council Member James F. Gennaro
Council Member Vincent J. Gentile
Council Member Sara M. Gonzalez
Council Member David G. Greenfield
Council Member Daniel J. Halloran III
Council Member Vincent R. Ignizio
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Letitia James
Council Member Peter A. Koo
Council Member G. Oliver Koppell
Council Member Karen Koslowitz
Council Member Brad S. Lander
Council Member Jessica S. Lappin
Council Member Stephen T. Levin
Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito
Council Member Darlene Mealy
Council Member Rosie Mendez
Council Member Michael C. Nelson
Council Member James S. Oddo
Council Member Annabel Palma
Council Member Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Council Member Diana Reyna
Council Member Joel Rivera
Council Member Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Council Member Deborah L. Rose
Council Member James Sanders, Jr.
Council Member Eric A. Ulrich
Council Member James Vacca
Council Member Peter F. Vallone, Jr.
Council Member James G. Van Bramer
Council Member Albert Vann
Council Member Mark S. Weprin
Council Member Jumaane D. Williams
Council Member Ruben Wills

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

Gloria Steinem
Feminist and LGBT rights advocate, journalist, author
Founder of Ms. Magazine

Suzanne Braun Levine
Writer, editor
Formerly of Columbia Journal Law Review, Ms. Magazine

Letty Cottin Pogrebin
Writer, journalist
Founder of Ms. Magazine

Karin Lippert
Editor, performer
Former Promotions Director for Ms. Magazine

Joanne Edgar
Independent Communication Consultant
Founder of Ms. Magazine

Pete Marston
Owner
Wonder Woman Museum, Wonder Woman Network

Ruth Sullivan
Former Editor, Ms. Magazine

Mary Peacock
Founder, Ms. Magazine

Harriet Lyons
Former Editor, Ms. Magazine

Marge Dumond
Former Copy Editor, Ms. Magazine

Mary Tom
Former Editor, Ms. Magazine
Author of "Inside Ms." and "Letters to Ms."

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

Margaret Hicks
Former Advertising Production, Ms. Magazine

Phyllis Rosser
Former Contributing Editor, Ms. Magazine

Susan McHenry
Former Editor, Ms. Magazine

Ellen Sweet
Former Editor, Ms. Magazine

Barbara Richer
Former Art Directors, Ms. Magazine

Janet Oliver
Former Research Editor, Ms. Magazine

Zachary Glenn Jones
Bishop
Unity Fellowship of Christ Church

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2 [pause, background noise, sound
3 check]

4 SPEAKER QUINN: All right, well we
5 just went downstairs to hustle up some more
6 members and Chuck, my male Chief of Staff went
7 down, but I thought it was better if I went down
8 myself, so let me ask Gloria and others to hold
9 this. Gale is that your Wonder Woman costume?
10 [background comments] There you go, there you go.
11 Let me turn the mic over to Council Member Gale
12 Brewer.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you,
14 Madam Speaker, and we are, this is a very special
15 day, it's the 40th Anniversary of the founding of
16 Ms. Magazine. [applause, cheers] And I'm sure
17 that some of the founders will speak, but for me,
18 personally, it is a very special day. I met many
19 of these folks when I worked on the campaign of
20 Mary Anne Krupsak, who won, first woman to win
21 statewide in the State of New York. And ever
22 since, Linda Loving, whenever people are in town
23 from around the world, she brings us together.
24 And we were sitting and having dinner and Pat was
25 there, and we all decided to celebrate the 40th

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2 Anniversary today. [applause] And I, some people
3 have come from all over the country and all over
4 the world to be here today. And I just want to
5 say that every time I go to a girls basketball
6 game, I remember the, I remind them about Title IX
7 and Bella Abzug, and Gloria Steinem [applause],
8 and Charlie Chisholm. And we, there's founding
9 fathers, but these are our founding mothers.
10 [cheers] So, thank you Madam Speaker, I know you
11 can relate to this amazing group gathered here
12 today, and I thank you and all of the women, and
13 some of the men, in the City Council [laughter]
14 for all the leadership that you provide. And I
15 think it comes from some of these amazing women.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Let me just, I want
17 to say a few words, but first if we could ask the
18 Clerk to please read the proclamation.

19 CLERK: Counsel, City of New York
20 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of
21 New York is proud to honor Ms. Magazine as it
22 celebrates 40 years of pioneering, feminist
23 reporting and advocacy for the rights of women and
24 girls in the United States and around the world.
25 And whereas, 40 years ago, a small group of New

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2 York City journalists, editors and activists
3 created a feminist magazine, first as a one-shot
4 with the New York Magazine, followed by a preview
5 issue that sold out in eight days around the
6 country. And then, as a monthly national
7 publication by and for, about women. And with it
8 introduced the word "Ms." into our popular culture
9 and became a forum and advocate for all women and
10 girls. And whereas, Ms. Magazine has helped shape
11 the modern feminist movement, national and
12 international, and fostered real changes in our
13 laws, institutions and society through an award
14 winning reporting and advocacy on such issues as
15 non-sexist child rearing, women's health and right
16 to choose, Title IX and equal pay, the Equal
17 Rights Amendment, access to jobs, credit, economic
18 development and elected office, international
19 human rights and violence against women, double
20 discrimination toward women of color, lesbian and
21 immigration women, and was the first national
22 publication to report on battered women, date
23 rape, sexual harassment and negative women's
24 images in the media with a no comment feature.
25 And whereas in 1973, Gloria Steinem, Patricia

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2 Carbine, Letty Cottin Pogrebin and Marlo Thomas
3 established the First Women's Fund, the Ms.
4 Foundation for Women, Inc., to elevate women's
5 voices and find solutions to end discrimination,
6 and are the creators of the Take Our Daughters and
7 Sons to Work Day, which has been adopted across
8 the U.S. and in other countries. And whereas, the
9 Free to Be You and Me multimedia project was
10 created in 1973, by Marlo Thomas and friends, to
11 empower children, inspire them to imagine their
12 own future, and to pursue their unique talents and
13 dreams without being encumbered by gender, racial,
14 ethnic or economic stereotypes. And its
15 foundation continues to support grassroots
16 projects that challenge stereotypes, fight
17 discrimination and encourage the individuality of
18 children. And whereas, Ms. Magazine celebrated
19 women writers, poets, artists, athletes, musicians
20 and the voices of its readers, in every issue,
21 plus eight books, award winning television
22 programming, such as "She's Nobody's Baby," and
23 Women Alive. Such events as the New York
24 Philharmonic Celebration of Women Composers, and
25 the first Women's Metric Mile at the U.S. Olympic

1 Invitation Track Meet at Madison Square Garden.

2 And now, therefore, be it known that the Council

3 of the City of New York honors the editors,

4 writers and staff of Ms. Magazine, for 40 years of

5 service to its readers, who have shared their

6 struggles, achievements and stories within its

7 pages, and by so doing have changed the world.

8 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the Entire

9 Council; Gale A. Brewer, Council Member Sixth

10 District, Manhattan.

11 [applause]

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Yay! And ...

13 before I turn the mic over to Gloria and any of

14 the other founders or anybody else who wants to

15 speak, first I just want to thank Gale Brewer for

16 organizing this ceremonial, for getting the Girl

17 Scouts here earlier, which no offense, made them

18 the most exciting part of the day to see the next

19 great generation for getting cake, which is always

20 a good thing. So, thank you very much, Gale, for

21 doing this, and reminding all of us in this

22 Chamber that things don't happen by accident. And

23 that we didn't end up with a City where we could

24 have the first woman and first openly gay Speaker

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2 of the City Council by accident, all of the people
3 in this room [applause] and a lot of other people
4 made that opportunity happen. So, thank you,
5 Gale, for never forgetting that. And I think it
6 is powerful in my opinion that this ceremonial is
7 today. On a day that the City Council will take
8 the most aggressive action of any city in the
9 United States, against sex trafficking. [cheers]
10 We are the first city to find ways to use
11 municipal laws to address that, and we've
12 announced today a partnership with our three
13 biggest, three of our biggest airlines, to help
14 address this. I mention that because thinking
15 that we could have the power to do stuff beyond
16 what people said we could do, thinking we have the
17 power to just call up the airlines and say, "This
18 is happening and you've got to help us," that type
19 of an attitude came from Ms. Magazine, that type
20 of an attitude came from the feminist movement and
21 the Civil Rights struggle and the LGBT rights
22 struggle, the kind of attitude you say, "There's a
23 problem and we're going to find a solution to it,"
24 so I just want to thank all of you, some of whom I
25 know, and some of whom I haven't had the pleasure

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2 to know, but we all do know, because without all
3 of you, so many of us wouldn't be there today.
4 So, thank you very, very much, Gale, for let--for
5 never letting us forget and reminding us to
6 celebrate, 'cause if we don't celebrate we'll get
7 drained of our energy. And thank you all for all
8 of the great work you've done over four plus
9 decades, and in advance for all the work you're
10 going to do, 'cause you look around this semi-
11 circle, these are not people or gals or guys who
12 are resting. So, let me turn the mic over to
13 Gloria.

14 GLORIA STEINEM: Thank you so much,
15 Speaker Quinn. [cheers, applause] Thank you.
16 Thank you, Gale, thank you all Members of the City
17 Council. It's so wonderful to be here for a
18 celebration and not testimony. [laughter] In a
19 moment, I'm going to ask each of the people who
20 created Ms. Magazine to say her name and her
21 position, because I think it's important that we
22 have all of our voices here. But I just want to
23 say I don't think this is could've happened any
24 place except New York City. [assent, applause]
25 People have always come here to be free. From

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2 other countries, and sometimes from other places
3 in this country [laughs] we have come here to be
4 free. And it is that faith in freedom and
5 autonomy and dignity, that allowed Ms. Magazine to
6 be started here. Now, I want to introduce you to
7 a fulltime, lifetime New Yorker, who you may also
8 know as a former editor of the Columbia Journalism
9 Review, author of many books, but you may not know
10 that she was the first, longest serving editor of
11 Ms. Magazine. And when I was running around the
12 country bringing back little pieces of paper
13 [laughter] which was my kind of editing, she was
14 actually producing the magazine. Suzanne Braun
15 Levine.

16 [applause]

17 SUZANNE BRAUN LEVINE: Thank you.
18 Thank you. Well, I just, you know, people often
19 say to us, "Oh, Ms. Magazine changed my life."
20 What you may not know is that Ms. Magazine changed
21 all of our lives, and we changed each other's
22 lives. So it's very moving to have the
23 opportunity to hug each other, look at each other,
24 and celebrate that private part of the Ms.
25 adventure. So thank you for that.

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2 GLORIA STEINEM: Well, and this is
3 Letty Cottin Pogrebin, who you know as a founder,
4 founder of Ms. Magazine, and who has a few words
5 from other folks who couldn't be here.

6 LETTY COTTIN POGREBIN: Right. I'm
7 thrilled to be here and also to be the carriers of
8 messages from two remarkable women. First, the
9 Junior Senator from New York, Kirsten Gillibrand
10 has written [applause] "I am thrilled to
11 congratulate Ms. Magazine on reaching its 40th
12 year of inspiring women across the nation. I feel
13 blessed to have been raised with extraordinary
14 female role models like my mother and grandmother
15 who instilled in me the passion to make a
16 difference and the confidence that I could do
17 anything I put my mind to. For countless women,
18 Ms. Magazine's extensive coverage and unique voice
19 has served as that critical role model. The
20 mission that began 40 years ago with this
21 groundbreaking magazine continues today, and we
22 are lucky to have Gloria Steinem and the rest of
23 the Ms. Magazine team bringing a new generation of
24 writers and readers together to encourage more
25 women to get off the sidelines," that's her

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2 calling card, her slogan, "off the sidelines and
3 have their own voices heard. I feel honored to be
4 working hand-in-hand with Gloria to ensure all
5 women's voices are heard on the issues they care
6 about. Happy Birthday to Ms. Magazine, you look
7 better than ever. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand."
8 [cheers, applause] And a short message from
9 another hero whose name should be mentioned, in
10 connection with anything pioneering, and that's
11 Anita Hill. Anita writes, "After 40 years, Ms.
12 Magazine is still smart, clear and intelligent
13 content, relevant, on topic, speaking to women's
14 interests and experiences. A good read,
15 interesting and compelling. Knowledge is power.
16 Thank you, Ms., for empowering two generations of
17 readers. Best, Anita Hill." [applause]

18 KARIN LIPPERT: No, oh, hi, I'm
19 Karin. [laughter] Okay, very quickly, I'm Karen
20 Lippert, and I was the Promotion Director for Ms.
21 Magazine from 1972 to '81, and have been back to
22 organized events and wonderful things since then.
23 But nothing more, nothing quite as exciting as
24 this is today, because we've really carried it
25 forward for 40 years, and we're going to keep

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2 working together. And that's what's exciting
3 about the women and girls in this room today.
4 Thank you.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Joanne

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Edgar.

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JOANNE EDGAR: Hi. I'm one of the

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Founders of Ms. Magazine, and under the deadline

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pressure for Volume I, Number 1, I was fortunate

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enough to be able to write the story about Wonder

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Woman. And I grew up loving Wonder Woman as a

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child. And so, right after the issue was

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published, somebody came into our office and she

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said, "I'm Elizabeth Marston," and Wonder Woman

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was produced by William Marston. And it was

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modeled on her. And Elizabeth Marston and I and

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the other editors at Ms. became really wonderful

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friends over the years, and stayed in touch. And

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now we have brought here today, and he is

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responsible for these gorgeous photos, and owns a

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Wonder Woman museum in Connecticut, Pete Marston,

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who is Elizabeth and William Marston's son. So

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thank you so much for coming.

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PETE MARSTON: Thank you.

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[applause]

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: I just want to say,
3 I just saw Danielle Pocaró [phonetic] come in with
4 our summer interns, and I don't know that there
5 could be a better ceremonial for the summer
6 interns. Stand up for a second. So, I just
7 wanted to make sure our summer interns [cheers,
8 applause] this is the 40th Anniversary of Ms.
9 Magazine and Council Member Brewer has brought
10 their founders here, Gloria Steinem and others, so
11 we could celebrate them. So, thank you guys,
12 those are some of our summer interns. Wanted to
13 make sure you knew what was going on. And I will
14 just say for Council Members, that Gloria and
15 Karin and everyone else participated in the "Not
16 Cuts to Daycare" childcare rally, on the way in.
17 So they want it on the record [applause] if we
18 don't take care of it, they're coming back, and
19 it's not going to have cake involved at all.
20 [laughter] So.

21 GLORIA STEINEM: Right, and just--I
22 guess there's not time for everybody who worked on
23 the magazine to introduce themselves--

24 SPEAKER QUINN: If they want to
25 give their name, there's time.

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GLORIA STEINEM: Yeah, can you do
that?

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SPEAKER QUINN: Sure.

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GLORIA STEINEM: Okay, here.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Give your name and
your title.

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RUTH SULLIVAN: Ruth Sullivan,

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Editor and we discovered something like 483

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writers during the first three years. Is that the

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fact? Many of them in the slush pile and they're

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all famous now. [laughter, background comments]

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MARY PEACOCK: Mary Peacock, I was

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another of the Founders, and it was a wonderful

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experience, I've worked for many, many magazines,

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but Ms. was the best.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Great. Who else?

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HARRIET LYONS: Harriet Lyons,

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listed alphabetically, as we all were [laughter]

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at that time, one of the original editors. Didn't

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get there in time to found it. [laughter]

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MARGE DUMOND: Marge Dumond. I was

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copy editor. I'm also here to mention Kathy

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O'Hare who was the copy chief of my life.

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[laughs] And I'm proud to have worked with her

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and with this wonderful magazine.

MARY TOM: Mary Tom, I was an editor for 19 years, and author of "Inside Ms." and "Letters to Ms."

[background comments]

MARGARET HICKS: Margaret Hicks, I was the, started out as a advertising production person, became a production person. I was not a founder. But I was there pretty early, and I was there from '72 until '84.

PHYLLIS ROSSER: Phyllis Rosser, I was a contributing editor, from '73 to about '81.

SUSAN MCHENRY: Susan McHenry, I was an editor from 1978 to 1987, and helped usher the Ms. Money Book by Emily Card into existence.

ELLEN SWEET: Ellen Sweet, I was an editor from 1980 to 1988, and was in charge of the study of date rape on college campuses that Ms. pioneered back in the '80s.

BARBARA RICHER: Hi, Barbara Richer. I was one of the early art directors, did many of the covers that I hope you remember. And also had the distinction of bringing my son in from three months old till about three years old,

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to work every day. [laughter]

[background comments]

JANET OLIVER: Janet Oliver,
research editor at Ms. with this fine group of
people who've been most important to me all of my
life.

[background noise]

SPEAKER QUINN: And now we're going
to take a picture with the female Council Members.
Yes, I'm excluding the men with the founders of
Ms. Magazine. [applause, cheers]

[pause, background noise]

SPEAKER QUINN: All right, we're
going to move on to the second ceremonial. So,
Ms. Magazine, we're going to usher you back into
the Committee Room, if there's more chatting or
cake. [background comments] Thank you very much.
All right, the next one is led by Council Member
Jimmy Van Bramer. And I don't--what's it about?
Gary, who is it? [background comment] All right,
it's--Okay, we have the 20th anniversary of the
St. John's University Mock Trial Team. [cheers,
applause] Hot, please. [background comment]
Jimmy was a member of the inaugural team 20 years

1

2 ago. Exactly right. Could we ask the team and
3 their representatives to come on up.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Matt's
5 ushering them up, thank you. [pause, background
6 noise] Line 'em up. Did they all come in? Matt,
7 bring them up. Just line them all up behind us.
8 [background comment] Yes, yes. No, I'm aware.
9 March 'em in here. [background comment] Yes, all
10 right. Thank you very much. Dan, you're going to
11 join--

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SPEAKER QUINN: Let's get a little
13 quiet while the team comes up. Council Members
14 step up a little bit, and team why don't you just
15 get you guy--some of the team members get over
16 here so we can get everybody in the picture. All
17 right, Jimmy.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank
19 you very much, Madam Speaker. And I want to
20 welcome all of our Queens colleagues who are here,
21 because we are honoring one of the great, great
22 higher education institutions in all of the City,
23 St. John's University. Specifically, we're
24 honoring the 20th Anniversary of the Mock Trial
25 Team at St. John's University. [cheers, applause]

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2 And I was a member of the inaugural team 20 year
3 ago, and as Julissa just said, I'm still debating
4 lots of issues, all of them good. And I want to
5 recognize the coaches, because Coach Oscar Holt
6 and Professor Bernard Helldorfer were the coaches
7 that coached me 20 years ago, as well. So, this
8 is their 20th anniversary of coaching these young
9 people. [clapping] This team in particular out
10 of almost 700 schools in the country, finished
11 fittingly in the top 20, in the top 20 out of
12 nearly 700 schools in a national competition. So,
13 yes, so on the 20th anniversary they have really
14 brought great honor to the school and 20 years of
15 students that these two great professors have
16 taught and coached, I want to recognize the
17 provost of St. John's University who somehow has
18 managed to be holding the proclamation, Dr. Julia
19 Upton, but the Speaker, I gave it to you, so I
20 want to thank the Speaker and all the City Council
21 for joining us in celebrating the young people who
22 are here today, great leaders. Two of whom are
23 already interns in my office for the summer. So
24 we have already--what's that? And an ex-intern,
25 apparently, of Council Member Williams. But we're

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2 still going to award the proclamation. [laughter]
3 So, I want to ask the clerk to read the
4 proclamation and then we'll say a few words after
5 that.

6 CLERK: Counsel, City of New York
7 Proclamation. The Council of the City of New York
8 is proud to honor the St. John's University Mock
9 Trial Team and to congratulate the students on
10 their hard work. And whereas, today we honor all
11 the members of the St. John's University Mock
12 Trial Team, who for the past 20 years have gone on
13 to distinguish, distinguished legal careers in
14 public service, including serving on the New York
15 City Council, the 2011 and 2012 Mock Trial Team is
16 no different. A group of young men and women who,
17 with determination, focus and talent, achieve
18 great success during the school year. The team
19 won their bid to participate in this year's
20 opening round of national championship tournament,
21 the 18th bid, the St. John's University Mock Trial
22 Team has been granted over the past two decades.
23 And whereas, through tireless effort and support
24 from their head coaches, Professors Bernard
25 Helldorfer, Esq., and Oscar Holt, III, Esq., and

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2 Assistant Coach, Adjunct Professor Karim
3 Vesebesquire [phonetic], the mock trial team beat
4 out some of the country's most elite schools
5 including the University of Texas, and the
6 University of California, San Diego [cheers]
7 ranking 18th out of an original 656 teams
8 nationwide during the tournament on April 15,
9 2012. And whereas, the members of the St. John's
10 University Mock Trial Team, Gabriela Calihorono
11 [phonetic], Andrew Karachi [phonetic], Ashley
12 Denton, Gary Dunn, Michael Giantano [phonetic],
13 Shwan Kong [phonetic], Geneva Hilton, Nicholas
14 Midej [phonetic], Peter Orzelius [phonetic], and
15 Chandra Pultinal [phonetic], have demonstrated
16 great heart, mental toughness and a determination
17 of real champions. They have raised their overall
18 level of competition, have met each and every
19 challenge head on and will undoubtedly achieve
20 greater and greater success in the future. Now
21 therefore be it known that the Council of the City
22 of New York proudly honors the members of the St.
23 John's University Mock Trial Team in celebration
24 of their 20th Anniversary. Christine C. Quinn,
25 Speaker for the entire Council; Jimmy Van Bramer,

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Council Member, 26th District, Queens.

[cheers, applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: And,
and these two coaches were very important in my
life, and representing St. John's University is
Professor Bernard Helldorfer.

BERNARD HELLDORFER: Well, thank
you very much Speaker Quinn and Councilman Van
Bramer. It is indeed an honor for us to be here
today, and we are especially proud of our mock
trial alumni from the very first team, and that is
Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer. He does us very
proud. And one of the things that I think
everyone should recognize is that this team, along
with all of the other 19 teams that preceded them,
represent the diverse community, not only of St.
John's University, but of the City of New York.
And for these students to do so well consistently
against best students from around the country and
the best institutions from around the country,
speaks volumes for the quality of young people
that we have here in the City of New York. So
thank you very, very much for the honor that
you've given us today. [applause]

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you. [background comment] Is there a team captain, or any of the students want to say something? Real quick. [background comment] Gary was a very good attorney when I visited their practice. Do you want to say something, Gary?

GARY DUNN: [off mic] Sure, sure. [on mic] I just want to thank Councilman Van Bramer again for this opportunity to be here and just thank the City of New York in general. I know for myself and I'm sure everybody on the team would agree with me, being with some of the people on this team, from freshman year, some of them more recent than that, but I know with the countless hours of work that's been put into it, really this has been a life changing experience for all of us.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you. [applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, everybody, and congratulations. Thank you. Sure, oh, I thought we did already. [pause, background comments] Oh, thank you. And keeping in the theme of anniversaries, our third and final

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2 ceremonial will be led by Council Member Danny
3 Dromm of Queens.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you
5 very much, Madam Speaker. And I am very proud to
6 stand here today to honor the Queens Lesbian and
7 Gay Pride Committee on the anniversary, the 20th
8 Anniversary of the founding of the Queens Lesbian
9 and Gay Pride Parade. You know, in 1992--they're
10 here? They're coming? [cheering, applause] In
11 1992, the Queens Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and
12 Transgender communities, were communities under
13 attack. Julio Rivera, young Latino man, was
14 killed by three white supremacist skinheads out
15 hunting for a homosexual or a homeless person to
16 kill, and those were the words that they used.
17 And then in 1992, the Children of the Rainbow
18 Curriculum, which was a curriculum designed to
19 teach tolerance of all of New York's diverse
20 populations, in response to the killing of Julio
21 and the young African-American men in Howard Beach
22 and Bensonhurst, was under assault by my Queens
23 school board president in District 24. And it was
24 at that point that we decided that we had to stand
25 up and to fight back and to put a face on the tens

1
2 of thousands of LGBT people who live in the
3 borough of Queens. And this was something that
4 had never been done before. A parade and a
5 festival had never been done outside of the
6 borough of Manhattan. And in fact, that very
7 first year, the Pride Committee had to have
8 helicopters flying above the parade route, and
9 they had to have police officers on the rooftops
10 of the Parade route, to ensure the safety of the
11 participants, because they wanted to be sure that
12 people would return the next year.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] And that
14 wacko tried to scrub the lavender line off the - -

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: And we had a
16 man from the Morality Action Committee who came
17 out with Lestoil and a big broom to scrub the
18 lavender line off of the street that was put down
19 by the Pride Committee.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Wacko!

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: A wacko.

22 And [laughter] we have seen a sea change in the
23 public opinion and political opinion in the
24 Borough of Queens, and I believe primarily
25 [applause] it's due to the Queens, the work of the

1
2 Queens Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade Committee,
3 because they were able to show thousands upon
4 thousands of numbers of people who came out to
5 march in that Pride Parade. And it remains the
6 basis for people and the coming out point for
7 people in the Borough of Queens. So, this year is
8 extremely significant because we hit our 20 year
9 mark. And in fact, Madam Speaker, we want to take
10 a moment to congratulate you and to thank you also
11 for having marched in every single Queens Pride
12 Parade those 20 years. [applause] And indeed,
13 this is a civil rights march, and the one thing
14 that the Queens Pride Committee always wanted to
15 do was to show the interconnectedness between the
16 struggle for LGBT people and people of all
17 minorities in the City of New York. And without
18 further ado, I'd like to ask the Clerk to read the
19 proclamation.

20 CLERK: Council, City of New York
21 Proclamation. The Council of the City of New York
22 is proud to honor the Queens Lesbian, Gay,
23 Bisexual and Transgender Pride Committee, its
24 founding members and its current board, for
25 demonstrating to all New York City the importance

1
2 of coming out to our family, friends and
3 neighbors, and celebrating the diversity of our
4 communities. And whereas, the Queens LGBT Pride
5 Committee was founded in 1992, in the wake of two
6 horrific anti-gay events: the murder of Julio
7 Rivera and the opposition to the LGBT inclusive,
8 multicultural Children of the Rainbow Curriculum.
9 And whereas, on July 2, 1990, Mr. Rivera was
10 murdered by three self-described white
11 supremacists, "hunting for a homosexual or
12 homeless person to kill." And whereas, the
13 Children of the Rainbow Curriculum was a first
14 rate curriculum designed to teach tolerance of all
15 of New York's diverse communities, three pages of
16 which dealt with lesbian, gay, bisexual and
17 transgender families. The President of School
18 Board 24 voiced tremendous opposition to the
19 Rainbow Curriculum, thus compelling Daniel Dromm
20 to come out as an openly gay teacher to counter
21 her opposition. And whereas [laughter] Daniel
22 Dromm believed it was extremely important to put a
23 face on the tens of thousands of LGBT people who
24 live in the Borough of Queens and thereby founded
25 the Queens LGBT Pride Parade and Festival, to

1
2 accomplish that goal. And whereas, in 1993, more
3 than 10,000 LGBT people took to the streets of
4 Jackson Heights in the first ever Queens Pride
5 Parade and residents welcome them with the sound
6 of tumultuous applause. And whereas, LGBT people
7 reside in every borough and neighborhood in New
8 York City and everywhere in the world, and the
9 Queens LGBT Pride Parade and Festival was the
10 first borough outside of Manhattan to have an LGBT
11 Pride Parade. Now therefore be it known that the
12 Council of the City of New York is very proud to
13 pay tribute to the Queens Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual
14 and Transgender Pride Parade and Festival, in
15 honor of its 20th Anniversary and its tremendous
16 service to the residents of Queens and to LGBT
17 people everywhere. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker
18 for the Entire Council; Daniel Dromm, Council
19 Member 25th District, Queens; Rosie Mendez,
20 Council Member, Second District, Manhattan; Jimmy
21 Van Bramer, Council Member, 26th District, Queens.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Well, I just want
23 to first thank everybody here who is and has been
24 part of the Pride Committee. This is just a small
25 subsection of folks who've worked really, really

1
2 hard over the past 20 years. Danny, I want to
3 thank you as the person who, not matter what
4 position you have or don't have, will really
5 always in my mind, and I think in everybody's
6 mind, be the leader of the Queens LGBT Pride
7 Committee. And [cheers, applause] there's a lot
8 of people who we could say it wouldn't have
9 happened, not for them, but the top, top, top of
10 that list is you, you're too modest to accept
11 that, but it really is the truth. And I believe
12 and [laughter] and I, I've said this before, but I
13 think if you look at the things that got us to
14 great victories like the Inclusive Hate Crimes
15 Bill, like the Sexual Orientation
16 Nondiscrimination Act, like marriage equality,
17 that will get agenda [phonetic] finally someday in
18 Albany, I think if you, somebody was to do kind of
19 a sociological timeline, what was the pivotal
20 moment, it was the response of the Queens
21 community to the murder of Julio Rivera, 'cause it
22 was the first time people came out where they
23 lived, as opposed to coming to Manhattan to live
24 and be out, or only being out when you were in
25 Manhattan. It changed everything, elected

1
2 officials could no longer say that the only gay
3 people in the world lived in Tom Duane's district,
4 or Deborah Glick's district, at the times. It
5 changed everything. And it began the experience
6 of more and more and more people going to the
7 garbage chute with their neighbor and their
8 neighbor was gay, seeing their neighbor who was
9 gay or LGBT walk the dog. All of that adds up to
10 the clear message that was your goal, that we are
11 in every neighborhood and part of every community,
12 and we wouldn't have those laws today if all of
13 you haven't done this. So we're just so proud of
14 you, and I know I speak for all the Council
15 Members, not the least of which, the first LGBT
16 liaison in the Queens Borough President's Office,
17 Karen Koslowitz. That is an honor that wouldn't
18 have happened without this Committee. [applause]
19 So, Danny and everyone, thank you, and I don't
20 know who we're going to hear from the Committee.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: We're going
22 to hear from Chris Calvert, the current co-chair
23 of the Queens Pride Committee.

24 CHRIS CALVERT: Thank you, Speaker
25 Quinn; thank you, Members of the City Council; and

1
2 most especially, thank you, Council Member Dromm.
3 Our founder makes us very, very proud. We are so
4 honored to be here to, for this recognition of
5 something that we love. Queens Pride is, really
6 grown from a grassroots movement, and now we bring
7 Pride to people's hometown. Each year we remind
8 them that Pride isn't just about Manhattan, it's
9 about their own family, their own friends and
10 their own neighbors. I think that that's
11 exemplified in the headlines. We were once too
12 queer for Queens; now we mark 20 years of Pride.
13 [laughter, applause] Most of all, I want to thank
14 our volunteers. They come out every year on the
15 first Sunday in June, it's their talents and
16 dedication that makes Queens Pride happen. Thank
17 you.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you
19 very much.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you all very
21 much. And from Ms. Magazine, to mock trials to
22 Queens Pride, all kinds of anniversary. So,
23 Bill's going to take one picture and that'll
24 conclude ceremonials.

25 [pause, background noise]

1
2 SPEAKER QUINN: All right, thank
3 you all, that concludes today's ceremonial.

4 [pause, background noise]

5 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Ladies and
6 gentlemen, can I have your attention, please? Can
7 I please have your attention? Quiet, please. At
8 this time, please place all cell phones and pagers
9 to vibrate. Will all non-Council employees please
10 leave the main floor of the Chambers? Thank you.

11 [pause, background noise]

12 [gavel]

13 PRESIDENT DICKENS: [off mic]
14 Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

15 [Pledge of Allegiance]

16 FEMALE VOICE: Roll call.

17 CLERK: Arroyo.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [off mic]
19 Here.

20 CLERK: Barron.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic]
22 Here.

23 CLERK: Brewer.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [off mic]
25 Here.

1

STATED MEETING

35

2

CLERK: Cabrera. Chin.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [off mic]

4

Here.

5

CLERK: Chin.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [off mic]

7

Here.

8

CLERK: Comrie. Crowley. Dickens.

9

PRESIDENT DICKENS: [off mic] Here.

10

CLERK: Dilan.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [off mic]

12

Here.

13

CLERK: Dromm.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: [off mic]

15

Here.

16

CLERK: Eugene.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: [off mic]

18

Here.

19

CLERK: Ferreras.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: [off mic]

21

Here.

22

CLERK: Fidler.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: [off mic]

24

Here.

25

CLERK: Foster.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [off mic]

3

Here.

4

CLERK: Garodnick.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [off

6

mic] Here.

7

CLERK: Gennaro.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [off mic]

9

Here.

10

CLERK: Gentile. [pause] Gentile.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: [off mic]

12

Here.

13

CLERK: Thank you. Gonzalez.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [off mic]

15

Here.

16

CLERK: Greenfield. Halloran.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: [off mic]

18

Alive and present.

19

CLERK: Ignizio.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [off mic]

21

Here.

22

CLERK: Jackson.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: [off mic]

24

Here.

25

CLERK: [pause] James.

1

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: [off mic]

2

Here.

3

CLERK: Koo.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: [off mic]

5

Present.

6

CLERK: Koppell.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [off mic]

8

Here.

9

CLERK: Koslowitz.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off

11

mic] Here.

12

CLERK: Lander.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic]

14

Here.

15

CLERK: Lappin.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: [off mic]

17

Here.

18

CLERK: Levin.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [off mic]

20

Here.

21

CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: [off

23

mic] Here.

24

CLERK: Mealy.

25

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [off mic]

3

Present.

4

CLERK: Mendez. Nelson.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [off mic]

6

Here.

7

CLERK: Palma.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic]

9

Here.

10

CLERK: Recchia. Reyna.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [off mic]

12

Here.

13

CLERK: Rodriguez.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off

15

mic] Here.

16

CLERK: Rose.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [off mic]

18

Here.

19

CLERK: Sanders.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: [off mic]

21

Present.

22

CLERK: Seabrook. Ulrich.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: [off mic]

24

Here.

25

CLERK: Vacca.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [off mic]
3 Here.
4 CLERK: Vallone.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [off mic]
6 Here.
7 CLERK: Van Bramer.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: [off
9 mic] Here.
10 CLERK: Vann
11 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [off mic]
12 Here.
13 CLERK: Weprin.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [off mic]
15 Here.
16 CLERK: Williams.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [off mic]
18 Here.
19 CLERK: Wills.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: [off mic]
21 Very present.
22 CLERK: Oddo.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [off mic]
24 Present.
25 CLERK: Rivera.

1

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

2

3

CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

4

SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Yes,

5

here.

6

CLERK: We have a quorum.

7

PRESIDENT DICKENS: Please rise for

8

the invocation, delivered by Bishop Zachary Glenn

9

Jones, the Unity Fellowship of Christ Church, in

10

Brooklyn, New York.

11

ZACHARY GLENN JONES: Dear

12

Almighty, we invite your presence here today. We

13

honor you today for your wisdom, we honor you

14

today for your guidance, we honor you today for

15

our leaders and lawmakers of our great City.

16

Thank you for the laws that support all of our

17

needs, our human rights, and for the peace of our

18

land and our City. Guide us, direct us, we pray

19

for the greater good. Amen.

20

SPEAKER QUINN: And Bishop, if I

21

could just ask you before the invocation gets

22

spread to add a prayer because today is Kiani's

23

birthday, so--

24

ZACHARY GLENN JONES: Oh,

25

absolutely, absolutely. [applause] Yes.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Bishop.

ZACHARY GLENN JONES: Yes.

PRESIDENT DICKENS: Council Member
Dilan.

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [off mic] I
make a motion to spread the invocation [on mic] in
full upon the record. Do I need to do it again?

PRESIDENT DICKENS: So ordered.

[pause, background noise]

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DICKENS: Please be
seated. Adoption of minutes.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Motion that
the Stated--

PRESIDENT DICKENS: Council Member
James.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: --thank you--
-Motion that the minutes of the Stated Meeting of
May 15th be adopted as printed.

PRESIDENT DICKENS: So ordered.
Messages and papers from the Mayor?

CLERK: M-822 submitting :Richard
Stabile for reappointment to the New York City Tax
Commission.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges
and Elections.

CLERK: M-823, submitting Kirk P.
Tzanides for reappointment to the New York City
Tax Commission.

SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges
and Elections.

CLERK: Preconsidered M-824,
Hallets Cove.

SPEAKER QUINN: State and Fed.

CLERK: Preconsidered M-825, Empire
Fulton Ferry State Park.

SPEAKER QUINN: State and Federal
legislation.

PRESIDENT DICKENS: Communication
from City, County and Borough Offices.

CLERK: M-826 through M-833, Bay
Station Licenses.

SPEAKER QUINN: Transportation.
[pause, background noise] There's no petitions
and communications, so Land Use Call-Ups?

CLERK: M-834 through 838.

SPEAKER QUINN: If we could couple
all of those and please have a roll call vote on

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25

the coupled Land Use Call-Ups.

CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [off mic]

Aye.

CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic]

Aye.

CLERK: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [off mic]

Yes.

CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [off mic]

Aye.

CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [off mic]

Aye.

CLERK: Comrie.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [off mic]

Aye.

CLERK: Crowley. Dickens.

PRESIDENT DICKENS: [off mic] Aye.

CLERK: Dilan.

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [off mic]

Aye.

1

CLERK: Dromm.

2

3

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: [off mic]

4

Aye.

5

CLERK: Eugene.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: [off mic]

7

Aye.

8

CLERK: Ferreras.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: [off mic]

10

Aye.

11

CLERK: Fidler.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: [off mic]

13

Aye.

14

CLERK: Foster.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [off mic]

16

Aye.

17

CLERK: Garodnick.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [off

19

mic] Aye.

20

CLERK: Gennaro.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [off mic]

22

Madam Leader, I--[background comments] Madam

23

Leader, I ask permission to vote on all items on

24

the General Order Calendar.

25

PRESIDENT DICKENS: So ordered.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote yes

3

on all items on the calendar, and I vote yes on

4

the Land Use Call-Ups. Thank you.

5

CLERK: Gentile.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: [off mic]

7

Aye.

8

CLERK: Gonzalez.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [off mic]

10

Aye.

11

CLERK: Greenfield.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [off

13

mic] Aye.

14

CLERK: Halloran.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: [off mic]

16

Aye.

17

CLERK: Ignizio.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [off mic]

19

Aye.

20

CLERK: Jackson.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: [off mic]

22

Aye.

23

CLERK: James.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: [off mic]

25

Aye.

1

CLERK: Koo.

2

3

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: [off mic] - -

4

[on mic] Madam Leader, may I have permission to

5

vote on all General Order items and all land use

6

items?

7

PRESIDENT DICKENS: So ordered.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Yeah, I vote

9

yes on all.

10

CLERK: Koppell. [background

11

comments]

12

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [off mic]

13

Oh, I'm sorry, aye.

14

CLERK: Koslowitz.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off

16

mic] Aye.

17

CLERK: Lander.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic]

19

Aye.

20

CLERK: Lappin. Levin.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [off mic]

22

Aye.

23

CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: [off

25

mic] Aye.

1

CLERK: Mealy.

2

3

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: May I have permission to vote on all Land Use and General Orders?

4

5

PRESIDENT DICKENS: Or ordered.

6

7

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye on all.

8

9

CLERK: Mendez. Nelson.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [off mic]

11

Aye.

12

CLERK: Palma.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic]

14

Aye.

15

CLERK: Recchia. Reyna.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [off mic]

17

Aye.

18

CLERK: Rodriguez.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic] Aye. And I would like to ask permission [on mic] to vote then all the general order?

20

21

PRESIDENT DICKENS: So ordered.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

23

CLERK: Rose.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [off mic]

25

1

2 Aye.

3

CLERK: Sanders.

4

5 permission to vote on all Land Use and General
6 Order items?

7

PRESIDENT DICKENS: So ordered.

8

9 aye.

10

CLERK: Seabrook. Ulrich.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: [off mic]

12

Aye.

13

CLERK: Vacca.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [off mic]

15

Aye.

16

CLERK: Vallone.

17

18 Chair, may I have permission to vote aye on all
19 call-ups and also on all Introductions on today's
20 calendar?

21

PRESIDENT DICKENS: So ordered.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you.

23

CLERK: Van Bramer. Vann

24

25 on all.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [off mic] Aye

1

CLERK: Vann.

2

3

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [off mic]

4

Aye.

5

CLERK: Weprin.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [off mic]

7

Aye.

8

CLERK: Williams.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [off mic]

10

Aye.

11

CLERK: Wills.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: [off mic]

13

Aye.

14

CLERK: Barron.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic] -

16

- [on mic] Oh. May I have permission to vote aye

17

on, on the General Order items?

18

PRESIDENT DICKENS: Is that a

19

requirement of me, sir?

20

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: No, it's a

21

request.

22

PRESIDENT DICKENS: [laughs] So

23

ordered.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I want to

25

vote no on Intro 735-A, no on Preconsidered Resos

1
2 1374, 1375, 1376, 1377 and 1378. And aye on all
3 the rest.

4 CLERK: Oddo.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [off mic]
6 Yes.

7 CLERK: Rivera.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Madam
9 Chair, with your permission, I'd like to vote aye
10 on all Land Use Call-Ups and all items on today's
11 General Order Calendar.

12 PRESIDENT DICKENS: So ordered.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
14 very much. I vote aye on all.

15 [pause]

16 CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Aye on
18 all. And I just want to remind my colleagues, of
19 whom I think are leaving since they voted on the
20 General Order Calendar, as well, that at the end
21 of today's meeting, due to the upcoming
22 adjournment of the State Legislature and our
23 pending adoption of the NY'13 budget, meetings of
24 Finance, State and Federal Legislation Committees,
25 and the Stated Meeting are standing in recess, not

1
2 adjourning, so we could need to call people back.
3 There are budget negotiating team meetings
4 tomorrow and Friday, and delegation meetings
5 tomorrow, as well. So I just wanted to make sure
6 everyone knew this meeting will not adjourn, we'll
7 be in recess for those members who are leaving
8 early. Thank you, Madam Majority Leader.

9 PRESIDENT DICKENS: Today's Land
10 Use Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of 46 in the
11 affirmative, zero in the negative. Communication
12 from the Speaker?

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
14 much. We are voting today on Intro 740-A. I want
15 to thank Jeff Baker and David Sitzer [phonetic],
16 of the Waterfronts Committee, 740-A is a piece of
17 legislation that bans discharges into sewage into
18 certain designated bodies of water, an important
19 environmental and waterfront access piece of
20 legislation. I want to thank the Chair of the
21 Committee and the sponsor of the bill, Mike
22 Nelson, and call on him to speak.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Thank you,
24 Speaker Quinn. So we will have a law that will
25 come after people who actually do any type of

1
2 dumping in our harbors, whether it's lumber,
3 timber, driftwood, dirt, any type of floatable,
4 oil, any type of vessel waste, which has been
5 going on for quite some time. Thereby, of course,
6 environmentally controlling somewhat, cleaning up
7 our waterways, and surely those who aren't sure,
8 who do not need to swim with this type of debris
9 around them. And I thank the Speaker and
10 everybody on the Waterfronts Committee. Thank
11 you, Madam Speaker.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Thank you
13 very much. [on mic] Thank you, Mr. Chair. We're
14 also voting on three pieces of legislation out of
15 our Finance Committee, 688-A, 877 and five
16 Preconsidered Resolutions. I want to thank Chair
17 Recchia for all of his work on this legislation.
18 I want to thank Ray Majewski, Paul Sturm, Tanisha
19 Edwards, Emer Endev [phonetic] and the rest of the
20 staff. I want to particularly note, Intro 688-A,
21 which is a piece of legislation that deals with
22 verification of data for exemptions administered
23 by the Department of Finance, making sure we have
24 a process that is clear and straightforward and
25 not backlogged, for New Yorkers. And let me call

1
2 on the sponsor of that bill, Council Member Vinnie
3 Ignizio.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes, thank
5 you, Madam Speaker, and I think we really reached
6 a good bill here when it was uncovered that the
7 Department of Finance was just taking the honor
8 system with exemptions, and some people were not
9 eligible in receiving it and some people were not
10 receiving it and were eligible, we realized that
11 we had a, somewhat of a problem on our hands.
12 What we did hear was we crafted a fiscally
13 responsible bill that would ensure eligibility
14 requirements are being met, and I think it'll
15 overall both save the taxpayers' money and make us
16 continues to be very good stewards of the taxpayer
17 dollars in ensuring that people get their
18 exemptions if they deserve it, and don't get them
19 if they're, if they're availing of it, and they
20 don't meet the qualifications. I need to take a
21 moment out and thank Tanisha Edwards who worked
22 very, very strongly with my office on this, and
23 Preston. Commissioner Frankel, who was open from
24 the day I called him on this issue, and recognized
25 the importance of going forward with this, the

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2 Finance Staff and Chairman Recchia, and finally
3 Madam Speaker, for being so supportive, as well.
4 And I wanted to thank the hardworking staff of my
5 district office, and Susan Laforga [phonetic], who
6 works on the Finance issues, who originally came
7 to me with this issue, and this was a great way of
8 working how government works, from a constituent
9 coming in, to working with my staff, to with the
10 change of policy that will ultimately be, make us
11 better stewards of the taxpayers' dollars. So,
12 thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
14 much, Vinnie. I also want to thank Chair Foster
15 and folks on the State and Federal Legislation
16 Committee, for their work. A lot of home rules,
17 this is a very busy time for that Committee. I
18 also want to thank Danielle Barbato and Scott
19 Crowley who worked on that issue. Want to thank
20 Chair Comrie and the other Land Use Chairs, for
21 their work on the ULURP and the UDAAPs today, and
22 also Pete Janosik, and Christian Hilton and Gail
23 Benjamin of that unit. I also want to just take a
24 moment to speak about Intro 725-A and 735-A, two
25 pieces of legislation coming out of the

1
2 Transportation Committee. I want to thank Molly
3 Murphy, Lyle Frank, Tai Meah and Laura Popa for
4 their work on these two bills. These--and also
5 Danielle Castaldi-Micca for her work on these
6 bills. These are bills that come out of a series
7 of hearings we have been having for quite some
8 time, on the horrible and inhumane issue of human
9 and sex trafficking in New York City. Some of
10 think, would like to think that's an issue that
11 doesn't affect New York City. It's one of those
12 international issues. But the truth is, New York
13 City airports and New York City bus terminals, are
14 some of the places in this country where the most
15 victims of sex trafficking are brought into. We
16 need to make sure we do everything we can as a
17 City to put an end to this terrible crime. That's
18 why we're passing legislation that will require
19 that the Taxi and Limousine Commission, when
20 someone is convicted of a felony relevant to sex
21 trafficking, that their license is revoked, and
22 that they're given a large, \$10,000 civil penalty.
23 Why? Because there have been a series of
24 indictments and a tremendous amount of other
25 evidence from advocates showing that, believe it

1
2 or not, these drivers are part of the ring that is
3 keeping these people enslaved in sex trafficking.
4 That they are, at times, at times the people who
5 have done the trafficking, and that they drive the
6 victim from place to place; that they take the
7 money from them. At other times, they take a cut
8 of the money from the pimp, when they're driving
9 them from appointment to appointment, so to speak.
10 We need to make sure that this part of this
11 terrible ring of sex trafficking is broken. We're
12 going to do that through this piece of
13 legislation. And another bill, the first bill was
14 introduced by the Chair of our Women's Issues
15 Committee, Julissa Ferreras; the second by the
16 Chair of our Transportation Committee, Jimmy
17 Vacca, which cracks down on unlicensed operators
18 who are involved in this process. Also, that
19 piece of legislation has other very positive
20 effects for New Yorkers, because they assume when
21 they get in a vehicle it's licensed, they assume
22 it has insurance, they assume the driver has a
23 license and has met a standard. This will help
24 make sure we're keeping New Yorkers safe. So let
25 me first call on the sponsor of Intro 725-A, Chair

1
2 Ferreras, and then we'll hear from Chair Vacca on
3 725-A and 735-A.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Thank
5 you, Madam Speaker. I am proud to bring Intro
6 725-A before the Council today. This bill is the
7 result of many months of hard work by this
8 Council, the Speaker's staff and advocates. It
9 seeks to address one of the structures supporting
10 sex trafficking in our City, and sends a message
11 to traffickers that New York City will use all
12 available tools to combat this horrendous crime.
13 While the vast majority of hardworking taxi and
14 livery drivers are striving to make an honest
15 living, there are some who knowingly profit from
16 the exploitation of our communities' most
17 vulnerable women and youth. This, these bad
18 actors are the ones this bill is seeking to
19 penalize. I'd like to thank the Speaker's staff
20 for all their hard work on this bill, thank you to
21 Lyle Frank, Tai Meah, Molly Murphy, Laura Popa,
22 Joan Povolny, Danielle Castaldi-Micca, and Annie
23 Meredith, my Legislative and Budget Director. We
24 are sending a clear message today to all those
25 pimps that we're watching them, and we're going to

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2 do everything within our power to get them off our
3 streets. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Chair Vacca?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you,
6 Madam Speaker. In addition to the legislation
7 which my Committee passed, introduced by Council
8 Member Ferreras, you have before you legislation I
9 introduced, also passed by the Committee, that
10 deals with cabs that are not cabs. We have people
11 who, on any given day, decide that their car is
12 going to be a cab today, or tomorrow. And they
13 pick up people on the streets of our City, without
14 that person knowing whether or not that driver is
15 licensed by the State of New York, whether or not
16 that person has insurance, individuals who are not
17 licensed by the Taxi and Limousine Commission in
18 any shape or form. Thousands of such cars pick up
19 people in our City every day. They pose a threat
20 to passengers, people who are in accidents in
21 those cars have little, if any, legal recourse.
22 We are allowing people in this City to turn their
23 own private vehicles into cabs without any type of
24 City sanction. That's unacceptable. It's unsafe
25 in the City that we call home. And we're today

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2 increasing fines significantly on those
3 individuals, and we're authorizing the City to
4 confiscate and impound those cars, should they
5 consider doing illegal activities such as
6 unauthorized pickups on our streets, for the third
7 offense. So, I hope the members today will vote
8 yes on both pieces of legislation, they're
9 important. I thank my Committee Members, and of
10 course all the Committee staff and the Speaker's
11 office for their hard work and for the
12 Administration in working cooperatively on these
13 two bills. Thank you.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Chair
15 Vacca. And that concludes Communications from the
16 Speaker. I just want to remind folks that there
17 are a number of resolutions we'll be voting on at
18 the end of the meeting.

19 PRESIDENT DICKENS: Discussion of
20 General Orders. Council Member Vallone.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: If we could just
22 get a little quiet for the discussion - -

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Yes, I
24 need to amend my earlier vote, Madam Chair, thank
25 you. I'm voting no on SLR-18 and abstaining on

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Preconsidered Message 824. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DICKENS: Council Member Koppell.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you, Madam Majority Leader. 725, which deals with sex trafficking, I appreciate the bill has been changed from initial drafts and it's now an excellent piece of legislation, because it makes clear that only those who are in fact convicted of an offense related to sex trafficking will lose their license and lose their cars and be subject to a major fine. And I fully support 725. 735, as Chairman Vacca mentioned, is of a different nature. This increases the penalties, very severely, of basically operating a gypsy cab. Now, I'm not saying that running gypsy cabs is a terrific thing, but it is not true that you can now run gypsy cab and not be subject to penalties. The fine is between \$400 and \$1,000, and there's a possibility of up to 60 days in jail. So it's not that there aren't penalties. They may not be enforced as much as we would like, but there are penalties. This bill, however, makes the initial fine \$1,000, or \$1,500; and then the second

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2 offense is even more, \$2,000. So, in fact, if you
3 get convicted even once, you're pretty much put
4 out of business. Now, if we had a hail system,
5 which is what the Mayor is trying to get through
6 by doing an end run around the Council, but I
7 won't go into that, if we had a hail system, it
8 might well be acceptable to drive these folks out
9 of business. But as Chairman Vacca said, there
10 are thousands of people relying on these gypsy
11 cabs on a daily basis, all around our City, and
12 there are a lot of people who rely on this income.
13 And a penalty's appropriate, I'm not saying erase
14 the penalties, but the draconian remedies that
15 this bill includes is just going too far. There
16 has to be some sort of balance between a penalty
17 and the offense. This skews that balance, it's
18 not fair, to thousands of hardworking people who
19 are trying just to make a living.

20 PRESIDENT DICKENS: Council Member
21 Garodnick.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank
23 you very much. I wanted to voice my support for
24 Preconsidered SLR-19 and the pending State
25 legislation that would provide the New York City

1
2 Department of Consumer Affairs with docketing
3 authority. I have chaired a number of consumer
4 affairs hearings at which DCA has testified about
5 the need to back up the decisions of its
6 administrative tribunal with docketing authority.
7 There are so many unlicensed businesses out there
8 that defraud New York City customers of millions
9 of dollars year. And unlike licensed businesses,
10 DCA cannot threaten license revocation, nor can
11 they collect assessed fines in those situations.
12 The case in point is home improvement contractors.
13 This is an industry that DCA licenses. However,
14 there are many bad actors out there who agree to
15 do work for a customer, demand a cash payment up
16 front, and then take off, never to be seen again.
17 DCA can issue a violation on that business, and
18 its tribunal would likely find in favor of the
19 City; however, DCA is powerless to collect fines
20 from a business that has nothing to lose by
21 continuing to scam its unsuspecting customers.
22 Providing DCA with docketing authority means that
23 the agency can enforce assessed fines by entering
24 a money judgment on the docket of New York State
25 Supreme Court. Docketing authority will generate

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2 revenue for the City and most importantly, it will
3 better protect New York City consumers. So, I
4 want to thank the Speaker for this Reso, and to my
5 colleagues, I ask them to support this resolution.
6 Thank you.

7 PRESIDENT DICKENS: Council Member
8 Crowley.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: With
10 permission, with permission, I'd like to vote for
11 all Land Use items and General Order items.

12 PRESIDENT DICKENS: So ordered.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote
14 aye.

15 PRESIDENT DICKENS: Report of
16 special committees.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: None.

18 PRESIDENT DICKENS: reports of
19 standing committees.

20 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
21 Finance, Intro 688-A, data verification for
22 exemptions.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Mandated and
24 coupled on General Orders.

25 CLERK: Preconsidered Intro 877,

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commercial tax for medallion taxicabs.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: M-819.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 1374 through Reso 1377, interest rate late payment taxes and water and sewer rents.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 1378, discount percentage for real estate taxes.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land Use, LU-564, and Reso 1382 and 565, and Reso 1383 UDAAPs.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coup--sorry, coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: LU 613 and Reso 1384, and 614 and Reso 1385, zoning amendments.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

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CLERK: LU 615 and Reso 1386, and
616 and 1387, sidewalk cafés.

SPEAKER QUINN: Couple on General
Orders.

CLERK: LU 626 and Reso 1388, UDAAP
Manhattan.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

CLERK: LU 628 and Reso 1389.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on
State and Federal Legislation, Preconsidered M-
824, Halletts Cove.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

CLERK: Preconsidered M-825, Empire
Fulton Ferry State Park.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

CLERK: Preconsidered SLR-17, Safe
Streets Security Camera Registry Act.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

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CLERK: Preconsidered SLR-18, class shares.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

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CLERK: Preconsidered SLR-19, DCA docketing authority.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

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CLERK: Report of the Committee on Transportation, Intro 725-A, using a vehicle to facilitate sex trafficking.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on General Orders.

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CLERK: Intro 735-A, penalties for illegally operating vehicles for hire.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on General Orders.

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CLERK: Report of the Committee on Waterfronts, Intro 740-A, discharges in certain bodies of water.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on General Orders.

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PRESIDENT DICKENS: General Order Calendar.

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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 roll call that are, roll call on all items that are coupled on the General Order Calendar. And just remind folks that there are a number of resolutions, also, after this.

CLERK: Lappin.

[background comment]

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Oh, thank you. I vote aye on the General Order Calendar, and request permission to vote on the Land Use Call-Ups, as well. And I vote aye.

PRESIDENT DICKENS: So ordered.

CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [off mic]
Aye.

CLERK: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [off mic]
Aye.

CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I'll vote no on SLR-18 and aye on the rest of them.

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CLERK: Chin. [pause] Comrie.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [off mic]

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Aye on all.

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CLERK: Dickens.

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PRESIDENT DICKENS: [off mic] Aye.

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CLERK: Dilan.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [off mic]

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Aye on all.

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CLERK: Dromm.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: [off mic]

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Aye.

13

CLERK: Eugene.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Ferreras.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: [off mic]

18

Aye on all.

19

CLERK: Fidler.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Sister

21

Majority Leader Dickens, may I have a moment to

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explain my vote. Thank you.

23

PRESIDENT DICKENS: So ordered.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Thank you.

25

I'm extremely proud to be part of the Council that

1
2 is passing this package of legislation on sex
3 trafficking. It really is bold and significant,
4 and despite the good work that's going to be done,
5 there are going to be hundreds, if not thousands,
6 of victims of sex trafficking in the streets of
7 the City of New York tonight. And I just want to
8 remind all of you, as it's budget season, that a
9 subset of that population, and a rather
10 significant one, are the runaway and homeless
11 youth that are sleeping on our streets tonight,
12 who are always at risk for being victimized, for
13 being pressured to sell their body, their soul,
14 their dignity and their integrity, every night
15 just to survive. The Mayor's budget closes their
16 drop-in centers, the Mayor's budget ends the
17 street outreach, and for those that are lucky
18 enough to find their way into a shelter, closes
19 more than half of the shelter beds that are
20 available to them. There are 3,800 by our count.
21 Our count. Work is not done, all right, we can't
22 open the door to salvation for these people with
23 the work that we do today, and slam it shut with
24 the Mayor's budget. So, I just wanted to remind
25 everybody of that, as we go through this budget

1
2 process, not to forget that responsible adults
3 don't leave children sleeping on the street at
4 night. And with that I vote aye on all.

5 CLERK: Foster.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: May I be
7 excused to explain my vote?

8 PRESIDENT DICKENS: So ordered.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: I vote aye
10 on everything except Preconsidered M-825. I vote
11 no. With respect to the Council Member whose area
12 it is in, I am familiar with park alienation and
13 that the promises to replace the parkland does not
14 always come timely, and the biggest example of
15 that is Yankee Stadium. And I know what my
16 community went through. So, I hope he has better
17 commitments and luck than we did in terms of
18 getting the replacement park, but I'm not
19 comfortable with the Administration or Brooklyn
20 Bridge Park Corporation doing what it says it's
21 going to do. So, I vote no. Thank you.

22 CLERK: Garodnick.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [off
24 mic] Aye.

25 CLERK: Gentile.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Gonzalez. Greenfield.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [off

5

mic] Aye.

6

[pause]

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CLERK: Halloran.

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COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: [off mic]

9

Request permission to explain my vote.

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PRESIDENT DICKENS: So ordered.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Thank

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you. First, Madam Speaker, it's good to be back

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in the Chamber. And I thank you for your kind

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words. [applause, cheers] Let no one, let no one

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say that funding the Brain Tumor Foundation is a

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bad idea. I sit here today post-surgery, and no,

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no I did not become a Democrat [laughter] despite

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the surgery. But I am very happy to be back with

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all of you today. And I am also very thankful for

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all of your well wishes, the emails, the texts,

21

the phone calls. And of course to minority leader

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and to the rest of the Republican delegation, I'm

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glad I didn't leave us with "and then there were

24

three." [laughter] But I just would like to say

25

1
2 that I'm glad that the sex trafficking will was
3 modified and that there have been some changes
4 done. I salute Julissa for her hard work in
5 Committee, and I'm glad that the cost has come
6 down significantly, especially as others have
7 pointed out. To one of my favorite Chairman,
8 Chairman Koppell, I do have my large sugary drink
9 here, and I wanted to salute you for your words at
10 the end of the last stated, which I watched via
11 the internet, which is very an interesting
12 experience, although really hard to find, Chris.
13 We got to talk about IT with that, it's really,
14 took me like a week to figure it out. And
15 finally, I'd just like to vote. So, I'm going to
16 vote yes on everything except SLR-18 to which I
17 will vote no, and I have submitted my Reso votes,
18 at the top. Thank you very much. [clapping]

19 SPEAKER QUINN: And let me just
20 interject and say welcome back, Dan, you were in
21 all of our thoughts and prayers and we're very,
22 very happy you're back. And now that you're back,
23 let me leave you with two thoughts. Feel no need
24 to speak at every meeting just 'cause you have a
25 new lease on life, and get a hat. [laughter]

1

2 It's an inside joke. Though I did say he's now
3 tattooed with a C forever, to--

4 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: For your
5 wedding, I got that.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: That's absolutely
7 right. [laughter]

8 CLERK: Gonzalez.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [off mic]
10 Aye on all.

11 CLERK: Ignizio.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes, I'd
13 like to vote no on SLR-18 and aye on all others.

14 CLERK: Jackson.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: [off mic]
16 Aye on all.

17 CLERK: James.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: [off mic]
19 Permission to explain my vote?

20 PRESIDENT DICKENS: So ordered.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: [off mic]

22 Thank you. [on mic] I want to vote aye on all,
23 but I specifically want to bring to the attention
24 of everyone that tonight, a record number of
25 homeless individuals are living on our street. In

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2 fact, 47,000 individuals are homeless tonight,
3 more than ever before in the history of the City
4 of New York, and most of them children. Most of
5 them suffering under the weight of poverty and a
6 significant number of them living hand-to-mouth,
7 surviving as being victims of sex trafficking.
8 It's an honor and a privilege to vote in support
9 of these packaging, packages of bills. I vote aye
10 on all.

11 CLERK: Koppell.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you,
13 I vote no on 735-A, aye on the reminder of the
14 items on the General Orders Calendar. Thank you.

15 CLERK: Koslowitz.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off
17 mic] Aye on all.

18 CLERK: Lander.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic]
20 Aye on all, and I just want to express [on mic]
21 gratitude and congratulations to Council Member
22 Ferreras and the Speaker for helping us take
23 leadership on the issues of sex trafficking and to
24 second what Council Member Fidler said about the
25 importance of following that up with the runaway

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homeless youth beds, as we approach the budget.

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Aye on all.

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CLERK: Levin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [off mic]

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Aye on all.

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CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: [off

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mic] Aye on all.

9

CLERK: Chin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [off mic] Aye

11

on all.

12

CLERK: Nelson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

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CLERK: Palma.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Recchia.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: I'd like

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to vote aye on all General Order and Land Use

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Call-Ups, I vote aye on all.

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CLERK: Reyna.

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [off mic]

23

Aye on all. Aye on all.

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CLERK: Rose.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Ulrich.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote no

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on SLR-18 and aye on all others.

6

CLERK: Vacca.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye

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on all except SLR-18, I vote no.

9

CLERK: Van Bramer. Vann

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [off mic] Aye

11

on all.

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CLERK: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Williams.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I be

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excused to explain my vote?

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PRESIDENT DICKENS: So ordered.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank

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you. I just want to say welcome back to my

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colleague, Dan Halloran. If they had done the

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1
2 other side of the brain, we might've been able to
3 welcome him to the Progressive Caucus. [laughter]
4 But congratulations and welcome back. I want to
5 say congratulations to my colleague, Julissa
6 Ferreras, on the bill and to the Speaker, great
7 leadership. And I do, I'm voting aye on all, with
8 the exception of Intro 735-A. Though I have great
9 respect for Jimmy Vacca and the work he's doing,
10 this particular bill, I think was well intentioned
11 but missed the mark just a little bit. I believe
12 if we had tweaked it just a little bit, we
13 might've gotten to the core of the problem. I am
14 worried about some people, particularly in cars,
15 that service places that don't get the service. I
16 wish this was more directed to the big vans that
17 we're having problems with, as well. And I wish
18 we would give a shot across the bow to some
19 people, as opposed to chopping their head off.
20 So, I'm hoping that this does solve some of the
21 problem, but I hope we can re look at it, to try
22 to address the need for transportation in this
23 City as a whole, and so I vote aye on all, and no
24 except on 735-A. Thank you.

25 CLERK: Wills.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I vote aye on all with the exception of SLR-18. And I just want to take a quick moment to congratulate Council Member Ignizio. I think as he described, this is an example of exercising each of the powers of our office. This is good, responsive constituent work that allowed him to be aware of this issue, and then working with his colleagues, our colleagues, and with staff, crafting a narrowly tailored bill to actually provide the type of relief needed, and it's, as he said, a good bill for taxpayers. So, I just want to congratulate him. Thank you.

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CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

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SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Aye on all.

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[pause, background noise]

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PRESIDENT DICKENS: All items on today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a vote of 49 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, zero abstentions; with the exception of Introduction 735-A, which was adopted by a vote of

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2 46 in the affirmative, three in the negative and
3 zero abstentions; and Preconsidered Reso 1374
4 which was adopted by a vote of 48 in the
5 affirmative, one in the negative, zero
6 abstentions; and Preconsidered Reso 1375, which
7 was adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative,
8 one in the negative, zero in the abstentions; and
9 Preconsidered Reso 1376, which was adopted by a
10 vote 48 in the affirmative, one negative, zero
11 abstentions; and Preconsidered Reso 1377, which
12 was adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative,
13 one in the negative, zero abstentions; and
14 Preconsidered Reso 1378, which was adopted by a
15 vote of 48 in the affirmative, one in the
16 negative, zero abstentions; and Preconsidered SLR-
17 18, which was adopted by 42 in the affirmative,
18 seven in the negative, zero abstentions; and
19 Preconsidered M-824, which was adopted by a vote
20 of 48 in the affirmative, zero in the negative,
21 and one abstention; and Preconsidered M-825, which
22 was adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative,
23 one in the negative, zero abstentions. The
24 revised Land Use Call-Up vote is 49 in the
25 affirmative. Discussion, introduction and reading

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of bills.

SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Sorry.

[laughs] Shockingly, I was looking at my Blackberry and not paying attention, but nonetheless, all bills are referred to committees as indicated on the agenda. Thank you, R.J.

PRESIDENT DICKENS: Discussion of resolutions, and we will discuss one resolution at a time. First Reso is 986-A. Being none, call for a vote. All those in favor?

COUNCIL: Aye.

PRESIDENT DICKENS: I apologize, Council Member Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

Thank you. I'll just be very quick. I want to thank the Speaker for her strong support and leadership, and this Council for hoping that we'll pass this resolution, which supports the Governor's proposal to amend the law, with regards to decriminalizing possession of marijuana. This is, at the end of the day, a social and racial justice issue, it is intricately linked the issue of stop and frisk. And it closes the in public view loophole which right now is being abused by,

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2 unfortunately, the NYPD. So, taking this step is
3 one step forward of really dealing with the social
4 and financial consequences of this, of how this
5 law is being applied right now. It is hurting the
6 lives of many young people of color, in
7 particular. And also, it comes at a great expense
8 financially to the City of New York. So, with
9 that I thank everyone, I hope you vote in favor of
10 this, and we're sending a strong message to the
11 State Legislature.

12 PRESIDENT DICKENS: Council Member
13 Levin.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you
15 very much, Madam Leader. I am rising to ask my
16 colleagues to support Resolution 1330, calling on
17 the New York State Legislature to pass and the
18 Governor to sign Assembly Bill 9861, Senate Bill
19 7015, legislation which would amend the State
20 Education law enabling New York City to require
21 that all five year old children in the City of New
22 York attend kindergarten. Early childhood
23 education is an imperative for our City and a true
24 investment in our future. Right now, more than
25 2,500 New York City children do not have the

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2 opportunity to go to kindergarten because the law
3 does not require that all five year olds have
4 access to a classroom slot. We owe it to future
5 generations to do better than that. And with
6 great thanks to Council Speaker Quinn for her
7 remarkable support for this resolution, I am
8 pleased to sponsor Resolution 1330. It's a
9 demonstration of our support for legislation that
10 will require the provision of an available school
11 slot for all children five years or older. We
12 have to reach kids as early as possible so that
13 their futures, and our future as a City, are not
14 compromised by a delayed education. We have to
15 invest in the people who will lead our City for
16 future generations. Thank you very much.

17 PRESIDENT DICKENS: Council Member
18 Levin was speaking on Reso 1330, and we were on
19 Reso 986-A, but it's okay. Are there any other
20 discussions on Reso 986-A? Take a vote. All
21 those in favor?

22 COUNCIL: Aye.

23 PRESIDENT DICKENS: All those
24 opposed. Ayes have it. Resolution has passed.
25 Reso 1330. All tho--any further discussion on

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2 1330. All tho--we'll take a vote--all those in
3 favor?

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COUNCIL: Aye.

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6 PRESIDENT DICKENS: All those
7 against? Reso 1330 passes. Reso 1343,
8 discussion. We'll take a vote. All tho--all
9 those in favor?

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COUNCIL: Aye.

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11 PRESIDENT DICKENS: I don't hear
12 you.

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COUNCIL: Aye.

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14 PRESIDENT DICKENS: All those
15 against. [laughs] Reso 143 passes. Reso 1346,
16 discussion. I'll take a vote. All those in
17 favor.

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COUNCIL: Aye.

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19 PRESIDENT DICKENS: All those
20 against? Reso 1346 passes. Preconsidered Reso
21 1372, discussion. Council Member Jackson.

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22 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I could
23 not allow this--

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24 PRESIDENT DICKENS: Quiet, please,
25 'scuze me, Council Member.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I

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2 couldn't, I could not allow this Stated Meeting
3 without saying anything. So, my colleagues
4 [laughter] my colleagues, I rise--

5 PRESIDENT DICKENS: We--actually, I
6 was waiting for you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Seriously,
8 if you look at this Preconsidered Reso, this
9 Preconsidered Reso deals with farm workers in New
10 York State, that have been abused and underpaid
11 for as long as they've been working. And this
12 will give them the right to be entitled to
13 overtime, a right to be treated with respect and
14 dignity, a right to have at least one day a week
15 to be off from work. And so, when you look at
16 that, and considering what they do in order to
17 provide us food on our table, ask yourself whether
18 or not you would work under those conditions. And
19 if your answer is yes, you would, then I, I give
20 you a bus ticket to head upstate to go work those
21 particular farms. Other than that, I ask my
22 colleagues to vote yes on this Preconsidered Reso.
23 Thank you.

24 PRESIDENT DICKENS: Any other
25 discussion on Preconsidered Reso 1372? Seeing

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none, we'll take a vote. All those in favor?

COUNCIL: Aye.

PRESIDENT DICKENS: Against?

Preconsidered Reso 1372 passes. Preconsidered Reso 1379, discussion? Seeing none, we'll take a vote. All those in favor?

COUNCIL: Aye.

PRESIDENT DICKENS: Against?

Preconsidered Reso 1379 passes. Preconsidered Reso 1380, discussion? Seeing none, we'll take a vote. All those in favor?

COUNCIL: Aye.

PRESIDENT DICKENS: Against?

Preconsidered Reso 1380 passes. General discussion. Council Member Dickens. [laughter] I want to thank Speaker Quinn and the staff for allowing me to discuss Reso 1370, microstamping. A special thank you goes out to Council Members Chin and Gennaro for cosponsoring this very important resolution, that ensures stricter and more comprehensive gun laws that prevent the sale of certain firearms to criminals and others requiring microstamping on new, semiautomatic firearms, sold after January 1, 2014. It

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2 criminalizes the possession of the ammunition and
3 redefines the terms of a disguised gun and assault
4 weapon, and bans the sale and use of 50 caliber
5 weapons. This resolution will aid in the fight to
6 curb gun violence in our communities, and to help
7 protect our youth. The movement of firearms will
8 be tracked and made sure that it does not get into
9 the wrong hands. I ask for your support. Thank
10 you. Council Member Brewer.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you
12 very much. I'm calling--calling, I'm speaking
13 about a resolution regarding tenant rights. The
14 issue there in terms of tenant rights is that the
15 issue lead based paint, window guards and my
16 favorite topic, bedbugs, the issue is that even
17 though those are the laws internally to the, to
18 the tenant rights, they're not always clear to the
19 new person signing the lease. And the fact of the
20 matter is, we are suggesting in a law that there
21 be a downloadable PDF on the computer for the
22 owner of the building and the incoming tenant,
23 that just lists that these are the laws, and then
24 the owner knows it, the tenant knows it, and
25 there's no confusion when the bedbugs arrive a

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2 month later, and everybody said, "Well, we had
3 done an inspection," and the tenant said, "I
4 didn't know that because you didn't tell me." So
5 that's the purpose of Intro No. 872. I hope you
6 sign on. Thank you.

7 PRESIDENT DICKENS: Council Member
8 Garodnick.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thanks.
10 Thank you, Madam Leader. On a lighter note, I
11 stand today with Council Members Levin and Reyna,
12 in defense of the bagel with a shmear, the Belgian
13 waffle and huevos rancheros. We are introducing
14 legislation that will allow New Yorkers to enjoy
15 Sunday morning brunch in the sun. Restaurant
16 owners who have paid the City for the right to
17 operate a sidewalk café are currently forbidden
18 from serving customers in those cafés before noon
19 on Sundays. No brunch before noon is outdated and
20 it is hostile to business, it is also widely
21 disregarded. And it denies New Yorkers of their
22 right to a legal Sunday morning brunch outside.
23 Our bill, Intro 875, would allow sidewalk cafés to
24 open at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays, while leaving
25 untouched the opening and closing times for

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2 sidewalk cafés that the Department of Consumer
3 Affairs has established for the other days of the
4 week. I'd like to also draw my colleagues'
5 attention to Intro 876, which would alleviate an
6 administrative burden for restaurants dealing with
7 their renewal applications for sidewalk cafés and
8 encourage all of my colleagues to sign on to both
9 875 and 876. Thank you.

10 PRESIDENT DICKENS: Council Member
11 Melissa Mark-Viverito.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
13 Thank you. First of all, I want to thank one of
14 our communications interns, Michael Spitzer
15 Rubenstein, it's his last day with us, or last
16 week, and he will be starting a new job next week.
17 Thank you for all you do, and you've done. I want
18 to just talk about specifically something that's
19 going on in Congress right now. Obviously, the
20 Republican obstruction continues to prevent
21 President Barack Obama's ability to run the
22 country. The latest victim is Puerto Rican born
23 Mari Carmen Aponte, the nominee for Ambassador to
24 El Salvador. In 2010, President Obama appointed
25 Aponte to be our Ambassador to El Salvador, but

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2 due to Republican filibustering, the Senate never
3 confirmed her, and her appointment expired last
4 year. President Obama reappointed her and her
5 nomination will come up for a vote today, if
6 Republicans in the Senate don't block it. Mari
7 Carmen Aponte is exactly the kind of leader we
8 want representing us El Salvador. During her
9 brief tenure as Ambassador, she brought together
10 former enemies from El Salvador's Civil War,
11 helping to nurture their fragile democracy and
12 keep the peace. When a constitutional crisis
13 threatened to derail that recovery and erupt into
14 violence, Ambassador Aponte brought Supreme Court
15 Justice, Sonia Sotomayor to El Salvador. And the
16 two of them worked together to bring rivals
17 together for dialogue and discussion. This
18 ultimately broke the impasse which appeared close
19 to destroying Salvadorian democracy. Her support
20 for democracy and human rights helped improve
21 U.S./Salvadorian relations. However, despite this
22 leadership, Republicans in the Senate are blocking
23 Ambassador Aponte's reappointment. One of the
24 main opponents, Republican Senator Jim Demint, has
25 attacked Ambassador Aponte for praising El

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2 Salvador's efforts to stop violence against gays
3 and lesbians. Only Washington Republicans would
4 think that's objectionable. After El Salvador
5 signed a U.N. declaration against anti-gay and
6 lesbian violence, the State Department urged
7 Ambassadors to recognize Gay Pride Month.
8 Ambassador Aponte recognized El Salvadorian
9 government's work to prevent violence. For
10 Senator Demint, that's imposing a pro-gay agenda.
11 Republicans are attacking Ambassador Aponte for
12 doing her job well, and it's long time overdue
13 that she get an appointment and get a Senate vote.
14 Thank you.

15 PRESIDENT DICKENS: Council Member
16 Williams.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank
18 you. First, I want to bring my colleagues to
19 attention of Intro 881, which is the Inspector
20 General bill that many of you have signed on. I
21 want to say thank you. For those who haven't,
22 please sign on. And while my name is first, I do
23 want to give a lot of credit to my co-prime, Brad
24 Lander, who did the lion's share of research and
25 policy work on this, so I want to say thank you so

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2 much. Inspector General and the CIA, the FBI and
3 most of the agencies of the City of New York, like
4 HRA, DOE and the Fire Department, if ever there
5 was an agency that needed it, it would be the
6 seventh largest army in the world. And one the
7 Mayor has said is his personal army. I believe
8 this is the agency that probably needs some
9 oversight more than others, so there's no real
10 reason not to have, get this done, I hope my
11 colleagues sign on. Also, Resolution 1381, I
12 would ask my colleagues to sign on to that, thank
13 you Council Member Jackson, for co-priming with
14 me. This is the Stand Your Ground bill that we're
15 trying to get pulled from Senate Republican
16 Maziarz upstate. This is the same bill that
17 George Zimmerman used in the shooting in Florida.
18 So we want to make sure this is repealed. It goes
19 further than just saying you, everyone has a right
20 to defend themselves, but this allows you to go
21 even further in pursuing and killing someone. So,
22 hopefully, we don't want this bill passed here,
23 and have the same outcome as we did in Florida.
24 Thank you.

25 PRESIDENT DICKENS: Seeing no

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further discussion, this Council stands in recess.

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[gavel]

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[background noise]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JOHN DAVID TONG 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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John David Tong". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the printed word "Signature".

Date July 10, 2012