

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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September 17, 2009

Start: 1:30pm

Recess:

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E: CHRISTINE C. QUINN, SPEAKER  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Joel Rivera, Majority Leader  
Tony Avella  
Charles Barron  
Gale A. Brewer  
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.  
Elizabeth Crowley  
Bill de Blasio  
Inez E. Dickens  
Erik Martin Dilan  
Mathieu Eugene  
Simcha Felder  
Julissa Ferreras

## A P P E A R A N C E S

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Lewis A. Fidler  
Helen D. Foster  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
James F. Gennaro  
Vincent J. Gentile  
Alan J. Gerson  
Eric N. Gioia  
Sara M. Gonzalez  
Vincent Ignizio  
Robert Jackson  
Letitia James  
Melinda R. Katz  
G. Oliver Koppell  
Jessica S. Lappin  
John C. Liu  
Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Darlene Mealy  
Rosie Mendez  
Kenneth C. Mitchell  
Michael C. Nelson  
James S. Oddo  
Annabel Palma  
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.  
Diana Reyna  
James Sanders, Jr.  
Larry Seabrook  
Helen Sears  
Kendall Stewart  
Eric Ulrich  
James Vacca  
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.  
Albert Vann  
David I. Weprin  
David Yassky

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

Norman Seabrook  
President  
Correction Officers Benevolent Association

Bob Kaplan  
Rabbi

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2                   SPEAKER QUINN: Today's ceremonial-  
3 -they're all important but today's one I think is  
4 particularly important. A month or two ago I was  
5 chatting with Police Officer Barnard down in the  
6 City Hall parking lot. Some of the members of my  
7 detail mentioned to me that he had recently come  
8 back from, was it Iraq or Afghanistan, Iraq. Then  
9 in talking to Police Officer Barnard he told me  
10 that it was his fifth tour in Iraq.

11                   [Applause]

12                   And then he incredibly impressed us  
13 and began talking to folks about how significant  
14 that was. When I then began talking about Police  
15 Officer Barnard that did five tours already, I  
16 came to learn that an incredibly large number of  
17 the police officers who are assigned to work and  
18 protect us at City Hall and protect the public  
19 come to City Hall are actually members of our  
20 military. I wanted to take a moment today to  
21 thank Detective Michael Butler, Police Officer  
22 Walter Columna, whose name I'm sure I just  
23 butchered, Police Officer Laurence Easton, Police  
24 Officer Byron Lee, Police Officer Mike Pragaan,  
25 Police Officer Pedro Perez, Detective Christian L.

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2 Pintelli, oh, Chris. He doesn't have his own  
3 jacket on but I'm not going to say anything.

4 To take a moment to thank them for  
5 not only helping protecting us and the public  
6 every day but for literally going above and beyond  
7 this job and committing themselves to putting  
8 their lives in danger in another way, protecting  
9 us and our country by being members of the  
10 military. It's really remarkable that when you  
11 have a job everyday that puts you in a position  
12 where you might not make it home to your families  
13 at night that you are such selfless individuals  
14 that you would, of your own accord, put yourselves  
15 in another position that puts you in a place that  
16 you might not make it home at night to your  
17 families. And you do that exclusively for the  
18 love of you fellow citizens.

19 I didn't know there were so many of  
20 you. I knew that you were all great and giving  
21 and selfless individuals but I didn't know there  
22 were so many of you that were so incredibly  
23 selfless that you'd take on this extra step to  
24 protect all of us. On behalf of all of my  
25 colleagues, I really just wanted to take a moment

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2 to thank you very, very much.

3 [Applause]

4 Before we read one of the  
5 proclamations, let me give the mic over to our  
6 Public Safety Chair, Peter Vallone.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you  
8 Speaker. There aren't too many people in the  
9 entire world that can say that they kept their  
10 families, their friends and total strangers safe  
11 not only in the streets of New York but on the  
12 battlefields of the world. How many people can  
13 say that? This group can. I want to thank Ray  
14 Kelly for being here and for being in charge of  
15 such a fine group of men. You're doing such a  
16 great job, all of you. Chris, you've been  
17 protecting my family and my father for a long  
18 time, too. Chris, we're all still here so you're  
19 doing a great job.

20 I want to add my thanks to that of  
21 the Council of New York City's public Safety chair  
22 and of the entire nation. So thank you all.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: I'm not sure if he  
24 wants to say a few words or not but I just wanted  
25 to also. As Peter did single out our terrific

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2 Police Commissioner, who is here today, I know  
3 James Sanders, who is also a fellow Marine, will  
4 agree with me. It is no surprise and my partner,  
5 Kim's father was not just a Marine but a China  
6 Marine. If you say that to a Marine that's a very  
7 significant thing. So having known Marines, it is  
8 no--Al you were a Marine too? All right. It  
9 would be a big insult if someone wouldn't have  
10 pointed that out. It's of no surprise to me,  
11 Commissioner that someone who has your level of  
12 commitment to this country that you inspire your  
13 men and women to serve on an even greater level.  
14 So thank you.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER: I would simply  
16 thank you, Madam Speaker and the Council for  
17 recognizing these outstanding officers. They  
18 represent, they're sort of the vanguard of over  
19 1,000 New York City police officers that have  
20 served overseas, served in Iraq and Afghanistan  
21 since September 11th. During that period, we've  
22 had two officers killed. We've had Police Officer  
23 James McNorton killed by sniper fire in 2005 in  
24 Baghdad. Just last year Officer Dion Taylor was  
25 killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. They

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2 paid the ultimate price for us.

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Again, I want to thank you for recognizing them. I want to thank these officers for the outstanding job that they do, day in and day out. Thank you very much.

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SPEAKER QUINN: If the clerk could read one of the proclamations, please.

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CLERK: Council City of New York Proclamation, whereas the Council of the City of New York is proud to honor Detective Michael, Police Officer Walter Columna, Police Officer Laurence Easton, Police Officer Byron Lee, Police Officer Mike Pragaan, Police Officer Pedro Perez and Detective Chris L. Pintelli for their outstanding service to our city and our nation.

And whereas beside serving New York City as a dedicated member of the New York City Police Department, Detective Butler at the same time has proudly served his country with a distinguished military career in the United States Army, which he began serving in October 1988. He served until July 2004. He held the rank of Staff Sergeant E6 and he was stationed in Fort Drum, New York. He was deployed to Egypt September 1990

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2 until March 1991, Kosovo, February 2001 to  
3 November 2001 and Iraq, January 2003 to April  
4 2004.

5                   And whereas Detective Michael  
6 Butler and the other detectives and police  
7 officers mentioned are all currently assigned to  
8 the municipal security section and are truly some  
9 of New York's finest.

10                   And whereas all of these detectives  
11 and police officers have truly distinguished  
12 themselves in their service and embodies the  
13 generous spirit of service that continues to  
14 define our citizenship and our democracy.

15 Although there are countless variations in such  
16 stories of service, he has proven that the values  
17 that unite us as a nation remain as timeless as  
18 ever. Each individual has the power to bring out  
19 the best in ourselves and our country. They have  
20 enriched us all with their service and are worthy  
21 of the esteem of all New Yorkers.

22                   Now therefore be it known that the  
23 Council of the City of New York most gratefully  
24 honors Detective Michael Butler, Police Officer  
25 Walter Columna, Police Officer Laurence Easton,

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2 Police Officer Byron Lee, Police Officer Mike  
3 Pragaan, Police Officer Pedro Perez and Detective  
4 Chris L. Pintelli for their outstanding service  
5 and contributions. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker  
6 for the entire Council, Peter Vallone, Jr.,  
7 Council Member 22nd District Queens.

8 [Applause]

9 SPEAKER QUINN: From having honored  
10 police officers and detectives before I know the  
11 answer is probably no but I just wanted to offer  
12 any of the police officers and detectives an  
13 opportunity to make any comments, if you would  
14 like to. And if you did you would merely say, you  
15 were just doing your job, which to all of us who  
16 are not members of the military and not police  
17 officers is perhaps the most remarkable and hard  
18 for us to really understand statement you can  
19 make. We marvel when all of you say, I ran in  
20 front of a bullet, I ran in the street, I ran into  
21 a building that had a bomb in it and it was just  
22 doing your job. So thank you all very much.

23 [Applause]

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Fall out, as they  
25 say in the military. As you were. All right. So

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2 we have another really great ceremonial today. We  
3 are incredibly lucky to have with us today not  
4 just any little league team, the eighth best  
5 little league team in the world. It's such an  
6 accomplishment I couldn't even grasp it. So let's  
7 hear it for the South Shore Nationals.

8 [Applause]

9 Come on up guys and all the  
10 coaches, all the moms and dads. As folks make  
11 their way up I just want to say on behalf of all  
12 my colleagues how thrilling it was to watch you  
13 guys, how exciting its been, how proud we are of  
14 you, of the coaches, of the parents and grandmas  
15 and aunts and uncles and everybody who supported  
16 us. You made Staten Island proud. You made New  
17 York City proud. But I think the proudest might  
18 have been Council Member Vinnie Ignizio whose  
19 district you all come from. We all rise above  
20 something, Vinnie. No, I'm only kidding. It's a  
21 really great accomplishment. Vinnie, thank you for  
22 getting the team to come here today. We really  
23 wanted, as a Council, to get to congratulate you.  
24 So thank you Vinnie and here's the mic.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you

1  
2 very much. This is the eighth best little league  
3 team in the world right here before us. In New  
4 York City, you made us extremely proud and you  
5 make us prouder still that we were able to beat  
6 the eighth best little league team in the world in  
7 waffle ball outside just a little while ago.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: It's the little  
9 things.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: But they  
11 learned citizenship. They learned camaraderie.  
12 They learned how to be good sports when they win  
13 and good sports when they lose and that is  
14 instilled upon them by their parents and their  
15 coach. These kids learned lessons that they're  
16 going to take with them forever and that is how to  
17 be a good sport, how to play on a team and how to  
18 work with your fellow man and make Staten Island a  
19 better place. And that's what they did. They  
20 brought the Staten Island community together, and  
21 for that, we're all grateful. We really  
22 appreciate it.

23 One thing I said last time and I'll  
24 say again is, a bunch of them say to me, we're not  
25 done yet. This team's not done yet. So God bless

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2 you all. I know you're going to be great. I want  
3 to turn it over to my colleague from the mid  
4 island, Minority Leader, Jimmy Oddo. Jimmy.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Thank you  
6 Vinnie. Madam Speaker, one thing that the  
7 tournament and the events after the tournament  
8 have demonstrated is that these kids aren't only  
9 really good ball players, they're really good  
10 kids. They handled themselves with class during  
11 the tournament, when frankly, sometimes their  
12 opponent didn't. I think that's a reflection on  
13 their parents and on the coach and the coaches.  
14 It really made Staten Island proud. Guys, it's  
15 been a lot of fun getting to know you a little bit  
16 and playing with you. Keep doing the right  
17 things. God bless.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Coach?

19 COACH: Thank you so much. It's an  
20 honor to accept this award from the City Council  
21 and to be recognized.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: The mic isn't so  
23 great today unless you yell so if we could see if  
24 we could turn it up a little bit. Thank you.  
25 Also, if we could just get quiet in the chamber

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2 for the coach's comments. It should be better.

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COACH: Like I said, it's an honor to accept this award and be recognized from the City Council Members. This will hang in our clubhouse along with all the All Star teams pictures that we have since the league started tournament play in 1954. It's a special honor and we really appreciate it, thank you.

SPEAKER QUINN: We have a date reserved for you for next year. As Vinnie said you said, you're certainly not done. So if we could ask the clerk to read the proclamation please.

CLERK: Council City of New York Proclamation, whereas the Council of the City of New York is proud to honor the distinguished members of Staten Island's South Shore Little League National All-Stars for their outstanding performance in the 2009 Little League Baseball Series.

And whereas the South shore Little League National All-Stars consists of 12 incredible players, John Zarella, Nicholas Viatlli, Anthony Scotti, Michael Russell, Joseph

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2 Rugarello, Michael Lapagnia, Vincent Quinn, Nick  
3 Putierelli, Paul Pizzo, Angelo Vinetta, Robert  
4 Minstrotti and James Morisano. Working together  
5 they became one of only 16 teams to compete for  
6 the World Series championship.

7           And whereas with the support of  
8 team manager Mike Zacariello, team mom Maria  
9 Zacariello, assistant manager Glen Morisano and  
10 assistant coach Anthony Soriteno. The South Shore  
11 Little League National All-Stars overcame great  
12 adversity this season, leading up to a pivotal  
13 game on August 17th. That evening the team played  
14 in memory of hero, FDNY Firefighter Michael  
15 Camaratta, who died at the World Trade Center  
16 during the 9-11 attacks. Mr. Camaratta played for  
17 the South Shore team that made it to the World  
18 Series in 1991. That year when South Shore  
19 defeated a team from Summerset Hills, New Jersey,  
20 4-0, they were on their way to the World Series.

21           And whereas, throughout the  
22 nationally televised Little League World Series,  
23 South Shore continued to amaze thousands of  
24 viewers. They got hit after hit and even during  
25 their final game, they had bases load four times.

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2 They were just a single away from making it to the  
3 Little League World Series U.S. Championship game  
4 when they encountered a relentless team from San  
5 Antonio, Texas and their winning streak came to an  
6 end. Despite losing that game 4-1 the South Shore  
7 Little League National All-Stars won the hearts of  
8 every New Yorker.

9                   Now therefore be it known that the  
10 Council of the City New York most gratefully  
11 honors the South Shore Little League National All-  
12 Stars for their outstanding performance in the  
13 2009 Little League World Series. Christine C.  
14 Quinn, speaker for the entire Council, Vincent M.  
15 Ignizio, Council Member 51st District, Staten  
16 Island, Kenneth C. Mitchell, Council Member 49th  
17 District, Staten Island, James S. Oddo, Minority  
18 Leader, 50th District, Staten Island.

19                   [Applause]

20                   SPEAKER QUINN: Maybe some guys  
21 want to kneel in the front. If I go kneel I'm not  
22 getting back up, so it's not... [Taking pictures]  
23 Any team with a Quinn on it is all right with me.  
24 Congratulations you guys.

25                   We have one more ceremonial, that's

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2 Council Member Peter Vallone honoring Norman  
3 Seabrook. Norman, come on up. Let me turn the  
4 mic over to our Public Safety Chair, Peter  
5 Vallone.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you,  
7 Speaker and thank you for your help on this. As  
8 Public Safety Chair it's fitting to honor someone  
9 today who has added so much to the safety of this  
10 city. I represent the Rikers Island district.  
11 Rikers Island is huge; it's bigger than many, many  
12 cities. If you didn't live in the district, you  
13 wouldn't even know it exists because of how well  
14 its run. That is do, in large part, to Norman  
15 Seabrook, who represents all of the corrections  
16 officers at Rikers Island. I have worked with  
17 him. My father has worked with him before me  
18 regarding Riker's Island. He has been a partner  
19 to my family, a partner to most of us here in the  
20 Council when it comes to working on public safety  
21 issues. Now, he's been recognized nationally.

22 Just recently he received the  
23 NAACP's Benjamin L. Hook's Keeper of the Flame  
24 Award for his excellent work nationally -  
25 nationally.

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[Applause]

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This man has done so much that he's been recognized not only here. This is probably the biggest award he's ever going to get. He told me that; I know that. But he's been recognized nationally and more importantly, he has been a friend to us as the Council. He's been a friend to the people of New York City. He's helped to keep us safe and he's well deserving of this award. Now I'm going to turn the microphone over to the Speaker for some additional words. Thank you.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. I just, before we read the proclamation, want to echo what Chairperson Vallone said. Being the head of the union that has all of the staff that represents what must be the biggest prison system in the world. Remarkably well run, remarkably few reports of any significant problems. That's a credit to the staff and you as a leader of the staff, it is a credit to you. On a day when we were honoring and recognizing people who keep us safe, I want to thank you and the men and women that you represent for doing a job that is truly

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2 difficult and trying. And doing it so well on a  
3 regular basis. I want to just thank you. If you  
4 could extend our thanks to all of them as well so  
5 thank you.

6 NORMAN SEABROOK: Thank you.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: You're very  
8 welcome. Let's ask the clerk to read the  
9 proclamation.

10 CLERK: Council City of New York  
11 Proclamation, where as the Council City of New  
12 York is proud to honor and congratulate Norman  
13 Seabrook on receiving the NAACP's Benjamin L.  
14 Hook's Keeper of the Flame Award for his excellent  
15 work to the labor community, both locally and  
16 nationally.

17 And whereas, since 1995 Norman  
18 Seabrook has served as the President of the New  
19 York City Correction Officers Benevolent  
20 Association, the largest municipal jail union in  
21 the nation and the second largest law enforcement  
22 union in New York City.

23 And whereas, before taking office  
24 President Seabrook served as a former corrections  
25 officer at Rikers Island where he knew first hand

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2 the great inequities that faced correction  
3 officers. Because correction officers were less  
4 visible, their contracts were dramatically  
5 deficient in benefits and wages. In 1998  
6 President Seabrook successfully won major contract  
7 negotiations and soon championed several  
8 legislative initiatives into law. Four of these  
9 initiatives, the Variable Supplement Fund Bill,  
10 the Heart Bill, the Three-Quarters Disability Bill  
11 and the Anti-Privatization Bill were widely  
12 considered to be among the most significant pieces  
13 of legislation passed during the entire history of  
14 the New York City Department of Correction.

15           And whereas, in more recent years  
16 President Seabrook has remained a passionate  
17 advocate for New York City corrections officers as  
18 well as men and women in civil service across the  
19 nation. In 2000 he was appointed Chairman and  
20 spokesperson of the Uniformed Forces Coalition.  
21 In this role, he negotiated a new collective  
22 bargaining agreement, which provided a 10% wage  
23 increase over a two year period. Which was the  
24 most significant wage increase for uniformed  
25 forces since the 1980s for New York City

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2 corrections officer, firefighters, sanitation  
3 workers, police detectives, police captains,  
4 police sergeants, police lieutenants and all other  
5 uniformed city employees with the exception of  
6 police officers.

7                   And whereas, in 2002 President  
8 George W. Bush appointed President Seabrook to the  
9 Presidential Commission on the United States  
10 Postal Service to assess how the post office could  
11 service the public more efficiently. Four years  
12 later in 2006 former New York Governor George  
13 Pataki appointed him as an Executive Board member  
14 of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority where  
15 he now serves as Chairman of the Safety and  
16 Security Committee as well as a member of the  
17 Capital Program Oversight, New York City Transit  
18 Capital Construction and Real Estate committees.

19                   Now therefore be it known that the  
20 Council most gratefully honors Norman Seabrook for  
21 his outstanding contributions to New York City and  
22 the nation, Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the  
23 entire Council, Peter F. Vallone, Jr., Council  
24 Member 22nd District, Queens.

25                   [Applause]

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2                   SPEAKER QUINN: More multi-faceted  
3 than we even knew. You learn something new every  
4 day. Thank you so much Norman.

5                   MR. SEABROOK: Thank you. First,  
6 I'd really like to thank you, Madam Speaker and  
7 Peter, you guys are great and all the members of  
8 the Council. It's easy to receive accolades when  
9 things go wrong. Success has many fathers,  
10 failure is an often. Without the support of the  
11 Council I could never have done the things that I  
12 have done for the Corrections Officers Benevolent  
13 Association and other municipal workers in this  
14 city. I truly believe that God has blessed me to  
15 have great friends like all of you around me. I  
16 will continue to the work of the people of the  
17 City of New York and fight in any way that I can  
18 to ensure that municipal workers are treated  
19 equally and fairly. So once again, thank you  
20 Peter, thank you Madam Speaker.

21                   [Applause]

22                   SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
23 much. That concludes our ceremonials for the day.

24                   [Break]

25                   MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Please

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2 rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Roll call.

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CLERK: Arroyo.

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[No response]

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CLERK: Avella.

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COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Here.

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CLERK: Baez.

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[No response]

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CLERK: Barron.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

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CLERK: Brewer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

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CLERK: Comrie.

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[No response]

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CLERK: Crowley.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

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CLERK: deBlasio.

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[No response]

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CLERK: Dickens.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

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2 CLERK: Dilan.  
3 [No response]  
4 CLERK: Eugene.  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.  
6 CLERK: Felder.  
7 [No response]  
8 CLERK: Ferreras.  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.  
10 CLERK: Fidler.  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.  
12 CLERK: Foster.  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Here.  
14 CLERK: Garodnick.  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.  
16 CLERK: Gennaro.  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.  
18 CLERK: Gentile.  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.  
20 CLERK: Gerson.  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Here.  
22 CLERK: Gioia.  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Here.  
24 CLERK: Gonzalez.  
25 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.

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CLERK: Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

CLERK: Ignizio.

[No response]

CLERK: James.

[No response]

CLERK: Katz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Here.

CLERK: Koppell.

[No response]

CLERK: Lappin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.

CLERK: Liu.

[No response]

CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

Here.

CLERK: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Here.

CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

CLERK: Mitchell.

[No response]

CLERK: Nelson.

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2 [No response]  
3 CLERK: Palma.  
4 [No response]  
5 CLERK: Recchia.  
6 [No response]  
7 CLERK: Reyna.  
8 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.  
9 CLERK: Sanders.  
10 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Here.  
11 CLERK: Seabrook.  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Here.  
13 CLERK: Sears.  
14 COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Here.  
15 CLERK: Stewart.  
16 [No response]  
17 CLERK: Ulrich.  
18 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.  
19 CLERK: Vacca.  
20 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.  
21 CLERK: Vallone.  
22 [No response]  
23 CLERK: Vann.  
24 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.  
25 CLERK: Weprin.

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[No response]

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CLERK: White.

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[No response]

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CLERK: Yassky.

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[No response]

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CLERK: deBlasio.

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COUNCIL MEMBER deBLASIO: May I be

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excused to vote on all items on general order

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calendar.

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MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So.

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COUNCIL MEMBER deBLASIO: I vote

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aye on all land use call ups and aye on all items.

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SPEAKER QUINN: If we could get

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quiet.

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COUNCIL MEMBER deBLASIO: Present.

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CLERK: James.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.

19

CLERK: Oddo.

20

[No response]

21

CLERK: Ignizio.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

23

CLERK: Vallone.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

25

CLERK: Rivera.

1

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Here.

2

3

CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

4

SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

5

6

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Quorum is present. Everyone please rise for the invocation to be delivered by Rabbi Bob Kaplan.

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BOB KAPLAN: As we stand before these holy days and the ending of holy days for the Muslim community as well, Ramadan ending and the Eid ul-Fitr coming up this weekend and Rosh HaShanah coming up this weekend as well. It's two symbols of diversity in our city coming together and working together and moving together, forward together. I'd like to tell a little story. I know it's dangerous to have a rabbi tell a story but I'll try by best to keep it short.

18

19

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21

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23

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25

A young student stands in the middle of the study hall trembling in fear before these days of awe. Their teacher walks in, gray in hair and wisdom and the student breaks out into tears. The rabbi, in deep compassion and love and caring, walks over to the student, inquires of their pain. The student looks up at the teacher and says, how can I stand before God in judgment

1

2

when there are people who are around like you.

3

Look at you, you're so holy, you're so there. The

4

grayness of your hair just talks about what you

5

have been through in life.

6

The teacher looks down upon the

7

student with love and compassion and says, true, I

8

have been through many things. But each lock of

9

the gray hair is one of the trials I have been

10

through that has led me to this place, that has

11

led me to a place where I can stand before God and

12

feel a little bit more confident, not totally but

13

a little bit more confident in what I have done in

14

life. Go on, take the journey and get to that

15

place and perhaps, some day you will give the same

16

advice to the next generation.

17

May God bless all of those here

18

assembled in this room with the passion and the

19

awe of youth. But also the power of the wisdom of

20

experience and may we always pass it on to another

21

but may we always stand before judgment with a

22

little bit of trepidation in our heart. May we

23

all have a happy new year. May we all move

24

forward in this new year and your session today.

25

Thank you.

1  
2 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Council  
3 Member Nelson.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: I make a  
5 motion to spread the invocation in full upon the  
6 record.

7 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So  
8 ordered. Adoption of the minutes. Council Member  
9 Lappin.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: I move that  
11 we adopt the minutes of the stated Council  
12 meetings of June 10, June 15 and June 19.

13 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So we'll  
14 on to messages and papers from the Mayor.

15 CLERK: None.

16 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA:  
17 Communications from city, county and borough  
18 offices.

19 CLERK: None.

20 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Petitions  
21 and communications.

22 CLERK: None.

23 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Land use  
24 call ups.

25 CLERK: M1563 through M1568.

1  
2 SPEAKER QUINN: If we could have a  
3 roll call vote please on the coupled land use call  
4 ups.

5 CLERK: Arroyo.

6 [No response]

7 CLERK: Avella.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Aye.

9 CLERK: Baez.

10 [No response]

11 CLERK: Barron.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

13 CLERK: Brewer.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

15 CLERK: Comrie.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

17 CLERK: Crowley.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

19 CLERK: deBlasio.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER deBLASIO: This time  
21 for sure. Permission to vote on all items on the  
22 general order calendar.

23 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So  
24 ordered.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER deBLASIO: Thank

1  
2 you. I vote aye on all land use call ups and all  
3 items on the general order calendar. Thank you.

4 CLERK: Dickens.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

6 CLERK: Dilan.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

8 CLERK: Eugene.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

10 CLERK: Felder.

11 [No response]

12 CLERK: Ferreras.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

14 CLERK: Fidler.

15 [No response]

16 CLERK: Foster.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

18 CLERK: Fidler.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

20 CLERK: Garodnick.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

22 CLERK: Gennaro.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

24 CLERK: Gentile.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

1

CLERK: Gerson.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Aye.

3

CLERK: Gioia.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: I vote yes

5

and ask permission to vote yes on all items before  
us today.

6

7

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So ordered

8

and congratulations on your daughter.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Thank you.

10

CLERK: Gonzalez.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

12

CLERK: Ignizio.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

14

CLERK: Jackson.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

16

all.

17

CLERK: James.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.

19

CLERK: Katz.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Aye on land

21

use call ups and permission to vote aye on all  
general order and resolutions.

22

23

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So

24

ordered.

25

1

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Aye.

2

3

CLERK: Koppell.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

5

CLERK: Lappin.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

7

CLERK: Liu.

8

[No response]

9

CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

11

CLERK: Mealy.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

13

Aye.

14

CLERK: Mendez.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

16

CLERK: Mitchell.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Aye and I

18

ask permission to vote aye on all general orders

19

and all resolutions.

20

SPEAKER QUINN: So ordered.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Thank

22

you. Aye.

23

CLERK: Nelson.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

25

CLERK: Palma.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

2

CLERK: Recchia.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

4

CLERK: Reyna.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

6

CLERK: Sanders.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.

8

CLERK: Seabrook.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye.

10

CLERK: Sears.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: I vote yes

12

and ask for unanimous consent to vote on all

13

general orders and resolutions please.

14

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So

15

ordered.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Thank you.

17

Yes.

18

CLERK: Stewart.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Aye.

20

CLERK: Ulrich.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

22

CLERK: Vacca.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

24

CLERK: Vallone.

25

1

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

2

3

CLERK: Vann.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

5

CLERK: Weprin.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

7

CLERK: White.

8

[No response]

9

CLERK: Yassky.

10

[No response]

11

CLERK: Oddo.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

13

CLERK: Rivera.

14

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: I vote

15

aye.

16

CLERK: Felder.

17

[No response]

18

CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

19

[No response]

20

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Today's

21

land use call ups were adopted by a vote of 45 in

22

the affirmative with zero in the negative.

23

Communications from the Speaker.

24

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. I won't

25

say present again since I answered that twice. We

1  
2 are voting on a number of important pieces of  
3 legislation today that range from follow up to the  
4 tragic Deutsche Bank fire to important step  
5 forward to keep our school buses safe for children  
6 and also biotechnology related issues. First,  
7 there is Intro 622A, which was introduced by  
8 Council Member Sara Gonzalez, and shepherded  
9 through the Environmental Protection Committee by  
10 Chairperson Gennaro. I want to thank both of  
11 them. I also want to thank Samara Swanson,  
12 Chavonne Watson, Jeff Haberman and Rob Newman for  
13 their work on this legislation.

14 Intro 622A is a piece of  
15 legislation that one, will require that school  
16 buses in the City of New York are retrofitted in a  
17 way that will address the pollution that they put  
18 out into the environment and critically important,  
19 the pollution that gets put out into the school  
20 bus where children are. It will also set age  
21 limitation of 16 years on diesel fuel powered  
22 school buses in the City of New York. It's  
23 incredibly important to understand that school  
24 buses that are diesel powered are a huge problem  
25 for the environment and our air quality.

1  
2 But a more serious problem,  
3 actually, is the fact that they put out pollution  
4 and particulates into the school buses where the  
5 children are. That air circulates within the bus,  
6 never getting outside. The children are breathing  
7 it in over and over again. These are children who  
8 are developing lungs; children who may have  
9 asthma, allergies and other problems. I really  
10 want to thank Council Member Gonzales and  
11 Chairperson Gennaro for drafting and passing this  
12 legislation, which is going to help us keep  
13 children safe and keep children healthier in the  
14 City of New York.

15 Let me first call on the Chair of  
16 the committee, Chairperson Gennaro, and then Sara  
17 Gonzalez, the lead sponsor of this legislation.  
18 If we could get a little quiet for the Chair and  
19 the sponsor.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you  
21 Madam Speaker. I thank you for your leadership in  
22 getting us to this good day. This bill builds  
23 upon the good work we did with the passage of  
24 Local Law 42 of 2005, where we spoke by and large  
25 to the larger school buses. There are many, many

1  
2 issues that are related to the smaller school  
3 buses that by and large transport kids that are in  
4 kindergarten and special ed. So those kids will  
5 get a very special benefit from this bill.

6           This would not have been possible  
7 without the close cooperation and support of the  
8 Bloomberg administration, who I thank, people in  
9 the environmental community who pushed very hard  
10 to make sure that we got this done. And for your  
11 leadership, Madam Speaker, in getting this great  
12 bill passed. This is a good day for school kids  
13 and a good day for clean air in New York. Thank  
14 you Madam Speaker.

15           COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: I am  
16 proud to be the lead sponsor on this important  
17 piece of legislation today. I would like to  
18 especially thank the Speaker, Chair Gennaro and my  
19 colleagues for their support and hard work on this  
20 bill, the administration especially Eddie Batista.  
21 In addition to recent Council efforts to make New  
22 York City idle free, promote bicycle use and  
23 ensure that we all do our part to recycle, Intro  
24 622A proves that this city continues to be at the  
25 forefront of the green movement.

1  
2 Representing a district where high  
3 asthma rates and increased truck traffic, I feel  
4 this is a bill that makes sense. And we'll  
5 continue to contribute making this city a  
6 healthier place to live. I urge all of my  
7 colleagues to vote yes on Intro 622A. Thank you.  
8 And I'm back.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
10 much. We're also voting on Intro 1065 today.  
11 It's a piece of legislation relating to the  
12 creation of a New York City biotech tax credit. I  
13 want, in particular, to thank Raymond Jeffski,  
14 Nadine Felton and Sarah Brannon for their work on  
15 this legislation and Preston Liblack, our Finance  
16 Director. I want to thank the Chair of the  
17 Committee, Council Member Weprin, also the sponsor  
18 of the bill, Council Member Lappin. These folks,  
19 remember that in my State of the City address in  
20 February I spoke of the need to expand the biotech  
21 industry in the City of New York.

22 We have an amazing number of world  
23 class research institutions, a terrific number of  
24 world class hospitals. We're a place where many  
25 innovations are developed, discoveries occur.

1

2 When those innovations or discoveries move on to  
3 be the next new drug or medical device, that's  
4 really when the jobs kick in. Unfortunately,  
5 that's the part in the process where biotech goes  
6 to Boston and San Diego and not world class cities  
7 like our own. This biotech tax credit will build  
8 on top of the state's biotech tax credit and we  
9 believe, bring a significant number of new jobs to  
10 small biotech firms located in the City of New  
11 York.

12 I want to thank Assembly member  
13 Mark Weprin, who is our Assembly sponsor, state  
14 senator, Tom Duane, who is our Senate sponsor,  
15 also Governor Patterson who signed the bill last  
16 night and thank particularly Council Member  
17 Jessica Lappin for her leadership on this issue.  
18 Let me call on Council Member Lappin.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Thank you  
20 Madam Speaker. I don't want to add much other  
21 than to say this is a great way for us to  
22 diversify our economy, to help small businesses  
23 stay in this city, grow in our city and to do some  
24 good as well. These are the companies, when we  
25 hear biotech, what does that mean. These are the

1  
2 companies that are working on finding a cure for  
3 cancer, finding a vaccine for the HIV virus,  
4 working on knee replacements and other state of  
5 the art technology and surgeries. So to draw on  
6 the talent pool we have in this city and to make  
7 us competitive worldwide, not just across the  
8 country, is a wonderful thing for our economy. So  
9 thank you very much for working with me on this  
10 initiative.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you Council  
12 Member Lappin. We're also voting today on Intro  
13 986A, 1004A, these are two pieces of legislation  
14 that are part of the package of bills we  
15 introduced with the Mayor's office, particularly  
16 the work of Deputy Mayor Ed Skylar in response to  
17 the Deutsche Bank tragedy. These two pieces of  
18 legislation deal with requiring of more testing,  
19 hydrostatic pressure testing of stand pipes and  
20 sprinklers, also air pressurized alarm systems for  
21 stand pipes and further adding steps in the  
22 process of certification and requirements around  
23 demolitions.

24 These two pieces of legislation,  
25 coupled with the others, really for the first time

1  
2 ever create an infrastructure of regulation and  
3 standards around demolition in the City of New  
4 York. And put important regulations in place  
5 around stand pipes so, God willing, never again  
6 will firefighters search for 40 minutes for a  
7 stand pipe that is not functioning.

8 I want to thank Rob Calandra,  
9 particularly, who has just done tremendous,  
10 tremendous work in response to the Deutsche Bank  
11 fire. I don't know if Rob is here, he's  
12 downstairs. If he was here I'd ask you all to  
13 give him a round of applause because he has done  
14 great--he's here? Where's Rob?

15 [Applause]

16 Oh, there he is. He was hiding.  
17 Also, want to thank Alec Kastilnik, Bill Hindatch  
18 and Rob Newman for their work on these bills as  
19 well. I want to thank Chairperson Vacca who has  
20 seen both of these pieces of legislation and the  
21 others through his committee. I want to thank  
22 Council Member Sanders, who is the sponsor of  
23 Intro of 1004A and Council Member Gentile, who is  
24 the sponsor of Intro 986A. I know we have Mr.  
25 Graffanino, Sr., again with us today, who has

1  
2 worked tirelessly on this. I know Council Member  
3 Gentile has been working with his family since the  
4 loss of Firefighter Graffanino.

5 Let me first call on Chairperson  
6 Vacca to speak on this legislation and then we'll  
7 hear from Council Member Gentile and Council  
8 Member Sanders. If we could get a little quiet  
9 for the Chair and the sponsors, please.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I thank you  
11 Madam Speaker and I would ask the Council to  
12 support both of these intros. This is really  
13 building upon a package of bills the Council has  
14 passed in the last couple of months that seeks to  
15 increase building safety in light of that terrible  
16 situation, the fire we had at the Deutsche Bank.  
17 My committee reviewed these bills. We had the  
18 appropriate hearings. The sponsors, Council  
19 Members Gentile and Sanders, ought to be  
20 commended. The Council's response to this fire, I  
21 think, merits immediate action so I would ask that  
22 both bills be supported. I thank the Speaker for  
23 her assistance.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you  
25 Madam Speaker. 986A is one of 12 bills that seeks

1  
2 to close the gaps in construction and demolition  
3 safety that led to the deaths of Joey Graffanino  
4 and Bobby Badia, the two firefighters who put  
5 their lives on the line and paid the ultimate  
6 price for their work on that day. A faulty stand  
7 pipe, which should have delivered water to the  
8 floor on which Badia and Graffanino had fought the  
9 blaze led, in part, to their deaths. This should  
10 never have been the case and Intro 986A seeks to  
11 ensure that none of Joey's or Bobby's FDNY  
12 brothers or sisters or the families of those  
13 firefighters are ever put in that terrifying and  
14 tragic situation.

15 986A requires the hydrostatic  
16 testing of all standpipes in buildings of a  
17 particular height as well as those being altered  
18 or demolished. This testing will detect any leak  
19 or malfunction or any manufacture defect in those  
20 pipes. By doing that it will make firefighters in  
21 demolition sites and in construction sites in our  
22 city's tallest buildings safest and more secure  
23 for New York's bravest.

24 These bills represent absolutely  
25 necessary protections that will make this city a

1  
2 safer place. So I'd like to thank Speaker Quinn  
3 and Chairman Vacca for their making the safety of  
4 firefighters a priority and the other 11 bills  
5 that are in this package, I appreciate everyone of  
6 my colleagues support for 986A today.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
8 much. Council Member Sanders.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Thank you  
10 Madam Speaker. Building upon the good work that  
11 the other bills do, it must be remembered that  
12 sometimes it's not the most technologically  
13 advanced things that we do but sometimes it's  
14 common sense that we have to use. Remembering  
15 that on August 18, 2007 two of our firefighters  
16 were killed and several others were injured with  
17 the Deutsche Bank fire.

18 Imagine if there had been an alarm  
19 system within the whole system where we could tell  
20 if there was a breach to the hoses. Imagine if  
21 something of this nature were there where an alarm  
22 was sounded and no work could be done until it was  
23 resolved. This may have saved these two gentlemen  
24 and saved others. But we may not be able to do  
25 anything about what has gone on but we can ensure

1

2 that it won't happen again. So we apply some  
3 common sense to this tragedy and learn from it and  
4 honor these brave men by having an alarm system in  
5 this system.

6 I thank you very much for that and I  
7 urge all of my colleagues to vote for this.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
9 much, Council Member Sanders. I want to just  
10 finally thank Council Member Reyna who oversaw  
11 appointments today in the Rules Committee. I want  
12 to particularly thank Council Member Dickens who  
13 forwarded us a good suggestion for the Equal  
14 Employment Practices Commission. So thank  
15 everybody for that. Just conclude my  
16 communications from the Speaker by wishing  
17 everyone a very, very happy new year. Thank you.

18 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you  
19 very much. Before we move forward, Council Member  
20 Charles Barron.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I just want  
22 to request unanimous consent to vote aye on all  
23 general order calendar items.

24 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So  
25 ordered.

1

SPEAKER QUINN: Absolutely.

2

3

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I take that  
back Madam Speaker.

4

5

SPEAKER QUINN: Starting a new  
role.

6

7

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Discussion  
of general orders. Seeing no one for discussion  
of general orders. Reports of special committees.

8

9

10

CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
Environmental Protection, Intro 622A Diesel Fuel  
Powered School Buses.

11

12

13

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Reports of  
standing committees.

14

15

CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
Environmental Protection, Intro 622A Diesel Fuel  
Powered School Buses.

16

17

18

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
under general orders.

19

20

CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
Finance, Intro 1065 Biotechnology Credit.

21

22

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
orders.

23

24

CLERK: Pre-considered Resos 2174  
and 2175, Times Square Business Improvement

25

1

2 district.

3 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
4 orders.5 CLERK: Pre-considered LU 1197 and  
6 Reso 2176 through LU 1201 and Reso 2180, Various  
7 Tax Abatements.8 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
9 orders.10 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
11 Fire and Criminal Justice Services, Into 986A,  
12 Hydrostatic Testing.13 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
14 on general orders.15 CLERK: Intro 1004A, Air  
16 Pressurized Alarm System.17 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
18 on general orders with a message of necessity.19 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
20 Land Use, LU 1188 and Reso 2181 through LU 1195  
21 and Reso 21854, Various Applications.22 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
23 orders.

24 CLERK: LU 1196 and Reso 2185.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general

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2 orders.

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4

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CLERK: Pre-considered LU 1202 and Reso 2186 through pre-considered LU 1204 and Reso 2188, Landmark Designations.

6

7

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

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CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections, pre-considered M1569 Approving the Appointment of Arva R. Rice Equal Employment Practices Commission.

12

13

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

14

15

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: General order calendar.

16

17

CLERK: Resolution appointing various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

18

19

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21

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders and at this point I'd like to ask for a roll call on all the items that have been coupled on the general order calendar, please.

22

CLERK: Avella.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Aye on all.

24

CLERK: Brewer.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

1  
2 CLERK: Comrie.  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.  
4 CLERK: Crowley  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.  
6 CLERK: Dickens.  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.  
8 CLERK: Dilan.  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.  
10 CLERK: Eugene.  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.  
12 CLERK: Felder.  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.  
14 CLERK: Ferreras.  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.  
16 CLERK: Fidler.  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.  
18 CLERK: Foster.  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.  
20 CLERK: Garodnick.  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.  
22 CLERK: Gennaro.  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.  
24 CLERK: Gentile.  
25 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

1

CLERK: Gerson.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Aye.

3

CLERK: Gonzalez.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

5

CLERK: Ignizio.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

7

CLERK: Jackson.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

9

10 all.

CLERK: James.

11

SPEAKER QUINN: Yes, you may.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Municipal

13

14 Arts Society we work closely with the Prospect

14

15 Heights Neighborhood Development Council to

15

16 conduct a survey of the neighborhood. The

16

17 Landmarks Preservation Committee voted to

17

18 designate Prospect Heights because of its rich,

18

19 historic architecture. The neighborhood includes

19

20 some of Brooklyn's finest historical residential

20

21 architecture. It includes beautiful blocks of row

21

22 houses, articulated in the Neo Crae and Romanesque

22

23 Revival, the Renaissance Revival and Second Empire

23

24 styles. These row houses are interspersed with

24

25 churches and small commercial and apartment

25

1  
2 buildings, adding to the richness of the  
3 neighborhood's architecture.

4 As you know, Prospect Heights is  
5 located in or near the controversial proposed  
6 Atlantic Yards project. It was critically  
7 important that we preserve this community. I urge  
8 all of you to vote in support of the Prospect  
9 Heights Landmarking Designation today and I vote  
10 aye on all.

11 CLERK: Koppell.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

13 CLERK: Lappin.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

15 CLERK: Liu.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Yes.

17 CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye

19 on all.

20 CLERK: Mealy.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

22 CLERK: Mendez.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

24 CLERK: Nelson.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

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2 CLERK: Palma.  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.  
4 CLERK: Recchia.  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.  
6 CLERK: Reyna.  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye on all.  
8 CLERK: Sanders.  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye on  
10 all.  
11 CLERK: Seabrook.  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye on  
13 all.  
14 CLERK: Stewart.  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Aye.  
16 CLERK: Ulrich.  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.  
18 CLERK: Vacca.  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.  
20 CLERK: Vallone.  
21 [No response]  
22 CLERK: Vann.  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye on all.  
24 CLERK: Weprin.  
25 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

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CLERK: Yassky.

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COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Aye.

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CLERK: Vallone.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

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CLERK: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

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CLERK: Rivera.

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MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: I vote

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aye.

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CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all.

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MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: All items

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on today's general order calendar were adopted by

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a vote of 47 in the affirmative, with 0 in the

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negative and 0 abstentions and that's all. At

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this point in time, we're going to move forward

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with Introduction and Reading of the Bills.

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SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are

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referred to committees as indicated on the agenda.

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MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Now we

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move forward to General Discussion. Council

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Member Gentile.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I'm

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introducing 1076, 1077 today, which both will give

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1  
2 local communities the voice they need and deserve  
3 when it comes to changes in parking and traffic  
4 regulations. This was exactly the case in  
5 February when a resident didn't deserve to find  
6 out about a change in parking meter regulations by  
7 having a ticket left on his windshield when he  
8 put--

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Council Member, I'm  
10 sorry, just one second. We'll add some more time  
11 back to the clock. Can we please end the  
12 conversations and pay attention to the extensions  
13 of remarks. Thank you.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you  
15 Madam Speaker. When DOT changed their rules  
16 without telling everyone by changing their rules a  
17 driver got 20 minutes instead of 30 minutes at a  
18 parking meter. The lack of notice from DOT to  
19 local communities is really an insult and a  
20 disregard to driver's wallet so Intro 1076  
21 requires DOT to notify Council Members and  
22 community boards 60 days prior to any parking  
23 meter regulation change going into effect would  
24 force the Department to communicate with residents  
25 and avoid surprises at the parking meter.

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1077 goes further, gives community boards a voice in any pilot program poised for implementation in the neighborhood. As it stands DOT can implement a pilot program in any neighborhood without community approval or review. While DOT sometimes communicates with the community, I don't think that should be just a courtesy and it should never be an afterthought. Pilot programs bring with them new regulations. Oftentimes they carry penalties with those regulations.

This bill will require the Department of Transportation to present its plans to any new pilot program at the affected community board monthly meeting at least 60 days prior to the implementation. They must tell the community board and the local Council Member. This way, residents get the full picture and a chance for some impact. The community board will be given the chance to make those recommendations and maybe change that program.

These two bills are introduced today and I ask for your sign on.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you

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2 very much. If we could get some quiet in the  
3 chambers, thank you. Council Member Sanders.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: I wanted  
5 to thank God and thank the people of my district  
6 for voting for me and thank all of my colleagues  
7 who supported me in this effort. Thank you very  
8 much.

9 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you  
10 very much. Seeing no others--Council Member  
11 Melissa Mark-Viverito.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Yes,  
13 I'll be quick. I wanted to encourage my  
14 colleagues to sign on, and I think I put on  
15 everybody's desk, Intro 1083, which is about  
16 having and mandating local representation on  
17 boards of conservancies. These are public/private  
18 partnerships that guide our parks and that  
19 maintain our parks. Unfortunately, there is no  
20 mandate that local representation, primarily from  
21 the community boards, be present on those boards  
22 as they make decisions pertaining to those parks.

23 This has been a particular issue  
24 for me in my district with the Randall's Island  
25 Sports Foundation. We've been asking for local

1  
2 representation for years. They refuse to have  
3 local representation so this is a way of trying to  
4 really mandate that the local community voice be  
5 part of any decision making that pertains to our  
6 parks. I also know that in talking to the Chair  
7 of the Parks Committee, Helen Foster, we're  
8 looking at really how we can have greater  
9 oversight over these conservancies and have  
10 greater accountability and responsiveness to the  
11 local needs of the communities. Thank you very  
12 much. I hope my colleagues take a look at it and  
13 sign on to Intro 1083.

14 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you  
15 very much. Council Member James.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I would urge  
17 my colleagues to sign on to Intro 1080 and Intro  
18 1081. Specifically, 1081, as most of you know  
19 DC37 has prepared a report about the outsourcing  
20 and the cost of outsourcing to the City of New  
21 York. As most of you know, this administration is  
22 in the process of laying off a significant number  
23 of municipal workers and engage in outsourcing to  
24 a number of contracts that were formerly done by  
25 city employees. I urge everyone to sign on to

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2 1081 and I urge that we have a hearing.

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In addition to that, I would also urge all of my colleagues to sign on to a letter with respect to the Dental Clinics for Children. As most of you know, the dental funds were not restored in this year's budget. The clinics were supposed to be picked up by not for profits. Unfortunately, that is not happening in the City of New York and there are a significant number of children that are going without dental services so I would urge all of you to sign on to my letter. Thank you.

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MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you very much. Council Member Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you Mr. Majority Leader. My colleagues, good afternoon. Let me just ask all of you, as you know I'm the prime sponsor of Intro 847, which is commonly known as the Small Business Survival Bill. This bill currently has, I believe, 33 sponsors with possibly a couple more coming on pretty soon. I ask you, if you have not signed on to this bill to please consider it. If you have any questions in detail, you can ask me.

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2                   Basically, this bill will give  
3 small business owners the opportunities, some legs  
4 in essence, when landlords--

5                   SPEAKER QUINN: Council Member  
6 Jackson, just one second. We'll put more time  
7 back on the clock. Could we please get a little  
8 quiet in the chambers while the Council Members  
9 are making their comments.

10                   COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: When small  
11 business owners are up against landlords in their  
12 lease renewal process. Many small businesses had  
13 indicated that either landlords or their agents,  
14 before even discussing a lease renewal have asked  
15 for \$10,000, \$15,000, \$20,000, \$40,000 in cash  
16 before even discussing a lease renewal. As you  
17 know, Mayor Bloomberg and all of the leaders,  
18 including our Speaker Christine Quinn, small  
19 business is the backbone of our great city.

20                   With that, I say I have a memo  
21 regarding this. If you have any questions, please  
22 come to me. But I ask you to please consider  
23 Intro 847. We're trying to move this bill into  
24 law by the end of our legislative session, which  
25 is December of this year.

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MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you.

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Seeing no others, at this point in time we're

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going to close off today's stated Council. Thank

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you very much and congratulations to everyone

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coming back.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Signature Amber Gibson

Date September 24, 2009