

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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September 30, 2015
Start: 1:43 p.m.
Recess: 3:00 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Melissa Mark-Viverito
Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Margaret S. Chin
Rosie Mendez
Corey D. Johnson
Daniel R. Garodnick
Ben Kallos
Helen K. Rosenthal
Mark Levine
Inez E. Dickens
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Andrew Cohen
Andy L. King
James Vacca
Fernando Cabrera
Ritchie J. Torres
Vanessa L. Gibson
Maria Del Carmen Arroyo
Annabel Palma
Paul A. Vallone
Peter A. Koo

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Julissa Ferreras-Copeland
Costa G. Constantinides
Rory I. Lancman
Daniel Dromm
James G. Van Bramer
I. Daneek Miller
Ruben Wills
Karen Koslowitz
Elizabeth S. Crowley
Donovan J. Richards
Eric A. Ulrich
Stephen T. Levin
Antonio Reynoso
Laurie A. Cumbo
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Carlos Menchaca
Bradford S. Lander
Mathieu Eugene
Darlene Mealy
Inez D. Barron
Vincent J. Gentile
David G. Greenfield
Jumaane D. Williams
Alan N. Maisel
Mark Treyger
Chaim M. Deutsch
Deborah L. Rose
Steven Matteo

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

Letitia James
Public Advocate

April Koral
Tribeca Tribune

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

Carl Glassman
Tribeca Tribune

Karen Pearl
God's Love We Deliver

Imam Al-Hajj Abdur-Rashid

1
2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: We have two ser--
3 wow, that's loud. We have two ceremonials today.
4 The first one will be done by Council Member Chin in
5 honoring the Tribeca Tribune, which began publishing
6 over 20 years ago. Margaret?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Madam
8 Speaker. Can I invite April and Carl and Thea [sp?]
9 to come up? The Tribeca Trib was always one of my
10 favorite small town paper in the middle of New York
11 City. It's a family-owned and operated right here in
12 Tribeca by April and Carl who live here and send
13 their kids to public schools here and who help build
14 the community into what it is today. The paper has
15 always had a reputation for high quality, thoughtful
16 reporting, whether it's about pedestrian safety or
17 local artists, and their coverage can make a
18 difference. Their article about local landlords who
19 were harassing tenants actually resulting in the
20 landlords allowing these seniors to stay in their
21 homes. So, I was sad to hear that this great paper
22 was ending its last print run in July. This is the
23 paper that I look forward to seeing delivered to my
24 building. High quality local newspaper can shape the
25 identity of a community, and this is the continuing

1 legacy of the Tribeca Trib, but they're going online.
2 They're not going anywhere else. So, I look forward
3 to reading their story online and I want to thank
4 Carl and April for their contribution to lower
5 Manhattan and wish them the best of luck on their
6 next chapter. And we also have a lot of local
7 leaders, our Community Board Chair, Katherine McVay
8 Hughes, a lot of Community Board One members, friends
9 who are here to support April and Carl, and can I
10 have the Clerk read the proclamation?
11

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Council, City of New York
13 Proclamation whereas the Council of the City of New
14 York is proud to honor the Tribeca Trib for the
15 culmination of their print newspaper after 21 years
16 of in-depth coverage in the Lower Manhattan
17 community, and whereas since the Tribeca Trib was
18 founded in 1994 by longtime Tribeca residents Carl
19 Glassman and April Koral. The locally-owned
20 newspaper has provided residents of Lower Manhattan
21 high quality, community-based news every month at no
22 charge. At its height, circulation reached 15,000
23 papers. By the end of its last print addition in July
24 2015, the Trib had printed and distributed more than
25 three million copies, and whereas, the Trib has been

1 family-owned and operated for 21 years with a staff
2 of four. Its founders, a part-time ad sales person
3 and a full time reporter. Carl Glassman and April
4 Koral, the founders and owners regularly wrote the
5 content and were directly involved in all aspects of
6 the paper. While Ms. Koral managed the ads, the
7 layout and editorials, Mr. Glassman supervised the
8 monthly publication at the printing press. In the
9 Trib's early years he borrowed a van to deliver the
10 papers himself. Their daughters Kiera [sp?] and Thea
11 contributed to the reporting and multimedia features
12 for the paper's website, and whereas, over the course
13 of the Trib's 21-year print run the paper has
14 garnered more than 100 awards form the New York Press
15 Association and the National Newspaper Association.
16 In 2011, the Trib won the National Newspaper
17 Association's highest award for general excellence,
18 as well as multiple first place awards for
19 photography, feature writing, news reporting and arts
20 coverage. The Trib also won the New York Press
21 Association's Best Website Award in 2014, and
22 whereas, when the Tribeca Trib was still considered
23 an emergent--when Tribeca was still considered an
24 emerging neighborhood, the Trib's regular feature
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1 profile of artists and residents helped to clarify
2 its identity and shape the direction of its culture.
3 Other important articles included a cover story on
4 one Tribeca building which revealed attempts to evict
5 senior tenants. The story was directly credited with
6 the reversal of the owner's decision. A series of
7 stories and photos on the systematic harassment of
8 commercial tenants at a building on Nassau Street
9 similarly raised awareness about the harassment
10 practices of a developer in Lower Manhattan, and
11 whereas throughout its publication, the Trib's wide
12 range of articles from funding issues to the greening
13 of Greenwich to the impact of rezoning to many other
14 subjects, the paper has shaped how local readers view
15 these issues and also provided a meaningful forum for
16 positive changes in the area. Now, therefore be it
17 known that the Council of the City of New York
18 gratefully honors the Tribeca Trib in honor of 21
19 years of journalistic excellence and outstanding
20 public service to the community at the culmination of
21 its print newspaper run and wishes it continued
22 success online; Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for
23 the entire Council, Margaret S. Chin, Council Member
24 First District Manhattan.
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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. So, April and Carl?

CARL GLASSMAN: Thank you so much. We are like just--can't believe. We're just hugely honored by this proclamation. It's been, you know, it's been our privilege to cover Lower Manhattan for all these years, and we're--we hope that we can continue, you know, as we have been as well or better than we've been doing on those, you know, all these years that we're being honored for. So, thank you so much. Margaret, thank you, Speaker and--

APRIL KORAL: I want to echo Karl's remarks, of course, and also to thank Dana Seman who is here today and who sold all the ads for the paper and continues to sell all the ads for the online site and for which we--has made it all possible.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you Karl and April for your contribution, and Thea, thank you for helping your parents.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you very much. Alright, and then the last ceremonial today will be Council Member Johnson to a great organization, God's Love We Deliver, on their 30th

1 anniversary. If the reps from God's Love We Deliver
2 can come up? Council Member Johnson?

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4 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: We love God's
5 Love, that's right. Come on up, Karen. Good
6 afternoon, Karen, thank you for being here. It's
7 very, very exciting. God's Love We Deliver which is
8 located within my district but serves the entire City
9 of New York is celebrating 30 years, and God's Love
10 founder Ganga Stone 30 years ago was visiting a man
11 dying of AIDS and she brought him groceries and
12 realized that he actually couldn't cook for himself.
13 And so for years during the height of the epidemic
14 God's Love was delivering hot, nutritious meals with
15 love to people on a daily basis, and more recently,
16 though not too recent, God's Love expanded to not
17 just people living with HIV and AIDS but anyone who
18 had a terminal illness, whether it be cancer or
19 Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis to get them hot
20 meals. And so they have a brand new gorgeous,
21 beautiful building in my district at the corner of
22 Sixth Avenue and Spring Street. Last year,
23 temporarily, they were out in Brooklyn cooking their
24 meals out there uninterrupted, and they have been an
25 indelible part of New York City for 30 years. They

1
2 have helped countless New Yorkers in all 51 of our
3 districts, and last year when they were in Brooklyn,
4 Karen invited me out and we packed the one millionth
5 meal with Joan Rivers before she passed away. Robert
6 Cornegy and I stood with Joan, slamming meals shut,
7 and she was as hilarious as ever, and she said,
8 "God's Love is my favorite, favorite organization."
9 She did so much. So, we are so grateful for all of
10 your work on behalf of the City of New York and the
11 people who represent, and I want to just say
12 congratulations and hand it over to you. Oh, we're
13 going to read the proc [sic] first.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Council, City of New York
15 Proclamation. Whereas God's Love We Deliver began in
16 1985 with the simple principle that no one should
17 ever have to face the dual crisis of illness and
18 hunger. Founder Ganga Stone paid a visit to a man
19 dying of AIDS and realizing that he was too weak to
20 prepare a meal with the bag of groceries she brought,
21 she began cooking for him. From this small and
22 simple act of kindness deeply rooted in caring, God's
23 Love We Deliver began. Inspired by Ganga, many more
24 volunteers quickly realized that something as basic
25 as delivering a meal could bring dignity and

1 recognition to a desperate situation. One meal grew
2 to 50 and then into the hundreds. Today, over 8,000
3 annual volunteers help God's Love cook and deliver
4 over 1.3 million meals each year, and whereas, as the
5 trajectory of HIV/AIDS changed, God's Love We Deliver
6 quickly understood that the severity of each client's
7 situation demanded something more than simply
8 delivering food. It required prepared tailored meals
9 that would support a client's specific medical
10 treatment, and so began the research that led to
11 preparing individually tailored meals and to their
12 focus on food as medicine. Nutrition has become their
13 signature difference, and God's Love We Deliver is a
14 leader in the field of treating severe and chronic
15 illness with nutrition, and whereas, in 2001 God's
16 Love We Deliver leveraged their core competency and
17 expanded their mission to provide nutritionally
18 customized meals for those living at home with all
19 life-altering illnesses including cancer,
20 Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, and end-stage renal
21 disease as well as HIV/AIDS. The organization now
22 serves clients with over 200 unique diagnoses.
23 Populations with primary diagnoses other than
24 HIV/AIDS continue to inform their work with people
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1 living with HIV/AIDs, and whereas the influence of
2 the important work of God's Love extends far beyond
3 our city. God's Love leads the National Food and
4 Nutrition's Services Provider Coalition, the Food is
5 Medicine Coalition, and was instrumental in
6 guaranteeing that national policy recognized food and
7 nutrition services as a core medical service for
8 people living with HIV/AIDs. God's Love is a member
9 of the Age United Public Policy Committee and Chairs
10 the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership's Structural
11 Interventions Working Group. As national healthcare
12 reform has rolled out, God's Love has ensured that
13 access to food and nutrition services has remained
14 part of the ongoing conversation and helps other
15 agencies across the country sustain services for
16 their clients. Through the efforts of God's Love,
17 the message of food is medicine has had an impact on
18 how our medical system is structured for vulnerable
19 populations, and whereas while much has changed in
20 the 30-year history of God's Love We Deliver, but the
21 core values have not. Even through incredible
22 growth, God's Love has never turned an eligible
23 client away and has never charged clients for meals.
24 Every day their clients struggle with malnutrition,
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1 hunger, illness, and isolation. When they contact
2 God's Love, they find a community of more than 8,000
3 volunteers, staff and board members who provide
4 support when they need it most. For 30 years God's
5 Love has done this free of charge with dignity,
6 respect and compassion. Now, therefore be it known
7 that the Council of the City of New York gratefully
8 honors God's Love We Deliver for 30 years of
9 extraordinary service to our community; Melissa Mark-
10 Viverito, Speaker for the entire Council, Corey
11 Johnson, Council Member Third District Manhattan,
12 Rosie Mendez, Council Member Second District
13 Manhattan, Ritchie Torres, Council Member 15th
14 District the Bronx, Jimmy Van Bramer, Council Member
15 26th District Queens, Daniel Dromm, Council Member
16 25th District Queens, Carlos Menchaca Council Member
17 30th District Brooklyn.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you to the
20 clerk for reading that, and I was remiss, it wasn't
21 the one millionth meal, it was the 15th millionth
22 meal that we packed together. Here you go. Here you
23 go, Karen.

24 KAREN PEARL: Well, I just want to say
25 thank you so much to the Speaker and to Corey

1 Johnson, our Councilperson, but to all of you who are
2 up here with me today. So many of you are actually
3 our volunteers. You have worked in our kitchen. You
4 have helped deliver meals. We are really, really
5 grateful for everything that you have done to help
6 God's Love be as successful as we have been. You not
7 only help us annually through budget, through an
8 allocation in your budget, which we are obviously
9 quite grateful for, but you also helped us with an
10 extraordinary gift to our campaign so that we could
11 open up our new building where we are now going to be
12 able to double the number of meals we do every year.
13 So, we'll be able to go to over two million meals a
14 year, serving that many more New Yorkers. We are in
15 every single one of your districts and every
16 neighborhood, almost on every block, and we take
17 great honor and pride in being able to say that and
18 to be able to do it, because when people are sick and
19 hungry they need good food. They need nutritious
20 food so that they can manage their illness, take
21 their medications and do as best as they possibly can
22 for as long as they can. So, we're honored that it's
23 been 30 years we've been doing this in New York,
24 certainly for our beginnings in HIV and AIDS which
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1 continues to be an enormous part of what we do today
2 and a lot of our heart, but also for people living
3 with all illnesses no matter where. So, we thank you
4 again for your support. Our need grows every year
5 10, 12 percent. This year is no exceptions. So
6 everything you've done for us is not only appreciated
7 but put to good use into delicious meals, and we
8 invite you to come visit our new building.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: It's gorgeous.

11 KAREN PEARL: It is. And also to
12 deliver. We're about to come to the holidays. It's
13 a great time to bring a meal to a constituent. So,
14 let us know if you're interested, but thank you so
15 much.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And thank you so
18 much for also the comfort that your organization
19 provides to so many that do receive these delivered
20 meals, and I think it's a great example of how our
21 tax payer dollars, the monies that we are able to
22 allocate really goes toward such incredibly important
23 causes. So, thank you for those years of service and
24 we look forward to the continued partnership. Thank
25 you.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

[applause]

UNIDENTIFIED: Ladies and gentleman, can I have your attention, please? Quiet on the floor, please. Quiet on the floor, please? Quiet please. At this time, please place all electronic devices to vibrate. Will all non-Council employees, non-Council employees please leave the main floor of the Chambers. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All rise. I pledge allegiance to the flag [off mic]

[reciting the pledge]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.
Roll call.

COUNCIL CLERK: Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Cohen?

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Constantinides? Cornegy?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Present.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley? Cumbo? Deutsch?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Dickins? Dromm?

6 Espinal? Euguene? Ferrars-Copeland?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Here.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Gentile?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Gibson?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Here.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Greenfield? Johnson?

15 Kallos?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: [speaking another

17 language]

18 COUNCIL CLERK: King?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Koo?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the

25 Chambers, please. Quiet in the Chambers.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL CLERK: Lancman?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Lander? Levin? Levine?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Maisel? Mealy?

Menchaca?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

COUNCIL CLERK: Mendez?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Present [off mic]

COUNCIL CLERK: Miller? Palma? Reynoso?

Richards? Rodriguez? Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Rosenthal?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Torres? Johnson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Torres?

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I and I vote aye

[sic].

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Treyger?

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich? Vacca? Reynoso?

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Espinal?

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich?

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Cumbo?

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Williams? Wills?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Matteo?

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito?

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All rise for the invocation delivered by Imam Al-Hajj Abdur-Rashid, the Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood at 130 West 138th Street in Manhattan.

AL-HAJJ ABDUR-RASHID: Good afternoon and peace be unto you all. Salaam-Alaikum. A reading from the Quran, [speaking Arabic]. And indeed having

1
2 exhorted [sic] men related down in all of the books
3 of divine wisdom that my righteous servants shall
4 inherit the earth. Herein behold there is a message
5 for people who truly worship God, and thus oh prophet
6 we have not sent thee except as a mercy unto all of
7 the worlds and their peoples. [speaking Arabic] All
8 mighty God, Lord of the worlds, creator of the
9 heavens and the earth and all in between. We come
10 together this afternoon gathered in the spirit of our
11 father Abraham who dwelled in the desert in a four-
12 walled tent. Three walls of that tent were enclosed
13 and one was opened to receive. Therefore, we of the
14 Abrahamic traditions gather as Jews, Christians and
15 Muslims along with people of various faiths in this
16 great city of diverse faith traditions. We open the
17 walls surrounding our hearts and minds to all human
18 beings of good will, even as we strive to love our
19 neighbors as ourselves. We seek the peace, the
20 Salaam, the Shalom of our city. Guide us, our
21 leaders and the inhabitants of our state we pray with
22 divine wisdom in our quest for mutual safety and
23 security. Preserve us and our children from the
24 worship of idols of the heart and diseases of the
25 soul, from envy, jealousy, greed, and lust, lust for

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2 power, lust for war, lust for supremacy over the
3 other, and exploitation of the neighbor. Grant us
4 instead hearts centered on justice, human service,
5 healing, and reconciliation. Unmute the tongue of
6 those who would lead and magnify the voice of your
7 humble servants, unafraid to speak truth to power and
8 to act upon it in their private and public lives.
9 Guide us to the path of truth, righteousness and
10 justice, cleared for all of us, cleared for all of
11 mankind by the prophets. For you all the all
12 forgiving most merciful God. Amin and Amen.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.
14 Imam Al-Hajj Talib Abdur-Rashid is the religious and
15 spiritual leader Imam of the Mosque of Islamic
16 Brotherhood Inc. The Mosque located in Harlem, New
17 York City is the institutional heir of the Muslim
18 Mosque founded by the late Al-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz,
19 Malcolm X, in 1964. Imam Abdur-Rashid is also a
20 President Emeritus of the Islamic Leadership Council
21 of Metropolitan New York. The Imam has been an
22 active voice and leader in the City of New York for
23 the past 25 years advocating for justice, police
24 reform, interfaith dialogue and cooperation,
25 HIV/AIDS, and domestic violence, education, and human

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2 upliftment [sic]. The Mosque is located in the
3 District of Council Member Inez Dickens, and on her
4 behalf I move to spread the invocation in full upon
5 the record. Thank you. Adoption of minutes?

6 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Messages and
8 papers from the Mayor?

9 COUNCIL CLERK: M339 Mayor's Management
10 Report, Fiscal 2015.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication
12 from City, County and Borough Offices.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: M339 is received,
14 ordered, printed and filed. On the Communication
15 M340 Bronx Borough President submitting Orlando Marin
16 for appointment to the City Planning Commission.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and
18 Communications?

19 COUNCIL CLERK: On M3340, that's been
20 referred to the Rules, Privileges and Elections.
21 There are no petitions or communications.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-ups?

23 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now for a
25 vote, Council Member Van Bramer?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: With permission I vote aye on all General Orders and all Resolutions.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Council Member Mendez for a vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: With permission, I vote aye on all General Orders and on all Resolutions.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Quiet in the Chambers. Council Member Torres for a vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote aye on all General Orders and Resolutions.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member Mealy for a vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye on all and all Resolutions.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Quiet in the Chambers. Quiet in the Chambers. And now we hear from the Speaker, Council Member Rodriguez for a vote.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Yeah, I would like to vote and ask permission to vote aye--to vote aye on all General Orders?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Council Member Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Madam Advocate, may I have permission to vote aye on all matters on today's calendar?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes. Quiet in the Chambers, please.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you. Vote aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. And now we'd like to hear from the Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. Please, quiet in the Chambers.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madam Public Advocate. So, good afternoon. Buenos tardes to all my colleagues. I want to just ask and begin today by asking everyone to stand and join me in remembering a true icon of New York City and America as a whole. On Tuesday, September 22nd New York baseball legend Yogi Berra passed away at the age of 90. Yogi played baseball for the New York Yankees and New York Mets for 20 years and was widely considered the best catcher and one of the best overall players in Major League Baseball's history,

1 but beyond the game Yogi was known for his tenacious
2 perseverance, charming personality and hilarious wit.
3 We lost an icon in Yogi, and I'll ask everyone to
4 join me in a moment of silence.

5 [moment of silence]

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you.

7 Today, the Council will vote on legislation to extend
8 insurance coverage to the surviving family of Frank
9 Musella [sp?], a sanitation worker who died in the
10 line of duty on July 29th, 2015. We are grateful for
11 the work of our municipal employees and join the
12 family of Sergeant Musella in mourning his death and
13 pass this legislation today. Additionally, the
14 Council will vote today to officially make the
15 Stonewall Inn a historic landmark in New York City.
16 As we all know, the Stonewall Inn was a pivotal
17 location in the early days of the LGBT equality
18 movement and designating it as a landmark is long
19 overdue. On that, I'd like to ask Council Member
20 Johnson in whose district the Stonewall Inn is in to
21 say a few words. Oh, I think he is gone. I don't
22 know if he voted. Did he? Oh, he's in the other
23 room. Okay, so we'll move on and then if he comes
24 back. Next, we have legislation that will expand the

1 current requirement to the study safety act, which
2 requires reporting from the Department of Education
3 to the Council on issues relating to school
4 discipline. This bill will bolster the current law by
5 requiring expanded data relating to student
6 suspensions, teacher removals, student transfers that
7 occur during suspension, and instances where EMS is
8 called and students are transported to a hospital.
9 NYPD will also be required to report on data relating
10 to these use of handcuffs and metal detectors in
11 schools, arrests, summonses and violations issued in
12 a school or on school grounds, complaints lodged
13 against school safety agents as well as injuries
14 sustained by school safety agents due to student
15 misconduct. Our school should be a safe place for
16 students to learn and it is critical that we have the
17 relevant data to keep them that way. I want to
18 thank, in terms of the staff, Beth Goleb [sp?], Aisha
19 Schamburg [sp?], Rob Calandra [sp?], and Rachel
20 Cordero, and Council Member Gibson who chairs the
21 Public Safety Committee, but also is the lead sponsor
22 of this bill. If she could say a few words.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very
25 much, Madam Speaker, Madam Public Advocate. Good

1
2 afternoon to all of my colleagues. Thank you so
3 much. It is an honor and a privilege, colleagues, to
4 stand before you as we are set to vote on Intro 730,
5 a very important bill that will provide vital
6 amendments to the current Student Safety Act passed
7 by the City Council in 2011 and will serve as a major
8 step of progress in our collective efforts to disrupt
9 the school to pipeline prison pipeline--the school to
10 prison pipeline. Sorry about that. I'm truly
11 grateful because this is also my very first piece of
12 legislation that we'll be passing this Council and I
13 am grateful for this incredible journey that we have
14 all been a part of. Through the bi-annual and
15 quarterly reporting, the original Student Safety Act
16 truly helped us identify troubling trends in our
17 schools and paved the way for recent disciplinary
18 code reform and an increased focus on the need for
19 restorative justice training, an important program
20 that this Council has designated 2.4 million dollars
21 to in this current fiscal year. Through Intro 730,
22 the newly amended Student Safety Act, we will address
23 practices that do not cultivate an environment of the
24 pipeline to prison, but instead of learning and a
25 safe environment, truly, truly methods that can

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2 improve student behavior and do not lead to student
3 pipeline to prison. In particular, I am extremely
4 proud that the revised act will report on the
5 presence and the use of permanent and roving metal
6 detectors in our schools. Metal detectors left in
7 place after a request has been put forth to remove
8 them, the use of restraints on students sometimes as
9 young as five years old, referrals to EMS for
10 behavior and discipline related incidents and
11 complaints that are made against school safety agents
12 as well as those are injuries sustained by school
13 safety agents by students themselves. By making these
14 much needed amendments to the Student Safety Act, we
15 will truly have a greater breath of data from which
16 we can devise smart, creative, innovative, and
17 meaningful policy and permanent disciplinary code
18 reform. The safety and success of our young people
19 is truly important to all of us, and I'm so glad that
20 we are all here voting on this very, very important
21 bill. I want to thank so many people for their
22 supportive efforts and delving into creative
23 solutions that improve the public safety in our
24 schools, addressing many of the issues that we have
25 been very concerned about while ushering in a new era

1 of disciplinary culture that ensures equity, fairness
2 and respect for all students. We know that in the
3 past there's been major inequity, a high population
4 of children and students of color, disabled students
5 that were certainly negatively impacted by this. I
6 truly want to thank our Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito
7 for her leadership and her commitment. I want to
8 thank my partner in this effort, co-sponsor, Council
9 Member Corey Johnson for being with me every step of
10 the way. I want to thank our hardworking and
11 committed Chair of the Education Committee, Council
12 Member Danny Dromm for all of your effort and always
13 being a trailblazer for our children. I want to
14 thank all of the staff that had such an incredible
15 role in this process, Beth Goleb, Rachel Cordero,
16 Ellen Ang [sp?], Deepa Ambicaugh [sp?], Robert
17 Calandra [sp?], Laurie Wen [sp?], Aisha Schamburg,
18 Theo Moore, Faisa Ali [sp?], Regina Ryan. Thank you
19 all to my communications Director Dana Wax, and
20 certainly I want to recognize all of the power voices
21 of our advocates, especially the young people. Our
22 youth advocates from Advocates for Children, New
23 Settlement Parent Action Committee, Youth
24 Collaborative, the New York Civil Liberties Union,

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2 Make the Road New York, Dignity in Schools Campaign,
3 Teachers Unite. I want to thank Local 237 of
4 Teamsters, as well as the school's safety division
5 and the Department of Education. Our young people
6 have an incredible voice in this process and I am
7 thankful that our young people recognize that they
8 are a part of the solution and not a part of the
9 problem. Thank you again to each of you, and I
10 certainly hope that you all support Intro 730. This
11 is a great step of progress, and I could not have
12 been here without the support of all the staff. Thank
13 you once again, Madam Speaker, for all of your
14 efforts and your help. Thank you.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you. And
16 finally, we have legislative package of three bills
17 that will combat the spread of K2, a synthetic drug
18 advertised as alternative to marijuana, which is in
19 fact dangerous and unpredictable. Multiple factors
20 have caused K2 to rise in popularity. One factor is
21 its low cost. It's been known to sell for as little
22 as a dollar per packet. Another factor is the ease
23 of obtaining the product. It's been made openly
24 available on the shelves at local bodegas. Those in
25 search of a legal substitute to marijuana are led to

1 believe that the drug has similar effects as
2 marijuana. Unfortunately, the effects of K2 can be
3 life-threatening. The drug can mimic marijuana but
4 it could alternatively have more serious effects akin
5 to PCP and other life-threatening narcotics. For
6 months now, the City Council has led the charge to
7 get K2 off the shelves and away from our most
8 vulnerable populations. As a City Council--as the
9 Council Member representing East Harlem, this has
10 been an issue of great personal importance to me with
11 Lexington Avenue and 125th Street being very
12 seriously impacted by the drug, and today we have a
13 legislative package that is going to make a real
14 difference in combating the spread of K2. With that
15 said, I want to be clear that these bills are not
16 about taking swift action to get this drug off our
17 street--it is that these bills are about taking swift
18 action. It's not about criminalizing the users.
19 These bills will deal with the stores that distribute
20 and sell K2 and not being used to stigmatize the
21 vulnerable populations that are statistically likely
22 to try the drug. The Council is leading on this
23 important issue, and I want to thank the various city
24 agencies that have offered to help recently. Today's
25

1 bills will be another big step forward in making New
2 York City safer for all. I want to thank on the staff
3 side, David Seitzer [sp?], Deepa Ambicar [sp?],
4 Rachel Cordero and Rob Calandra, and I will ask
5 Council Members Garodnick and then Council Member
6 Wills, lead sponsors of the bills to say a few words.
7 Council Member Garodnick?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you very
10 much, Madam Speaker, and thanks to Council Member
11 Wills and Chairs Gibson and Espinal for their work on
12 these bills. And obviously we have a problem here in
13 New York City. K2 is wasting people away and sending
14 them to emergency rooms in shocking numbers. At our
15 hearing we learned that even as of the middle of
16 September K2 was responsible for about 4,500
17 emergency room visits in this year so far, and many
18 of those in the last couple of months during the
19 summer. And though the sale of K2 is illegal in New
20 York State, current laws are not able to take into
21 account the ever-changing chemical composition of
22 this drug. So, as a result, we find bodegas, corner
23 shops and other small stores selling the drug under
24 various nicknames such as Scooby Snacks or Spice or
25 AK47, or an endless variety of nicknames, and as a

1 result of the combined power of these three bills
2 together, the city will have the right tools to put a
3 stop to this dangerous drug. Loopholes in the state
4 legislation will be closed now that the city can go
5 after any business that sells K2 or any synthetic
6 drug that is made to mimic K2. If a store is found
7 to be selling K2, the city will lay down heavy fines
8 and even criminal penalties. My bill, Intro 897 will
9 make the sale of K2 a nuisance. If a store receives
10 three violations for selling K2 within a year, the
11 city can seek an injunction from a court to shut down
12 the business until they clean up their act and clean
13 up their aisles. These businesses may sell this
14 devastating drug in the hopes of making a few bucks,
15 but they now will run the risk of losing thousands.
16 We may not be able to identify every strand of this
17 drug, but we can and will go after the bad actors who
18 continue to pedal it across our city. So, I thank
19 you Madam Speaker and all of my colleagues, and I
20 encourage you to pass these bills today. Thank you.

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22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Thank you, Madam
23 Speaker. The bills we will enact today represent a
24 very measured, yet forceful response to the K2 crisis
25 that has threatened to engulf our city. Thoughts

1 [sic] on both their design and focus they target the
2 distribution centers for the synthetic drugs being
3 sold in our communities. They make it difficult for
4 manufacturers to side step the existing laws and
5 regulations that prohibit these substances. They
6 will make it unbearable for any personal group of
7 people to sell K2 in our city by imposing by criminal
8 and civil penalties that include stiff fines and the
9 possibility of imprisonment. Again, these bills are
10 not a Rockefeller-esque overreaction to public health
11 crisis. I want to thank the advocates and Lionel who
12 had a conversation with me yesterday in which we
13 assured him that we will have a robust education
14 campaign. These bills will go to the point that they
15 will not burden individual users who may be
16 impoverished, drug-addicted or mentally ill, who
17 instead need treatment and rehabilitative services.
18 Under the leadership of a Speaker and in partnership
19 with the de Blasio Administration, the Council will
20 take a great step forward in choking off the K2
21 pipeline that has allowed these drugs to flourish in
22 our city. I want to take a minute to thank the
23 essential staff who actually wrote some of these
24 bills in 2012, Carmen Kiga [sp?] and Peggy Tent
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1 [sp?], the staff who actually constructed the bills
2 currently 917, Laurie Wen, David Seitzer, Rachel
3 Cordero, Rob Calandra, Matt Gewab [sp?], Laura Poppa
4 [sp?], and Rob Newman, my staff, Leslie Ann-
5 Patterson, Gehia Rose [sp?], India Sneed [sp?], my
6 former legislative director, and Brandon Clark. I
7 would also like to thank the co-sponsors for all of
8 their work, Council Members Reynoso, Torres, Cabrera,
9 Gibson, and Cohen, and thank you to Council Member
10 Garodnick for this work on the bill that he has put
11 up for a vote today. Thank you.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
14 Council Member. We also have three Resolutions today
15 calling on the Federal Government to enact relief
16 measures for Puerto Rico as we continue to deal with
17 the Puerto Rican fiscal crisis. For a large number
18 of reasons, Puerto Rico's economy faces unique
19 challenges, but is subject to Federal laws that
20 either disregard these unique challenges or create
21 even more burden for those on the island. With these
22 Resolutions, we're making clear that New York City
23 stands with Puerto Rico, and the US Government must
24 take action to help ease this crisis. And finally,
25 we're saying goodbye to some of our staff members

1 this week. This Friday is Sun Kim's [sp?] last day
2 at the Council. He joined the Office of General
3 Counsel as Deputy General Counsel on June 16th, 2014
4 focusing on ethics and conflicts of interest matters.
5 We also said goodbye to Casey Sinwell [sp?], our
6 Director of Scheduling, who had his last day with the
7 Council on Monday. Casey started with the Council in
8 2010 and has served two different speakers. And
9 finally, Deputy General Counsel, Jason Otanio [sp?],
10 a US Army Judge Advocate General Reservist will be
11 temporarily leaving this Friday for Active Duty.
12 Jason started at the Council in March of 2014 and has
13 worked with Council Members and staff on a wide range
14 of issues and policies. Jason will be stationed in
15 Georgia and Virginia and will return to the City
16 Council in February of 2016. So, we want to thank
17 him for his service. We will miss all three of them
18 and wish them all the best of luck in the future. So,
19 thank you all.

20 [applause]

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And with that I
22 end communications from the Speaker.
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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Discussion of General Orders? Seeing none. Report of Special Committees?

COUNCIL CLERK: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of standings committees?

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Civil Service and Labor, Intro 903 Sanitation Department Survivor Benefits.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Consumer Affairs, Intro 885A regarding cigarette dealer licenses.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance, Pre-considered Reso 867, organization funding.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land Use, LU 284 and Reso 871 through LU 286 and Reso 873, Landmark designations.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on
Public Safety, Intro 730A, Student Safety Act.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Intro 897 declaring
nuisances related to the sale of synthetic drugs.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General
Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Intro 917A, penalties for
the manufacturer of synthetic cannabinoids.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: On the General Order
Calendar, Resolution appointing various persons,
Commissioner of Deeds.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General
Orders, and at this time I ask for a roll call on
items on the Coupled General Order Calendar.

COUNCIL CLERK: Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera?

CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Aye on all and
congratulations to Council Member Gibson on her first
piece of legislation.

COUNCIL CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all and
congratulations to Council Member Gibson, Council
Member Gardonick and Wills on their important
legislation. Thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Cohen?

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Constantinides?

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Cornegy?

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye on all and
congratulations to my friend and colleague Vanessa
Gibson on her first piece of legislation.

COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley? Cumbo?

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Deutsch?

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye and
congratulations to Council Member Gibson as well on

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her first piece of legislation. It's been great working with her. Thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Espinal?

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye, and a big congratulations to my sister from the Bronx, Vanessa Gibson.

COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland?

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Aye, and congratulations to my sister from the Bronx, Vanessa Gibson, for your bill. Thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick?

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gentile?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Madam Public Advocate, may I explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I want to also congratulate all the--all those involved in passing the K2 synthetic drug legislation that we're passing today because it seeks to protect the youngsters, the young people who are purchasing this type of drug, but I want to remind our colleagues here that unless

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we make Hookah smoke part of the Smoke-free Air Act, we are ignoring the elephant in the room when it comes to protecting our young people. So we have bills that will do that, and I hope that the committees where those bills are will move them to the floor just as the committees today moved these bills to the floor. So, with that, I vote aye on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gibson?

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madam Public Advocate. I want to congratulate the Speaker and my colleagues Council Member Wills and Council Member Garodnick on truly a balanced approach to identifying K2 synthetic cannabinoid, recognizing that we as a Council will be extremely aggressive in our efforts to stop this dangerous product in our communities, but doing it in a way that goes after the manufacturers and not the users. I think we have been very clear with these three bills that we are making sure that it is not sold in our communities as

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2 K2, as Scooby Snacks and Spice. It's very attractive
3 in the wrapper. It's also used for aromatherapy and
4 potpourri, which is not true. I am very proud that
5 this council is being very aggressive in making sure
6 that these bills pass, but also looking at long term
7 conversations and creating solutions in the drug war
8 and the conversation on the drug war, recognizing
9 that individuals are using drugs for a reason, and we
10 must continue to expand and emphasize our efforts in
11 education and educating the public on what K2 is and
12 the negative impacts that it has. We've seen
13 thousands of hospitalizations around this and we
14 simply have to stop it in its tracks. I am thankful
15 to have been part of this conversation and certainly
16 thank our Speaker and all the staff for their work
17 and certainly to all of you. Thank you for your
18 support of Intro 730. We are taking a very creative
19 approach to school safety, to discipline, to reform
20 to make sure that instead of looking at detention we
21 focus on prevention, preventative efforts to keep our
22 children in schools that do not arrest and suspend
23 our way out of problems, but instead looking at
24 creative solutions. So thank you all for your

2 support. I appreciate it, and I will be voting aye
3 on all.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
5 Chambers, please.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Greenfield?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you.
8 May I explain my vote?

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you
11 very much. First, I want to congratulate my
12 colleagues on their legislation, and of course, I
13 want to give a shout out to Chair Gibson on her first
14 very impactful piece of legislation that she's
15 passing. I also want to congratulate Council Members
16 Garodnick, Wills, and of course the Speaker on their
17 action on the deadly K2 drug, and finally for all
18 those who are celebrating I want to wish them a Happy
19 Sukkot. I want to vote aye on all Land Use call-ups
20 and all items on the agenda.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Johnson?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Permission to
25 explain my vote?

1 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

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3 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I want to
4 congratulate Vanessa Gibson on her first piece of
5 legislation. It was an outright pleasure working
6 with her on this bill over the past many months. She
7 has been an incredible advocate in working with the
8 young people and the organizations that have taken up
9 this cause, and really this started with the Speaker
10 before she was Speaker, because this bill in its
11 original form was a priority of hers in the previous
12 council and we were able to now strengthen that bill.
13 So I am grateful to be able to do that. I also just
14 want to say quickly on K2, 25th Street and Sixth
15 Avenue in my district has been an epicenter of K2.
16 Every single day people passed out on the sidewalk,
17 on the street, screaming, not knowing who they are or
18 where they are, and if anyone saw the video that the
19 Daily News posted yesterday, six minute video about
20 the effects of K2, you would see how awful and
21 horrific and dangerous this is. It is poison, and
22 for the City Council to be taking steps to get it off
23 of our streets is us doing the right thing for the
24 people of New York City. So, I vote aye on all, and
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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

I want to congratulate Vanessa Gibson who has done an incredible job. Thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley?

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Kallos?

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Congratulations, Council Member Gibson. I vote aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: King?

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Congratulations Gibson, Council Member. Wonderful job on your first piece of legislation, as well to Council Member Wills and Garodnick, and I vote aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye, and also congratulations to Council Member Gibson.

COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Lancman?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member Lancman?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Lander?

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request
permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you. I also
want to join the chorus in congratulating Chair
Gibson on the School Safety Act which is really a
very important piece of legislation. I also want to
acknowledge and thank Council Members Johnson and
Dromm for their leadership on this issue. When we
had the hearing, some students from John Jay High
School in my district showed up where there had
really been just the week before a very troubling
incident and a history of troubling incidents around
the scanners in that school, and they have been
asking for years, "Where's the data? Where are the
scanners? Why are the scanners there? What is the
evidence that they're needed?" And we had not been
able to get any of it. We've been promised a policy
that would tell us where they go and why. we're
still waiting, but at least thanks to this
legislation in addition to all the other good things
it does, it will be possible for this Council and
members of the public to understand why we're doing
wath we're doing and to be able to formulate

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thoughtful policies, address inequities of race and neighborhood, and it's an important piece of legislation. I want to say a big thank you to you for championing it. I vote aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Madam Speaker, I'd like to vote aye on all items coupled on General Orders and all Land Use items. I want to congratulate my colleagues for sponsoring these pieces of legislation. I think that it's very important for this Council to act in the way that we did to confront head-on this issue of K2 in our city. it is shocking and it is unacceptable that we can have in this city establishments operating as retail establishments selling a drug that truly preys on people's addictions and we must send a very clear message that that is not going to be tolerated and that a business cannot expect to be able to continue to do business in New York City if they're selling this to people. We cannot allow for a drug scourge like this to grow in our city, and we must do

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everything we can to change that and protect those that are susceptible to those types of addictive behaviors, and I'm thankful that we're not going after the users in a penalizing way, instead going after the sellers, but if there are measures that we need to continue to take at this Council, I'm confident that we will under this Speaker, because it's that important and we cannot allow this drug to get a toehold in our city. Thank you very much, Madam Public Advocate.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the Chambers, please. Quiet in the Chambers.

COUNCIL CLERK: Levine?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Pleased to vote aye on all with special congratulations to Council Member Gibson, and you know, Vanessa, you've proved that it's not the quantity of bills you pass, it's the quality. Thank you very much.

COUNCIL CLERK: Maisel?

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Menchaca?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye on all.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL CLERK: Reynoso?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye on all, and a congratulations to Gibson and Wills for working with us on the K2 bill, and I also want to give good luck to Jason Otanio [sp?] in his time off.

COUNCIL CLERK: Richards? Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I vote aye, and I say congratulations to--everyone's claiming her as a sister, so my sister, Council Member Gibson. And to Wills and Garodnick for addressing the K2 scourge, thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Rosenthal?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes. Quiet in the Chambers, please.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you.

Congratulations to my sister, Vanessa Gibson. We had a prolific mother. And I just want to say that Vanessa, for a first bill you did a, with all deference to Margaret, you did a hell of a job. Thank you so much for pushing this issue along and getting this bill passed. I also just want to give a shout out to two members of my district sitting

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2 upstairs in the balcony who have worked with me,
3 Josette Amato and Erica Peterson from the West End
4 Preservation Society who have worked tirelessly for,
5 I believe, the last eight years at least, because I
6 think I was Chair of the Community Board when we--
7 when you started this, on seeing to fruition the
8 passage of the Riverside West End Historic District
9 Two today as a historic district. In the 11th hour we
10 got thrown a curve ball and we learned that, you
11 know, the Council should be able to add in, add back
12 in buildings that LPC takes out, but short of that
13 you guys did an extraordinary job sticking with it to
14 make sure that the Upper West Side will be
15 appropriately district as historic by the LPC, and I
16 want to congratulate you two on those efforts. I
17 still vote aye on all.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Congratulations.
19 Quiet in the Chambers, please.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Treyger?

21 CHAIRPERSON TREYGER: With
22 congratulations to Council Member Vanessa Gibson and
23 to all my colleagues, I vote aye on all.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL CLERK: Vacca? Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I be excused to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you very much.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: She's your sister too?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Yeah, she is actually. Can I get my time back? The Public Advocate took like five seconds.

[laughter]

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I do want to say congratulations to Vanessa Gibson and all of the colleagues who passed bills today. I did want to say also congratulations to Council Member Johnson and the Stonewall land marking. I think it's great that we're doing that. It was just another example that you can't really hate in neat little lines. But with the--and the K2, congratulations on the K2. But with the Student Safety Act, which we're expanding on, I think it's fantastic. I'm always proud when this Council really gets or tries to get to the heart of systemic and systematic problems within these

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communities. That's the only way that we're going to deal with many of the issues, whether it's gun violence, whether it's police reform. We won't really attack those issues properly unless we acknowledge and begin to change many of the systemic and structural deficits in these communities. With that, I vote aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Wills?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Yes, may I have a moment to explain Council Member Williams' vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

[laughter]

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: I vote aye on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Matteo?

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. All items on today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a vote of 44 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 0 abstentions. And now, introduction and reading of bills.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All bills are referred to committees as indicated on the agenda.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now
3 Resolutions, any discussion of Resolutions? Seeing
4 none. Resolution 767, a Resolution calling upon the
5 United States Congress to pass and the President to
6 sign HR870, also known as the Puerto Rico Chapter
7 Nine Uniformity Act of 2015. All of those in favor
8 say aye?

9 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those
11 opposed? Any abstentions? The ayes have it.
12 Resolution 818, resolution calling upon the United
13 States Congress to pass and the President to sign the
14 Improving the Treatment of the United States
15 Territories Under Federal Health Programs Act of
16 2015, HR2635, which would make improvements to the
17 treatment of the United States Territories under the
18 Medicare and Medicaid programs. All those in favor
19 say aye.

20 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those
22 opposed say no. Any abstentions? The ayes have it.
23 And finally, Resolution 836, a resolution calling
24 upon the United States Congress to pass and the
25 President to sign legislation allowing an economic

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hardship exemption for Puerto Rico from the Merchant Marine Act of 1920 commonly known as the Jones Act. All of those in favor say aye.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Any opposed? Any abstentions? The ayes have it. Now, turning to general discussion beginning with Council Member Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Madam Public Advocate. Good afternoon. I would like to draw my colleague's attention to three bills I'm sponsoring. I'm sponsoring Intro 919 with Council Member Rodriguez and Majority Leader Van Bramer. The bill will require the NUPD to aggregate data on violations and crashes that occur along truck routes. This legislation is important for the safety of our pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. I also ask for your support for Intro 918, legislation that I am introducing with Council Member Menchaca. This bill, which is one of the 12 in a package to reform the Department of Buildings, aimed to limit the ability for certain bad landlords to self-certify work permits and use construction as a way of harassing tenants. Thank you to all the advocates who are

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2 working on this and all the other bills to increase
3 tenant protections and reform the Department of
4 Buildings. Finally, I'm supporting Intro 946,
5 sponsored by Council Member Vacca, which will
6 increase oversight of children's daycare. In the wake
7 of the unfortunate death of a three-month-old child
8 in an unlicensed daycare facility in our district, we
9 need to make sure parents have the resources
10 available to know who is taking care of their
11 children. I want to thank Kelly Taylor, Jan Wilcox
12 and David Seltzer [sp?] and central staff for all the
13 work they put into these bills, and I ask my fellow
14 Council Members to sign on. Thank you.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. We're
16 still in Chambers, quiet in the house. Council
17 Member Garodnick?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you,
19 Madam Public Advocate. I want to draw my colleague's
20 attention to two bills that are on wildly different
21 topics. One of them relates to microbeads and
22 cleaning our waterways, and the other one relates to
23 early intervention as it relates to the NYPD. The
24 first is Intro 927, which would require the New York
25 City Police Department to create and monitor an early

1 intervention system for officers with a proclivity to
2 excessive force. This early intervention system will
3 identify officers who may need additional training or
4 monitoring. The system will take into account
5 factors such as complaints received and results of
6 investigations conducted by the Civilian Complaint
7 Review Board and the NYPD as well as actual incidents
8 of excessive use of force. The NYPD itself will
9 determine if officers identified by this system are
10 in need of additional training or monitoring. So, I
11 encourage you to take a look and sign on to 927. 928
12 prohibits the sale of products containing plastic
13 microbeads in personal care products in New York
14 City. You may ask, what exactly is a microbead?
15 Well, it is a very, very small piece of plastic which
16 appears very frequently in products such as face
17 washes, scrubs, shampoos, toothpaste. The problem is
18 that they are so small and they are so common that
19 they go right through water filtration systems and
20 directly into our waterways, and the Attorney General
21 has estimated that we dump 19 tons of microbeads,
22 plastic microbeads, into our waterways in New York
23 State every year. This has become a real problem for
24 our ecosystem, for marine life, for our food chain.
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This is a real detriment to our environment, and the costs so far outweigh any possible benefit for their use, that this is something that we should discontinue in New York City. There have been several states that have passed similar bans. We should be the first serious significant city of our size to take the lead and do the same, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Council Member Levine? Quiet in the Chambers, please.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you, Madam

Public Advocate. First I want to wish a [speaking another language] to everyone observing Sukkot, and I want to remind my fellow Jewish Caucus members that we will be meeting right after Stated in the mid-basement conference room for our meeting. I also want to call my colleague's attention to Intro 936, which I'm pleased to be introducing today, which is part of a package of about a dozen bills, which many of my colleagues are also introducing today that tackles head on the challenge of landlords who are engaging in construction and renovation activity in buildings occupied by tenants that put those tenants

1 at risk, and they're doing this, at least the
2 unscrupulous ones, as a weapon to push tenants out.
3 My bill, Intro 936, would require for the first time
4 that landlords create a detailed tenant protection
5 plan before every such renovation, that they post it
6 publicly in the building, that it's made available on
7 the Department of Building's website, and it requires
8 the Department of Buildings itself to send out an
9 inspector seven days after the construction work has
10 begun to determine whether or not the plan is being
11 followed, and finally, it allows for recourse in case
12 landlords are not complying with this important
13 safety measure. As I mentioned, this is part of a
14 broader package, which I expect you'll be hearing
15 much more about in the future. Thank you very much.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

18 Council Member Cumbo?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. I rise
20 because I would like to call your attention to three
21 bills that I'm introducing today and urge you to sign
22 on. The first bill co-introduced with Council Members
23 Crowley, Cornegy and Rosenthal would improve
24 transparency through a periodic assessment of the
25 city's minority and women-owned business enterprises'

1 involvement in the procurement process. This bill
2 would require the Economic Development Corporation,
3 EDC, to assess and evaluate its contractors to
4 determine whether they are complied with minority and
5 women-owned business MWBE requirements. Findings
6 shall be submitted to the Department of Small
7 Business Services on or before June 1st every year.
8 The SBS will be required to submit a report and on
9 that report it would include a list of all EDC
10 recipients, the MWBE contractor requirements for
11 recipients and the subcontractors. In addition, the
12 other two bills co-introduced with Council Members
13 Crowley and Rosenthal would help increase access to
14 employment opportunities for women, minorities and
15 disabled persons by assessing physical testing
16 practices to ensure fairness and inclusion citywide.
17 New York City's population is primarily comprised of
18 women and minorities, but are under-represented in
19 two of the city's largest departments, the FDNY and
20 the NYPD. With more than 10,000 members, the FDNY
21 employs only 47 women firefighters. In comparison,
22 the NYPD employs 34,500 officers. That number has
23 now changed, but 6,200 are women. I also want to
24 draw your attention to Planned Parenthood, National
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2 Pink Out Day. Millions of supporters in 90 cities
3 nationwide wore pink on Tuesday and stood with
4 Planned Parenthood to protect women's access to
5 reproductive health. I saw you there as well, Public
6 Advocate James. Despite its 700 healthcare centers
7 across the United States that have treated 2.7
8 million patients, Congress has repeatedly attempted
9 to defund Planned Parenthood and jeopardizes the
10 health of women who rely on this provider for their
11 medical needs. I also want to bring your attention
12 to Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and what we
13 want to let you know is that we are going to continue
14 to do our purple day, go purple. It will give an
15 opportunity for everyone to raise their voices on
16 October 15th all across this city about the
17 importance of bringing greater attention to domestic
18 violence. Thank you.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
20 Council Member Williams?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. My
22 colleagues have put in a bill with Council Member
23 Crowley and Cabrera--

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
25 Council Member Williams, is your microphone on?

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Yes, it is.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: It's the first time people can't hear me. But Intro 947 requiring bullet-proof glass on police cars. Just wanted to clarify that we put--this bill was submitted to be written last year after the tragedies of Lou and Ramos. Since then, we do understand and I understand that there are some issues with cost and some issues with practicality of applying the bullet-proof glass. So, we submitted it with the intent of continuing discussion of how we can make men and women safer. With that said, I look forward to the conversation that will come out of this bill, but again, understanding that there are practical and cost concerns when it comes to this. There has been some other things that have done in LA and other place that we'd like to discuss as well. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Council Member King?

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Congratulations again to everyone and their legislation. Just a reminder that the BLAC will be meeting immediately after here in the Committee Room. Thank you.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
3 Council Member Cabrera?

4 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Thank you so much,
5 Madam Public Advocate. I want to just accentuate
6 some of the bills, couple of bills that been
7 introduced today that I'll be co-sponsoring with, one
8 that was just mentioned by Council Member Jumaane
9 Williams, Intro 947. Basically, it comes down to
10 protecting police officers. Often we talked about
11 how we are standing--how we're standing with the
12 NYPD. They have a very dangerous job. I had two
13 brothers that were police officers at one time in
14 their career, and I understand a little bit of the
15 dangers that they are--that confront them at daily
16 basis. And when it comes to cost, what price can you
17 put on the life of those who are putting their lives
18 on the line on a daily basis for our constituents.
19 The second one, which was mentioned is the ban on
20 microbeads. I know this might sound at first
21 trivial, but this actually has a tremendous impact as
22 stated by Attorney General, and earlier today at a
23 press conference Dan Garodnick who eloquently stated
24 today some of the problems. I was shocked to find out
25 that a single container of facial cleanser--you'd be

1 shocked to find out a single container of facial
2 cleanser can harbor more than 300,000 microbeads.
3 And the fact is that the way that we have right now
4 our--the way we clean our waters is not able to
5 collect all this plastic. It's exactly what it is.
6 It comes into the food chain and eventually comes
7 back to us. So, it has an environmental impact.
8 Thank you so much, Madam Public Advocate.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

10 Council Member Levin?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you, Madam
12 Public Advocate and my colleagues. I want to call
13 your attention to several bills that I'm introducing
14 today, Intro 932, that I'm introducing with Council
15 Member Corey Johnson, would will require the
16 Department of Homeless Services to relay information
17 around mental health services that are provided in
18 our shelters. As many of you know, our shelters are
19 teaming right now and have been for quite some time.
20 The length of stay has gone up. Children are
21 spending more and more portion of their childhoods in
22 shelters and we need a clearer picture right now as
23 the mental health services that are provided in our
24 shelter system. This bill would do that. I encourage
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2 you to sign on to Intro 932. I also encourage you to
3 sign onto 933 which would create a program to monitor
4 the ambient air quality when there's a major
5 industrial fire. We had one such fire in my district
6 back in January of this year that caused major
7 environmental risk to my constituents, to
8 constituents that were downwind of this fire, and we
9 need--we had to fight to get proper air monitoring
10 from the local agencies. We think that that needs to
11 be stepped up so that future communities know that
12 they are safe when there is a fire of such magnitude.
13 In addition, I'm introducing Intro 934 along with
14 many of my colleagues as part of a collection of
15 bills for the Department of Buildings. This would
16 create a real-time enforcement unit. So, when there
17 is a call of unpermitted work as it stands currently,
18 Department of Buildings takes way too long to get
19 there. Quite often the contractor is able to wrap up
20 the work before any inspector is there. This would
21 require that Department of Buildings is in there with
22 an inspector within two hours and other aspects as
23 well. And so, I encourage my colleagues to sign onto
24 934, and thank you, Madam Public Advocate.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Seeing no other speakers, now to close, Speaker
Melissa Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madam
Public Advocate. We are adjourned.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

There's a Jewish Caucus meeting as well as the BLAC
Caucus meeting, and happy Sukkot to all my Jewish
friends and colleagues. We stand adjourned.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date October 7, 2015