

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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October 7, 2014  
Start: 1:45 p.m.  
Recess: 3:31 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers-City Hall

B E F O R E:  
MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO  
Speaker for the Entire Council  
LETITIA JAMES  
Public Advocate

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Maria del Carmen Arroyo  
Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret S. Chin  
Andrew Cohen  
Costa G. Constantinides  
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.  
Elizabeth S. Crowley  
Laurie A. Cumbo  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Inez E. Dickens  
Daniel Dromm  
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.  
Mathieu Eugene  
Julissa Ferreras  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
Vincent J. Gentile

Vanessa L. Gibson  
David G. Greenfield  
Vincent Ignizio  
Corey D. Johnson  
Ben Kallos  
Andy L. King  
Peter A. Koo  
Karen Koslowitz  
Rory I. Lancman  
Brad S. Lander  
Stephen T. Levin  
Mark Levine  
Alan N. Maisel  
Steven Matteo  
Darlene Mealy  
Carlos Menchaca  
Rosie Mendez  
I. Daneek Miller  
Annabel Palma  
Antonio Reynoso  
Donovan J. Richards  
Ydanis A. Rodriguez  
Deborah L. Rose  
Helen K. Rosenthal  
Ritchie J. Torres  
Mark Treyger  
Eric A. Ulrich  
James Vacca  
Paul A. Vallone  
James G. Van Bramer  
Mark S. Weprin  
Ruben Wills

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

Alan Gill

Chief Executive Officer

American Jewish Joint Distribution  
Committee

Juan De La Rosa

Coach

Uptown Sports Complex Knights

Ryan

Team Member

Uptown Sports Complex Knights

Joshua

Team Member

Uptown Sports Complex Knights

Paul Montagado

Team Member

Uptown Sports Complex Knights

Eric

Team Member

Uptown Sports Complex Knights

Jason

Team Member

Uptown Sports Complex Knights

Sophia

Team Member

Uptown Sports Complex Knights

Reverend Dr. Demetrius S. Carolina  
Pastor  
First Central Baptist Church  
Staten Island, NY

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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Can we get started? We have two ceremonials today. The first will be by Council Member Mark Levine, I guess, in recognition of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which is celebrating its 100th Anniversary, definitely a milestone to be celebrated. We'll hear more about the Joint Distribution Committee from Council Member Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I'd like to ask all our JDC Joint folks to come on up, please. [off mic] Yes, you are, all the way, man. We want you here. We want you here front and center, front and center. And what is that? Is that the JDC Proc? What's that? After I read it, okay. I just want to say a few words about this amazing organization. Come on, guys and let's... we want you in the photo.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee is not well known to many of you in this chamber and to many of my colleagues, but around the Jewish world they are legendary, legendary for the role they have played over exactly 100 years in rescuing Jewish communities in great peril, in supporting Jewish communities in danger and helping Jews thrive in place everywhere around the world.

1  
2 Today, they're in 70 countries; throughout the former  
3 Soviet Union, Latin America, Europe, even in parts of  
4 the Middle East and North Africa. They are wherever  
5 Jewish communities are present; wherever Jews are  
6 struggling in the world, the Joint has been there for  
7 100 years, and we're marking this century today on  
8 the very day that the family of the JDC is mourning  
9 the loss of one of its founding fathers. Is it Mr.  
10 Harry Goldman? Is that it? Sorry, Ralph Goldman,  
11 who, at exactly the age of 100, died this morning in  
12 Israel and been one of the great visionaries and  
13 leaders of this organization. So we have a lot to  
14 celebrate; also to mourn for today and I'm going to  
15 ask if the clerk can read out this proclamation.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council, City of New  
17 York Proclamation. The Council of the City of New  
18 York is proud to honor the American Jewish Joint  
19 Distribution Committee, JDC, for a century of stellar  
20 service and contributions.

21 And whereas, founded in New York City in  
22 1914, the JDC is the world's leading Jewish  
23 humanitarian assistance organization. From the  
24 start, the JDC has remained committed to uniting Jews  
25 and demonstrating how we are all responsible for one

1  
2 another and for improving the lives of those less  
3 fortunate around the world. Although it has grown  
4 tremendously over the last 100 years, the JDC has  
5 served Jewish communities and others in need from its  
6 global headquarters here in New York and has received  
7 significant support from the local Jewish community  
8 and donors, especially from the UGA Federation of New  
9 York.

10 And whereas, today the JDC works in more  
11 than 70 countries and in Israel to alleviate hunger  
12 and hardship, rescues and danger, create enduring  
13 connections to Jewish life and provide immediate  
14 relief and long-term development support for victims  
15 of natural and man-made disasters.

16 And whereas, throughout its distinguished  
17 history, the JDC has been recognized and supported by  
18 the U.S. government and American NGOs for its  
19 response to overseas wars, famine, political upheaval  
20 and natural disasters. It has helped countless  
21 victims of humanitarian emergencies protect  
22 themselves, their loved ones and their communities.

23 And whereas, the JDC also engages many  
24 young individuals in the United States to participate  
25 in rescue, renewal and revitalization work through

1 service and volunteer programs around the world. It  
2 has helped the poorest Jews in the world, including  
3 isolated seniors, at-risk families and vulnerable  
4 children.  
5

6 And whereas, the JDC has excelled in its  
7 service to others and of all faiths and backgrounds  
8 and it has truly exemplified the spirit of tikkun  
9 olam in all of its endeavors.

10 Now therefore, be it known that the  
11 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors the  
12 American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in  
13 celebration of its 100th Anniversary and its  
14 extraordinary service and enduring contributions to  
15 people around the world.

16 Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the  
17 entire Council; Mark D. Levine, Council Member, 7th  
18 District, Manhattan.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Alright, thank  
20 you and now I'd like to ask Mr. Allen Gill, who's the  
21 Chief Executive Officer of the JDC, to say a few  
22 words.

23 ALAN GILL: It is an honor; it is a  
24 privilege to be here today, Madam Speaker... Madam  
25 Speaker, excuse me, council members, visitors here



1 today, staff. We were born up the road in New York  
2 City 100 years ago this past September 14th. Our  
3 strength comes from the strength of this great city  
4 and we take that strength and we help people, Jews  
5 and non-Jews alike, as the council member said...  
6 councilman said, in over 70 countries. We are  
7 founded on the principle in Hebrew we say achrayut,  
8 of responsibility to one another, and we know that  
9 here in New York we are joined together by other  
10 Jewish and faith groups and nonsectarian non-profit  
11 organizations to work in partnership with you here in  
12 the city and with private business to make this a  
13 better world. We're honored again, board members,  
14 Harvey Schulweis, Zach Fasman, Jerry Spitzer, my  
15 colleagues, we all say on behalf of all of us at the  
16 Joint, thank you.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Thank  
19 you very much. Thank you. [applause] Thank you all  
20 very much.

21 [Pause]

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: 'Kay, our second  
23 and last ceremonial will be presented by Council  
24 Member Cohen. He, I guess, will ask members of the  
25 USC Knights to come up; representatives or members.

1  
2 So Council Member Cohen will be giving proclamation  
3 to the Uptown Sports Complex Knights, the USC  
4 Knights. They are winners of the Inaugural Borough  
5 Cup in the 12 and under basketball tournament  
6 division, so the little ones. Thank you, Michael.  
7 Over 150 teams competed in the various age divisions  
8 and the championship game was held at Yankee Stadium.  
9 They beat the Bayside Rebels 6 to 2 in a championship  
10 game; again, this is the Inaugural Cup. We would  
11 like to ask the reps to come up so that we can have  
12 the council member say a few words. Alright.  
13 Congratulations to all of you. Council Member Cohen.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Thank you, Speaker  
15 Mark-Viverito. It's really an honor here today to  
16 congratulate the members of the Uptown Sports Complex  
17 Knights on their outstanding teamwork that led them  
18 to victory in the Inaugural Borough Cup this past  
19 summer at Yankee Stadium. It was exciting. I got a  
20 chance to go on the field and watch them play. It  
21 was really a very exciting tournament. As the  
22 Speaker said, over 150 teams started and ultimately  
23 we got to a championship. So I really want to say  
24 congratulations on behalf of all the members of the  
25 City Council and the Speaker to the Knights. Council

1  
2 Member Rafael Espinal is here joining us. I don't  
3 know if Coach De La Rosa would like to say a few  
4 words.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Do you want to  
6 read the proclamation first?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Oh, should we have  
8 the... [background voices] I'll ask the clerk to now  
9 read the proclamation.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council, City of New  
11 York Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City  
12 of New York is proud to honor and congratulate the  
13 members of the Uptown Sports Complex, the USC  
14 Knights, for their outstanding teamwork that led them  
15 to victory at the Inaugural Borough Cup.

16 And whereas, sports are often an integral  
17 part of our youth and teach us important lessons that  
18 can be applied in many other areas in life.

19 And whereas, the Borough Cup Tournament  
20 was hosted at Yankee Stadium by the New York City's  
21 All-Stars Sports Group, an organization created by  
22 WFAN radio host Craig Carton, Brooklyn Cyclone's  
23 Assistant General Manager, Gary Perone and four time  
24 MLB All-Star and former Met, John Franco. The  
25 journey to the championship began in July with more

1  
2 than 150 teams in five age groups. The USC Knights,  
3 a non-profit organization based in Kingsbridge,  
4 funded entirely by donations, may be considered a  
5 Little League, but their commitment to teamwork is  
6 huge.

7 And whereas, under the guidance of Coach  
8 Juan De La Rosa, the USC Knights have been challenged  
9 with rigorous exercise, learned the importance of  
10 teamwork and have been encouraged to reaffirm their  
11 great potential. On August 14th, 2014, these  
12 tireless players worked together in the final game to  
13 score a 6-2 win, making them the triumphant winners  
14 of the first ever Borough Cup and securing their  
15 place in Little League history.

16 And whereas, baseball may be known as  
17 America's great pastime and considered by many as our  
18 nation's unofficial religion, but in Kingsbridge and  
19 other communities it is most definitely a valuable  
20 tool for helping to empower kids and shape their  
21 futures.

22 Now therefore, be it known that the  
23 Council of the City of New York honors and  
24 congratulates the USC Knights for winning the  
25 Inaugural Borough Cup at Yankee Stadium on August

1  
2 14th, 2014 and for being winners both on and off the  
3 field.

4 Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the  
5 entire Council; Andrew Cohen, Council Member, 11th  
6 district, Bronx. [cheers, applause]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Coach De La Rosa,  
8 would you like to say a few words?

9 COACH DE LA ROSA: Before I say a word, I  
10 wanted to give you a championship hat, Madam Speaker  
11 and this is your shirt too. I just wanted to...  
12 Madam Speaker and Councilman Cohen, wanted to thank  
13 you guys for having us here. We're really proud to  
14 be here because this has been three years in the  
15 making. This program that we're doing is a really  
16 grassroots... we fund this on our own. We really go  
17 grassroots door-to-door knocking on funding to get  
18 these kids to go play baseball, but the most  
19 important is for them to be great human beings and  
20 great citizens and they're all great kids, great  
21 students and as you can see, it's turned into... they  
22 turned into great baseball players, so we're hoping  
23 to keep this going, so sooner or later we're going to  
24 be knocking on your doors, but thank you so much for  
25

1  
2 this award and we... it's too bad we couldn't get  
3 more kids here, but... [applause, cheers]

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Well,  
5 congratulations. Are you playing again next season  
6 or... yeah? Alright! Alright, why don't you just  
7 give us your names quickly and what do you play?

8 RYAN: I play second base and my name is  
9 Ryan.

10 JOSHUA: I play the outfield and I pitch  
11 and my name is Joshua.

12 PAUL MONTAGADO: Outfield, Paul Montagado  
13 [phonetic]

14 ERIC: Eric, first base.

15 JASON: Jason, first base.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay, who are  
17 you?

18 SOPHIA: I'm Sophia [phonetic] and I'm...  
19 [laughter]

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Who's your uncle?  
21 Who's your uncle? Tell them who's your uncle.

22 SOPHIA: Rafael Espinal.

23 ALL: Ah...

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: That's her uncle.  
25 Alright well, thank you so much. Congratulations.

1 We look forward to seeing you here again next year.

2 Alright. [applause]

3 [Pause]

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I believe that  
5 ends ceremonials.

6 [Pause]

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
8 chambers. May we have quiet in the chambers? Quiet  
9 in the chambers as we're called to order. Please  
10 rise for the pledge of allegiance.

11 [Pledge of Allegiance recited by all]

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.  
13 Roll call. Quiet in the chambers, please.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron. Cabrera.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.  
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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Presente.

[laughter]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley. Cumbo.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene. Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile. Gibson.

Greenfield. Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King.



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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.  
COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Present.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.  
COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.  
COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.  
COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Present.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.  
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.  
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.  
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel. Matteo.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy. Menchaca.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller. Palma.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Here.  
COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller. Reynoso.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Proudly here,  
thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams. Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: We have a quorum.

Quiet in the chambers. Please rise for the invocation delivered by Reverend Dr. Demetrius S. Carolina, Pastor of First Central Baptist Church, 117 Wright Street, Staten Island, New York.

REVEREND CAROLINA: Let us all bow. Dear oh wise and everlasting Savior, we thank You for this time of coming together to be about the business of this city. We pray Your guiding hand over the thoughts, minds and decisions of these leaders. We pray for these that's blessed the chamber; that, in fact, the spirit of justice and truth echoes through not only this chamber, but the halls of this great city. We trust and pray that Your guiding hand will allow us to be reflective and mindful of the fact that we are a shining example of what a city should be and the world's eyes are on us. We pray that the theme of justice, tolerance, understanding and integrity be the order of the day. We trust You, and

1  
2 You alone, to order our steps. We pray that You  
3 would allow those for whom these leaders represent to  
4 be proud of the decisions that are made this day and  
5 beyond. Protect, we pray, their minds, their  
6 thoughts, their actions. Bless their families and  
7 loved ones. We thank You for being a God of the  
8 whole man, mind, body and spirit. In the name of the  
9 Father, Son and Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.  
11 Motion to spread the invocation, Council Member  
12 Debbie Rose.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Motion to spread  
14 the invocation in full upon the record and I'd like  
15 to say I am indeed happy to be back and... [cheers,  
16 applause] and honored to be able to present Reverend  
17 Dr. Demetrius Carolina...

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
19 Quiet in the chambers.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: And I am honored to  
21 present to my colleagues Reverend Dr. Demetrius  
22 Carolina, who is a phenomenal leader, who brought  
23 members from a very diverse community together to  
24 work collaboratively to revitalize the economic  
25 viability of our neighborhoods on the North Shore.

1  
2 Empowering individuals and organizations, Dr.  
3 Carolina is working with our very concerned and very  
4 large West African population on the Ebola crisis.  
5 He is the founder of the Staten Island Leadership  
6 Forum, which brought all of the members of our  
7 communities together to talk about how we can right  
8 the injustices in our community; work together to  
9 improve all of the North Shore. He brought together  
10 the Business Expo, which fosters businesses' business  
11 development, in communities where businesses were  
12 floundering and he is the proud sponsor of our Cure  
13 Violence program because, unfortunately, violence has  
14 taken too many of our young people on the North  
15 Shore. And because of his dedication to education,  
16 it's resulted in the first ever Eagle Academy on  
17 Staten Island opening so that education for all of  
18 our young people will be a reality. I am indeed  
19 pleased to not only spread this invocation, but to  
20 present to you Reverend Dr. Demetrius Carolina  
21 Shalenzon [phonetic]. Thank you. [laughter,  
22 applause]

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Adoption of  
24 minutes, Council Member Daneek Miller. Motion that  
25 the minutes of the Stated Meeting of September 10th

1  
2 be adopted as printed. Messages and Papers from the  
3 Mayor.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: None.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication  
6 from city, county and borough offices.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: M 0152,  
8 Department of Environmental report.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Received,  
10 Ordered, Printed and Filed.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and  
12 Communications.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: None.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-  
15 Ups.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: M 0153.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Roll call.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron. Cabrera.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.  
4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.  
6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley. Cumbo.  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.  
8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Yes.  
10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens.  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.  
12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.  
14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal. Eugene.  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.  
16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras.  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.  
18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.  
20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile. Gibson.  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye.  
22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield.  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.  
24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Johnson. Kallos.  
25 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: King.  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.  
4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.  
6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.  
8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.  
10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.  
12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.  
14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine. Johnson.  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.  
16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.  
18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.  
20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.  
22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy. Menchaca.  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.  
24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.  
25 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.



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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Palma.  
COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.  
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.  
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.  
COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.  
COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.  
COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.  
COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.  
COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Weprin.  
COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Today's Land Use Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of 45 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative.

Communication from Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madam Public Advocate. First of all, good afternoon to all my colleagues. I hope you're acclimating yourselves to the new seating arrangement. I hope people like it. Second of all, I really want to welcome back our colleague, Debbie Rose. It's so great to see you here. [applause, cheers] Well, after a couple of statis [sic] and I'm glad you're on well on the road

1  
2 to recovery and to our colleague, Council Member  
3 Cumbo, who made sure everyone, all men, have the  
4 purple ties and all women have the shawls. Thank you  
5 in recognition obviously of Domestic Violence  
6 Awareness Month. [applause] It's a great level of  
7 friendship and collegiality that we are demonstrating  
8 here today.

9           So first of all, I would like to ask my  
10 colleagues... and we do have some sad news to report.  
11 I want to ask everyone to please rise and join me in  
12 remembering Daniel Heglund, Robert Leaver and Howard  
13 Bischoff, three retired FDNY firefighters, who all  
14 passed away on the same day, September 25th of this  
15 year, from illnesses related to the injuries they  
16 sustained as first responders following the September  
17 11th terrorist attacks. As the years pass, we will  
18 never forget those who we lost on 9-11-2001, and  
19 today, we continue to remember the enduring  
20 sacrifices of those who selflessly put themselves on  
21 the line that day. It's a constant reminder and  
22 these three unfortunate deaths do that, so I would  
23 like to ask everyone to join me in a brief moment of  
24 silence. Thank you.

1  
2 Today we're voting on a bill sponsored by  
3 Council Member Garodnick that will save working New  
4 Yorkers money on their daily commute. Current  
5 federal law allows any employer to offer these free  
6 tax benefits to employees, but this legislation will  
7 require any employer of 20 or more full-time  
8 employees to participate in the program. This  
9 program generally reduces the tax burdens of both  
10 employers and employees, resulting in savings for  
11 both.

12 A recent study by the Riders Alliance  
13 estimates that the average worker could save \$443.00  
14 annually through these pre-tax benefits.  
15 Furthermore, this financial incentive will encourage  
16 more New Yorkers to use public transit when commuting  
17 to work, which is an environmentally responsible  
18 decision. This legislation was included in the  
19 Council's recently released environmental agenda for  
20 just that reason. Encouraging greater use of a mass  
21 transit and less cars on the road goes a long way to  
22 making New York a greener and more sustainable city.  
23 This bill is good for workers, good for businesses  
24 and good for the environment and it represents the  
25 type of innovative solutions that this Council can

1 produce as work together on behalf of New York City.

2 And with that, I'd like to ask Dan Garodnick, the  
3 lead sponsor of the bill, to say a few words.

4  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you very  
6 much, Madam Speaker, for your inclusion of this bill  
7 in the Council's environmental package, as well as  
8 your leadership on issues of sound environmental and  
9 transportation policy more broadly.

10 As employees of the city of New York, we,  
11 at the Council have the option to purchase our  
12 MetroCards using pre-tax dollars, which allows us to  
13 save on average \$443.00 a year on monthly MetroCards.  
14 This is possible because of a federal tax program,  
15 but not all New Yorkers have access to this tax break  
16 because their employers do not offer it. Intro 295-A  
17 will bring this tax break to 450,000 more New  
18 Yorkers. It will require employers with 20 or more  
19 full-time employees to give their staff the  
20 opportunity to use pre-tax earnings for  
21 transportation, and transit benefits doesn't just  
22 save money for employees. Employers can also save  
23 too. The dollars here are coming out before they pay  
24 their payroll taxes.

1  
2 At the same time, we are wary of loading  
3 on another obligation to small businesses. The  
4 intent of this bill is to bring this important tax  
5 break to more New Yorkers, not to penalize  
6 businesses. We took pains, therefore, to ensure that  
7 the bill was more likely to help than hurt small  
8 businesses. When employees take advantage of this  
9 program their employers can save money by reducing  
10 their payroll tax obligation. We also fully exempted  
11 the smallest businesses out there. We limited fines,  
12 allowed for a 90-day cure period and created an opt-  
13 out provision for businesses that can demonstrate a  
14 hardship. We also made the applicability date  
15 January 1, 2016, giving plenty of time to make  
16 necessary administrative adjustments and to provide  
17 for public education of what this is and what this  
18 benefit does.

19 It is sometimes hard to live in New York  
20 we all know, and we are consistently getting less for  
21 more from the MTA. Our transit riders need a break  
22 and we are giving it to them with this bill. I want  
23 to thank the Riders Alliance, which has done  
24 extraordinary advocacy on behalf of this legislation,  
25 as well as the Straphangers Campaign for this and

1  
2 everything they always do and I encourage my  
3 colleagues to support this bill and again, thank you,  
4 Speaker Mark-Viverito and of course, the  
5 Transportation chairman, Ydanis Rodriguez, who moved  
6 this bill quickly and we appreciate him for that.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
8 Council Member. We said it's common sense and it  
9 really fits so well into our overall environmental  
10 agenda as well, so thank you for that.

11 Today, we're also voting on legislation  
12 sponsored by Council Member David Greenfield,  
13 establishing a 25 mile per hour citywide speed limit  
14 for New York City. This is the 13th bill we'll be  
15 passing this year in the ongoing Vision Zero  
16 initiative that the Council has taken up in  
17 collaboration with the de Blasio administration to  
18 make our streets safer for motorist, cyclists and  
19 pedestrians alike.

20 Speed is the single greatest contributing  
21 factor in New York City traffic deaths and a  
22 pedestrian struck by a vehicle at 30 miles per hour  
23 is twice as likely to die as someone hit by a vehicle  
24 moving 25 miles per hour. This critical change in  
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1  
2 our traffic code can save countless lives and greatly  
3 increase safety for travelers all across the city.

4 I'd like to thank Kelly Taylor, Gafar  
5 Zaaloff, Jonathan Masserano, Chere Zannasir  
6 [phonetic], Lyle Frank, Laura Popa and Matt Gewolb  
7 for their work on both of these bills. I would to  
8 additionally like to recognize Natasha Carey  
9 [phonetic], Daniel Barbado, Carlos Beato, Crimeon  
10 Martinez [phonetic] and Margaret Nelson for their  
11 work in getting us authorization from the state to  
12 pass today's speed limit legislation. As we had  
13 indicated before, this was part of our state  
14 legislative agenda as well and I'm glad that we were  
15 able to get some action from the state. So I'd like  
16 to ask Council Member Greenfield, as a lead sponsor,  
17 to say a few words and also Council Member Rodriguez  
18 as a sponsor and chair of the Transportation  
19 Committee.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you,  
21 Madam Speaker. I'm actually very excited about this  
22 piece of legislation today. It's not a regular  
23 occurrence here in the City Council where we can  
24 actually pass legislation that will quite literally  
25 save lives and that's what we're going to be doing



1 here today. The difference between an individual  
2 getting hit by 30 miles an hour versus 25 mile an  
3 hour literally cuts the risk of death in half. I,  
4 too, would like to thank you for your leadership. I  
5 especially want to thank the current Transportation  
6 Committee chair, Ydanis Rodriguez. He's been an  
7 unwavering advocate for Vision Zero and I want to  
8 thank the Public Safety chair, Vanessa Gibson and I  
9 want to thank the former Transportation chair, Jimmy  
10 Vacca, who was a big supporter of this piece of  
11 legislation. And I will tell you that under the old  
12 administration and the old leadership we really  
13 struggled with this piece of legislation and I could  
14 not initially get a hearing and it took two and a  
15 half years until we could actually get a hearing on  
16 this piece of legislation and we were able to finally  
17 do that, but with the support of the de Blasio  
18 administration and with the leadership of our  
19 Speaker, we were actually able to fast track this  
20 legislation under the new leadership and quite  
21 frankly, this legislation, which lowers the default  
22 speed limit; and I want to make that clear because  
23 some of my colleagues, including my dear friend, Mark  
24 Weprin, have raised this particular issue; it doesn't  
25

1  
2 change every speed limit in New York City 25 miles an  
3 hour. It just makes it a default, so the parkways  
4 and the highways are still going to have the posted  
5 limits and the school zones are still going to have  
6 the posted limits, but this legislation will quite  
7 literally save lives.

8           And finally, I specifically want to thank  
9 the advocates, especially Families for Safe Streets.  
10 These were folks who really worked hard and it was  
11 their hard work that kept the dream alive and when we  
12 started this process, people literally laughed at us  
13 and said, "You're never going to lower the speed  
14 limit in New York City," and when you think about it  
15 doesn't really make sense because the last time we  
16 had a speed limit enacted in New York City was in  
17 1964. It was 50 years ago. The subway and bus fare  
18 was 20 cents and, in fact, there was no requirement  
19 that you actually at the time even had to use a  
20 safety belt; a seat belt in your cars, so we've come  
21 a very long way since. We have a million more people  
22 in New York City with a lot more congestion, a lot  
23 more traffic and this default speed limit will quite  
24 literally save lives. So I want to thank Families  
25 for Safe Streets for giving us the strength through

1  
2 their strength to keep advocating. I want to thank  
3 Transportation Alternatives, who have been terrific  
4 partners on everything that we've done Vision Zero,  
5 and I want to thank my colleagues in the Council for  
6 their support. This legislation is literally the  
7 linchpin of Vision Zero and this will ensure the  
8 success of Vision Zero by reducing accidents,  
9 reducing fatalities and making our streets safer for  
10 all. Thank you very much.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
12 Council Member. Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.  
14 First of all, thank you to the Families for Safer  
15 Streets and all of you that have lost your loved  
16 ones, so thank you for allowing us to be part of your  
17 struggle and you make an important [applause]  
18 contribution also. I would like to thank our Speaker  
19 Melissa Mark-Viverito for her leadership and support  
20 on this bill and other 12 bills related to Vision  
21 Zero that we already have passed so far at this  
22 Council.

23 Intro 466-A lowers the default city speed  
24 limit to 25 miles per hour from the current default  
25 limit of 30 miles per hour. To clarify further, the

1 bill applies to areas of the city that have no other  
2 posted limit; areas like school zones and highway  
3 will continue to operate on the current speed limit.  
4 Today, the Council calls upon all New Yorkers to  
5 reevaluate the way they approach our roadways. By  
6 lowering the speed limit we send a message to drivers  
7 that they must not only drive slower, but safer on  
8 our streets. For far too long have our roads been a  
9 battleground between pedestrians and drivers causing  
10 conflicts alike [sic] in preventable situations.  
11 Under this edge of Vision Zero this type of  
12 environment is unacceptable and will be tolerated no  
13 longer. At cultural change is coming to New York. I  
14 have no doubt that the new culture created by this  
15 law will allow for the fruition of Vision Zero and  
16 allow for increased safety for our children and our  
17 fellow citizens alike.

19 I want to thank my colleagues, the  
20 administration and most importantly, the advocate  
21 groups, such as Families for Safer Streets and  
22 Transportation Alternatives for their support. A  
23 special thanks to my colleague for this bill, Council  
24 Member David Greenfield and also thanks to the  
25 Governor and the state legislators for giving the

1  
2 Council the ability to do what we have done today as  
3 we begin this ambitious journey to a safer city.

4 Thank you.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
6 Council Member. Today, we are also introducing a  
7 pair of bills that will prohibit the Department of  
8 Corrections and NYPD from honoring any immigration  
9 detainer issued by Immigrations and Customs  
10 Enforcement, ICE, unless a federal judge issues a  
11 warrant. Federal courts have stated that honoring  
12 these ICE detainees are voluntary and that municipal  
13 governments choosing to honor requests without a  
14 judicial warrant may be violating the constitution by  
15 holding someone based on a detainer without  
16 sufficient cause. Additionally, under this the ICE  
17 may no longer maintain offices on Rikers Island.  
18 These bills will greatly reduce unnecessary  
19 deportation of New York City residents and make the  
20 process for those who are subject to ICE detainees  
21 more dignified and safe.

22 I want to thank... a strong thanks to Rob  
23 Newman, Laura Popa, Rachel Cordero, Jennifer  
24 Montalvo, Yvonne Nuevanos [phonetic] and Elizabeth de  
25

1  
2 Leon Bhargava for their exceptional work on this  
3 legislation. It's really important.

4 And finally, Council Member Johnson is  
5 also introducing two bills today that will allow New  
6 Yorkers to change the gender designation on their  
7 birth certificates without being required to complete  
8 gender reassignment surgery. Instead they will be  
9 able to amend the gender marker on their birth  
10 certificates by having a medical or mental health  
11 professional fill out an affidavit or affirmation  
12 attesting that the changed sex designation more  
13 accurately reflects the applicant's gender identity.  
14 An additional bill would create an advisory board of  
15 transgender advocates and other experts to review  
16 implementation of this new requirement. In two  
17 years, the board will issue a report evaluating  
18 utilization and access to this process. These bills  
19 affirm the basic human rights of transgender New  
20 Yorkers and focus on addressing disparities that  
21 transgender individuals and the LGBT community as a  
22 whole face.

23 Congratulations to Council Member  
24 Johnson. I know he's been advocating strong for  
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1  
2 this; strong and consistently on this and I would  
3 like him to maybe say a few words about the bills.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam  
5 Speaker. Today is an exciting day. The legislation  
6 that I'm introducing today gets rid of an antiquated  
7 requirement that surgery be a precondition for  
8 transgender New Yorkers to correct the gender marker  
9 on their birth certificates. By doing so, it brings  
10 New York City in line with New York State, the  
11 federal government and a handful of other states and  
12 municipalities, but we also go a bit further. Today,  
13 we're going to provide an expansive pool of medical  
14 and mental health professionals who can attest to an  
15 individual's gender and moves beyond the idea that  
16 transgender people need treatment in order to change  
17 this critical document. Birth certificates are often  
18 the only form of ID for low-income New Yorkers that  
19 they have when applying for jobs or public benefits,  
20 making them critical for accessing government  
21 benefits, health coverage and using appropriate  
22 facilities. Without these documents, transgender  
23 people are left to present incorrect ID, becoming  
24 subject to harassment, discrimination, accusations of  
25 fraud and oftentimes can be turned away from

1 receiving vital public services. This measure will  
2 do nothing short of transform the lives of  
3 transgender individuals across the city in so many  
4 ways that ordinary New Yorkers take for granted.

5 According to the National Transgender  
6 Discrimination Survey, 40 percent of transgender  
7 people have faced harassment when presenting identity  
8 documents that do not match their gender identity or  
9 expression. In addition, 15 percent report being  
10 denied entry or being asked to leave facilities based  
11 on gender mismatches and three percent report facing  
12 physical assault due to mismatched ID.

13 I want to thank Health Commissioner Dr.  
14 Mary Bassett for her time and effort on this; the de  
15 Blasio administration. I want to thank my colleagues  
16 in the LGBT Caucus who have been tremendous  
17 supporters in moving this forward in the Council. I  
18 want to thank the Speaker and I really, really,  
19 really want to thank folks that have spent a huge  
20 amount of time on this: my legislative director,  
21 Louis Cholden-Brown; the Health Committee Counsel,  
22 Dan Hafetz; then the policy analyst for the Health  
23 Committee, Crystal Pond and I'm very excited about  
24 this. The Board of Health introduced the proposal  
25



1  
2 this morning. We're introducing a bill today. We're  
3 moving on parallel tracks and my hope is that the  
4 Board of Health and the City Council will adopt this  
5 by January. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Corey  
7 and last, before I end, I know that our colleague,  
8 Council Member Cumbo, is asking that after we finish  
9 today if people could stick around for a group shot  
10 so that we can see all this wonderful sea of purple,  
11 and so hopefully people can stick around and be a  
12 part of that. And with that, I end Communication  
13 with Speaker.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Discussion of  
15 General Orders. Seeing none, Report of Special  
16 Committees.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: None.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of  
19 Standing Committees.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Report of the  
21 Committee on Finance. Preconsidered Reso 428,  
22 Organization Funding.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
24 General Orders.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 42

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Preconsidered LU  
3 124 and Reso 435 and LU 125 and Reso 436, Tax  
4 Abatements.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
6 General Orders.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Report of the  
8 Committee on Land Use, LU 114 and Reso 437, Sidewalk  
9 Café.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
11 General Orders.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: LU 115 and 116,  
13 Special Permit Application.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May we have quiet  
15 in the chambers, please. Quiet, please.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Approved with  
17 Modifications and referred to the City Planning  
18 Commission pursuant to Rule 11.70(b) of the Rules of  
19 the Council in Section 197-(d) of the New York City  
20 Charter.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: LU 117 and Reso  
22 438.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled to be  
24 filed pursuant to letter of withdrawal.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: LU 118,  
3 Disposition of City-Owned Property.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Approved with  
5 Modifications and Referred to the City Planning  
6 Commission Pursuant to Rule 11.70(b) of the Rules of  
7 the Council in Section 197-(d) of the New York City  
8 Charter.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: LU 119 and Reso  
10 439, UDAP Queens.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
12 General Orders.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: LU 121 and Reso  
14 440, Sidewalk Café.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
16 General Orders.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: LU 123 and Reso  
18 441, Tax Exemption.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
20 General Orders.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Report of the  
22 Committee on Transportation, Intro 295-A,  
23 Transportation Benefits.

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
25 Coupled on General Orders.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Intro 466-A,  
3 Reducing the City-Wide Speed Limit.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
5 Coupled on General Orders.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: General Order  
7 Calendar.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Resolution  
9 appointing various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

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

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May we have some  
14 quiet in the chambers before the roll call? Please  
15 quiet. Thank you. Roll call.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Permission to explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Madam Speaker and Madam Public Advocate, I ask permission to remain seated, as my colleague, Laurie Cumbo, has not issued me an adult tie and [laughter] consequently I have a very short tie, so if you would allow me to remain seated. [laughter]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Could you... [laughter] Can you borrow a tie?

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Okay. [laughter] On Intro 295-A I'd like to congratulate Council Members Garodnick and Rodriguez for their leadership, which will require a large number of city businesses to give their employees access to the federal tax benefits provided through the TransitChek program. As chair of the Committee on Small Business, I'd like to express some small business specific concerns about the bill. I am voting in favor of Intro 295 for several reasons. First, the estimated \$440.00 in annual tax savings for workers earning a median income is extremely meaningful. It

1  
2 means more money in the pockets and household budgets  
3 of many of our constituents. Second, the bill  
4 includes meaningful provisions to protect small and  
5 micro businesses. Businesses with less than 20  
6 employees are not covered by the mandate. This is  
7 extremely important because TransitChek is  
8 complicated to administer and most micro businesses  
9 do not use payroll service providers or even have  
10 dedicated staff assigned to handle human resources.  
11 If we care about the survival of our moms and pops,  
12 we must be extremely sensitive about not imposing  
13 requirements that they cannot handle  
14 administratively. I believe this bill is sensitive  
15 to those limitations.

16 I also appreciate that the bill provides  
17 for warnings rather than fines on the first violation  
18 and allows DCA to exempt businesses that demonstrate  
19 that administering the program will be a financial  
20 burden. I'm going to take a strong interest in the  
21 rules DCA promulgates to define these exemptions  
22 because I suspect that many businesses with more than  
23 30, 40 or 50 employees who do not use payroll  
24 providers like ADP will find this program extremely  
25 costly. In addition, businesses with low wage

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2 employees, who are less likely to take advantage of  
3 the full value of this TransitChek benefit, may find  
4 themselves saddled with administrative costs that are  
5 not useful to their particular workers. It won't  
6 help anyone for struggling businesses to be forced to  
7 pay to administer a program that workers can't afford  
8 to use.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,  
10 can you please conclude your remarks?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Yes, ma'am. I  
12 intend to continue to be a strong voice for small  
13 businesses as this bill is implemented and as we  
14 learn more about this program's benefits and costs.  
15 And with that, I vote aye on all.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo.

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

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes. May we have  
21 quiet in the chambers, please? Quiet in the  
22 chambers. Council Member.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Madam Speaker, in  
24 regards to Council Member Cornegy, just wanted to let  
25 him know that we also have pashminas if the tie does

1  
2 not suit him. [laughter] Well, I also wanted to  
3 congratulate Council Members Gardodnick and Rodriguez  
4 because it is so exciting that we have an opportunity  
5 to create win-win opportunities for employers and  
6 employees and when we pass the expansion of paid sick  
7 leave, we made a commitment as a Council to find more  
8 opportunities and so I'm glad that we are taking a  
9 step in that direction to benefit both. Thank you.  
10 And aye.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.



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COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madam Public Advocate. I, too, want to join with my colleagues in congratulating Council Member Garodnick on his leadership on a very important bill. I want to recognize and congratulate Council Members Greenfield and Rodriguez on the incredible work that has now come to fruition to lower the default speed limit in the city of New York. It is too, too long that we have been waiting and I'm so delighted to have been a part of this conversation as chair of Public Safety. I want to thank all of our colleagues in Albany for their support and I especially recognize Transportation Alternatives and Families for Safe Streets, those advocates who have turned their pain into a plan with purpose. They have stood with us at every press conference, every hearing, every Vision Zero Town Hall that we have had throughout this entire city and we recognize the work

1  
2 that we have done; the work that we will continue to  
3 do. This is historic and I'm so delighted that at  
4 this Council at this time we can finally say to all  
5 New Yorkers, to our drivers slow down. 25 miles per  
6 hour; I'm so excited and we can be alive with 25,  
7 alive with 25. Madam Public Advocate, thank you and  
8 I'm proud to cast my vote in the affirmative. Thank  
9 you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 Continue with the roll call.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Johnson.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: King.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on all.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Permission to explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I want to congratulate Council Member Greenfield on this landmark legislation, lowering the speed limit; the default speed limit in New York City to 25 miles an hour and I want to thank Families for Safe Streets for their courage and determination in coming to City Hall day after day and week after week to ensure... and going up to Albany and ensuring that this legislation was passed up there and down here and for their great courage and dedication in doing so. And with that, I proudly vote aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Madam Public Advocate, permission to very briefly explain my vote.

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

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Well, I, too,  
3 want to congratulate Council Members Greenfield,  
4 Rodriguez and Garodnick on two great pieces of  
5 legislation and with regards to the speed limit bill,  
6 I want to encourage us to go a step further in our  
7 parks, where the speed limit I believe should be  
8 lowered to 20 miles an hour for both vehicles and  
9 bicycles. You know, we've had several recent tragic  
10 deaths in Central Park among pedestrians. This would  
11 be a way to make these parks, our precious green  
12 spaces, safer for everyone. Thank you. And I vote  
13 aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: No on 466-A, yes  
18 on 295.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.  
3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Palma.  
4 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.  
5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.  
6 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.  
7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.  
8 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.  
9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.  
10 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.  
11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.  
13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.  
14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all.  
15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.  
16 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.  
17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.  
18 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.  
19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.  
20 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.  
21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.  
22 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.  
23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.  
24 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Madam Advocate,  
25 permission to explain my vote?

1  
2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I vote aye on  
4 all except for 466-A, and with a heavy heart. We  
5 have a district in a neighborhood that has been left  
6 out with no transportation alternatives; with no  
7 train; with limited express bus; with no way to get  
8 to work but by driving and if I have to put my faith  
9 in an agency that has done nothing to help our  
10 district in our borough about removing signs, I am  
11 not very happy with that. If we were able to exempt  
12 a boulevard where there's a major way to get back and  
13 forth without any traffic incidents to date, that  
14 would be something to think about, but at this point,  
15 expanding slow zones, protecting our parks, our  
16 schools, our children, our streets 100 percent even  
17 reduce it more, but when you have an area that has no  
18 other way to but to drive on a boulevard, we could  
19 make those exemptions and I would change my vote. At  
20 this point on that bill, it's no. Thank you.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I wish to correct  
24 my vote on the General Order Calendar. I am voting  
25 no on Intro 466-A and aye on all others. Thank you.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Permission to explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: I want to follow up on what Council Member Vallone 'cause he said some of the things that I said in a committee meeting where I decided to support this bill.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Mem...

[crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: 466-A.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May we have quiet in the chambers, please? Thank you, Council Member...

[crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Be...

[crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Weprin?

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Because I do think safety in the end is the most important factor, but Council Member Vallone brings up very important points. Many of us in Eastern Queens live in a different community than much of the city. There are

1 parts of this city where you couldn't drive 25 miles  
2 an hour if you tried. In our area, there's a lot of  
3 open streets. There are areas that do not have  
4 pedestrian crossing, do not have stores and you know  
5 people unfortunately are forced to drive. So there  
6 are a lot of people who are upset about the idea of  
7 lowering that speed limit. I've made a decision now  
8 based on all the pluses and minuses that it makes  
9 sense to pass this bill and I support it to slow  
10 people down. I've spoken to the Commissioner though  
11 about the issues that Council Member Vallone raised  
12 where certain areas of this city we shouldn't rush to  
13 that default speed limit. As Council Member  
14 Greenfield alluded to, this'll be the default speed  
15 limit. There will be places that can still be 30  
16 miles an hour where it's appropriate; where it's a  
17 safe way to keep it where people can still drive when  
18 there's not a safety issue. So I am going to vote  
19 yes on all or aye on all, but I do want it to be on  
20 record as saying that I want to make sure that people  
21 know this is a big city, not all streets are the same  
22 and you have to remember us in transportation  
23 deserts; that we need better public transportation,  
24



1  
2 more funding for public transportation and better  
3 options. Thank you very much.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Quiet  
5 in the chamber. Continue with the roll call.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye, aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I vote no on  
10 466-A and aye on all others.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye on all.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
16 Lander for a correction.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you. I  
18 want to request permission to explain my vote.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you, Madam  
21 Public Advocate. I just want to observe that in  
22 addition to congratulating Council Members Garodnick  
23 and Greenfield, tomorrow is the one-year anniversary  
24 of the death of Sammy Cohen-Eckstein, whose mom, Amy  
25 Cohen, is here in the balcony as a member of Families

1  
2 for Safe Streets, and while our thoughts are with  
3 Sammy, the distance that we've come in that year  
4 together is extraordinary and I want to thank and her  
5 family for her courage and to all the members of  
6 Families for Safe Streets and I dedicate my vote in  
7 favor of the 25 mile per hour speed limit to Sammy's  
8 memory today. Thank you very much.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. we  
10 join you. All items on today's General Order  
11 Calendar were adopted by a vote of 48 in the  
12 affirmative, 0 in the negative and 0 abstentions,  
13 with the exception of Intro 466-A, which was adopted  
14 by a vote of 44 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative  
15 and 0 abstentions... [background voice] 4 in the  
16 negative. Intro 466, which was adopted by a vote of  
17 44 in the affirmative, 4 in the negative and 0  
18 abstentions. Revised Land Use Call-Ups were adopted  
19 by a vote of 48 in the affirmative, 0 in the  
20 negative. Introduction and Reading of Bills.

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

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Discussion of  
24 Resolutions: Council Member Van Bramer to discuss  
25 207-A.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you  
3 very much, Madam Public Advocate. I'm extremely  
4 proud to join with my colleagues Corey Johnson,  
5 Laurie Cumbo, Robert Cornegy and so many others to  
6 support Resolution 207-A, which is in support of the  
7 Justice for Jazz Artists Campaign. Like many New  
8 Yorkers, jazz artists are faced with many challenges,  
9 including a lack of affordable housing, work space  
10 and health care. New York City has long been an  
11 International Jazz Mecca, which music lovers travel  
12 all around the world to see great musicians, many of  
13 whom are in the balcony and I want to invite all the  
14 members to stay because they have permission from  
15 Speaker Mark-Viverito to play after this Stated  
16 Meeting, so they're going to play for us after this  
17 Stated Meeting, [applause] and this campaign along  
18 with the Associated Musicians of Greater New York,  
19 Local 802, seeks through collective bargaining to  
20 offer economic security to jazz musicians so they can  
21 retire in dignity, like all New Yorkers. This is a  
22 good resolution. It's a great campaign. So many of  
23 the folks in the balcony came and testified,  
24 including jazz legends Jimmy Owens, Bob Cranshaw...

1  
2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

3 Wow.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: And Bertha  
5 Hope. They're here today. They're going to play  
6 with us. I want to thank my colleague, Daneek  
7 Miller, for his support on the hearing and again, my  
8 co-sponsors on this resolution, Speaker Mark-Viverito  
9 for her support and for allowing the jazz musicians  
10 to play for us after this and I ask everyone to  
11 support the Justice for Jazz Artists Campaign.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay, we're still  
13 in session. Quiet and no practice until it's over.

14 [laughter] Council Member Johnson.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I thank you,  
16 Madam Public Advocate. I wanted to arise today to  
17 offer my support and thanks to Majority Leader Van  
18 Bramer for putting this through the committee, as  
19 well as Chair Miller, who also shepherded it through.  
20 The majority of the jazz clubs that are talked about  
21 and were talked about here are located in my  
22 district, some of the most famous jazz clubs in the  
23 city and it is so important that these musicians and  
24 artists who spend their life and their career doing  
25 what they love not become destitute later in life,

1  
2 and that is what is happening. Everyone in New York  
3 City deserves to be able to retire with dignity and  
4 some security and this resolution today calls upon  
5 this clubs to share the wealth, to spread the wealth.  
6 Their pockets are lined week in and week out because  
7 of the jazz musicians that perform in their great  
8 clubs. It is not too much to ask that these folks  
9 share their profits to ensure that jazz legends and  
10 just regular good old jazz performers be able to  
11 retire with dignity. I wholeheartedly support this  
12 resolution and I thank the Council for considering it  
13 today.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
15 Council Member Laurie Cumbo.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I just share the  
17 sentiments that Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer put  
18 forward. It is so important that we respect and  
19 honor our jazz legends. It was quite heartbreaking  
20 to see so many jazz legends that we know to be famous  
21 to be world and international icons to come before us  
22 to share their financial status at this time, which  
23 was really quite heartbreaking, but I am so in  
24 support of their courageousness and their ability to  
25 share their circumstances in order to help so many

1  
2 others that don't have the same opportunities as we  
3 do today, so I definitely am very happy that this was  
4 brought forth to the City Council because our jazz  
5 musicians and so many other artists need the ability.  
6 We benefit from their talent. Where would be without  
7 music, without song, without our jazz musicians.  
8 Jazz is America's first great musical industry ever  
9 created here, so it's important that we support their  
10 work and thank you again to Council Member Jimmy Van  
11 Bramer and the entire...

12 [crosstalk]

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet...

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Committee. Thank  
15 you.

16 [crosstalk]

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Quiet  
18 in the chambers, please. Council Member Cornegy.

19 CONCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I, too, would  
20 like to thank Council Member Van Bramer for bringing  
21 forth this resolution and as a co-sponsor, the U.S.  
22 should be totally embarrassed that having lived  
23 abroad and watched how jazz is honored in other parts  
24 of the world, we are so far behind honoring our  
25 legends, so I'm just happy that I was able to be a

1  
2 part of moving the conversation forward and honoring  
3 those that mean so much to us through the venue of  
4 jazz, so thank you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Any other  
6 discussion on the resolution? And now to a vote.  
7 The resolution on Reso 207-A, an amended resolution  
8 supporting the Justice for Jazz Artists Campaign,  
9 which seeks through collective bargaining to improve  
10 the lives of musicians working in New York City's  
11 jazz clubs by addressing workplace issues, including  
12 providing retirement security. All those in favor  
13 say aye.

14 ALL: Aye.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those  
16 opposed? Any absentions? The ayes have it. General  
17 Discussion. [applause] thank you. Thank you. Thank  
18 you. We're still in session. Thank you very much.  
19 We're still in session and we'll hear from you in a  
20 few minutes. Please have your seats. Thank you.  
21 Council Member Levin for General Discussion.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: My colleagues, I  
23 rise this afternoon to ask for your support on Intro  
24 495, introduced by myself and our Sanitation and  
25 Solid Waste chair, Antonio Reynoso. This bill was

1 introduced in the previous session sponsored by  
2 council member Diana Reyna. Many of you were  
3 sponsors when it was introduced previously. This is  
4 the Waste Equity bill. This is the bill that would  
5 seek readdress a historic inequity and injustice in  
6 our city. There are three communities in our city;  
7 and I want to make this very clear; three communities  
8 in our city: North Brooklyn, South Bronx and  
9 Southeast Queens, which handle 80 percent of our  
10 garbage. 80 of our garbage in New York City is  
11 handled by three communities entirely and the rest of  
12 the city then handles the rest of the 20 percent.  
13 This legislation would decrease... would put a cap on  
14 the amount of waste capacity that is issued in those  
15 communities and then also reduce the actual  
16 throughput by 18 percent. In addition to that... and  
17 so that would decrease the burden on these  
18 neighborhoods which have higher asthma rates, more  
19 truck traffic, greater health impacts. In addition  
20 to that, this bill would put a five percent cap on  
21 any community district in the city of New York,  
22 meaning that no community... no community in New York  
23 City could have more than five percent of the city's  
24 waste capacity, so no community could face the type  
25



1  
2 of injustice that our communities in North Brooklyn  
3 and South Bronx and Southeast Queens have felt for  
4 many, many years; in fact, generations. So I ask for  
5 your support to sign onto Intro 495 with Council  
6 Member Reynoso and myself where we can have a real  
7 impact [chime] on environmental justice in our  
8 communities. Thank you very much.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member Reynoso.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you, Madam  
11 Public Advocate and I'm going to double down on my  
12 colleague, Steve Levin, from North Brooklyn. The  
13 City Charter mandates that all facilities, whether  
14 they be schools or transfer stations be distributed  
15 evenly across the city. These fair share provisions  
16 ensure that all communities have equal access to city  
17 resources in addition to shouldering their share of  
18 some of the less desirable land uses. For many  
19 communities in the city, fair share exists only in  
20 name. This is especially true when it comes to the  
21 system in place for managing the city's solid waste.  
22 For far too long the transfer stations that accept  
23 the city's trash before it's transported to a  
24 landfill or recycling facility have been primarily  
25 located in North Brooklyn, the South Bronx and

1  
2 Southeast Queens. Combined these communities handle  
3 more than 75 percent of the city's waste. These  
4 neighborhoods are largely low-income communities of  
5 color, leaving them even more vulnerable to the  
6 health impacts posed by the constant influx of  
7 garbage trucks. The community that Council Member  
8 Levin and I represent handles the largest quantity of  
9 waste of any neighborhood in the city. Each day,  
10 7,000 such tons of garbage are hauled in and out of  
11 the 15 waste transfer stations in North Brooklyn,  
12 constituting approximately 1,500 diesel truck trips  
13 per day. While this represents an average day, the  
14 combined capacity for these transfer stations allows  
15 for nearly triple that amount of the waste being  
16 handled, meaning that we could see a significant  
17 increase in the future. But this is not an NB issue.  
18 It's about taking a broader look at equity for the  
19 entire city.

20 I chair the Committee on Sanitation and  
21 Solid Waste Management and I am proud to be a co-  
22 sponsor with Council Member Levin on Intro 495, which  
23 will simultaneously provide relief to the  
24 overburdened districts while ensuring that no other  
25 community in the city becomes the next North

1  
2 Brooklyn, South Bronx or Southeast Queens. We can no  
3 longer accept a system that forces only a few  
4 communities to shoulder the burden of handling the  
5 entire's city's waste. While it is very important  
6 for me and my communities to see relief, I am equally  
7 dedicated to ensuring that no other community  
8 experiences the impact associated with the  
9 overconcentration of transfer stations. I ask you to  
10 join me in supporting this bill and furthering an  
11 agenda of equity and fairness. Thank you very much.

12 [chime]

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: You did it.

14 Council Member King. [laughter]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Good afternoon. I  
16 rise to my colleagues and ask you to support the  
17 repeal of Criminal Procedural Law 240 with a...  
18 Procedural Law 245, which will open up immediate  
19 discovery in the criminal justice process. The  
20 current criminal justice procedural law prevents  
21 defense attorneys from zealous defending their  
22 clients due to the lawyers' inability of full access  
23 to their clients' legal options and through the  
24 advice of their clients about the strength or  
25 weaknesses of opposing counsel. A broader and fully

1  
2 early open discovery system eliminates the cruelties,  
3 inequities and available of information between  
4 prosecution and defense, this providing a more equal  
5 justice system. So I'm asking you all to help sign  
6 and we have a number of New Yorkers who have spent  
7 time in Rikers Island due to the fact that their  
8 cases are not being heard, that the prosecutions  
9 don't even have enough information, but if we were to  
10 get this information out early a lot of people would  
11 spend less time in jails, let alone making plea deals  
12 to go to jail when the prosecution didn't have  
13 adequate information to find a guilty verdict. We  
14 need to put an end to this antiquated system that's  
15 in place right now and find justice and truth in the  
16 system. So I'm asking you all please, please, please  
17 take a look at the sheet of paper and please sign  
18 onto Reso 430 and have it signed today and thank you  
19 so much.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
21 Gibson.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very  
23 much, Madam Public Advocate. I'm calling attention  
24 to all of my colleagues to join myself and Council  
25 Member Cumbo in signing onto Reso 429, which would

1  
2 recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness  
3 Month in the city of New York, keeping in line with  
4 National Domestic Violence Awareness Month as  
5 October, recognizing that between 2012 and 13 there  
6 was an increase of 17,000 911 calls around domestic  
7 violence; recognizing this is a health care crisis  
8 that affects women, men and children across the city;  
9 recognizing this is an issue that has been in the  
10 dark for too long and this is an opportunity to bring  
11 light to an issue. Social services, mental health,  
12 health care, housing, economic development are all  
13 factors in domestic violence and I am standing here  
14 joining with so many of our colleagues and advocates  
15 who just stand together for justice, for fairness,  
16 for access to services, programs and resources to  
17 really promote further opportunities to bring victims  
18 into success stories and into survivors to be  
19 determined and not defeated; motivated and not  
20 manipulated; empowered and endangered; triumphant and  
21 not troubled; empowered and strong survivors. I am  
22 extremely proud of this resolution and all of the  
23 work that has been done. I want to thank the  
24 Speaker, all of my colleagues for the incredible 40  
25 percent increase in DoVE initiative funding to almost

1  
2 \$6 million this year, which is incredible, to provide  
3 the financial support for all of our community groups  
4 to do the work in the communities every single day.  
5 So I ask all of my colleagues to please join myself  
6 and Council Member Cumbo in recognizing October as  
7 Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the great city  
8 of New York. Thank you, Madam Public Advocate.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
10 Council Member Crowley for the purposes of a vote.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote aye on  
12 all Calendar Items and Call-Ups.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Back  
14 to General Discussion. Council Member Treyger.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you. I  
16 ask my colleagues to support two resolutions today.  
17 I ask for support on Resolution 432, calling on the  
18 New York City Department of Education to offer  
19 gluten-free meal options for students in need in New  
20 York City schools that are impacted by Celiac  
21 Disease. Madam Public Advocate, may I ask for order  
22 in the chamber?

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May we have some  
24 quiet in the chambers, please. Quiet in the  
25 chambers.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: This common  
3 sense and long overdue legislation will better meet  
4 the health and nutritional needs of thousands of  
5 children of all ages and backgrounds whose diets  
6 cannot include gluten. In addition, this could  
7 benefit children with autism, as many parents and  
8 doctors report that behavior improves as a result of  
9 a gluten-free diet. As a former public school  
10 teacher, I believe the DOE has an incredible  
11 responsibility for the safety and well-being of all  
12 1.1 million children that attend public schools.  
13 Currently, the DOE provides lunch menus that include  
14 vegetarian menus and special needs menus to some  
15 medically certified students with disabilities;  
16 however, the needs of some students, including those  
17 with Celiac Disease or other gluten intolerances have  
18 largely been ignored, placing financial burdens on  
19 parents and families to prepare lunch meals and  
20 breakfast meal for their kids every single day. With  
21 an estimated one percent of the population affected  
22 by Celiac Disease, as many as 11,000 kids in our  
23 system are adversely impacted by gluten diets and  
24 would greatly benefit from this proposal. I ask for  
25

1  
2 your help to push the DOE to do the right thing on  
3 behalf of supporting this resolution.

4 I will briefly just try to conclude and  
5 if I could just have some extra time because of the  
6 other... the interruptions before, but I'm asking for  
7 support on Reso 433, for support on a resolution  
8 aimed at spurring Congress to take action on the  
9 Achieving a Better Life Experience, the ABLE Act,  
10 which has been under consideration since 2006. It  
11 would amend the Internal Revenue Code to create tax-  
12 free savings accounts for individuals with  
13 disabilities to be used to cover qualified expenses,  
14 such as housing, education and health care. The  
15 legislation is designed to encourage and assist  
16 individuals with disabilities and their families to  
17 set aside funds in tax advantaged savings accounts  
18 that allows the funds to be used in the future for  
19 those qualified expenses. This money would  
20 supplement benefits already provided through  
21 Medicaid, Social Security and private insurance.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
23 Council Member...

24 [crosstalk]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Which...



[crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please bring your comments to a close.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: The last sentence. Which would provide family members of those with significant disabilities the ability to pay for the extra cost associated with every day activities and community participation. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you. Council Member Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you, Madam Public Advocate. I am thrilled to be introducing three bills and one resolution today. The first one is going to be near and dear to your heart. It's in response to Commissioner Peters' report, a DOI report on the CityTime debacle. We're bringing a bill that was really one of his suggestions to more clearly understand through the VENDEX system exactly what the relationships are and whether or not there are conflicts between city workers and contractors, so I thought you'd be excited about that one, Intro 498.

Secondly, Intro 497 is with the Banking Commission. The goal is to allow the City Council to

1  
2 closely review property tax pre-pay discount rates  
3 and late fees and will give the city more flexibility  
4 in setting those rates to take into account the  
5 city's immediate need for cash, current interest  
6 rates and maximizing revenue.

7 Third, is Intro 499, which is the Central  
8 Park Loop Study, co-primed with Council Member  
9 Levine, who will talk about this more, but something  
10 that I think will go far to bringing much more safety  
11 for our pedestrians and those who are enjoying  
12 Central Park.

13 And lastly, Resolution 427, which will  
14 repeal SCRIE Injury sunset provisions. It urges the  
15 state to protect affordable housing through the SCRIE  
16 Injury programs by removing the sunset provision on  
17 the income threshold increase and I would argue that  
18 the Mayor should... I hope that the Mayor fights very  
19 hard for this in Albany and adds these apartments to  
20 his list of protected affordable housing units. It  
21 could be a big win for the city.

22 And in closing, [chime] I urge my  
23 colleagues to join me in addressing these critical  
24 issues by signing onto these bills. Thank you very  
25 much.

1  
2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
3 Council Member Levine.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you, Madam  
5 Public Advocate. I want to start by acknowledging  
6 that the tremendous leadership of our Speaker and the  
7 Mayor in launching today what will be a game changer  
8 of a plan for our Parks system. For years we've  
9 invested heavily in large and medium parks in this  
10 city, while the smaller parks; the neighborhood parks  
11 in our districts have been forced to survive on a  
12 stagnant Public Parks budget. Today, I was pleased  
13 to join with the Mayor and the Speaker and the Public  
14 Advocate in announcing a new investment of \$130  
15 million of capital money into a total of 35 parks in  
16 about 19 of our districts. These are small parks  
17 ranging from two to five acres that have received  
18 virtually no investment in the last two decades.  
19 They are in desperate need of the kind of  
20 modernization and upgrades that we want for every  
21 park and we've backed up this capital investment with  
22 expense money, largely provided by the Council, to  
23 support gardeners and maintenance workers and  
24 playground associates and as if that weren't enough,  
25 we were also able to put \$1.2 million into supporting

1  
2 organizers, outreach workers, small grants for the  
3 kinds of neighborhood stewardship volunteer-driven  
4 groups that are so essential to park health; really a  
5 lot to celebrate for all of us in this chamber today.

6           And very quickly, my remaining time I  
7 want to echo Council Member Rosenthal's comment in  
8 support of Intro 499, which I am pleased to be co-  
9 sponsoring with her. I spoke earlier about the need  
10 to lower the speed limit in our parks. This would  
11 take us one step further. It would ban car traffic,  
12 ban vehicular traffic in Central Park at a time when  
13 recreational use is at an all-time high and should be  
14 our priority. This would call for a ban on cars in  
15 Central Park from June 24th through September 25th.  
16 It would require DOT to conduct a traffic study so  
17 that we can show this is good for pedestrians, good  
18 for our park [chime] and not a problem for traffic.  
19 Thank you.

20           PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
21 Vallone.

22           COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you, Madam  
23 Advocate. First, I'd like to thank Council Member  
24 Laurie Cumbo for putting us all united against  
25 domestic violence. Let's hear it for Laurie,

1  
2 everybody. [applause] And second, I'd like to thank  
3 Laurie Cumbo 'cause she came all the way out to  
4 Flushing to stand with Peter Koo and I on a nice  
5 night where the Korean American Family Service Center  
6 had their silent march against domestic violence,  
7 which is a very powerful march. When you march in  
8 silence down the busiest streets of Queens everyone  
9 stops to look. Sometimes in silence you are much  
10 louder. So thank you, Laurie, for making it to that.

11 Today, I have Intro 500, who I'm proud to  
12 co-sponsor with Vanessa Gibson, our chair of  
13 Transportation and Public Safety, for something  
14 simple, which makes sense. In all of the hearings  
15 we've had, when you speak to 911 or a Fire Department  
16 or the ambulance and they say, "What was the issue?  
17 Why couldn't you get there?" They often say, "We  
18 didn't know where the address was," or "if we made  
19 the call they couldn't properly identify the home."  
20 So what we're here saying is the city would provide a  
21 911 emergency contact card to everyone in the city  
22 that's either a homeowner or apartment owner,  
23 whatever way you have a residence so that you could  
24 quickly put down the address, the owners of the  
25 property, the emergency contacts 'cause more often

1  
2 than not we have someone who visits us, whether it's  
3 a mother or a father, a neighbor, a friend and  
4 there's an emergency and they do not have that  
5 information. So Intro 500 would make the city  
6 provide a 911 contact card. If we can do it for  
7 sanitation recycling, we can certainly do it for a  
8 911 card. So thank you, Madam Advocate.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
10 Council Member Cornegy.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I would just  
12 like to take this opportunity to mention that this  
13 weekend we celebrated the one-year Anniversary of  
14 Avonte Oquendo going missing and I had the pleasure  
15 of doing a balloon release with his mother and family  
16 in Queens, so I just to remind everybody that  
17 actually a year has passed.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May he rest in  
19 peace. Council Member Ferreras.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Thank you,  
21 Madam Public Advocate. I'm asking and urging my  
22 colleagues to join both Council Member Kallos and  
23 myself in reference to Intro 489. It is an intro  
24 that will call on the Department of Finance to  
25 speedily give us a report as to how many ECB fines we

1  
2 have dockets out there. Oftentimes we've had to ask  
3 and plead and not necessarily get in a proper  
4 timeline how much is owed to our city. So when we're  
5 doing our budgeting and when we're talking about  
6 making cuts, which, you know, thank God this year we  
7 didn't have to do, but there might be a time when  
8 we're talking about PEGS. There is money out there  
9 that's not collected. There's money out there that  
10 needs to be collected and that both Commissioner Jiha  
11 and this Council need to ensure that we have properr  
12 oversight to be able to get those dollars back in our  
13 coffers. So I urge my colleagues to please sign onto  
14 Intro 489 so that we can get in a timely manner just  
15 before the Executive Budget the accurate number on a  
16 yearly basis of ECB fines that are still pending.  
17 Thank you.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
19 Council Member Kallos.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I am pleased to  
21 introduce an expanded Agency-Based Voter  
22 Registration, Bill Number 493. When it comes to  
23 voting, New York City's in trouble. We have seen  
24 historic lows in elections in the past years and in  
25 2013, only 24 percent of registered voters in New

1  
2 York City voted in municipal elections. It's not  
3 just a city problem. In 2008 and 2010, New York City  
4 voted less than Los Angeles, Chicago and  
5 Philadelphia. This bill will require 15 more  
6 agencies to provide voter registration forms and  
7 strengthen the city's obligation to assist New  
8 Yorkers in the registration process and the  
9 transmittal of forms. Now is the time for our city  
10 agencies to come together to make voting easy and  
11 widespread, as it is intended to be. I hope you will  
12 join me in signing onto this expanded Agency-Based  
13 Voter Registration Bill.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
15 Council Member Crowley.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Good afternoon.  
17 Two announcements: first, tomorrow the Fire and  
18 Criminal Justice Committee will have a hearing on the  
19 Department of Justice's investigation of the  
20 treatment of adolescents on Rikers Island. I will be  
21 co-chairing that with Council Member Cabrera, who  
22 chairs Juvenile Justice. We will look at the  
23 report's findings and how we can implement serious  
24 reforms and programs to help serve the 16 and 17-year  
25 olds on Rikers Island so we could help the city



1  
2 achieve meaningful reforms. I invite everyone to  
3 come to that hearing, which starts at 10:00 a.m.  
4 tomorrow.

5           Now I'd like to take the opportunity to  
6 acknowledge the passing of Cathy Potler, who was the  
7 Executive Director of the Board of Corrections, and  
8 tell you a little bit about her life and work. For  
9 almost 23 years, at the City Board of Corrections,  
10 which oversees the Department of Corrections, until  
11 her death on September 21st, Cathy was the epitome of  
12 a dedicated public servant. She was BOC's Executive  
13 Director. For almost 21 years she was a Deputy  
14 Executive Director where she implemented BOC's brand  
15 new health care standards enforcing compliance by the  
16 Department of Corrections and the Department of  
17 Health and Mental Health and Health Care and Mental  
18 Health standards. She especially focused on the  
19 city's attention to the health care needs of female  
20 inmates and helped develop the city's public health  
21 policy on tuberculosis. The Board is a small agency  
22 with a major criminal justice role. BOC sets  
23 standards that are minimum that regulate the  
24 conditions of confinement in all of the city's jails.  
25 Cathy was dedicated to the cause of prisoners' rights

1  
2 and human rights and when she came to work in 1991,  
3 [chime] she had spent 16 years in service to improve  
4 health care for New York State prisoners in the  
5 private industry...

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
7 Council Member...

8 [crosstalk]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: For...

10 [crosstalk[]

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please conclude  
12 your remarks.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Cathy Potler has  
14 proved that one person can make a difference; in  
15 Cathy's case, the difference in the lives of many  
16 thousands of New Yorkers in the 37 years and we give  
17 our deepest sympathy to her family, especially her  
18 son and you know, that she has made quite a  
19 difference in the criminal justice system,  
20 particularly in preserving the rights of people in  
21 our jails. Thank you.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May she rest in  
23 peace. Council Member Rose.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: My colleagues, I am  
25 so happy to be here with you today and I thank you.

1  
2 I truly thank you from the bottom of my heart for  
3 your calls, emails, texts, cards, candy; especially  
4 the candy, flowers and general well wishes following  
5 my accident in August and during my ongoing recovery.  
6 I thank you all.

7 I want to thank Council Member Cumbo for  
8 keeping domestic violence uppermost in our  
9 priorities. So I rise today in support of victims of  
10 domestic violence. Domestic violence is a serious  
11 public health crisis in my district. In 2013, there  
12 were 9,549 domestic incidents in the precinct in my  
13 council district. That's roughly 26 incidents every  
14 day. The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence  
15 reports that 56 percent of felony arrests, which  
16 occurred in my district were domestic violence  
17 related. I don't need these statistics to inform me  
18 of this crisis in my community because I hear  
19 directly from my constituents every day, recently  
20 receiving an email from a constituent pleading for  
21 help from her spouse, who beat her, had isolated her  
22 and made her completely dependent on him and felt  
23 because of his standing in the community, she was  
24 hopeless. Our DoVE initiative provides a lifeline to  
25 domestic violence victims so that they can access

1 safe housing, public benefits counseling and obtain  
2 orders of protection and whatever other services are  
3 needed to help stabilize their lives and support  
4 themselves. I am so very proud of this Council, as  
5 we have recognized this crisis and have funded  
6 community-based organizations and legal services that  
7 are the best place entities to identify and address  
8 this crisis. Thank you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Welcome back.

11 Council Member Cumbo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. I want  
13 to add that I, too, am so happy to have Debbie Rose  
14 back with us. We know that this was a challenging  
15 experience, particularly with everything that's  
16 happening in Staten Island pertaining to Eric Garner,  
17 and we were here for you and we were supporting you  
18 and we know all that you were doing from a hospital  
19 bed to have your voice heard around the very tragic  
20 circumstances around Eric Garner.

21 I want to at this time thank all of my  
22 colleagues for participating in my initiative to  
23 bring greater awareness to Domestic Violence  
24 Awareness Month. I want to thank our Speaker,  
25 Melissa Mark-Viverito, for all of your assistance in

1 making today, as well as all of the action items that  
2 are happening that are happening either in Flushing,  
3 Queens or in Washington Heights with the Brides  
4 March. But I'm asking all of us today, while we've  
5 been able to increase funding for domestic violence,  
6 that we also bring this message outside of the City  
7 Council and into our 51 districts. And so I'm asking  
8 all of you for New York City Go Purple Day,  
9 Wednesday, October 15th, to be in a high impact zone  
10 between the hours of 8:00 and 9:00. We will give you  
11 information to distribute to your community to let  
12 individuals know that there is help and that there  
13 are places to go for assistance as it pertains to  
14 domestic violence and our allies and our providers  
15 are going to be there to assist you at local train  
16 stations or in areas to get the word out. So I hope  
17 that all 51 council members will send a strong  
18 message to say that we want to end domestic violence  
19 in our communities.  
20

21 I also want to bring to your attention  
22 very quickly that Breast Cancer Awareness Month is  
23 also this month and I am extending an invitation for  
24 you all to join me on Sunday, October 19th at 10:00  
25 a.m. for the American Cancer Society Making Strides

1  
2 Against Breast Cancer Walk that will be held in  
3 Prospect Park.

4 I also want to bring up at this time a  
5 native of Trinidad and Tobago, Geoffrey Holder, who  
6 was an actor, dancer, choreographer, composer,  
7 designer and painter and made a significant impact to  
8 the cultural scene in New York. He died at the age  
9 of 84 and his...

10 [crosstalk]

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member?

12 [crosstalk]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Legacy will live  
14 on. Thank you.

15 [crosstalk]

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
17 Council Member Mendez.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you, Madam  
19 Public Advocate. My colleagues, today I rise to talk  
20 about a national pastime and a New York City hero. A  
21 few weeks ago, the Captain of the New York Yankees  
22 retired. I am a big Yankee fan, my father raised me  
23 a Yankee fan and more importantly, Derek Jeter's  
24 number, number 2 is the district I represent.

25 [laughter] But I was in Yankee Stadium back in 2001,

1  
2 where he hit a homerun in the wee hours of the  
3 morning, becoming Mr. November. He's given us 18  
4 years of baseball in the Major Leagues at Yankee  
5 Stadium here in New York City. He is a New York City  
6 hero. Captain, farewell and thank you, much respect.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Let's bring him  
8 here for a ceremonial. And to close, Council Member  
9 Greenfield.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you,  
11 Madam Public Advocate and I appreciate, as usual,  
12 your leadership and benevolence. I, first of all,  
13 would also like to say how excited I am to have  
14 Debbie Rose back. I am wistful for the good old days  
15 when I had the last seat, she has the second to the  
16 last seat and I had her advice and wisdom. I always  
17 told her she would be up front and I'm not quite  
18 there yet. She's already made it. So thank you so  
19 much, Debbie, for all of your contributions.

20 I just also want to add that obviously  
21 the work of Laurie Cumbo is really critical. Sorry,  
22 trying to see the clock over there and you're  
23 blocking. And the importance of today really is the  
24 message that victims of domestic violence are not  
25 alone. We're here for you; the city's here for you.

1  
2 We have more services and more help than any other  
3 city in the United States of America. If you're  
4 watching this, call 311 and we will make sure that we  
5 get you the resources you need.

6 And finally, as is my tradition, I'd like  
7 to introduce common sense as a piece of legislation  
8 and Intro 490 is just that. Currently, as the  
9 weather gets colder, you may recall that we have  
10 snowstorms on occasion in this city and  
11 unfortunately, some citizens, for whatever reason  
12 choose not to shovel their walk. Right now, you get  
13 a \$100.00 fine, which is really... doesn't really  
14 discourage folks because they'll just simply absorb  
15 the \$100.00 fine, so my legislation actually makes it  
16 a requirement that the Sanitation Department would  
17 put in place a program that after you get a violation  
18 they come and they clean up your snow and we increase  
19 the fine from \$100.00 to \$150.00 to cover the cost of  
20 cleaning up the sidewalks and so instead of simply  
21 griping and saying hey, why is my neighbor not  
22 neighborly, now if your neighbor gets a ticket the  
23 next day Sanitation can come down, they can clear the  
24 sidewalks. It'll create jobs. It's good for  
25 government and it's also good for children and the



1  
2 elderly, who unfortunately are the ones who have the  
3 most injuries. Please support Intro 490. Thank you  
4 very much.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And Happy New  
6 Year to you, Council Member. Today, all items on  
7 today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a  
8 revised vote of 49 in the affirmative, 0 in the  
9 negative and 0 abstentions, with the exception of  
10 Intro 466-A, which was adopted by a vote of 45 in the  
11 affirmative, 4 negative and 0 abstentions and the  
12 revised Land-Use Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of  
13 49 in the affirmative and 0 in the negative and the  
14 BLA Caucus is having a meeting in the Red Room  
15 immediately following the program. Council, the  
16 Speaker of the New York, Speaker Melissa Mark-  
17 Viverito for closing remarks.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madam  
19 Public Advocate. I just want to... Laurie mentioned  
20 it before, but I do want to thank those colleagues  
21 that did participate in the Brides March that  
22 happened I think it was last week at this point. I'm  
23 forgetting the date exactly, but obviously in  
24 remembrance and recognition of Gladys Ricart, who,  
25 unfortunately on her wedding day was killed by a

1  
2 former boyfriend and women march in their bride's  
3 dresses as a way of remembering and as a very  
4 powerful visual statement, but we had not had the  
5 support as a Council to march as a Council. I know  
6 the Women's Caucus and the Women's Committee signed  
7 on, so thank you for that support. We're hoping to  
8 continue to grow that in the upcoming years and this  
9 is an important month to raise awareness and so thank  
10 you, Laurie, for all you're doing and all of those  
11 that are wearing their purple, remember that we will  
12 have a photo shoot afterwards, but I think we're  
13 going to ask the jazz musicians to close us off, and  
14 thank you very much for being here. We're more than  
15 happy to be supportive of the efforts that were  
16 called for in the resolution. [applause] And now the  
17 performance. [Music] [applause, cheers]

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: We now stand  
19 adjourned. [background voices]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date October 13, 2014