

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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March 22, 2018
Start: 1:38 p.m.
Recess: 3:30 p.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: COREY D. JOHNSON
Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- ADRIENNE E. ADAMS
- ALICKA AMPRY-SAMUEL
- DIANA AYALA
- INEZ D. BARRON
- JOSEPH C. BORELLI
- JUSTIN L. BRANNAN
- FERNANDO CABRERA
- MARGERET S. CHIN
- ANDREW COHEN
- COSTA G. CONSTANTINIDES
- ROBERT E. CORNEGY, JR.
- LAURIE A. CUMBO
- CHAIM M. DEUTSCH
- RUBEN DIAZ, SR.
- DANIEL DROMM
- RAFAEL L. ESPINAL, JR.
- MATHIEU EUGENE
- VANESSA L. GIBSON
- MARK GJONAJ

COUNCIL MEMBERS: (CONTINUED)

BARRY S. GRODENCHIK
ROBERT F. HOLDEN
COREY D. JOHNSON
BEN KALLOS
ANDY L. KING
PETER A. KOO
KAREN KOLSOWITZ
RORY I. LANCMAN
BRAD S LANDER
STEPHEN T. LEVIN
MARK LEVINE
ALAN N. MAISEL
STEVEN MATTEO
CARLOS MENCHACA
I. DANEEK MILLER
FRANCISCO P. MOYA
BILL PERKINS
KEITH POWERS
ANTONIO REYNOSO
DONOVAN J. RICHARDS
CARLINA RIVERA
YDANIS A. RODRIGUEZ
DEBORAH L. ROSE
HELEN K. ROSENTHAL
RAFAEL SALAMANCA, JR.
RITCHIE J. TORRES
MARK TREYGER
ERIC A. ULRICH
PAUL A. VALLONE
JAMES G. VAN BRAMER
JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS
KALMAN YEGER

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

Terra Renee
President and Founder of African American Women
Cinema Organization, Inc.

Kwabena Mensah
Father of Emmanuel Mensah who is being honored as
Hero

Jay Jonas
Deputy Chief in Charge of the Belmont Fire on
December 28th, 2017

Jonathan Morris
Reverend at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in
The Bronx

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[gavel]

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SPEAKER JOHNSON: Council Member

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Williams, Jumaane if you want to come up and if we

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could have the African American Women in Cinema

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come up for the first ceremonial.

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[off-mic dialogue]

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SPEAKER JOHNSON: Okay, so we are going

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to start our first ceremonial if, if the folks here

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who we are very excitedly going to honor from

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African American Women in Cinema, it's an

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organization that for the last 20 years has

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provided incredible work for the vibrant and

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important work of African American filmmakers. I

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want to hand it over to Council Member Jumaane

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Williams.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you Mr.

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Speaker. I just want to congratulate African

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American Women in Cinema, this is their 20th

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anniversary, for those who do this work know how

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hard it is to last for one year much less 20th

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anniversary. We have the President here, Terra

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Renee, we also have Nancy Shinholster and Rob

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Williams, you know Hollywood is now finally

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beginning to recognize the contributions of women

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2 and the people of more color both of those things
3 combined but African American Women in Cinema is...
4 has... and has been around for 20 years. For those
5 who don't know I have a, a huge love of cinema and
6 theatre in particular, I'm a thespian, it's my
7 first love and so whenever I have an opportunity to
8 merge the two I like to do that. And so the African
9 American Women Cinema have given me the opportunity
10 to do that and I've been able to come to their
11 event every single year and present and I thank
12 Terra Renee for that but this is just exciting and
13 we want to thank them for being an inspiring
14 example for not just women, not just women with
15 more color but everybody in the arts and so I just
16 want to say thank you so much and we're very proud
17 that we can give you this proclamation at City Hall
18 and so we're going to ask now for the proclamation
19 to be read.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council City of New
21 York proclamation. The New York City Council is
22 proud to honor African American Women in Cinema, an
23 organization that for the last 20 years has
24 provided incredible support for the vibrant work of
25 women filmmakers and whereas founded in 1998,

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2 African American Women in Cinema is an important
3 platform for aligning experience to novice
4 filmmakers, directors, producers, screen writers
5 and actors. From the start it has sought to expand,
6 explore and create business opportunities for
7 minority women filmmakers throughout the
8 entertainment industry. The organization gives
9 women an important arena for showcasing their
10 talents, gaining exposure, collaborating with their
11 peers and learning from an established professional
12 and whereas for two decades now the African
13 American Women in Cinema film festival has been a
14 vital opportunity for artists to create and
15 showcase their work in a field that too often
16 neglects the contributions of women of color. Now
17 as the industry finally begins to recognize the
18 importance of representation and, and inclusion it
19 continues to lead the way forward in it's
20 passionate advocacy for women and people of color
21 and whereas we commend this great organization for
22 its unwavering dedication to fostering greater
23 access to and greater appreciation for women of
24 color in all aspects of film and wish it continued
25 success. Now therefore be it known that the New

1
2 York City Council is proud to honor African
3 American Women in Cinema for 20 years of
4 outstanding service and achievements through their
5 film festival. Corey Johnson, Speaker for the
6 entire council; Jumaane D. Williams, Council Member
7 45th district Brooklyn; Margaret S. Chin, Co-Chair
8 Women's Caucus, Council Member 1st district;
9 Carlina Rivera, Co-Chair Women's Caucus Council
10 Member 2nd district; Laurie A. Cumbo, Majority
11 Leader New York City Council; Ydanis Rodrigues, Co-
12 Chair Black, Latino and Asian Caucus; I. Daneek
13 Miller, Co-Chair Black, Latino and Asian Caucus and
14 the other members of the Women's Caucus and Black,
15 Latino and Asian Caucus.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you, I'm
17 going to ask Terra to say a few words just read it
18 quickly of how important representation is when I
19 was doing theatre over 20 years ago one of the
20 reasons I switched... I ended up being a film
21 production minor but at that point a major was
22 because the roles I was being auditioned for often
23 times were drug dealers and murderers and I said,
24 you know I can perform more than that and I'm going
25 to create my own films to... but I got sidetracked

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2 into politics and... but this means a lot to me to
3 see someone like you there pushing forward a
4 message that's different than has been played for
5 so often so thank you so much and I'd love to hear
6 a few words.

7 TERRA RENEE: Thank you, thank you, thank
8 you, this is such an honor, I'm holding back the
9 tears because 20 years ago when we started there
10 was really not a lot of opportunity at all and we
11 forged ahead and it is such an honor to have
12 Council Member Jumaane Williams to have been by our
13 side for all this time, Letitia James god bless you
14 and Public Advocate, thank you, thank you for the
15 caucus, the Black and Latino Caucus, thank you for
16 the Speaker, thank you for this amazing
17 recognition. We have been able to offer filmmakers
18 who have been struggling and trying to get
19 opportunities, distribution deals, platforms and
20 networking with major Hollywood prominent industry
21 professionals and we did it with the help as you
22 can see here today and also sponsors. We look
23 forward to a historic event that's coming up next
24 week, our 20th annual film festival so happy to
25 hear about that. I am just so humble, there's so

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2 much I want to say, I know I can't say it but a big
3 thank you so very much and we appreciate that on
4 the behalf of myself, Terra Renee and African
5 American Women Cinema. God bless you.

6 [off-mic dialogue]

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you very much,
8 thank you, thanks Jumaane. Congratulations. So, our
9 next ceremonial is going to be with Council Member
10 Torres, Emmanuel Mensah and the FDNY, we are
11 honoring the life an indelible memory of a hero,
12 private Emmanuel Mensah as well as members of the
13 FDNY for their heroic response to that horrific
14 tragic fire that took place in the Bronx in Council
15 Member Torres's district on December 28th where we
16 lost 13 New Yorkers. I want to turn it over to
17 Council Member Torres.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Thank you Mr.
19 Speaker. The community of Belmont has historically
20 been a neighborhood of new arrivals and new
21 beginnings. A neighborhood of, of, by and for
22 immigrants, a beacon of hope for immigrants from
23 every walk of life; Jamaica, West Africa, Albania,
24 Montanaro, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic,
25 Italy to name a few. Among the immigrants imbued

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2 with the intrepid spirit of Belmont is Emmanuel
3 Mensah. On the evening of December 28th, 2017
4 Belmont was abruptly shaken by the most destructive
5 fire the city has seen in nearly three decades.
6 Emmanuel himself rushed into a burning building to
7 rescue his neighbors even though doing so would
8 likely mean losing his own life and lost his, his
9 life he did in a rare act of heroism. Emmanuel was
10 an immigrant who came to the United States from
11 Ghana only a few years ago, upon becoming an
12 American he joined the Armed Forces, he did not die
13 on the battlefield, but he did die after displaying
14 the kind of courage and heroism that few of us
15 possess but nearly all of us cannot help but
16 admire. He lived as an American, an immigrant, a
17 soldier, a patriot but he will be remembered as he
18 died, a hero. Please join me in expressing our
19 deepest gratitude to Emmanuel's father, Kwabena
20 Mensah for his presence here today in recognition
21 of your son's heroic service to the city of New
22 York.

23 [applause]

24 KWABENA MENSAH: On, on behalf of my son
25 and the Mensah family I would like to thank the

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2 Mayor and the City Hall for, for their support on
3 signing my, my son up for this, you know it was
4 hard when all those things... my son was trying to
5 save people and he lost his life, I, I thought that
6 was him, you know all I want to do.. to say is to
7 thank you all for honoring him on behalf of our,
8 our family, thank you guys, thank you very much.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: You... Mr. Mensah you're
10 part of the New York City family and we are so
11 sorry for your heart wrenching loss but I've seen
12 you since this tragedy happened less than three
13 months ago at the Mayor's State of the City and
14 here today and at other events to honor your son
15 and of course we are heartbroken for you but we're
16 also so proud of, of your son and we are sure that
17 your son got that brave courageous moral spirit
18 from his father and from his family so I really
19 want to thank you for being here today.

20 KWABENA MENSAH: I appreciate it, thank
21 you.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, thank you
23 very much.

24 [applause]
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COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: And I... also...
obviously as I noted the Belmont fire claimed 13
lives making it the most destructive fire since
Happy Land in 1991 which was also in the Bronx but
far more lives would have been lost were it not for
the heroism of our first responders, the
firefighters, the EMS workers, this fire was so
destructive that it required a response from 160
firefighters and the FDNY and the EMS responded
within minutes so I just want to thank you on
behalf of my constituents, on behalf of the members
of the city council for your service.

[applause]

JAY JONAS: Hello, my name is Jay Jonas,
I was the Deputy Chief in charge of the fire on
December 28th, 2017. On behalf of all those who
responded and performed miraculous and heroic acts
at this fire I would like to thank you for
recognizing them. It's a... any time we lose one
person at a fire everybody at the scene takes it as
a loss, we lost and there were many firefighters
who were desponded for weeks after this fire due to
the tremendous loss of life but as the incident
commander and Jeff Facinelli here who was my Deputy

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2 Incident Commander we were witness to this massive
3 rescue effort that was put forth by the FDNY both
4 fire suppression and emergency medical service, so
5 on behalf of all those who responded to this fire
6 we thank you for your recognition.

7 [off-mic dialogue]

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you all very,
9 very much. Thank you, we honor you for your
10 service. Thank you. Thank you. Did you get a photo?

11 [off-mic dialogue]

12 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Ladies and gentlemen
13 can I have your attention please, can I please have
14 your attention at this time please place all
15 electronic devices to vibrate, all electronic
16 devices to vibrate. At this time will all non-
17 council employees, non-council employees please
18 leave the main floor of the chambers, thank you.
19 Madame Public Advocate.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Members please
21 take your seats. Members please take your seats,
22 quite in the chambers please, please close the
23 doors. Members please take your seats even those in
24 the corner. Members, members, thank you, thank you
25 so much. Members in the back may you take your

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2 seats please. Thank you. All rise for the Pledge of
3 Allegiance

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: All rise for the Pledge
5 of Allegiance.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

7 COUNCIL MEMBERS: [in unison] [Pledge of
8 Allegiance]

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Adams?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Present.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ampry-Samuel?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Present.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ayala?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Borelli? Brannan?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen? Constantinides?
24 Cornegy?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Present.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch?

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Diaz? Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: [off-mic] Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal?

Constantinides?

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: [off-mic]

Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson?

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gjonaj?

COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: [off-mic]

Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Grodenchik?

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: [off-mic]

Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Holden?

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: [off-mic] Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos?

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King? Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: [off-mic] Present.

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Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off-mic]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: [off-mic] Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off-mic] Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin? Levine?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel?

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: [off-mic] Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aqui presente.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller? Moya?

COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Perkins? Powers?

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso? Richards?

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera? Rodriguez?

Rose? Rosenthal?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [off-mic]

Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Salamanca?

STATED MEETING

17

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.
3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres?
4 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Present.
5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger?
6 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.
7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich?
8 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: [off-mic] Here.
9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone?
10 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.
11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Perkins?
12 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: [off-mic] Here.
13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer?
14 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.
15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams?
16 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [off-mic] Here.
17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Yeger?
18 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: [off-mic] Here.
19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo?
20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Matteo?
21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo?
22 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.
23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Johnson?
24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Here.
25

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All quite in the
3 chambers please. All rise for the invocation.

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: The invocation
6 will be delivered by Father Jonathan Morris of our
7 Lady of Mount Carmel Church at 627 East 187th
8 Street in the great borough of the Bronx, quite in
9 the chambers.

10 JONATHAN MORRIS: I begin as I do in my
11 own faith tradition in the name of the father and
12 of the son and of the holy spirit, amen. Almighty
13 god, merciful god, father of god as leaders in our
14 community we have been given so much and we
15 acknowledge when we are humble that much will be
16 asked of us, much more than our constituents or our
17 parishioners ask of us, that you will ask of us.
18 Today I ask you to awaken us from our slumber,
19 awaken us ole lord from the slumber of selfishness
20 that can grip each and every one of us. As
21 community leaders we can easily be mesmerized by
22 power, fame, money and the deadly desire of being
23 liked and praised by all. Yes, much will be asked
24 of us by you, what is it that you ask of us, lord
25 at least I say this to you now I believe that you

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2 are asking of me and of my brothers and sisters
3 here that we be servant leaders. To be servants not
4 of ourselves of our agendas but rather to be
5 servants of the women and men that we represent.
6 Servant leadership is not an easy standard, we know
7 god because left to our own powers or desires it is
8 so tempting to serve our own interests but today I
9 ask you almighty god as a friend of these community
10 leaders to descend upon these civic leaders in
11 front of me and to give them a new desire, make it
12 a miracle, a new desire and commitment to be
13 servant leaders, give them a burning desire to
14 sacrifice their own interest to serve the interest
15 of everyone of their constituents even when it's
16 not helpful or convenient to them and to do so by
17 measuring up their daily objectives, what they do
18 each day with the common good of society, what is
19 good, beautiful and true for those that they
20 represent and lead based on the dignity of every
21 human person. Finally, I pray that these women,
22 that these men in this great chamber will never
23 ever forget to give preferential treatment to the
24 poor, the weak, the disadvantaged, the defenseless
25 in our city. Amen, amen.

1
2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Amen. Please be
3 seated. Quite in the chambers please. A motion to
4 spread the invocation, Council Member Torres?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Thank you Madame
6 Public Advocate. Father, Father Jonathan Morris is
7 a religious leader of national stature, but I know
8 him as the Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
9 Church, a century long fixture in the very heart of
10 Belmont. As the Head of Mount Carmel, Father Morris
11 has been on the frontlines of comforting families
12 who lost their loved ones and their homes amid the
13 devastation of the Belmont fire. One cannot begin
14 to imagine the anguish of a father or a grandfather
15 struggling to cope with the loss of a child who
16 lived only for seven months. It is family like
17 those who have felt the consoling impact of Father
18 Morris, not only has he been a central presence in
19 countless wakes and funerals and candlelight vigils
20 he has also taken it upon himself to raise more
21 than 200,000 dollars to support the displaced
22 families of the Belmont fire. And so, I ask my
23 colleagues to join me in expressing the deepest
24 gratitude to Father Morris for serving the Belmont
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2 community, for serving the city of New York in a
3 moment of greatest need.

4 [applause]

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I don't know if... along
6 that journey and it hasn't been easy so Ritchie
7 congratulations to you, this is community leaders
8 of all types working together, we need you and we
9 need servant leadership that you've provided.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Thank you.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: And I don't... I don't
12 know if he's still here but we, we, we were also
13 joined earlier today by the father of Emmanuel
14 Mensah, who rushed into a burning building so that
15 he could save his neighbors, he was only in this
16 country for a few years, he was a soldier but at a
17 time when immigrants are vilified Emmanuel Mensah
18 represents the very best that our city and our
19 country has to offer and so I don't know if he's
20 here but if you can join me in expressing our
21 deepest gratitude to his father as well so...

22 [applause]

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Madame Public Advocate
24 thank you for allowing me to speak and I now wish
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2 to make a motion that the invocation be spread in
3 full upon the record.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, so
5 moved. Adoption of the minutes Council Member
6 Miller.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Madame Public Advocate
8 I, I move to adopt the minutes of the stated
9 meeting of February 14th, 2018 and for them to be
10 adopted as printed by Council Member Miller.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: So, moved.
12 Messages and papers from the Mayor?

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: M-27 Office of
14 Nightlife.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication for
16 City, County and Borough Offices?

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Pre-considered M-28 and
18 M-29, Council Operating Budget.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: And finance.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: M-30 and M-31, Office
21 and Management and Budget.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Finance.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and
24 communications?

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land use call
3 ups?

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quite in the
6 chambers as we now hear from the Speaker, Speaker
7 Corey Johnson.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Good afternoon, I am
9 happy to see everyone braved the storm yesterday,
10 last night and through the night of another
11 nor'easter. We have lost a few brave New Yorkers in
12 the past week and I would like to recognize each
13 one of them. Just the other day an MTA worker named
14 St. Clair Richards-Stephens died after he suffered
15 a head injury from a fall as he was cleaning tracks
16 near the East 125th Street subway station. We are
17 saddened by this deeply tragic loss of life and our
18 thoughts are with this young man's family and
19 friends. New York lost two first responders who
20 courageously answered the call on September 11th,
21 2001, we honor firefighter Thomas Phelan who on
22 September 11th evacuated hundreds of people from
23 the attacks. Thomas was working as a ferry captain
24 when tragedy struck ground zero, he died last week
25 from a 9/11 related illness and our thoughts are

1 with Thomas's family, friends and our FDNY family.
2 We also lost Keith Young, a retired firefighter who
3 also succumbed to a 9/11 related illness this past
4 weekend. Keith bravely saved many on that fateful
5 day and was known as the beloved firehouse chef who
6 showcased his culinary skills on two famous shows;
7 Chopped and Throwdown with Bobby Flay. Our thoughts
8 are with Keith's children who tragically lost their
9 mother to breast cancer six years ago, may Keith
10 rest in peace. The FDNY also lost two of its own in
11 last week's devastating helicopter crash in Iraq.
12 Fire Marshall Christopher Tripp Zanetis and
13 Lieutenant Christopher Raguso who also served as
14 Captain Master Sergeant of the New York National
15 Guard respectively. We also mourn Staff Sergeant
16 Dashan Briggs, Captain Andreas O'Keefe, Captain
17 Mark K. Weber, Master Sergeant William R. Posch and
18 Staff Sergeant Carl P. Enis. I would also like to
19 honor the life and legacy of a legendary newsman,
20 Les Payne who died earlier this week. Les broke
21 ground as one of the first to report on racial
22 inequality in New York City, he was fearless, he
23 was passionate, and his loss leaves a void in
24 journalism, we in the council will never forget Les
25

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2 and his reporting and our thoughts are with his
3 family during this difficult time. And also, we
4 lost someone in another country, we lost a Council
5 Member named Marielle Franco in Rio de Janeiro,
6 Brazil who was assassinated because she spoke out
7 against police brutality in the city of Rio, her
8 loss has been covered around the world for her
9 fearlessness and for this political assassination
10 because she was stepping up and speaking truth to
11 power. If we could all, please rise and take...

12 [cross-talk]

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All rise... [cross-
14 talk]

15 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Take a moment of
17 silence for all the folks that we have lost. Thank
18 you all. So, we are going to jump into our docket
19 for the day. The council will vote on a number of
20 finance items. First the council will be voting on
21 five Article 7 property tax exemptions, the first
22 exemption is for a property located at 346 East
23 21st Street in Council Member Carlina Rivera's
24 district, it is going to preserve 30 units of
25 affordable rental housing. The second exemption is

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2 for Red Hook Gardens property in Council Member
3 Carlos Menchaca's district which is going to
4 preserve 62 units of affordable rental housing. The
5 third, fourth, and fifth exemptions are for three
6 different Manhattanville projects and properties
7 located in Council Member Mark Levin's district,
8 each are going to construct 20 units, seven units,
9 and 15 units for low income households. Second the
10 council will be voting on it's operating budget as
11 prepared by the city council's administrative
12 services division. This budget will help the New
13 York City Council fulfil its mission to the people
14 of New York City. The increases largely stem from
15 adding staff to help the council fulfil its mission
16 in the Land Use Division, the Legislative Division,
17 the Finance Division, and the New Oversight
18 Investigations Division. For example, two of the
19 core functions of the council are of course to
20 legislate bills through our legislative process and
21 to negotiate the city's budget and to that end
22 adding staff and resources to those two divisions
23 is critical to fulfilling these functions moving
24 forward. I said I was going to do this throughout
25 the Speakers race and I am fulfilling my promise

1
2 and as I said I'm also adding staff money for a
3 potential Charter Revision Commission and creating
4 an Oversight and Investigations Division and Unit,
5 these are things that I promised and that I'm
6 committed too. I am proud that the council is
7 taking this step today, it is important for us to
8 do this for our charter mandated responsibility, it
9 is important for us to do this to pay our staffs
10 well, it is important for us to do this to continue
11 to do good work that we've done in of course the
12 last four and eight years but especially the last
13 three months so I am glad that we are doing this. I
14 want to thank the staff that worked on this,
15 Marcello Testa, Latonia McKinney and Rebecca Chasan
16 all played a vital role in crafting this, we didn't
17 do this overnight, we spent the last three months
18 speaking to every single division understanding
19 what their exact needs were and that is how we
20 crafted this. The council will also be voting on a
21 number of Land Use Items. The council will vote to
22 rezone 35-10 Astoria Boulevard located in Council
23 Member Costa Constantinides's district and Sea Park
24 North which is located in Council Member Mark
25 Treyger's district. In addition, the council will

1
2 vote on proposed sites for the construction of two
3 primary schools in Council Member Jimmy Van
4 Bramer's district and to redevelop the former spot
5 for a juvenile detention center into 700 units of
6 affordable housing and light manufacturing space in
7 Council Member Rafael Salamanca's district who is
8 our Land Use Chair, it is a big deal to turn a
9 former detention center into affordable housing and
10 to a place for economic, vibrancy and activity and
11 opportunity. I want to congratulate Council Member
12 and Chair Salamanca on this very big win, on this
13 hard-fought victory and I want to invite Council
14 Member Salamanca to spend a minute talking about
15 his project and then Council Member Van Bramer to
16 talk about the construction of two new schools.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you Mr.
18 Speaker. I am extremely excited to be here today to
19 announce what we've been able to do with this
20 juvenile detention center that's been in my
21 district for over 50 years. It was an eyesore and
22 an embarrassment to the South Bronx. In 2011 this
23 juvenile detention center was closed and since 2013
24 I have been working on this project as a District
25 Manager for Bronx Community Board two now as a

1
2 local Council Member alongside with Community Board
3 two and local community based organizations, HPD
4 we're transforming this dark piece of land to over
5 740 units of 100 percent affordable housing MIH
6 option one, 40 percent of these units will remain
7 permanently affordable instead of 20 percent, a
8 commitment from, from a 40 year to a 60 year
9 regulatory period for the balance of the
10 residential units that are not permanently
11 affordable per MIH. There will 10 percent homeless
12 set aside for independent living and I've ensured
13 very deep affordability with rents going as low as
14 396 dollars a month. This project or this
15 development will have a full set of incubator space
16 like manufacturing, youth and wellness space, labor
17 will do the demolition phase and other skill-based
18 phase outs. The project will create over 200
19 permanent houses for this. I want to thank... I'm
20 sorry, over 200 permanent jobs will be created out
21 of this project. I would like to thank the land use
22 staff Raju, Amy, Jeff and Julie; I want to thank
23 Bronx Community Board two, their Chair Crespo, the
24 District Manager Raphael Acevedo and their Land Use
25 Chair Nick Matteo. I want to thank Urban Health

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2 plan, the point, EDC, Charlie Samboy and you know
3 I've been in office just a little over two years,
4 I've been involved.. I have approved.. this is my
5 ninth ULURP in, in two years and I've approved over
6 4.000 units of 100 percent affordable housing.
7 Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Congratulations Council
10 Member Salamanca.

11 [applause]

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Okay folks if you'd
13 hold the.. [cross-talk]

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quite please..
15 [cross-talk]

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: ..applause.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Council Member Van
19 Bramer.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you.
21 Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. So, today is a
22 really big day for Long Island City, Queens, a big
23 day for the parents, families and children of
24 district 30 particularly in Long Island City. We
25 are I hope about to approve two brand new

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2 elementary schools, nearly 1,200 additional seats
3 being voted on and sited today as results of these
4 votes, well over 100 million dollars in investments
5 in new school buildings. As many know district 30
6 is among the most crowded school districts in the
7 city of New York. I also have a portion of district
8 24, two of the most crowded school districts in New
9 York City. Long Island City is one of the fastest
10 growing neighborhoods in New York City if not the
11 entire United States of America, but you can't have
12 good neighborhoods without good schools and parents
13 knowing that they'll have a good school to send
14 their children to. So, today's vote is really
15 historic for our district, but it also marks the
16 13th and 14th new school buildings open, funded or
17 sited in my district in the last eight years. So,
18 we are... [cross-talk]

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: We're going to remove
20 folks if you... if you yell out, we... this is a... this
21 is a place that everyone gets the opportunity to
22 speak here, if folks yell out we're going to remove
23 you. We had hearings, people have the opportunity
24 to speak, if you could please finish Council Member
25 Van Bramer.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you
3 very much Speaker Johnson. So, once again we are
4 thrilled for the children and families of my
5 community, thrilled with the 13th and 14th new
6 schools badly needed, long fought for, well
7 deserved for the parents, families and children of
8 district 30 in Queens and in particular for Long
9 Island City and we are not done. I want to send a
10 message to the parents and families and children in
11 Court Square and other parts of Long Island City
12 that are seeing large scale development, we are
13 going to continue to fight and press for more new
14 schools, we are not done with these two but thank
15 you in advance to my colleagues for their support
16 of these two very important new schools in my
17 district, thank you.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Congratulations.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Congratulations Council
20 Member Van Bramer it's a very big deal of course to
21 get one school so to get two schools and I know
22 you've gotten over a dozen schools in your district
23 since you started here in the council, it is
24 tremendous and going to help so many people so
25 congratulations. We are also going to vote today to

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2 rezone Jerome Avenue in the Bronx located in
3 Council Member's Fernando Cabrera and Vanessa
4 Gibson's districts. I know this has been a
5 tremendous amount of hard work for both Council
6 Member's Gibson and Cabrera. I want to congratulate
7 them on their efforts in delivering two new public
8 schools, critically needed capital investments in
9 parks, the preservation of affordable housing, the
10 construction of new affordable housing, the saving
11 of jobs and many other things so I invite Council
12 Member's Cabrera and Gibson to take a minute each
13 and to speak on this.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you so
15 much Mr. Speaker. I'm proud here.. to be here today.
16 This is a great moment for the West Bronx, the
17 rezoning of Jerome Avenue is a major victory for
18 the people of the West Bronx and I want to
19 congratulate and thank my colleague Council Member
20 Vanessa Gibson for her hard work in partnership
21 with me in this effort. After years of community
22 planning and dialogues with thousands of residents,
23 business owners, nonprofit organizations, unions,
24 community board four, five and seven and elected
25 officials we had created a shared vision of the

1
2 future of our neighborhoods in which all residents
3 are served. Jerome Avenue is a major, major part of
4 the commercial life of my district and work to
5 expand the original footprint of the rezoning area
6 to its current 95 block area. Our communities will
7 benefit greatly for major investment in preserving
8 2,500 units of affordable housing and the creation
9 of new affordable housing, school... community school
10 district ten, one of the most overcrowded school
11 districts in the district will get a brand new 458
12 seat primary school which will include a youth
13 community center to house an after-school program
14 and a new gymnasium at PS 247. My district
15 Envisions community center has served the community
16 for decades providing much needed social and
17 community services frequently hosting community
18 events. To invest in this important facility and
19 make it accessible we are investing 1.9 million
20 dollars to install an elevator and expand the
21 building to a full second floor and more than 30
22 million will be invested in this district 14 parks.
23 The investment... throughout this process I affirm my
24 commitment to this community recognizing the
25 tremendous needs and challenges that we face. The

1
2 Jerome Avenue rezoning is a prototype of future
3 rezoning projects setting high standards for
4 collaboration and community input, proud of the
5 work that we have done to build a bright future for
6 the West Bronx. I want to give a special thanks to
7 Speaker Corey Johnson, Chair Rafael Salamanca,
8 Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Junior and to
9 the Land Use Division Raju Mann, Amy Levitan and
10 Jeff Ewing for all their hard work and my Chief of
11 Staff Greg Faulkner, Deputy Chief of Staff Anthony
12 Springer and Claire McLeveighn, Legislative and
13 Director... Legislator Director. Thank you so much
14 Mr. Chair... Mr. Speaker.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Congratulations,
16 Council Member Gibson.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you so much
18 Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to all of my colleagues
19 and everyone who is here. I am so honored to stand
20 before you as a member of the New York City Council
21 representing district 16 and all of the work that
22 the Jerome Neighborhood Rezoning Plan will achieve.
23 I have always stood firm on my values and my
24 principles and certainly my faith and I am so glad
25 that after three years of hard work, countless

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2 hours of meetings, dialogue, fellowship, all of the
3 open houses, visioning sessions, round tables,
4 community meetings, demonstrations, press
5 conferences here we are today, 189 million dollars
6 of capital investments and infrastructure work for
7 a borough like the Bronx and in particular the West
8 Bronx. Many of us recognize for far too long the
9 Bronx has been the forgotten borough, we have faced
10 enormous challenges, we have lived through the dark
11 era of the price out and the burn out and now that
12 we have brighter days ahead and we're seeing
13 neighborhoods change tremendously across the city
14 of New York, now this is an opportunity for the
15 Bronx to get what it has rightfully deserved for
16 decades and decades when no one gave a second
17 glance at the Bronx. I am proud of what we have
18 achieved in the West Bronx because this is the
19 largest and most comprehensive zoning that is
20 facing the West Bronx for decades since the 1960's
21 we have not had a major investment like this and so
22 I stand before you proud and honored at all of the
23 work that has been achieved. This has not been an
24 easy journey, this has been one of the most
25 difficult and challenging decisions I have ever

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2 made as an elected official, but do you know what
3 at the end of the day I'm going to leave office
4 making sure that my district is better than the way
5 I got it when I was elected in November of 2013. I
6 am proud of what we have achieved, two brand new
7 elementary schools for school districts nine and
8 ten when we know our families are starving for
9 school seats in the West Bronx. Working alongside
10 our colleague Council Member Fernando Cabrera and
11 all of the decades of broken promises that the
12 Bronx has faced this neighborhood plan will bring
13 real and lasting contributions to the West Bronx
14 and all of it's people. I am proud to say that this
15 final plan includes significant investments in
16 creating and preserving affordable and deeply
17 affordable housing while expanding on the
18 substantial preservation work... [cross-talk]

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Council Member Gibson..
20 Council Member Gibson if you could hold on a
21 moment... Sergeants if you could... if you... if you
22 could remove the folks in the balcony that would be
23 helpful, so Council Member can respectfully finish
24 her remarks on this big victory.

25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you. I'm
3 proud to say that this final plan includes
4 significant investment in creating and preserving
5 affordable and deeply affordable units while
6 expanding on the substantial preservation work that
7 has already been achieved, 2014 to 2017 5,500 units
8 of affordable housing has been preserved..

9 [chanting]

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: So, the, the whole
11 balcony is going to be cleared. The whole balcony
12 is going to be cleared.

13 [chanting]

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: So, before I turn it
15 back over to... back over to Council Member Gibson,
16 the Public Advocate needs to step out for a few
17 minutes so during her absence I appoint Majority
18 Leader Cumbo as a presiding officer over this
19 stated meeting and I want to turn it back over to
20 Council Member Gibson who I congratulate again on
21 this great victory for her district.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you Mr.
23 Speaker and thank you Madame Majority Leader and I
24 think... you know many of you can understand the
25 challenge that we've had over the past three years

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2 certainly many of you recognize why I pray so much
3 because this has not been easy. The West Bronx
4 cannot be allowed to be stuck in the past, we
5 deserved investment yesterday, we deserve it today
6 and we deserve it tomorrow and our community
7 deserves to be a part of the future of the city of
8 New York and while many of the conversations during
9 the planning process focused on housing creation
10 and zoning changes this plan goes far beyond that.
11 In addition to the 5,500 units that have already be
12 preserved we are committed to an additional 2,500
13 units of affordable housing that are to be
14 preserved over the next two years. I talked about
15 the two public schools which will be a great
16 benefit for all of the families in school districts
17 nine and ten and also the commitment that all
18 housing that's built on publicly owned land will be
19 permanently affordable to low income and very low
20 income families, set asides for formally homeless
21 families as well as seniors, we are reaching those
22 families that are at the lowest end of the spectrum
23 an agreement to map the MIH option one as well as
24 the deep affordability option in this area. When
25 developers build they will have to set aside 20

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2 percent of their units for permanently affordable
3 units of housing for families at the extremely low
4 and low-income brackets. We are appointing a Jerome
5 specific workforce development coordinator whose
6 responsibility will be to work with all of the auto
7 businesses and small businesses in the corridor for
8 local hiring and employment opportunities for our
9 people. We have secured 1.5 million dollars to help
10 our auto businesses that we recognize may
11 potentially be displaced as a result of this
12 zoning. We've also given community groups funds to
13 provide training for our auto businesses to prepare
14 for the jobs of today and tomorrow. We don't want
15 our auto workers to be employees for the rest of
16 their lives, but we want them to eventually become
17 owners and take ownership of their property. We are
18 creating a working group on Jerome local hiring and
19 responsible contracting that will be led by Council
20 Member Cabrera and myself, we are going to secure
21 real and meaningful local hiring provisions for
22 construction projects along the corridor and
23 elevate the responsible contracting conversation
24 across the city. We have secured 60 million dollars
25 for parks in community boards four and five and I'm

1
2 very proud that we're getting 25 million dollars
3 for Grant Park and for 4.6 million dollars for
4 Corporal Fischer. We are creating a Southwest Bronx
5 housing task force that will be led by the Bronx
6 Borough President, Council Member Cabrera and
7 myself to address the long-term quality of life
8 issues that tenants are facing today in our
9 communities. We are creating a Jerome Avenue public
10 health task force to be addressing health
11 disparities along the Jerome corridor. I am so
12 proud of the work that has been done to get us to
13 this point, there are a lot more amenities in this
14 plan but certainly if anyone wants to talk to me
15 offline I'm more than happy to share that with you
16 but I want to commend the incredible team that
17 worked with us and walked with us every step of the
18 way; the Land Use Division Raju Mann, Jeff Ewing,
19 our project manager and Amy Levitan have been
20 absolutely exceptional. Our Land Use Chair Rafael
21 Salamanca and our Subcommittee on Zoning Chair
22 Francisco Moya have been amazing in guiding me
23 along this process, all of the colleagues I've had
24 the honor of talking to that proposed previous
25 rezoning's that have been helpful to me I want to

1
2 thank you. from GCP I want to recognize Carol,
3 Michael and Sean from City Planning, my Chief of
4 Staff Dana Wax, my Deputy Chief of Staff Wendy
5 Gallegos and many of the advocates, stakeholders,
6 community groups, and everyone who I listened to
7 and will still listen to after today. There is a
8 lot of work that remains to be done to ensure that
9 we hold the administration accountable for all of
10 the agreements that they made in this document that
11 has 69 different points of commitment that many I
12 didn't describe today but I truly want to thank all
13 of you for your support, for your prayers, for your
14 guidance, for your input, and I ask you to join
15 Council Member Cabrera and I in supporting this so
16 we can leave a lasting legacy of what this body has
17 done to improve a borough like the Bronx. The time
18 is now, there's so much at stake, we have a lot of
19 opportunity and I want to make sure that my borough
20 is left in better hands as a result of the Jerome
21 Neighborhood rezoning plan. I ask you for your
22 support and I thank you in advance for your
23 support. Thank you, colleagues, thank you Mr.
24 Speaker.

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2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Congratulations Council
3 Member Gibson. I also want to thank Jeff Ewing who
4 spent an enormous amount of time on this from the
5 land use division as the project manager; Amy
6 Levitan, our Deputy Director Land Use; Julie Lubin,
7 our General Counsel; Brian Paul; John Douglas;
8 James Lloyd and of course Raju Mann. Next the
9 council will vote on Introduction 605-A sponsored
10 by Council Member Steve Levin which will require
11 the NYPD to report on a quarterly basis the number
12 of arrests and summonses issued for low level
13 marijuana possession is aggregated by the offense
14 charged, race of the offender, gender of the
15 offender, age of the offender, borough in which the
16 offense took place and the precinct, housing police
17 service area or transit bureau where the offense
18 was enforced. From the staff I want to thank Beth
19 Galum Deepa Ambekar, Casey Addison and Steve
20 Riester for their help on this. We are also going
21 to vote on Introduction 262 sponsored by Council
22 Member Donovan Richards which will amend the Local
23 Law 27 of 2015 requiring the Department of
24 Education to report on various data regarding the
25 provision of special education services requiring

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2 them to report the number of students in each
3 school who have an individualized education program
4 or an IEP. From the staff I want to thank Elizabeth
5 Hoffman, Smita Deshmukh, Andrea Vazquez and Terzah
6 Nasser. finally, we will vote today to extend rent
7 regulation laws in New York City. Rent regulation
8 is the most critical tool we have for maintaining
9 affordable housing in our city. My legislation,
10 Introduction 600-A and Resolution 188-A would
11 extend the finding that a housing emergency exists
12 in New York City requiring the extension of rent
13 regulation laws for the next three years. I am
14 proud that three years ago before I was Speaker I
15 carried these bills extending rent protections for
16 the 2.5 million New Yorkers who live in rent
17 regulated or rent controlled apartments, we of
18 course know we have an affordability crisis that is
19 gripping our city, we talk a lot about affordable
20 housing on this side of city hall and on the other
21 side of city hall, the easiest way to protect
22 affordable housing is to preserve the affordable
23 housing that we have and to strengthen the rent
24 laws. We need to strengthen our rent laws, there
25 are up for renewal and expiration in June of 2019

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2 and I am fully committed to standing with many of
3 the advocates and activists that were here today
4 for a press conference in a campaign over the next
5 15 months to strengthen the rent laws getting rid
6 of and repealing vacancy decontrol, getting rid of
7 the issues around preferential rent on a major
8 capital improvements and ensuring that we protect
9 even more New Yorkers and not lose the critical
10 rent regulated housing that we have. We've lost
11 hundreds of thousands of units since the early
12 1990's and I am committed to ensuring that we don't
13 just pass this renewal today which extends it on
14 the city level for three years but next year we
15 actually strengthen our rent laws. So, I ask you
16 all to vote in favor of this legislation
17 Introduction 600-A and Resolution 188-A. I want to
18 thank from the staff Megan Chin, Kaitlyn Fahay, and
19 Jose Conde. That completes the highlights of our
20 docket and I look forward to proceeding with today's
21 vote, thank you all very much.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Discussion of
23 general orders. Seeing none we'll have the report
24 of special committees.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Report of
3 standing committees.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
5 on Education, Intro 262 special education services.

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General
7 Orders.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
9 on Finance, Preconsidered Reso 239 Organization
10 Funding.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General
12 Orders.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered LU's 45
14 and Reso 245 and LU 49 and Reso 249 Tax Exemptions.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General
16 Orders.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered M-28 and
18 Reso 250 and M-29 and Reso 251, Council Operating
19 Budget.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General
21 Orders.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Support of the
23 Committee on Housing and Buildings, Intro 600-A,
24 extending the rent stabilization laws.
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2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
3 General Orders.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
5 on Land Use LU 21 and Reso 252 and LU 22 and Reso
6 253, Landmark Designations.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: A motion to disapprove.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 31 and Reso 254
9 through LU 34 and Reso 257, the Peninsula.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General
11 Orders.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 35 and Reso 258,
13 disposition of four city owned properties.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General
15 Orders.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 39 and Reso 259 and
17 LU 40 and Reso 260, school facilities.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General
19 Orders.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
21 on Public Safety, Intro 605-A, reports on marijuana
22 possession.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
24 General Orders.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: On the General Order
3 calendar, Intro 720, site safety training.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Laid over.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 15 and Reso 261 and
6 LU 16 and Reso 262, Sea Park North.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General
8 Orders.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 17 and Reso 263
10 through LU 19 and Reso 265, Jerome Avenue.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General
12 Orders.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 28 and Reso 266 and
14 LU 29 and Reso 267, Astoria Boulevard.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General
16 Orders.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Resolution appointing
18 various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General
20 Orders. We're not going to couple anything else.
21 I'd like to ask for a roll call vote on all items
22 on today's General Order calendar.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye on all.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Adams?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ampry-Samuel?

COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ayala?

COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Permission to
explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I'm
voting aye on all with the exception of LU 28 and
29 which I had voted nay in the committee and also,
I just want to express my hesitation in voting on
the Jerome rezoning. As you may recall I voted
against the East New York rezoning plan and several
other plans since then because I think that as a
body we have a flawed premise where we don't in
fact have a greater percentage of housing that we
are dedicating to people who are homeless and
people who are low income. In the prayer this
morning the person who brought the prayer talked
about having advantage for those who are
underrepresented, who are marginalized and I think
that that's a part of our obligation to do that and

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2 I don't think that we as a body have the format to
3 allow for us to do that so that we can represent
4 that body of people appropriately and give them
5 what they need to be properly represented and to
6 level the playing field that they are facing. So,
7 it's with hesitancy that I vote for the Jerome
8 rezoning because it's still the opportunity as has
9 been explained to me for market rate to come to
10 that area even before the regulatory agreements
11 expand or, or, or are terminated or reach their
12 expiration date and I'm concerned about that
13 because certainly we know the Bronx is an area
14 that's economically challenged so I just want us to
15 look to see maybe we need to go back and redesign
16 this MIH program that we have because it's not
17 bringing housing in adequate numbers to the people
18 who need it most. Thank you.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Brannan?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: I vote aye on
21 all.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye on all and
24 thank you to all my colleagues for, for your
25 support.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. I rise today because we are voting on opportunity to create and preserve more affordable housing and I wanted to congratulate my colleagues; Council Member Gibson, Cabrera, Salamanca you guys are leading the examples in the Bronx and I hope that we can also create this kind of opportunity in Manhattan where we also need, you know greater affordability and I thank the Speaker for taking a lead on extending rent regulation because that's the only way that we can protect and preserve the affordable housing that we have. And with a sad note because I wanted to remember a young father and a young activist, a young architect in our... in my district, Ricky Leung who was a fighter for affordable housing and I remember knocking on doors with him when he was the tenant leader and going to Washington fighting to protect project based section eight building and I remember celebrating with him that we were able to get a 40 year

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2 extension for the building that his family and all
3 the residents over 600 units were preserved and we
4 lost him, we lost him to cancer but he is someone
5 that we will remember and cherish because he was a
6 great example of a young person that was able to
7 work with every racial group not just his own, he
8 was able to reach out to everyone and he was a
9 young person, started at a young age and I... my
10 heart and prayers goes out to his parents because
11 he was their only child and may he rest in peace
12 and know that we will continue the fight to protect
13 and preserve affordable housing in our city. Thank
14 you. I vote aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: With
17 congratulations to all my colleagues on the
18 rezoning's and bills today I vote aye on all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY? Permission to
21 explain my vote?

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Yes.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I proudly vote
24 aye on all today especially the rezoning's and just
25 would like to say that as the Chair of the newly

1
2 minted MWBE task force I look forward to finding as
3 many ways as possible especially on the rezoning's
4 to include not only MWBE participation but LBE
5 participation, I vote aye on all.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all... aye
9 on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Diaz?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Permission to
12 explain my vote?

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Yes.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Madame Chairlady
15 and Speaker, ladies and gentlemen today is a great
16 day. It's been a fact to see a bunch of
17 argumentative stopping such a wonderful workaholic
18 dynamic lady working for her... trying to do
19 something for her community so it's a shame to see
20 how... such agitative Venessa Gibson you are together
21 with Council Member Cabrera you have made the room,
22 all of us in the room very proud of you, continue
23 doing it and Salamanca, the three of you, you know
24 the bible said that without vision that people
25 perish, the three of you have a vision, a vision

1
2 that will put 740 unit... housing units, 100 percent
3 affordable, that's some cool... that's, that's, that
4 is something never done and Mr. Speaker you are a
5 part of that, I'm proud of you too because you have
6 allow, you have given all your support to these
7 three Council Members so the Bronx could look good,
8 the borough... the borough... the, the Bronx borough
9 President thank you, I thank you and we all thank
10 you and with that said Mr. Speaker and in order... I
11 would like to bring to your attention knowing... and
12 I know that you know four taxi drivers had killed
13 themselves, another one hanged himself the other
14 day so we... I'm asking you... I'm asking you as the
15 Chair member of the committee on For Hire to help
16 me pass a bill that I'm trying to do to do away
17 with this and to help this, we cannot allow more
18 taxi drivers to keep hanging themselves, killing
19 themselves because it, it is a shame what's going
20 on and we, this council under your leadership that
21 you have proven to be one of the best Council
22 Speakers that this city has gotten in many years,
23 we're so proud working with you and the Bronx thank
24 you and Vanessa again I apologize... [cross-talk]

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COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you...

[cross-talk]

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: ...for those
agitative, Council Member Cabrera and Salamanca.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you Council
Member Diaz.

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Right on, I vote
yes on all.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Council Member I want
to remind you of that praise and thank you in the
difficult days ahead. Who's next?

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez?

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Permission to
explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Gentrification
is real in our city and we have to understand the
feeling of many great organizers so, yes Harlem is
not majority black anymore, working class are being
pushed out from Brooklyn from Long Island City
still we need to look on how to be creative and be
able to learn from previous rezoning to do any
current and future rezoning much better. I happen

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2 to see all the gains that my colleagues they were
3 able to bring to the Bronx because Inwood is next,
4 we are up to August 16th to vote on the Inwood
5 rezoning and I am looking to double whatever they
6 got from Jerome so thank you, you know my
7 colleagues for negotiating but, you know everyone
8 should know especially every day our city been
9 pushing our working class out, you know and still
10 today we have more than 40 percent of New Yorkers
11 living under the poverty lines and for decades
12 we've been investing billions of billions of
13 dollars only in the Midtown area, in the
14 underserved communities from Jerome, Washington
15 Heights and other areas they have been left out so
16 I congratulate my colleagues, Cabrera and Gibson
17 for to do their best they can but at the same time
18 we also have to understand the real fear that many
19 New Yorkers have to the Bronx, Washington Heights
20 and Harlem because every day we are pushing our
21 working class so thank you for your leadership, I'm
22 looking to learn and EDC and city hall be ready
23 because I would like to double whatever you provide
24 to your own. Thank you, with that I vote aye.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you...

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[cross-talk]

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SPEAKER JOHNSON: And Council Member Rodriguez we're so happy to have your beautiful daughters here with you today.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I vote aye on all.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Permission to explain my vote?

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Yes.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Thank you. I just want to big... give a big congratulations to Vanessa and Cabrera, I know it's not an easy task to carry these rezoning's, I carried the first one and it was East New York and I have to say that the reason I moved forward is because I felt confident that I had the investments and the commitments needed to make sure that East New York continues to being a thriving community and I have no doubt that these members have done their same in their neighborhoods. There's a lot of anxiety and we get that but let me tell you about what's happening in East New York, in East New York we have seen

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1
2 unprecedented levels of applications for affordable
3 housing to be built with zero market rate housing
4 being applied for in that rezoned area so I know
5 that these rezoning's will create affordable
6 housing as they intended to do and will give the
7 people in that neighborhood the investments they
8 need to continue to be able to call themselves
9 Bronxinites or New Yorkers. Thank you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you and how
11 do you vote?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I voted aye.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Please explain
18 very quick?

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you Madame
21 Majority Leader and thank you once again to all of
22 my colleagues. I really and truly appreciate the
23 support and one thing I know affirmly about the
24 Jerome Neighborhood Plan is that it is going to
25 stimulate the... stimulate the exact type of housing

1
2 that we need in the borough of the Bronx and I
3 understand the fear, the anxiety but understand
4 that this administration through the city council
5 successfully passed right to counsel codifying to
6 make sure that residents facing eviction get legal
7 assistance in housing court to prevent evictions.
8 We've also successfully passed certificate of no
9 harassment which will start in the Jerome area so I
10 am very proud of that because the neighborhood
11 rezoning plan cannot be achieved without successful
12 policies that are also complimenting the work that
13 we are doing and so I want to once again thank
14 everyone, the admiration who listened to my endless
15 rants and yelling and frustrations in all the
16 meetings, Deputy Mayor Glen's office and HPD and
17 DCP and SBS and SCA and DOHMH they listened and
18 listened because I kept talking, I know what our
19 district needs and I refuse to accept anything less
20 than what this district needs so I am grateful that
21 we are here and I look forward to the continued
22 work and once again thank you to all of my
23 colleagues and congratulations to our Speaker on
24 rent regulation. As a former assembly member, we've
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1
2 always supported rent regulation and rent reform in
3 the state, so I proudly vote aye on all. Thank you.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gjonaj?

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you...

6 [cross-talk]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: [off-mic]

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Grodenchik?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye on all.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Wow...

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Was that... was
12 that... I could... I could have asked... [cross-talk]

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Wooh, keep going...

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Holden?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye on all.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on all.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: [off-mic]

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander?
25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I vote aye on all
3 and I request permission to vote aye on land use
4 call ups.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Permission
6 granted.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Vote aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Permission to vote
10 aye on all land use call ups and may I explain my
11 vote?

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Permission
13 granted.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very
15 much Madame Majority Leader. First I want to
16 congratulate Council Members Cabrera and Gibson,
17 Fernando I've served with you for eight years and
18 Vanessa I've served with you for four years, I know
19 that both of you have a strong core of beliefs and,
20 and dedication to serving your constituents
21 honestly and to the best of your abilities and I
22 know that you put that into practice in, in
23 negotiating this project and so, you know... and it's
24 a... it's never easy with controversial land use
25 projects but as long as you know deep in your heart

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2 that you have achieved everything that you set out
3 to achieve in this and are representing the needs
4 of your constituents to the best of your ability, I
5 have full faith and trust in both of you and so I
6 want to congratulate you for, for a hard fought
7 victory here. With regard to Intro 605-A I want to
8 thank Chairs Richards and, and, and Chair Lancman
9 for conducting the hearing on, on this bill. Chair
10 Richards as my co-sponsor, lead co-sponsor on this
11 and all the co-sponsors on the bill, this is a very
12 important bill because we need to have real
13 accountability and real clarity and transparency
14 around marijuana arrests in New York City which
15 continue to plague African American Latino
16 communities at a much higher rate than white
17 communities, you know back in 1993 the arrest rate
18 for marijuana charges for African Americans was
19 20.9 times higher than the arrest rate for white
20 people. In 2016 that number came down to 7.8
21 percent... times higher, absolutely 100 percent
22 unacceptable, 100 percent unacceptable. We should
23 be decriminalizing or legalizing marijuana in New
24 York City because the fact of the matter is that
25 arrests lead to incarceration at Rikers, they, they

1
2 lead to issues that will... that will... people carry
3 with them for the rest of their lives whether it
4 effects their education or their job prospects we
5 cannot continue to criminalize African American,
6 Latino communities in our city, this is absolutely..
7 [cross-talk]

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you Chair
9 Levin... [cross-talk]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: ...unfair and so I,
11 I encourage all my colleagues to vote aye on this
12 and keep up the fight on that and thank you very
13 much Madame Majority Leader, I vote aye on all,
14 thank you.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye on all.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: [off-mic]

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to
22 explain my vote?

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Permission
24 granted.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you so
3 much Majority Leader and thank you to my
4 colleagues. I am voting aye on all and want to say
5 a few words about the rezoning's that we are voting
6 on today. I think the fight that we have ahead of
7 us is a big fight and our... as members we do
8 everything we can to make sure that we bring
9 everything we can to our communities. What I want
10 to also connect this work that we do is to leveling
11 the playing field and part of that is the resources
12 that we're voting on today and I just want to say
13 thank you to the Speaker, his team and everyone
14 here who is saying yes to bringing more resources,
15 we're fighting against an incredible lobby of greed
16 that is fueling a lot of the gentrification that
17 we're feeling and seeing in our communities. The
18 more empowered we are with staff, the more
19 empowered we are with community engagement the
20 better these rezoning's are going to be in the long
21 run. I look forward to that with the injection of
22 this new resource, we have a lot of immigrants in
23 our community, working families, public housing
24 residents that deserve to understand what's
25 happening, these, these land use processes in some

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2 ways feel like they're designed against us, we need
3 to change that and I want to lift up something that
4 Council Member Barron said that we might need to go
5 back to MIH and look at it, how do we strengthen
6 that so that we can really bring deeper
7 affordability. We passed some land use last session
8 that brought deep affordable, 100 percent
9 affordable in a project at a Brooklyn public
10 library, the only reason we were able to do that it
11 was because it was city property that can't be the
12 only way we get deep affordability in our... in our
13 neighborhoods so with that I vote aye on all in the
14 move to really bring a level playing field so that
15 our communities can feel heard, empowered, and at
16 the table. Thank you.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Permission to
20 explain my vote please?

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Permission
22 granted.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you. First
24 off, I, I, I'd like to make a motion that the
25 minutes of stated meeting of February 14th be

1
2 adopted as printed, never let it be said that we
3 abdicate our responsibility, okay, furthermore I
4 want to thank the sponsors of 605-A, this is
5 important legislation as my colleague Levin just
6 mentioned but representing the community that for
7 nearly a decade has had the highest number of
8 marijuana summonses and arrests in the city this is
9 something that had deep impact on the young people
10 in our community whether it is... and, and mind you
11 that this is a middle class community that is
12 equally diverse and the... as we look at the numbers
13 the portion of the community that is a community of
14 color are disproportionately impacted as they are
15 throughout the city but just to give you an
16 example, 1,651 marijuana arrests and summonses in
17 2016 risen to 2,100 in 2017, the second most had
18 400, there were other precincts that had 550
19 throughout the city, this is not disproportionate
20 now while this will give us the tools to address
21 those issues I think is blatant, it is obvious and,
22 and given these tools whoever's responsibility it
23 is to advocate, advocate these... aggregate these
24 numbers have not done their job to see for over a
25 decade that there is a community that has been

1
2 disproportionately burdened to this enormity they
3 are not doing their job and that falls in the lap
4 of one police plaza, we have to be better. Thank
5 you.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Moya?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye on all.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Perkins?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye on all.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Powers?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye on all,
13 permission to explain my vote? I just wanted to say
14 thank you to, to, to the Speaker and thank you to
15 this body for continuing to support the rent
16 stabilization law and rent regulation law in New
17 York State and for all the folks that came out
18 today to say not only do we need to renew it we
19 need to strengthen it, something that is important
20 to, to my neighborhood, my district. I also want to
21 congratulate all of my colleagues; Council Member
22 Salamanca, Council Member Van Bramer, Council
23 Member Gibson and Council Member Cabrera on their
24 hard fought efforts on behalf of their communities
25 which is tied to the same conversation around

1
2 affordable housing in New York City at this
3 particular moment and I know that all these
4 conversations with your community can be difficult
5 but to look at what Council Member Gibson achieved
6 for her district to look at and Council Member
7 Salamanca's district to, to transform a jail into
8 700 units of affordable housing, these are the
9 types of reasons I think many of us come to the
10 city council is to be good stewards for our
11 districts and our communities. So, I want to
12 congratulate all of them, I vote as I said aye on
13 all. Thank you.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you and
15 Council Member Miller how do you vote?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye on
17 all.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Permission to
21 explain my vote?

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Permission
23 granted.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: First I just
25 want to thank the men and women of the Department

1
2 of Sanitation for the amazing work they did last...
3 yesterday and today in making sure our streets are
4 clean and functional, yes, so remember them during
5 budget, budget season because we will be making
6 requests but the Department of Sanitation continues
7 to have this city moving with, with very little
8 praise and recognition because when it's out of...
9 out of sight is out of mind but don't forget they
10 were out there last night working very hard to make
11 sure we could get into work this morning so I want
12 to thank them and I would also like to just make
13 mention to the fact that we're talking about
14 charter revision commission, an opportunity to
15 modify our charter and in it there might be an
16 opportunity or there is an opportunity to look at
17 ULURP and look at the way we do the land.. we move
18 through the land use process and maybe allow these
19 communities to come in at the front end and let us
20 know what they're thinking about instead of at the
21 tail end and we won't have the same type of
22 discourse that, that looks like we're working
23 against each other when we're really all on the
24 same page and trying to do what's best for the city
25 of New York and with that I want to congratulate my

1
2 colleagues from the Bronx who again tend to be the
3 borough that creates the most affordable housing
4 and is also the poorest borough in the city of New
5 York and I don't think that that's by chance but I
6 want to say thank you to them for their hard work
7 and I vote aye on all. Thank you.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Great plug for
9 sanitation.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Permission to
12 explain my vote?

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Permission
14 granted.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Thank you and
16 thank... I want to thank the Speaker for his
17 leadership on several bills today and one I wanted
18 to speak on, Intro 262 which requires the
19 Department of Education to provide school level
20 data regarding students receiving special education
21 services. I was astounded to walk into one of my
22 middle schools and see that within that one middle
23 school there are two schools that have upwards of
24 close to combine a combination of 400 IEPs in that
25 one building but more importantly what we found is

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2 that the resources weren't really being offered to
3 those schools at the levels they needed to be
4 offered. So, this, this bill is a very important
5 bill in terms of shining transparency which we're
6 hoping is going to push DOE to ensure that our
7 schools are receiving their fair share of resources
8 to address and aid students with IEPs. Secondly I
9 wanted to congratulate both Council Members Gibson
10 and Cabrera on their leadership and you know we get
11 into a lot of conversation around these rezoning's
12 and, and you know one of the things I, I often...
13 when Council Member Gibson called and asked for
14 advice I would say is leadership is not about
15 winning popularity contests and it's really about
16 looking at the issues in your community and being
17 able to resolve some of those long standing issues
18 while fostering new opportunities and I think they
19 really did do that and for those who say you're
20 gentrifying through a rezoning we have nine private
21 sites after my rezoning and all of them are
22 projected to be 100 percent affordable as well
23 that's upwards of over 3,000 affordable housing
24 units just in one catchment area. Lastly I'll touch
25 on marijuana and just thank Council Member Levin

1
2 for his leadership on this and I know Council
3 Member Miller spoke on this but the 9-1-1 and 3-1-1
4 data that the NYPD is certainly using to justify
5 marijuana arrests and summonses is bologna and I'm
6 the first to say it and it's really irrelevant
7 right now it is the wild, wild West of enforcement
8 and I'm glad we're passing this bill to finally
9 address some of the disparities and shine a
10 brighter light on this issue. I want to thank the
11 Public Safety Committee staff, I want to thank
12 Education council Smita Deshmukh and my Legislative
13 Director Jordan Givens and, and Education Chair
14 Treyger for my bill and of course Speaker Johnson
15 for... [cross-talk]

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you...
17 [cross-talk]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: ...his
19 leadership, thank you.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: And how do you
21 vote?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I proudly vote
23 aye on all of these.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you Council
25 Member.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I want to thank my colleagues in the Finance Committee and of course all the members of the city council for their support on the Article 11 property tax exemption at 346 East 21st Street which is an affordable housing property in my district. This is a six floor, 30-unit building, 17 of the 30 units are family's original tenants and this HDFC is an affiliate of the Cooper Square Mutual Housing Association which as many of you know is a pioneer in affordable housing and community land trust. I want to thank of course the Cooper Square committee and one of the tenant leaders there who's a housing activist, Tito Delgado, I hope he's watching. Congrats to all of my colleagues on their projects and with that I vote aye on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I want to
3 congratulate Council Members Gibson and Cabrera and
4 I vote aye on all.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Similarly,
7 congratulating Gibson and Cabrera, the work we do...
8 oh I'm sorry, permission to explain my aye vote?

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Permission
10 granted.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: And I just
12 want to say you look mighty fine sitting up there.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: You got good
14 taste, thank you.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL:
16 Congratulations to Council Member Gibson and
17 Cabrera, I vote aye on all and I really want to
18 thank the Speaker again as we did this morning at
19 this morning's rally for his leadership on
20 extending rent regulation, you know we are... we're
21 swinging away down here at the city level doing
22 everything we can to pick up the pieces but the
23 real work needs to be done in Albany and you know I
24 think under your leadership Speaker we might be
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1
2 able to make some traction there but thank you for
3 your leadership on this, aye on all.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Salamanca?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I would like
7 to congratulate Council Member Cabrera and Council
8 Member Gibson for your outstanding work in ensuring
9 that the Bronx is well represented and well taken
10 care of and I vote aye on all. Thank you.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Just want to
14 congratulate the Bronx Dream Team, our Land Use
15 Chair Rafael Salamanca, Council Member Gibson,
16 Council Member Cabrera. I thank you for just
17 bringing really a level of investment in parks and
18 schools in the Bronx that's seldom seem so with
19 that said I vote aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to
22 explain my vote?

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Permission
24 granted.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: So, I, I want to
3 of course commend all my colleagues on their
4 legislation today, I also want to just commend the
5 Speaker for his leadership with regards to our rent
6 laws and, and, and since, you know the, the state
7 and, and the city leaders have had a lot of
8 discussions about empowering us over discussions
9 about the MTA or others it's time to repeal the
10 Urstadt Laws and give us control over, over our
11 housing policies. I also want to just say credit...
12 give credit to Council Members Gibson, Cabrera as
13 well as Salamanca and, and others for championing
14 these issues in their districts but also looking at
15 a land use application holistically, we have to
16 look at them as, as, as a neighborhood impact.
17 Certainly, people deserve quality affordable
18 housing, but they also deserve good schools, they
19 deserve beautiful parks, they deserve quality
20 hospitals and they deserve a reliable
21 transportation system too. So, I just want to
22 credit them for their leadership, they've worked so
23 hard on this and also to Chair Salamanca of the
24 Land Use Committee who has really been very
25 supportive as well to all of us with, with the

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2 ULURP applications and to Chair Moya as well so I
3 want to congratulate them and the Speaker and I
4 vote aye on all.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all and
7 congratulations to everyone.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: With great
10 pride because I get to represent the great
11 neighborhood of Long Island City I vote aye on all.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams?

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

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Permission
17 granted.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you, you
19 look great up there, it's so nice.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: You're welcome.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: It won't give you
23 extra time however.

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I knew we made the
25 right choice.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: A lot of good
3 bills today so I want to congratulate everyone who
4 had them and including the Speaker for the
5 leadership he's put on this bill and in the... and in
6 the council thus far, of course the marijuana
7 reporting is extremely important and the Jerome
8 rezoning, I'm going to be voting aye on all so
9 congratulations to Gibson and Cabrera. I do want to
10 say the problem is, I believe this body and the
11 Mayor failed by passing the MIH that we have
12 passed, I believe we chose politically expediency
13 as opposed to doing what we know needed to be done.
14 The problem is I can't hold individual Council
15 Members responsible for a job that we all failed
16 at, I do hope that we do look at MIH and revisit it
17 and I'm glad that the council members chose the
18 best option which is option one. Of course, deeper
19 affordability exists if and when property owners
20 choose to use the term sheets which looks like they
21 will use for some time because the market doesn't
22 bear anything else but at that time when the market
23 changes they will no longer have to use those term
24 sheets and that is a problem, so my hope again is
25 that this body... I'm proud to have been part of the

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2 voice that pushed MIH as far as it did, I'm also
3 proud to be one of the few that voted against it
4 and my hope is that we very much look at it to fix
5 some of the loopholes. I also want to lift up Ricky
6 Leung who was mentioned by Council Member Chin, I
7 know him a tenant leader way back when I was in
8 tenants and neighbors, I was very surprised,
9 saddened to see his death as I looked through his
10 photos I saw a picture of him and his young child
11 holding a picture of me for reelection and that
12 really touched my heart, he was a very big
13 supporter of mine from when I first ran and I'm
14 very sad that we lost him, the tenant world has
15 lost a great leader and a great champion, my
16 prayers to his wife and his entire family. As I
17 said before and when it comes to rent regulation
18 the Governor and... has failed us and I'm shocked as
19 I move around the state to see how much he's failed
20 on this issue across the state, I'm glad that we're
21 doing what we can do here but we have to do a lot
22 more. Congratulations to all those who... about
23 affordability. I've always been impressed by
24 Council Member Salamanca, all of his projects have
25 had very deep affordability, congratulations.

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2 Generally, I say that Brooklyn's the best borough
3 because of my dreams I now have to give some shout
4 outs to other boroughs like the Bronx. With that I
5 vote aye on all.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Yeger?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye on all with
9 the exception of M-28, M-29 and accompanying
10 Resolutions R250 and R251.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Permission to
13 vote on all Land Use call ups and I'm voting no on
14 600 and aye on the rest.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Permission
16 granted.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I proudly vote aye
19 on all and I just want to congratulate the Bronx
20 for a huge win, Council Member Salamanca this is a
21 huge victory to see a correctional facility turned
22 into a housing development speaks volumes about the
23 growth and development that the Bronx has seen and
24 to Council Member Gibson as well as Council Member
25 Cabrera, Cabrera, I just want to thank you all for

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2 your courage, your tenacity and your perseverance
3 this has been an incredible project, the ability to
4 bring two, two 458 seat primary schools to address
5 overcrowding, a commitment to preserve 2,500 units
6 of housing over the next two years, AMI's as low as
7 40 percent, 60 million in parks investments, 50
8 million in DOT improvements, this is going to speak
9 volumes. Council Member Cabrera and Council Member
10 Gibson this is certainly a legacy project that you
11 should feel proud of and I'm proud to stand in
12 support of you and to see our borough in the Bronx
13 doing so well is quite an accomplishment and I
14 thank you for your courage and tenacity and I
15 proudly vote aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Johnson?

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I vote aye on all and I
18 would ask all Council Members we're going to have
19 a, a democratic conference after this so if folks
20 could stay and potentially limit the general
21 discussion unless you must really speak today it
22 would be helpful for us to be able to... because
23 folks have to go back to their districts for us to
24 be able to meet together so I vote aye on all.

25

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: All items on
3 todays General Order calendar were adopted by a
4 vote of 48 in the affirmative, zero in the negative
5 and zero abstentions with the exception of Land Use
6 28 and Land Use 29 with accompanying Resolutions
7 which was adopted by a vote of 47 in the
8 affirmative, one negative and zero abstentions and
9 M-28, M29 with accompanying Resolutions which was
10 adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative, one
11 negative and zero abstentions and Intro 600-A which
12 was adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative, one
13 negative and zero abstentions. Thank you.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Majority leader you've
15 done a great job filling in, thank you for being up
16 there.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you. Now
18 the introduction and reading of bills.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: All bills have been
20 referred to committees as indicated on the agenda.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Discussion of
22 Resolutions. Resolutions 188-A, an amended
23 resolution in determining that a public emergency
24 requiring rent control in the city of New York
25 continues to exist and will continue to exist on

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2 and after April 1st, 2018. We will do this by a
3 vote, all in favor say aye.

4 COUNCIL MEMBERS: [in unison] Aye.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: All those not in
6 favor? The aye's have it and we will now go on to
7 general discussion. And we will begin with Council
8 Member Cabrera.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Indifference to
10 the Speaker's request I'll forego my time, thank
11 you so much.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you Fernando.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you.
14 Council Member Kallos.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I will also
16 differ.

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you Ben... [cross-
18 talk]

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Very powerful
20 speaker Council Member Johnson. Council Member Koo?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I have to speak,
22 yeah.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Peter I wouldn't have
24 any other way.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Mr. Speaker and
3 Majority Leader and all my colleagues today I am
4 introducing Intro 734 to ban smoking while walking
5 on city sidewalks. We all had the experience of
6 getting stuck behind a smoker while walking down a
7 crowded city street, this bill looks to keep the
8 nuisance of public cigarette smoke confined to more
9 manageable spaces. If you want to smoke stand off
10 to the side, people can easily walk past you but if
11 you are walking down the sidewalk you are carrying
12 the smoke with you and everyone behind you is
13 sniffing it in. I've seen too many mothers with
14 strollers and parents holding hands with their
15 children walking behind smokers who are blowing
16 clouds of smoke behind them and swinging their arms
17 while holding a lit cigarette. One of my staff was
18 actually burnt by a careless smoker who touched her
19 arm with a lit cigarette. In a perfect world every
20 smoker will have the self-awareness to realize that
21 smoking and walking down a crowded sidewalk
22 subjects everyone behind you to breath... to
23 breathing in the fumes, enforcement will be minimal
24 and up to the discretion of police, we are not
25 looking to throw the book at smokers but we cannot...

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2 no, the fact that we live in a city of over eight
3 million people and we all share the same sidewalks.
4 One person's actions impact everyone around them,
5 this is a... this is a quality of life issue that can
6 use a stronger hand. other cities around the world
7 have similar laws, Tokyo has banned smoking and
8 walking on sidewalks they even have signs on
9 streets reminding you not to smoke and walk like
10 this. So, I hope you join me in signing on this
11 bill, thank you.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you Council
13 Member Koo, thank you.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Peter I love that clip
15 art.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Yeah.

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Who's next?

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Council Member
19 Rivera.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I'm going to talk
21 a little bit about the individual that Margaret
22 mentioned earlier who we lost in our district. I
23 want to express my deep sadness for a beloved son
24 of the Lower East side, Ricky Leung who we lost
25 last week. Ricky Leung was born and raised in the

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2 LES moving to Brooklyn to start his family. I had
3 the honor of knowing this wonderful individual who
4 cared about his family, his community, in doing the
5 right thing for tenants and low-income families.
6 Ricky and I had the same mentor, Marie Christopher,
7 a local activist who died in January 2013. Before
8 she left us, she told Ricky to look out for me and
9 to continue his work around organizing and advocacy
10 and Ricky never faltered. He was active with
11 tenants and neighbors in good old Lower East Side
12 and a big part of empowering campaigns around
13 housing and land use specifically the Seward Park
14 Urban Renewal area now called Essex Crossing and
15 around activating space in our community for local
16 youth. Ricky Leung was an architect who brought
17 compassion and reason to urban planning, he
18 understood New York City real estate but always put
19 people over profit. His expertise and grit brought
20 him to D.C. where Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez had
21 him testify before congress on the importance of
22 the section eight program. Ricky was a caretaker
23 looking after his parents and he always mentioned
24 his true loves, his wife Sam and his son Jason.
25 Ricky will be profoundly missed, he was respected

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2 and loved, and his departure left a big loss in our
3 community and citywide. He will live on through his
4 accomplishments and he will always be in our
5 hearts. Thank you.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you.
7 Council Member Williams.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you, I
9 will cut short my laundry list at your request, but
10 I do want to lift up Marielle Franco, her
11 assassination really did touch me because of
12 similarities of so many of the issues that we fight
13 off. She was 38 years old, she was a black woman,
14 she was part of the LGBTGNC community, she lives
15 up... lifted up the voice that so many of us lift up
16 here, she's a feminist, she fought the LGBTGNC
17 rights for black... for the black community, for the
18 poor community, she was part of a 51 member
19 delegation, she won the first time she ran, she was
20 assassinated coming back from a black empowerment
21 event. Someone I know who works in the Favelas gave
22 me such a rundown of the beautiful work she was
23 doing and even said she was being... she was one of
24 the people who was probably going to be head of the
25 committee that over... had oversight in the police

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2 department. It touched me a lot because many of us
3 think of ourselves as courageous when we're
4 fighting for those issues, she is a star ward of
5 courage, thankfully I'm always recognizing the
6 country I'm in the city I'm in, you do have to have
7 some courage. Thankfully for the most part not the
8 type of courage she had to have had to continue to
9 move forward even when danger was near. Her sister
10 said she was doing what she loved to do, she also
11 said that she believes she was assassinated because
12 she was becoming a menace, she was the only black
13 woman on the body even though the Brazilian
14 population is half black or mixed race and I hope
15 we continue to lift up her name, the work that she,
16 she was doing as we can see the work that we speak
17 of is around the world and we've heard the words
18 menace, we've heard the agitative, we've heard a
19 lot of those words before but that usually means
20 you are doing something right unfortunately she
21 lost her life, she was assassinated for the very
22 things we fight for here and that really just
23 struck a nerve with me and I want to make sure we
24 continue to lift her up and the things she was
25 fighting for. Thank you.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you and may
3 her soul rest in peace. Council Member Yeger.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you Madame
5 President, I'll be brief as Mr. Speaker requested
6 in the interest of time in getting us all back to
7 our districts. Today I'm introducing Resolution 244
8 of... approximately a little over a month and a half
9 ago we watched what happened in Florida when a lone
10 gunman walked in to a high school and assassinated,
11 murdered 17 children, left many more injured. I've
12 spoken about this on the floor, many of you, my
13 colleagues have spoken about this here on this
14 floor and, you know as, as I've said we... there's
15 not really a lot we can do as a government body as
16 the legislature to make guns... to, to lessen the
17 availability of weapons and ammunition in the hands
18 of those who shouldn't have them but what we can do
19 is keep the pressure on those who can and so my
20 resolution calls on the congress to enact the safe
21 law just like we have in the New York States, not
22 the best solution but it's a good solution. It's,
23 it's a law that makes it more difficult not an
24 outright ban, doesn't take them all away but it
25 makes it more difficult for people who shouldn't

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2 have guns, who shouldn't have 30 round clips,
3 nobody should have 30 round clips to enact that
4 into law. Now I don't think this congress is going
5 to do it but I think that if we start speaking now
6 and we start the ball this year and we keep on
7 talking about it maybe, maybe, maybe next year we
8 get a congress that will pass this and so I urge my
9 colleagues please to sign onto Resolution 244 so
10 that we can get a hearing as soon as possible so
11 that we can speak with one voice and get that
12 rolling in Washington. Thank you, Madame President.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you. And
14 our final speaker if there are none others will be
15 Council Member Ben Kallos.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you. I
17 differed and hopes others might but to, to modest
18 success. It's bittersweet to be back from paternity
19 leave though I plan to complete the remainder of my
20 full leave this summer, I have an amazing new
21 daughter and my wife at home who are likely
22 watching, I just want to tell them how much I love
23 them and to my wife that I fall more and more in
24 love with her every day and so it will also come as
25 no surprise to them and those of you on this body

1 that today I'm introducing five bills following
2 this weeks report by the council outlining issues
3 and strategies to take on school overcrowding. A
4 majority of our schools, elementary and middle are
5 actually overcrowded yet the city plans to build
6 fewer school seats than in the past ignoring
7 current overcrowding and future need as recommended
8 in the report. I'll be resubmitting Introduction
9 729 requiring SCA to publicly release its
10 methodologies underlying data that continues to
11 underestimate need and continue overcrowding. The
12 remaining legislation is a package of democracy
13 legislation that may seem familiar from last term
14 and may have been referenced by another elected
15 official seeking to do it on their own. The first
16 is fixing a flaw in our otherwise great campaign
17 finance system in the country, Introduction 732
18 with co-primary sponsor Cabrera and Powers will
19 allow for the first time a candidate to run a
20 campaign for city office solely on small dollars.
21 Introduction 733 with co-primary sponsors Treyger
22 and Rosenthal would expand the council's
23 initiatives originally proposed by Council Member
24 Rosenthal to actually register high school students
25

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2 in school. Introduction 731 would require landlords
3 to distribute voter registration forms with leases
4 and Introduction 730 would put candidates on the
5 belt when they qualify for public match.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: And
7 congratulations to you and your wife on the birth
8 of your daughter and we look forward to you
9 celebrating and achieving your family leave and
10 since we're giving shout outs to family members, hi
11 Prince, okay and.. [cross-talk]

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ben congratulations, I
13 am shocked that you're introducing five bills
14 today.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: And we'll now
16 having closing remarks from Council Member and
17 Speaker Corey Johnson.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you all very
19 much. If folks could go downstairs to the members
20 lounge, we're going to have a quick democratic
21 conference and thank you Majority Leader Cumbo for
22 doing a great job filling today, congratulations to
23 all the members today. Thank you.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE CUMBO: Thank you.

25 [gavel]

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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 April 23, 2018