

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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November 23, 2021

Start: 2:07 p.m.

Recess: 4:09 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Corey Johnson
Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Adrienne E. Adams
Alicka Ampry Samuel
Diana Ayala
Inez D. Barron,
Joseph C. Borelli
Justin L. Brannan
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret S. Chin
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Laurie A. Cumbo
Ruben Diaz, Sr.
Darma V. Diaz
Eric Dinowitz
Daniel Dromm
Mathieu Eugene
Oswald Feliz
Vanessa L. Gibson
Mark Gjonaj
Barry S. Grodenchik
Corey Johnson

Robert F. Holden
Corey Johnson
Ben Kallos
Peter A. Koo
Karen Koslowitz
Brad S. Lander
Stephen T. Levin
Mark Levin
Farah N. Louis
Alan N. Maisel
Steven Matteo
Carlos Menchaca
I. Daneek Miller
Francisco P. Moya
Bill Perkins
Keith Powers
Antonio Reynoso
Kevin C. Riley
Carlina Rivera
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Deborah L. Rose
Helen K. Rosenthal
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Mark Treyger
Eric A. Ulrich
Paul A. Vallone
James G. Van Bramer
Kalman Yeger

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

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1 STATED MEETING

4

2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: The hybrid portion of
3 the meeting has begun. I need quiet on the floor
4 please.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Sit down please, sit
6 down.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good afternoon and
8 welcome to the remote Stated Meeting on November 23,
9 2021. Will council members and staff please turn on
10 their video at this time. Thank you. To minimize
11 disruptions, please place all cell phones,
12 electronics to vibrate. Thank you, and we are ready
13 to begin.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All set. Ladies and
15 gentlemen, at this time please place all electronic
16 devices, all electronic devices to vibrate. Madam
17 Majority Leader.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Good afternoon
19 and welcome to the Stated Meeting of November 23,
20 2021. I am Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo and I'd like
21 to thank you for joining us today. If you would like
22 to follow along, the agenda for today's meeting is
23 posted on our website.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Please join us for the
25 Pledge of Allegiance.

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SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise.

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

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Roll call.

COUNCIL CLERK: Adams.

COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala.

COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Blessed and present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli.

COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan.

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Brooks-Powers.

COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Chin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Present.

3

COUNCIL CLERK: Cornegy.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aqui.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Darma Diaz.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER D. DIAZ: Presente.

7

COUNCIL CLERK: Ruben Diaz.

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COUNCIL MEMBER R. DIAZ: Presente.

9

COUNCIL CLERK: Dinowitz.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Present.

11

COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Present.

13

COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene. Feliz. Gennaro.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

15

COUNCIL CLERK: Gibson. Gjonaj.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Good afternoon.

17

I'm present, present.

18

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Gjonaj.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Present.

20

Present.

21

COUNCIL CLERK: Grodenchik.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Holden.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Kallos.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.
3 COUNCIL CLERK: Koo.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I'm here.
7 COUNCIL CLERK: Lander.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I'm here.
9 COUNCIL CLERK: Levin.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.
11 COUNCIL CLERK: Levine.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.
13 COUNCIL CLERK: Louis.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present.
15 COUNCIL CLERK: Maisel.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.
17 COUNCIL CLERK: Menchaca.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Present.
19 COUNCIL CLERK: Miller.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.
21 COUNCIL CLERK: Moya. Perkins.
22 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Present.
23 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Here.
25 COUNCIL CLERK: Reynoso.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Here.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Riley.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Present.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Rose. Rosenthal.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Treyger. Ulrich.

14 Vallone.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here, and

16 Madam Majority Leader may I have permission to vote

17 aye on all matters on today's general calender?

18 COUNCIL CLERK: I'm sorry, this is roll

19 call, Council Member.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Not at this time.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: [inaudible]

22 but I'm giving permission.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Matteo. Feliz.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: [inaudible].

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Cumbo.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Present.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I'm here.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Madam Majority Leader, we
10 have a quorum.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We have a quorum.

12 Thank you.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Eugene is now
14 here. Eugene is here.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Ulrich, Ulrich is
17 also here.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: [inaudible] you
20 have my presence?

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes, we have you,
22 Council Member Eugene.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you so very
24 much. Thank you.

25

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. The
3 joys of the hybrid. Thank you. We will now have
4 today's invocation, which will be delivered by Rabbi
5 Tamar Crystal, senior chaplain and spiritual leader
6 at the New York Board of Rabbis, located at 65 West
7 90th Street in Manhattan.

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise.

9 RIGHT TO COUNSEL: [speaking in Hebrew]
10 God, source of life, may we take this time of
11 Thanksgiving to stop and appreciate not only the many
12 blessings we have been give of family, friends,
13 community, and law, but also reconnect to our deep
14 gratitude for the gift of life itself. May we be
15 struck by the wonder of being alive, by the knowledge
16 that we are separate and yet firmly linked by the
17 sense of awe of living in a universe that is greater
18 than ourselves. May we find the world to be
19 sometimes so beautiful that we shall want it to be
20 more so, more often, for more people. And may you
21 bless the hands and hearts of those assembled here
22 today and every day to continue to work together with
23 that sense of awe and beauty, to create the best
24 possible law for all our constituencies.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. Thank
3 you so much, Rabbi Crystal. It's an honor to have
4 you here, and so many of our colleagues are so
5 excited that we decided to ask our speaker, Corey
6 Johnson, to spread the invocation onto the record.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ah, thank you Madam
8 Majority Leader. I want to thank, of course, the
9 rabbi for being here today on this holiday week and
10 for that, ah, very timely and important, ah,
11 invocation for us. So I'm gonna make a motion, ah,
12 that the invocation be spread in full and upon the
13 record.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
15 much, Council Member Johnson. We will now move into
16 the Adoption of the Minutes. We will have the
17 Adoption of Minutes by Council Member Debbie Rose.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Madam Majority Leader,
19 I'll make the motion. I make a motion that the
20 minutes of the Stated, that the Stated Meeting of
21 October 21, 2021, be adopted as printed.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
23 Speaker Corey Johnson.

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Sorry, Debbie. I
25 thought you were on delay. I apologize.

1 STATED MEETING

12

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: That's OK. Thank
3 you.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Yep.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We'll now have
6 messages and papers from the mayor.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: M347, submission of
8 Joseph Douek for appointment to the Planning
9 Commission.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Rules, privileges, and
11 elections.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Communication
13 from city, county, and borough offices.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Petitions and
16 communications.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Land use call-
19 ups.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: M348.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on a call-up
22 vote, and I would ask that the clerk take a roll call
23 vote on today's land use call-ups. Again,
24 colleagues, we are just voting on land use call-ups
25 at this time.

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: Adams. Council Member
3 Adams votes aye. Ampry-Samuel.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: I vote aye.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I vote aye.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala votes aye. Barron.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Barron
10 votes aye. Borelli.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli votes aye.

13 Brannan.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Brooks-Powers.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I make a
17 motion for unanimous consent to vote on all land use
18 call-ups and all items coupled on the general orders
19 calendar.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Any objections?

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I see no objections.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you.
23 I vote aye on all land use call-ups and all general
24 orders items, with the exception of Intro 2279-A.

25 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

1 STATED MEETING

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you.
3 Wishing everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Chin.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Chin votes
9 aye. Cornegy.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I vote aye.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Darma Diaz.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER D. DIAZ: Aye.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Darma Diaz
14 votes aye. Council Member Ruben Diaz.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER R. DIAZ: [speaking in
16 Spanish]

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, sir.
18 Dinowitz.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: I vote aye.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Council
21 Member Dinowitz votes aye. Dromm.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.
25

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Feliz.

3 Council Member Feliz.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Gennaro.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Gennaro

8 votes aye.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Gibson.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Gjonaj.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Aye.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Grodenchik.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Grodenchik votes aye.

16 Holden.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Kallos.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye. Council

20 Member Kallos votes aye. Koo.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Koo votes

23 aye. Koslowitz.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

25

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Koslowitz
3 votes aye. Excuse me. Lander.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Lander
6 votes aye. Levin.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Levin
9 votes aye. Levine.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Louis.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Maisel.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Maisel
16 votes aye, yes, excuse me. Menchaca.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Menchaca
19 votes aye. Miller.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Miller
22 votes aye. Moya.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Moya votes
25 aye. Perkins. Powers.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Powers
4 votes aye. Reynoso.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: [inaudible]

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, sir. Council
7 Member Reynoso votes yes. Riley.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Rivera.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Rivera
12 votes aye. Rodriguez. Council Member Rodriguez
13 votes aye. Rose.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Rosenthal.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Salamanca.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I vote aye.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Salamanca
20 votes aye. Treyger.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Ulrich.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Ah, I vote aye.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Vallone.

25

1 STATED MEETING

18

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Madam Majority
3 Leader, may I be excused and have permission to vote
4 on all matters on today's land use and general
5 calendar?

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Are there any
7 objections?

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I see none.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I vote aye on
10 all matters on today's calender. Thank you, and
11 happy Thanksgiving to all.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, you as
13 well.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Van Bramer.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Van Bramer
17 votes aye. Yeger.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Yeger
20 votes aye. Matteo. Cumbo.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I vote aye.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Speaker
23 Johnson.

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I vote aye.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Today's land use
3 call-ups have a vote of 47 in the affirmative and
4 zero negative. We will now have communication from
5 Speaker Corey Johnson.

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Good afternoon and
7 happy Tuesday. If folks could take their seats. If
8 council members could take their seats. Council
9 Member Miller, folks to take their seats. Good
10 afternoon. Happy Tuesday. Ah, thank you all for
11 being here. Thanks for the folks that are doing this
12 in a hybrid way as well. I want to thank the staff
13 for making that possible. Today we are voting on 18
14 bills to help strengthen our city. Some of the bills
15 include the expansion of the Rental Assistance
16 Voucher Program to include youth who spent time in
17 runaway and homeless services and in foster care.
18 We're also voting on crucial land use rezonings for
19 the future of our city, including, one, to develop
20 the New York Blood Center, located on the Upper East
21 Side, and also the Gowanus rezoning. As we head into
22 the Thanksgiving holiday I want to wish you all and
23 your family a happy Thanksgiving. I also want to
24 wish a happy Hanukah to those who celebrate as the
25 Festival of Lights starts on the evening of Sunday,

2 November 28, so happy Hanukah to all New Yorkers who
3 celebrate. And I want to ask everyone to, of course,
4 remain vigilant as we continue to battle COVID-19.

5 The battle against this pandemic is not over yet. It
6 is time to continue to recommit ourselves to ensuring
7 that we can in fact end this pandemic. As of
8 November 22 we have lost 34,747 New Yorkers to COVID.

9 We have lost too many lives to this devastating
10 disease. Please get vaccinated, and if you're

11 eligible please get your booster shot as well. On

12 Sunday we received very tragic news coming out of

13 Waukesha, located near Milwaukee in Wisconsin. A

14 driver sped their vehicle through barricades and

15 barreled through a crowd of people attending a

16 Christmas parade celebration. Five people were

17 killed and 40 more were injured. I want to send our

18 deepest condolences to the families, friends, and

19 victims of this horrific act. I also would like to

20 take a moment to recognize World AIDS Day, which we

21 will be marking on next Wednesday, December 1. Since

22 the start of the AIDS crisis, approximately 700,000

23 Americans have died from AIDS. It is a devastating

24 loss. I have lived with HIV since 2004, so 15, more

25 than 16 years. I know the fear, the anxiety, and the

2 stress that living with this disease can bring. When
3 I told my family, they told me they loved me, unlike
4 so many others who were cast out because of fear and
5 prejudice. On World AIDS Day we collectively
6 remember those we lost and mourn for what might have
7 been. We will remember them and we will remember
8 their struggle. We are sending our condolences to
9 anyone who's lost some to HIV and AIDS. On Saturday,
10 November 20, we marked Transgender Day of Remembrance
11 and honored all those that we've lost to hate. 2021
12 was the deadliest year on record for transgender
13 people. On November 11 we lost former Council Member
14 Ed Sadowsky. He was a six-term council member who
15 represented areas in northern Queens, serving from
16 1961 until 1985. Council Member Sadowsky was born in
17 Brooklyn and he was dubbed, he dubbed himself, an
18 accidental politician. He was the sponsor of
19 critical legislation, creating a commission to
20 oversee the taxi industry, and he was also the force
21 behind establishing the Department of Cultural
22 Affairs. He was 92 years old. As I do at every
23 Stated Meeting, I want to remember the lives that
24 we've lost, ah, to those who were on the job. We
25 mourn the tragic death of David Alima, Jr., who fell

2 to his death on November 17 as he was painting the
3 Manhattan Bridge. He was only 37 years old. If we
4 could please stand and pause for moment of silence
5 for all those New Yorkers who we have lost [moment of
6 silence]. Thank you. Now jumping into our docket
7 for the day, the council will vote on the following
8 finance items. The first, a transparency resolution,
9 second, a preconsidered resolution setting the date
10 and time for a public hearing on the proposed
11 assessment increases for the Lower East Side and
12 Hudson Yards BIDs, and lastly two Article 11 property
13 tax exemptions. We have 15 Strafford in Council
14 Member Mathieu Eugene's district, and we also have
15 1018 East 163rd Street in Council Member Rafael
16 Salamanca's district. The council will be voting on
17 the following land use items. The Gowanus
18 Neighborhood Plan, as modified, will transform
19 Gowanus in a dynamic mixed use, mixed income
20 neighborhood with approximately 8495 new housing
21 units, nearly 3000 of which will be affordable, one-
22 and-a-half acres of new parkland, and four acres of
23 new waterfront open space. A comprehensive package
24 of additional capital and policy commitments is
25 included as part of this plan. I really want to

2 congratulate Council Members Brad Lander and Council
3 Member Steve Levin, who have worked on this for years
4 and years and years. Congratulations, ah, to both of
5 them for their extraordinary hard work. Yes, give
6 them a round of applause [applause] for their
7 extraordinary hard work. We have 1045 Atlantic
8 Avenue rezoning as modified. It will facilitate the
9 development of a new 17-story mixed use building with
10 approximately 426 dwelling units, 126 of which will
11 be affordable, in Council Member Robert Cornegy's
12 district. Glenmore Manor, as modified, will
13 facilitate an 11-story mixed use building with 232
14 units of affordable housing in Council Member Darma
15 Diaz's district. Two projects in Council Member
16 Antonio Reynoso's district, 824 Metropolitan Avenue,
17 as modified, will facilitate the development of an
18 eight-story building with 36 dwelling units, 11 of
19 which will be affordable. Cooper Parks Commons, as
20 modified, will facilitate the redevelopment of a
21 four-and-a-half acre former Greenpoint Hospital
22 campus in East Williamsburg into a two-building,
23 mixed use complex with 553 units of affordable and
24 senior housing. And the New York Blood Center, as
25 modified, will facilitate the creation of a life

2 sciences hub at their existing site in Council Member
3 Ben Kallos's district, and the rezoning area also
4 covers Council Member Keith Powers's district. Ah,
5 also in Council Member Powers's district is 343
6 Madison Avenue. MTA headquarters, as modified, will
7 facilitate the new, the redevelopment of the site
8 with a 750,000 square foot commercial building,
9 including on and off site public ground improvements.
10 The city clerk has received multiple protests
11 purporting to be pursuant to Section 200 of the City
12 Charter against all the City Planning Commission
13 resolutions relating to the New York Blood Center.
14 Of those, five did not even arguably fall within the
15 provisions of Charter Section 200 because they were
16 not protests to amendments to the zoning resolution.
17 They have all been posted online with their materials
18 for today's Stated Meeting. Two of the protests were
19 to the text amendment. City Planning Commission
20 Resolution N210352ZRM, and they were timely filed.
21 However, there's controversy as to how the
22 calculation to determine their sufficiency under
23 Charter Section 200 is to be made. We have been
24 transparent in this and have posted two memos we have
25 received - one containing calculations that would

2 support the protest, and one with calculations that
3 would invalidate protest. If the protest is deemed
4 to be valid a three-quarters majority vote would be
5 required of the City Council. If the protest is not
6 deemed valid a simple majority vote would be
7 sufficient. With at least a three-quarters vote the
8 protest would be moot. I urge my colleagues to
9 support this important worthy rezoning. The next
10 item is Las Races. It will facilitate the
11 redevelopment of four buildings and 81 affordable
12 units in Council Member Bill Perkins and Diana
13 Ayala's district. Also in Council Member Ayala is
14 Win Powers, the redevelopment of 346 Powers Avenue
15 with two new buildings, with a 221-unit permanent
16 supportive housing facility for families with
17 children, and a 95-unit homeless shelter, 185-17
18 Hillside Avenue rezoning, as modified, will
19 facilitate the development of a nine-story mixed use
20 building with 48 units of housing, 12 affordable, in
21 Council Member Jim Gennaro's district. And moving
22 on, the council will be voting on the following
23 pieces of legislation. Introduction number 1487-A,
24 sponsored by Council Member Francisco Moya, from the
25 Committee on Land Use, will require the Department of

2 City Planning to conduct a retrospective statistical
3 analysis of all major land use actions approved since
4 2009 and to report to the mayor and to the council on
5 changes in the population and housing affordability
6 in project areas. These reports will provide the
7 opportunity for oversight and accountability to
8 better inform planning outcomes long into the future.
9 New York City is a constantly changing landscape of
10 new construction and new concepts in urban planning.
11 The history of this change is marked by large land
12 use actions that have implemented well-intentioned
13 land use policies with obvious unintended
14 consequences. From the staff I want to thank Jeffrey
15 Campagna and Julie Lubin. Introduction number 1891-
16 A, sponsored by Council Member Joe Borelli from the
17 Committee on Fire and Emergency Management, will
18 permit Zambone's design for more than one propane
19 canister to operate using two such canisters.
20 Zambone's machines, used to resurface ice, are
21 regulated by fire code provisions for powered
22 industrial trucks and are currently limited to only
23 one canister during operation, even when such
24 vehicles are built to utilize more. From the staff I
25 want to thank Joshua Kingsley and Jack Kern. Next up

2 we have two bills from the Committee on Housing and
3 Buildings. Introduction number 2312-A, sponsored by
4 Council Member Kevin Riley, will limit the fees that
5 a landlord can recover when a tenant vacates a
6 residence before the end of the lease to the fair
7 market cost necessary to prepare the residential
8 dwelling unit for a rental. From the staff I want to
9 thank Janan Zilka. Introduction number 1635-A,
10 sponsored by Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo, will build
11 on the City Canvas Pilot Program to display artwork
12 on protective structures on construction sites. The
13 bill would expand the breadth of properties that will
14 be eligible to participate, allow for preapproved
15 artwork property owners can choose from, and make the
16 program permanent. I want to thank Audrey Son.
17 Congratulations, Madam Majority Leader. Moving on,
18 we have two bills from the Committee on Governmental
19 Operations. First we're voting on Introduction
20 number 167-B, sponsored by Council Member Alan
21 Maisel. This bill will require certain agencies to
22 be capable of issuing warnings to, for first-time
23 violations. This bill would ensure that in cases
24 where administrative code allows for warnings,
25 inspectors are able to use those warnings in the

2 manner provided by law. We are also voting on
3 Introduction number 1784-A, sponsored by Council
4 Member Farah Louis. This bill would require the
5 mayor to establish a new office for nonprofit
6 organization services. The office would serve as a
7 liaison for nonprofits, help to, help them navigate
8 city policies, procedures, and regulations, and
9 connecting them with various city resources. It
10 would also advise city agencies on measures to
11 improve their programs and processes to better
12 support the nonprofit sector. Ah, for those two
13 bills I want to C. J. Murray. Moving along, from the
14 Committee on Civil Service and Labor, Introduction
15 number 2456, which I sponsored, will require that no
16 later than 90 days after the operational commencement
17 date a covered employee of a retailer, food
18 establishment, or distribution center, located on
19 property within the city that has been improved or
20 developed using the city financial assistance shall
21 either submit an attestation that the covered
22 employer has entered or is negotiating into one or
23 more labor peace agreements, or submit an attestation
24 to the city or city economic development entity
25 stating the covered employers, covered employees, are

2 not currently represented by a labor organization and
3 knows no labor organization has been sought to
4 represent such covered employees. It is my hope this
5 legislation that we're voting on today will help
6 workers and unions, ah, in the organizing process
7 while also benefitting employers by ensuring that
8 work will continue, regardless of labor negotiations.
9 And I want to thank Louis Childin Brown from my
10 staff. Next, we're voting on Introduction number
11 903-A, sponsored by Council Member Adrienne Adams, a
12 bill coming out of the Committee on Criminal Justice.
13 This bill requires the Department of Correction to
14 assist people being released in the process of
15 receiving unused commissary funds and ensure that any
16 person with an unused commissary fund is immediately
17 given up to \$200 in commissary funds in cash upon
18 request. From the staff I want to thank Agatha
19 Mevropolis and Keshorn Denny. Ah, next up we have a
20 bill that I am cosponsoring, Introduction number
21 1392-A, from the Committee on Public Safety. It will
22 require that city's district attorneys offices report
23 annually on the basic functioning of their offices.
24 These annual reports, which will be posted publicly,
25 will require each office to release various data

2 points related to decision-making at various stages
3 of a criminal case, such as data on decisions to
4 prosecute or dismiss a case following arrest, bail
5 recommendations, and average length of a case before
6 a disposition. The report also requires the numbers
7 to be disaggregated by offense and by the race,
8 gender, and age of the defendant. Currently there
9 are no requirements that city's district attorneys
10 conduct any public reporting on office functions.
11 Although some local district attorneys issue periodic
12 reports, there is no uniformity in such reporting and
13 very little data is publicly released regarding
14 prosecutorial conduct. As a result, there is
15 significant lack of transparency regarding
16 prosecutorial decision-making in a manner that limits
17 effective oversight of the district attorneys and
18 hinders public trust in the criminal justice process.
19 From the staff I want to Joshua Kingsley, Matt
20 Thompson, and Jack Story. Moving on, we have four
21 bills from the Committee on Transportation. First
22 up, Introduction number 2422-A, sponsored by Council
23 Member and Committee Chair Ydanis Rodriguez, which
24 will authorize the use of pay by plate parking meters
25 in addition to pay and display parking meters. From

2 the staff I want to thank Jessica Steinberg-Alban and
3 Elliot Lin. The second bill from the Committee on
4 Transportation, which I sponsored, is Introduction
5 number 2253-A. The city has experienced an explosion
6 in the number of last-mile truck delivery trips as
7 consumers increasingly embrace e-commerce, a trend
8 that has been accelerated during the pandemic. Our
9 streets were not designed to accommodate a constant
10 flow of commercial and residential deliveries. This
11 leads to congestion and emissions from double-parked
12 or circling trucks and block sidewalks and roadways
13 filled with packages as they are staged for delivery.
14 Micro distribution centers address this problem
15 through the creation of dedicated space for delivery
16 companies or small businesses to stage package
17 deliveries, allowing them to offload packages from
18 trucks, for transfer, for sustainable, to sustainable
19 modes of last-mile delivery, such as bikes or hand
20 trucks, without blocking important sidewalk space or
21 double parking. My bill would require the Department
22 of Transportation to establish a micro distribution
23 center pilot program. Before launching the program,
24 DOT would seek input from entities interested in
25 facilitating operating or using micro distribution

2 centers and gather feedback on potential challenges
3 and opportunities. And from the staff I want to
4 thank Elliot Lin. The third bill from the Committee
5 on Transportation is Introduction number 2277-A,
6 sponsored by Council Member Keith Powers. Truck
7 loading zones are an effective solution to problems
8 of double parking and blocked sidewalks that often
9 occur when trucking companies drop off commercial
10 deliveries, small businesses make service calls, and
11 workers unload tools or materials in heavily utilized
12 public spaces. However, truck loading zones are only
13 usable if they are well regulated and not blocked by
14 unauthorized vehicles or construction activity. This
15 bill will reform existing laws governing truck
16 loading zones and codify new curb management
17 practices. Again, I want to thank Elliot Lin. And
18 the fourth and last bill from the Committee on
19 Transportation is Introduction number 2279-A,
20 sponsored by Council Member Antonio Reynoso. While
21 the city uses, while the uses of city streets for
22 transportation, commerce, and recreation have
23 undergone many recent changes, curb space dedicated
24 to the loading and unloading of personal, commercial,
25 and for-hire vehicles remains limited. The lack of

2 such space can have significant negative impacts on
3 neighborhoods through the effects of traffic
4 congestion, harmful emissions, and safety hazards.

5 This bill will increase the number of loading zones
6 in neighborhoods citywide. And again I want to

7 Elliot Lin. Moving on, we're voting on four bills

8 for today's Stated Meeting that are all sponsored by

9 Council Member Steve Levin. One bill comes from the

10 Committee on Education. The other three come from

11 the Committee on General Welfare, which Council

12 Member Levin chairs. Introduction number 139-A will

13 require the Department of Education to disaggregate

14 its annual report on school-based health centers,

15 common student illnesses, and health screenings by

16 student housing status for students in kindergarten

17 through grade eight. The next three bills will come

18 from the Committee on General Welfare. Introduction

19 number 150 will require the creation of a task force

20 regarding the transportation of students in temporary

21 housing. The task force will issue a report

22 assessing barriers to arranging transportation for

23 students in temporary housing and recommendations for

24 addressing barriers. The last two bills for this

25 meeting expand eligibility for rental assistance

2 vouchers program, which is called CITYFEPS.

3 Introduction number 148-A will allow youth who have

4 spent time in foster care to be eligible for CITYFEPS

5 rental assistance vouchers. Any 90 days of the

6 previous two years spent in foster care would count

7 as time spent in shelter for purposes of determining

8 eligibility for the vouchers. And lastly we're

9 voting on Introduction number 2405-A. This bill will

10 allow youth who have spent time in runaway and

11 homeless youth services funded by the Department of

12 Youth and Community Development to be eligible for

13 CITYFEPS rental assistance vouchers. Any 90 days of

14 the previous two years spent in these services would

15 count as time spent in the shelter for purposes of

16 determining eligibility for these vouchers, and all

17 three of these really important bills were worked on

18 really hard by Aminta Kilawan. So I want to thank

19 Aminta for her hard work. And finally, lastly, this

20 afternoon we're voting on Introduction number 2448-A,

21 sponsored by Council Member Vanessa Gibson, and from

22 the Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business

23 Licensing. This bill will amend the city's Earned

24 Sick and Safe Time Act to provide four additional

25 hours of paid leave for parents to get their children

2 vaccinated from COVID-19. And from the staff I want
3 to thank Stephanie Jones, Leah Scripiak, and Noah
4 Meixler. That is our agenda. It is a long agenda.
5 I want to thank you, Madam Majority Leader, for, ah,
6 presiding over today's meeting, and I look forward to
7 proceeding with today's votes.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much
9 for that very robust agenda. We're now going to move
10 into the portion of our program of discussion of
11 general orders, and we are gonna begin first with
12 Council Members Salamanca, Kallos, and then Adams.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you,
14 Madam Majority Leader.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Ah, thank you,
17 Mr. Speaker. I, um, I rise today to implore my
18 colleagues to vote in favor of the New York Blood
19 Center rezoning. It is no exaggeration when I say
20 the decision we make today has far-reaching impacts
21 on whether we are able to save countless lives from
22 disease and illness that ravage our communities now
23 and in the future. More than any project we have
24 been asked to vote on, the Blood Center rezoning is
25 not just a project that affects New York City. This

2 project affects millions of Americans who would
3 benefit from the medical breakthroughs that will be
4 researched and discovered at this location. From
5 groundbreaking research around HIV, sickle cell,
6 diabetes, autism, and Alzheimer's treatments, to
7 storing almost 90% of the city's hospitals' building
8 supply. The work that the New York Blood Center
9 undertakes serves every community that calls New York
10 City home. The marginalized commissions of the South
11 Bronx that I represent to the affluent communities
12 that make up the Upper East Side. As a former
13 district manager and now chair of the Committee on
14 Land Use, I deeply cherish the voice of the
15 community. However, the project we're being asked to
16 vote on today is not a hyper-local housing project
17 that would be market-rate units to a neighborhood, or
18 even an over-glorified office tower, as some have
19 called it. This is a project that strikes a balance
20 between the concerns of the surrounding community
21 relating to shadows and building heights, while also
22 having the potential to save the lives of your
23 neighbors, your friends, your family members, and
24 maybe even you one day. This rezoning also provides
25 high-quality construction and building service jobs

2 for New Yorkers of all backgrounds. The project you
3 see today is vastly different from the, from when it
4 was first introduced - reducing the building heights
5 by over 100 feet, from 334 feet to 233 feet; limiting
6 development to sign, to life science uses; and
7 providing over 10 million dollars in funding for the
8 local school and community garden. May I continue,
9 Madam?

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: You have a bit
11 more time.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you.
13 The last 20 months have shown us how critical it is
14 to prioritize and invest in our medical potential.
15 This rezoning does just that - facilitating the
16 transformation of antiquated research labs into a
17 state-of-the-art beacon for medical innovation. For
18 these reasons, I urge you all to vote in favor of
19 this rezoning. And before I finish, I would like to
20 thank and recognize the tireless efforts of Raju
21 Mann, Julie Guban, and the entire land use team,
22 Speaker Johnson, Jason Goldman, Council Member Keith
23 Powers, and zoning subcommittee chair Francisco Moya
24 and Borough President Gale Brewer, the
25 administration, and my colleagues to reach out to

2 voice their support for getting this project to the,
3 to the pivotal moment. Let's not let shadows
4 overshadow the health of New Yorkers. Thank you.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
6 Council Member Salamanca. We will now hear from
7 Council Member Ben Kallos.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: The fight over
9 the new blood center building was never about blood.
10 It has been about two other issues - how high should
11 the center's for-profit partner, Longfellow
12 Developments Commercial Offices tower over a
13 residential neighborhood and member deference.
14 Despite us not having reached a deal I could support,
15 the Land Use Committee voted to approve a modified
16 version of the project, which would be built in the
17 district I represent. To pave the way for this vote,
18 which bucked member deference, much was done to paint
19 me as unreasonable NIMBY and the blood supply is at
20 risk. My community board and I have never opposed a
21 rezoning before. In fact, we voted yes in my back
22 yard to a homeless shelter three blocks from where I
23 live, and multiple rezonings, including a four city
24 block long life science campus at Rockefeller
25 University, and expanding the Hospital for Special

2 Surgery. We cut the ribbon on the bill for a
3 research tower, Memorial-Sloan Kettering Tower at
4 74th Street, and acres of space for Cornell Tech. We
5 are building two new towers for Hospital for Special
6 Surgery on 79th Street and 71st Street over the FDR
7 Drive. I have always been willing to build the blood
8 center a new building, and our blood supply has never
9 been at risk because they are only permitted by the
10 FDA to test and distribute blood from its complexes
11 on Long Island City, just over a mile away, and on
12 Long Island, not from the Upper East Side. These
13 sites are part of a vast network of buildings that
14 allow the blood center to compete with the Red Cross
15 across 17 states. In fact, the final changes I was
16 asking for on behalf of my constituents, which should
17 have gotten us to a deal, only affected the
18 commercial tower, which takes up two-thirds of the
19 new building. That commercial space is being propped
20 up by 30 feet mechanical floor and ultra-luxury
21 double-height ceiling heights. Ah, Majority Leader,
22 if I could have more time, please.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: You may continue.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you.

25 Perhaps that's because Longfellow's trademark office

2 service [inaudible] boasts of offering tenants
3 curated amenities, from spa treatments and yoga to
4 free-flowing beer and wine, because in Longfellow's
5 words, no one goes to work just to work anymore. The
6 gap we could not cross in our negotiations was how
7 high these money-making spaces would rise, not how
8 many floors or how large the floors would be. All of
9 that would be unchanged. We simply asked Longfellow
10 to move 30 feet of mechanical equipment from the
11 middle of the building to the roof and lower their
12 ceiling heights from 18 feet to a more reasonable,
13 but still tall, 14 feet. In exchange, they would be
14 allowed an additional 50,000 square feet on top of
15 the rezoning we are voting on today. This generous
16 offer was rejected because Longfellow wanted more
17 valuable commercial space and because the mayor and
18 special interests want to prove a point. Local
19 council members don't matter anymore and can no
20 longer representing their communities. I am grateful
21 to the community members and colleagues who stood by
22 me and helped to get the building down from 334 feet
23 to 233 feet, largely by reducing the height of empty
24 spaces in the original 16-story building. Though I
25 remain frustrated by my, though I remain frustrated

2 that my community and I didn't have a seat at the
3 table, as Mayor de Blasio himself negotiated the
4 project for developers represented by lobbyists
5 Kramer Levin, who he owes more than a quarter million
6 dollars for keeping him out of jail. The community
7 has demanded investigations. The mayor should have
8 recused himself and still hasn't answered if and when
9 he will ever repay this five-year-old debt. Only
10 after the committee vote we learned about enormous
11 bill this project is going to put on taxpayers. In
12 addition to 300,000 square feet of air rights for
13 Longfellow valued at 300 million dollars, the mayor
14 is getting Longfellow, a Boston-based for-profit
15 developer, 450 million dollars in tax breaks, that's
16 750 million dollars in total subsidies. We don't
17 have, still don't have a binding community benefits
18 agreement, and the promised restrictive declaration
19 fails to do what the mayor said it would do. The
20 council rejected Amazon over a 3 billion dollar
21 subsidy, and this near-billion dollar giveaway to
22 Longfellow for six floors of commercial space should
23 get the same scrutiny. The current project is only
24 12 stories, but it is 233 feet tall. That's because
25 more than half the building, 118 feet, comes from

2 ceiling heights of 18, 20, and even 30 feet tall. I
3 led the council on capping heights on mechanical
4 floors in residential buildings at 20 feet. I don't
5 see how we can support a building with a 30-foot
6 mechanical floor. Approval from the full council
7 would create a blueprint for deep-pocketed developers
8 to get whatever they want. Don't be fooled into
9 thinking this will work for affordable housing
10 developers, homeless services, faith-based groups, or
11 nonprofit providers. The community filed a protest
12 whose sole purpose is to defeat spot zonings like
13 this one that should force the full City Council to
14 achieve a 75% majority of 39 yes votes to pass this
15 rezoning. No matter the outcome, I am committed to
16 working with the blood center on a new building. I'm
17 asking you, my colleagues, to honor member deference
18 and oppose the Longfellow commercial tower proposal
19 from the blood center by voting no on land use items
20 864, 865, and 866, and accompanying resolutions 1815,
21 1816, and 1817. Thank you for the additional time.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
23 Council Member Kallos. We'll now go to Council
24 Member Adams.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you, Madam
3 Majority Leader. I'd first like to say that I had
4 the honor to serve with the Honorable Ed Sadowsky, as
5 a member of the Queens Public Library trustee board.
6 Ed was a powerhouse to reckon with and to learn from.
7 Among the bills we're voting on today is Introduction
8 903, my legislation that will require the Department
9 of Correction to return unclaimed commissary funds
10 back into the hands of formerly incarcerated
11 individuals. Over the last several years DOC has
12 amassed a reported 3.7 million dollars in these
13 unused funds. Although this money belongs to those
14 who have been discharged from the department's
15 custody, far too many people are unaware that they
16 still have money in their commissary account. These
17 funds have been sitting there without being properly
18 dispersed to those who may need this money to help
19 get back on their feet. Intro 903-A will require the
20 department to assist people being released to
21 navigate the process of retrieving their commissary
22 funds and any person with unused funds can also
23 request to be given up to \$200 in cash.
24 Additionally, this legislation will require DOC to
25 establish a plan to raise awareness about obtaining

2 the funds, make reasonable efforts to return the
3 money, and for the department to report annually on
4 outstanding commissary funds and attempts to return
5 them. Formerly incarcerated individuals face enough
6 challenges upon their release, whether it's housing,
7 employment, or lack of opportunity, and I'm confident
8 that this bill will go a long way as they return
9 home. I'd like to thank Agatha Mervopolis from the
10 speaker's office, and Ben Sang, my director of
11 communications and legislation for their hard work on
12 this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to
13 vote in favor of Intro 903 today. Thank you, Madam
14 Majority Leader.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
16 Council Member Adams. We will now hear from Council
17 Member Lander, followed finally by Council Member
18 Riley.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thanks very much,
20 Madam Majority Leader. The Gowanus neighborhood
21 rezoning shows that it is possible for New Yorkers to
22 plan together for a more inclusive and sustainable
23 future for our city. It shows that many people will
24 accept growth in their neighborhood if they're a real
25 part of the planning process and see it as a way to

2 achieve shared values. This rezoning began nearly a
3 decade ago in grassroots community conversations. It
4 was strengthened through robust participation in
5 literally scores of meetings with over a thousand
6 people, sponsored by Community Board 6, which
7 ultimately recommended yes with the modifications we
8 won on the rezoning. It was strengthened through the
9 advocacy of the remarkable Gowanus Neighborhood
10 Coalition for Justice, a diverse coalition of public
11 housing residents, environmentalists, artists, small
12 businesses, and community leaders, and it featured a
13 partnership approach here at the council. Big, big
14 thank you to Brian Paul and Raju Mann, and with City
15 Planning and City Hall. That ensured that the plan
16 to open up Gowanus to housing development that our
17 city urgently needs comes along with the real
18 commitments to genuine affordability, to preserving
19 the mixed use character, the creative character that
20 makes it such a great neighborhood, the renovation of
21 neighborhood public housing, and serious investments
22 in the sewer, transit, parks, and school
23 infrastructure that are needed to sustain growth.
24 The plan we're voting on today is the first mandatory
25 inclusionary housing and neighborhood rezoning in a

2 whiter, wealthier neighborhood, the largest rezoning
3 in the de Blasio administration, the first rezoning
4 to undergo a racial impact study that provided
5 extensive evidence that if we want a more integrated
6 and inclusive future this is the path forward and
7 that the status quo won't get us there. Um, and it
8 includes the strongest affordability and
9 sustainability requirements ever imposed on
10 developers in New York City. A few highlights, and I
11 apologize, Madam Majority Leader, I might go a little
12 over my time. Um, nearly 3000 units of permanently
13 affordable housing for low-income and working class
14 families, in a neighborhood that has some of the
15 highest rents and home prices in the city, um, and a
16 commitment to 100% affordability on the city-owned
17 public play site, 200 million dollars to ensure that
18 every single one of the 1662 units in Gowanus Houses
19 and Wyckhoff Gardens receives a comprehensive
20 interior modernization in kitchens, baths, plumbing,
21 electrical, while remaining firmly NYCHA public
22 housing. Innovative approaches to preserve and
23 strengthen the creative mix of uses in Gowanus,
24 including 150 affordable artist studios, pursuant to
25 a community benefits agreement between 10 developers

2 and Arts Gowanus, a new zoning district reserved for
3 arts and light manufacturing, preservation of five
4 historic buildings, ah, including the great Sub Power
5 House Arts, ah, Nonprofit Industrial Arts Campus, ah,
6 extensive tools for environmental sustainability,
7 including the, supporting the cleanup of the Gowanus
8 Canal, an aggressive new storm water rule, and 174
9 million dollar upgrade to sewer infrastructure to
10 prevent flooding along Fourth Avenue. Ah, and thanks
11 to this council all new development around the canal
12 will have new, ah, will be required to have
13 rooftop...

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: ...solar, wind, or
16 green. Um, I will just skip all the other great
17 things in the rezoning. I'll point you to the points
18 of agreement. I gotta thank a few people, though.
19 Ah, the Gowanus Neighborhood Coalition for Justice,
20 Michelle Delajusa, Fifth Avenue Committee, Andrea
21 Parker at the Gowanus Canal Conservancy, David Kutz
22 and Johnny Thornton at Arts Gowanus, and the Tenant
23 Association Leadership at, ah, Gowanus and Wyckhoff,
24 Community Board 6, Mike Grasiopa and Alex Sherinback,
25 um, ah, Julia Ermine from my staff who did just

2 unbelievable work on this year, along with Katherine
3 Tinel and Benjamin Solitaire from Steve's office, and
4 last, but not least, I have to thank my partner, ah,
5 Steve Levin. It is rare in this council to be able
6 to work so closely with another member on something
7 where you gotta a lot of knives being thrown at you,
8 a lot of suspicions, ah, we worked together in a way
9 that I think is grounded in your integrity and your
10 partnership and friendship, and I feel proud to have
11 been able to work with you across a lot of years to
12 get this done. I'm really, really grateful for your
13 friendship and your partnership in this work. Ah,
14 this land use stuff is hard. I really think we need
15 some new processes, ah, for the future, if we're
16 gonna plan for the city. But I think the Gowanus
17 neighborhood rezoning has some of the elements we
18 need to get us there.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I hope you will,
21 yes, thank you so much, and I apologize and thank you
22 for the time.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, and
24 congratulations. Ah, Council Member Riley, followed
25 by Council Member Levin, and Council Member Menchaca.

2 For the remainder of our remarks, if we could stick
3 within the timeframe so that we fit within the
4 parameters of the meeting that would be ideal.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you,
6 Majority Leader. Ah, thank you to my colleagues.
7 This will be my first piece of legislation, ah, that
8 I'm bringing to the floor. Um, it has been an honor
9 to be here today as I introduce Intro 2312, to be
10 called to vote. Ah, many unforeseen circumstances
11 can result in a tenant's need to change their housing
12 situation and with recovery from COVID-19 pandemic
13 still underway we recognize that many New Yorkers,
14 especially our tenants, are still faced with
15 hardship. Intro 2312 calls to make sure that these
16 New York families are supported and will not be
17 punished or taken advantage of. This bill not only
18 brings us one step closer to the renter's relief, but
19 it also provides assistance to small landlords who
20 help provide housing for New Yorkers, ensuring that
21 they are able to maintain their property reasonably.
22 It is my hope that my colleagues will stand with me
23 on this legislation, which promotes fair rental
24 agreements between tenants and landlords. I thank
25 you to everyone who's here today, and happy holidays.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, and
3 congratulations, Council Member Riley. Council
4 Member Levin, followed by Council Member Menchaca.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you, Madam
6 Majority Leader. Um, I appreciate the opportunity to
7 say a few words about the legislation that I'm
8 sponsoring today that, ah, we're gonna be passing,
9 ah, Intros 139 and 150-A, um, ah, would be, ah, 150-A
10 would establish a task force regarding transportation
11 of students in temporary housing in New York City,
12 and 139, ah, would require the Department of
13 Education to report on student health services in
14 correlation with student housing, housing status for
15 students in kindergarten through the eighth grade.
16 Um, these two bills, um, have been, ah, ah, very
17 important for a number of years because we know that
18 housing status negatively affects, ah, children's
19 health, ah, and negatively affects their education,
20 and, but we do not have, um, the type of
21 comprehensive data that comes from New York City, um,
22 to being able to direct policy, um, so the
23 establishment of this reporting and, ah, this task
24 force, um, would, would really, um, bring some, a
25 comprehensive approach to, ah, the needs of children

2 who, ah, through no fault of their own find
3 themselves, um, in temporary housing, homeless
4 shelters, um, doubled up and, um, and it's the very
5 least that we could do as a city on behalf of them.
6 And I want to thank in particular Randi Leviv from
7 Advocates for Children, ah, for her amazing work on
8 this legislation for a long period of time. Um, ah,
9 Intros, um, 2405 and 148, um, these are two bills
10 that we've worked on for a long time, um, to, um, ah,
11 make sure that youth that are in foster care and in
12 the DYCD runaway homeless youth system, um, don't
13 have to go into shelter in order to qualify for a
14 rental assistance voucher. Don't have to go into an
15 adult shelter when they age out, um, because their
16 time in shelter will count towards, um, ah, their,
17 ah, their status as a, um, being in temporary housing
18 so that they can qualify for, for, um, ah, for that
19 type of voucher. In particular, 2405, I want to
20 dedicate to the memory of Lou Fidler, um, who is, ah,
21 was the, ah, the former chair of the Youth Services
22 Committee. I want to thank our, our current chair,
23 Debbie Rose, ah, for her partnership on this
24 legislation, but in, in, in Lou's memory I want to,
25 um, ah, dedicate this piece of legislation to him

2 because of his, um, unwavering support to the young
3 people in the runaway homeless youth system. Um, ah,
4 so thank you, Debbie, um, it's great to see you, ah,
5 there and, ah, for your partnership on this and, ah,
6 and, and thank you to Lou, who's smiling down from up
7 above. And lastly I just want to, ah, take a moment
8 to thank our, ah, ah, my, my friend, Brad Lander, um,
9 on the amazing work, ah, in eight years of leadership
10 that he put into making the Gowanus rezoning a
11 reality. Um, it is real blood, sweat, and tears, ah,
12 went into this. And thank you, Speaker, ah, for your
13 support of all these pieces of legislation today.
14 Ah, they would not have passed without, without your
15 support, so thank you very much, Speaker.

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I told you we'd get it
17 done.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Congratulations.
19 And finally Council Member Carlos Menchaca.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you. Ah,
21 hello, colleagues. I, coming up here to vote, ah, or
22 to talk about my vote around the blood center, and I
23 know it's been a really, ah, difficult conversation
24 and it's not the first time that we had robust
25 discussions, but I think, I think it's important that

2 Ben has a voice of support, ah, 'cause he's not the
3 only one that feels this way. And I know not all of
4 you are up here speaking, but I hope I can speak on
5 your behalf, or at least intention around the process
6 that we went through as a council to get here. The
7 local council members are in support. What does that
8 matter? Well, it's mattered for a long time, and we
9 haven't had a discussion as a body to change that.
10 The game changed at the end on this process and I
11 think that is of much concern. And I'm thinking
12 about the members of the council who are coming back
13 and then those who are just elected. When I worked
14 with our community around Industry City we built a
15 very robust set of principles on how something like
16 Industry City, that is so important to the
17 neighborhood and the whole city, would fall under the
18 thresholds. It didn't meet any of those thresholds
19 and it died. The thresholds that Ben is talking
20 about I think are reasonable. He is in support. It
21 just didn't get there. That has to mean something.
22 Ah, so I'm going to be voting against the blood
23 center, not because I don't believe in the things
24 that the, that the blood center has put in a letter,
25 not in a legally binding agreement, but in a letter

2 which is an intention, ah, that a lot of you are
3 really excited about. Where's the legality around
4 that accountability? When that fails, this thing
5 should all fail. So we can come back and do it
6 again. This might not be something that's important
7 to this, to this council, but it is important to me.
8 It's important to Ben and it's important to some of
9 you. Ah, that's why I'm here, to just kind of speak
10 on that behalf, and really ask you to think before
11 voting in favor. This project can come back in the
12 next council and then if you want to change the game
13 you can change it from the very beginning and say
14 this is a whole citywide project. This is something
15 that we should all have a vote on, which you all do.
16 Ah, and that's why I'm here, just to support Ben.
17 Ben, you're not alone. Thank you.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
19 Council Member Menchaca. Council Member Ydanis
20 Rodriguez.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you
22 Majority Leader and Speaker. Eh, I would like to
23 speak about one of my bill in Transportation, the pay
24 by plate parking meters, which would allow a person
25 to enter the vehicle's license plate at a parking

2 meter to [inaudible] payment for parking. This
3 method would allow for the tracking of payments by
4 the vehicle's license plate rather than by paper
5 receipt. This bill would provide for a more robust
6 easy and effective way of paying for parking
7 throughout New York City while ensuring that those
8 who are enforcing such parking regulations do so
9 correctly and efficiently. Many of the bill that we
10 are passing today on transportation will improve the
11 quality of life in the city, as well as ensuring that
12 not only my bill but the other bills address that
13 trucking and freight industry is able to effectively
14 move and load, move and unload items throughout the
15 five boroughs safely. [speaking in Spanish] Thank
16 you.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

18 Report of Special Committees.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ah, Madam Majority
21 Leader, Mr. Clerk, before, ah, we, ah, proceed in the
22 appropriate manner, I want to say that we are joined
23 by, did she just leave? We were joined by two
24 council member elects, who are here. Ah, we are
25 joined by, ah, Council Member Inna Vernikov, ah, from

2 Brooklyn, and also Council Member Elect Shaun Abreu
3 from Manhattan. They were here. I think they've
4 left the room. But I wanted to welcome them and,
5 and, ah, and tell them we look forward to making sure
6 their transition goes well. Go ahead.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
8 much. We will now move into the Report of Special
9 Committees.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Reports of
12 Standing Committees.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
14 on Civil Service and Labor, preconsidered Intro 2456,
15 labor peace agreements.

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
17 orders.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
19 on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing, Intro
20 2448-A, Earned Sick and Safe Time Act amendment.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
22 general orders with a message of necessity.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
24 on Criminal Justice, Intro 903-A, commissary
25 accounts.

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
3 general orders.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
5 on Education, Intro 139-A, student health services
6 reporting.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
8 general orders.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
10 on Finance, preconsidered Reso 1803, transparency
11 resolution.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
13 orders.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 1804,
15 business improvement districts.

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
17 orders.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered LU 927 and
19 Reso 1806, and LU 928 and Reso 1807, tax exemptions.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
21 orders.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
23 on Fire and Emergency Management, Intro 1891-A,
24 Zambone machines.

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
3 general orders.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
5 on General Welfare, Intros 148-A, 150-A, and 2405-A,
6 rental voucher eligibility and students in temporary
7 housing.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
9 general orders.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
11 on Governmental Operations, Intro 167-B, agency first
12 violation warnings.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
14 general orders.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Intro 1784-A, office of
16 not for profit organization services.

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
18 general orders.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
20 on Housing and Buildings, Intro 1635-A, artwork on
21 temporary protective structures.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
23 general orders.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Intro 2312-A, fees for
25 vacating a premises.

1 STATED MEETING

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2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
3 general orders.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
5 on Land Use, Intro 1487-A, population study related
6 to land use actions.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
8 general orders.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 881 and Reso 1808,
10 disposition of city-owned property.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
12 orders.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 897 and Reso 1809, and
14 LU 898 and Reso 1810, Win Powers.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
16 orders.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 911 through LU 921,
18 various applications.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Approved with
20 modifications and referred to the City Planning
21 Commission pursuant to section 197-D of the New York
22 City Charter.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
24 on Public Safety, Intro 1392-A, district attorney
25 reporting.

1 STATED MEETING

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2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
3 general orders.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
5 on Transportation, Intro 2253-A, micro distribution
6 centers.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
8 general orders.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Intros 2277-A and 2279-A,
10 loading zones.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
12 general orders.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Intros 2422-A, parking
14 meters.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
16 general orders.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: General orders calender.
18 LU 884 and Reso 1790 through LU 888 and Reso 1794,
19 Gowanus Canal Facility and Mercy Home amendment.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
21 orders.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: General orders calender.
23 LU 848 and Reso 1811, through LU 851 and Reso 1814,
24 Glenmore Manor.

25

1 STATED MEETING

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2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
3 orders.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: General order calendar.
5 LU 864 and Reso 1815, through LU 866 and 1817, New
6 York Blood Center.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
8 orders.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: General order calendar.
10 LU 867 and Reso 818, and LU 868 and Reso 1819, 343
11 Madison Avenue MTA headquarters.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
13 orders.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: General order calendar.
15 LU 869 and Reso 1820, through LU 874 and Reso 1825,
16 Gowanus Neighborhood Plan.

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
18 orders.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: General order calendar.
20 LU 882 and 1826, and LU 883 and 1827, 18517 Hillside
21 Avenue rezoning.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
23 orders.

24

25

1 STATED MEETING

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: General order calendar.
3 LU 889 and Reso 1828, through LU 893 and Reso 1832,
4 Cooper Park Commons.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
6 orders.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: General order calendar.
8 LU 894 and Reso 1833, and LU 895 and Reso 1834, 824
9 Metropolitan Avenue.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
11 orders.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: General order calendar.
13 Preconsidered LU 912 and Reso 1835, and preconsidered
14 LU 913 and Reso 1836, 1045 Atlantic Avenue.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
16 orders, and before I ask the clerk to take a roll
17 call vote on the items on today's general order
18 calendar, ah, there was one thing that I was remiss
19 in mentoring before, which, ah, you know, we're
20 getting to the end of our time here, ah, for many of
21 us at the City Council. It's my understanding, and I
22 don't know if he's on in a hybrid way, it's my
23 understanding that today, today's meeting is Minority
24 Leader, ah, former Minority Leader now, ah, Steven
25 Matteo's final meeting of the New York City Council,

2 and I want to say personally that Steven Matteo is
3 one of the greatest people that I've ever had the
4 opportunity to work with. He is a solid human being.
5 He is hard working. He cares about his community.
6 He cares about his borough. He cares about the city,
7 and, ah, I wish there were more, I wish there was the
8 ability to do more bipartisan work in the way that we
9 have been able to do with Steve over these last four
10 years. He is just a, a mensch. I consider him a
11 friend, um, and, ah, it has been an honor to serve
12 alongside of him while being speaker and having him
13 be Minority Leader. So before we take a roll call
14 vote on today's, ah, ah, general order calendar, I
15 would love to, to give a standing ovation and a, and
16 an applause to our friend and colleague, Minority
17 Leader Steven Matteo [applause]. Thank you. He's at
18 the dentist's office right now, I'm told. OK. I'm
19 going to ask the clerk to take a roll call vote on
20 all of the items that are coupled on today's general
21 order calendar. Thank you.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Riley.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye on all.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Matteo.

25

2 MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: Thank you. Ah,
3 thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am at the dentist, but I
4 wanted to put in my votes. First I just want to
5 thank you for those wonderfully kind words. It's
6 been an honor and a privilege to serve my district,
7 serve as the minority leader in the City Council. We
8 have done some really good things together in a
9 bipartisan effort. Even when we disagree on 98% of
10 the issues before us we come together and we work on
11 the 2% that we can agree on, and we have done some
12 great things and, um, I want to thank you, your
13 staff, the entire staff of the City Council. I've
14 been in City Hall since 2004, so there are a lot of
15 people that I want to thank that I will touch base
16 with this week. Um, to my colleagues, I, I want to
17 thank you as well. Um, as I said to the Speaker,
18 we've gotten a lot done together. You've become very
19 close friends to me and I wish you all well. Um, I
20 am leaving a month early to start on my next chapter.
21 Um, but I do want to say thank you. Um, I will miss,
22 ah, being in City Hall and miss all of you. Um, so
23 thank you for, for almost eight great years and
24 honestly 17 great years at City Hall. Ah, it's been
25 the ride of a lifetime and, um, I look forward to my

2 next chapter, [inaudible] next chapter, and wish
3 everyone, ah, good luck. Ah, with that I am voting
4 no on 2279, no on 1392, no on 2448, no on 2456, no on
5 1784, and yes on the rest. Thank you.

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Some things will never
7 change [applause].

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Adams.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Aye on all.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Adams
11 votes aye. Ampry-Samuel.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Permission
13 to explain my vote?

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
15 granted.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Thank you.
17 Um, just briefly, rarely am I given an opportunity to
18 lend my voice on anything related to sickle cell.
19 So, um, because I'm able to lend my voice on the
20 expansion of research and education and funding
21 related to sickle cell, um, I would literally have to
22 say just with my heart on behalf of my little cousin
23 Teddy, who died in 2018 at the age of 26 because of
24 complications related to his sickle cell. On behalf
25 of my close friend, Shah Brooks, who died in 2019,

2 the summer of 2019, at the age of 43 because of
3 complications due to his sickle cell, and all of the
4 other individuals who never had an opportunity to
5 talk about their struggles with sickle cell. My vote
6 today is on behalf of them because of the lack of
7 research and funding and education, again related to
8 sickle cell. Um, so with that I vote aye on all, and
9 I wish everyone a blessed and happy holiday and all
10 the best to Majority, to Minority Leader Matteo.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I vote aye.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ayala
15 votes aye. Council Member Barron.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Permission to
17 explain my vote?

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
19 granted.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. Ah, I
21 want to say I vote aye on all with the exception of
22 land use 897, Reso 1809, and land use 898, with Reso
23 810. The reason I'm voting no is because we're once
24 again building shelters and I think we have an
25 obligation to build housing, permanent housing, and

2 I've said and I've shared with you before that there
3 is a model for that in my district. Help Homes is
4 located in my district and they wanted to demolish
5 the existing shelter and build a new shelter to be
6 incorporated with three other units of permanent
7 housing, and we fought and we negotiated with them,
8 and they decided that they would add 100 units for
9 those who had been in shelters and would include them
10 in the apartments, permanent apartments, not new
11 shelters to replace an existing shelter. Thank you.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Council
13 Member Brannan.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye on all.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Cabrera.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Ah, permission
17 to explain my vote?

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
19 granted.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I'll be very
21 brief. I just want to take a moment to congratulate
22 Council Member Riley, if I heard him right, ah, this
23 is his very first bill. Ah, so I want to
24 congratulate you. I know how that felt 12 years and
25 many of us who were here 12 years ago that, that

2 great feeling of passing your first bill. So
3 congratulation and many more. I'll be voting no on
4 1392 and yes on the rest.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Chin.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye on all.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Chin votes
8 aye. Cornegy.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Permission to
10 explain?

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Granted.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: So, ah, recovery
13 and resiliency, we talk about that all the time, and
14 that demands that we not get back to where we were,
15 but get back to a place in the future that is
16 inclusive of all New Yorkers. Um, the black
17 community leads every health disparity know to man,
18 including heart disease, including, ah, sickle cell,
19 as we mentioned before. It is incumbent upon us to
20 make bold steps towards research and development that
21 will change the outcomes of minority communities
22 across the city. So for that reason, initially a
23 difficult, you know, ah, ah, decision for me, but
24 when I think about the pandemic and the one thing
25 that the pandemic did, ah, demonstrate is how, you

2 know, all these disparities they were exacerbated by
3 the pandemic. We have a, we have a, ah, there's a
4 reasonable expectation that we as a body will move
5 this city forward and be inclusive to all members in
6 every corner of the City of New York, so I will be
7 voting aye on all. Thank you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Darma Diaz.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER D. DIAZ: Aye.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Darma Diaz
12 votes aye. Council Member Ruben Diaz, Sr.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER R. DIAZ: I'm voting yes
14 on all except Intro number 1392 and LU 864, 865, and
15 866. So happy, ah, Thanksgiving to all of you.
16 Happy New Year and maybe Christmas, happy Kwanza, and
17 auf Wiedersehen.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, sir.
19 Dinowitz.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: I vote yes on
21 all except...

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member, please
23 use the, we need to approach the microphone, please.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: [inaudible]

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, sir.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: I vote yes on
3 all, except 2279-A.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Eugene.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye. I
8 vote aye.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Feliz.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Ah, I vote aye on
11 all, not including 1392, which I vote no on. Um, I
12 want to wish all of my wonderful colleagues a very
13 happy and safe and warm Thanksgiving, and I also want
14 to congratulate, ah, my colleagues, including Council
15 Member Riley on your first piece of legislation.
16 It's a legislation that's gonna made big impacts on
17 the lives of many New Yorkers, especially low-income
18 vulnerable types. Ah, congratulations.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Gennaro.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Gennaro
22 votes aye. Gibson.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to
24 explain?

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
3 granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you so
5 much. Good afternoon, colleagues. Thank you, Madam
6 Majority Leader. Um, I just want to speak very
7 briefly on Intro 2448, ah, that I introduced on
8 behalf of our mayor to provide our Earned Sick and
9 Safe Time for any New Yorker and parents that wants
10 to make sure that their children, um, are vaccinated.
11 It allows them to take up to four hours to provide
12 the opportunity to get their children vaccinated
13 and/or care for a child that is affected by COVID-19.
14 As we continue to rebound from COVID, it is really
15 important to make sure that children ages 5 to 11 are
16 given the vaccine and that no New Yorker should have
17 to choose between taking time off from work and
18 getting their children vaccinated. So I thank my
19 colleagues. I want to thank the mayor and the
20 administration for their leadership. I'm proud to
21 have introduced this bill, and in addition I want to
22 express my support for the New York Blood Center
23 proposal before, ah, this body today, for all the
24 reasons that Chair Salamanca cited and so many of my
25 colleagues. I am really, really, really proud to

2 support this project because I know that it strikes a
3 balance and when you talk about creating good-paying
4 jobs and building sustainability in our city and
5 investing in education and research and science this
6 is absolutely the direction that we need to go in.

7 There are so many New Yorkers, my own constituents of
8 color that I represent, they live every day in pain
9 with debilitating diseases and if we can provide the
10 research and the services that are necessary to allow
11 them to live healthy then we should do that and so I
12 want to thank everyone for their work. I know this
13 was not an easy decision, but I'm also looking at the
14 bigger picture, the larger picture, and that is the
15 health and wellness of every New Yorker across the
16 five boroughs and not in one particular neighborhood.
17 So with that I wish colleagues and staff and everyone
18 a blessed, happy Thanksgiving season to you and your
19 families. May God bless you and keep you. I vote
20 aye on all. Thank you.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Gjonaj.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: No on 2279 and
23 1392. Aye on the rest. Wishing everyone all the
24 blessings of Thanksgiving.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Rodriguez.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Rodriguez
4 votes aye. Grodenchik.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I vote aye on
6 all with the exception of 1392. I do want to wish
7 all my colleagues and all New Yorkers a very, very
8 happy Thanksgiving, and a very, very sweet and happy
9 Hanukah for those who are celebrating. Thank you.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Holden.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote no on LU
12 864, 865, 866, with the accompanying resos, and no on
13 Intros 1392 and Intro 2312-A, and aye on the rest.
14 Thank you.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Holden,
16 after 1392, I'm sorry, could you say that last item?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: 2312-A. That's a
18 no.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Kallos.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: No on land use
21 items 864, 865, and 866, and accompanying resolutions
22 1815, 1816, and 1817, and aye on the rest.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Koo.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye on all.

25 [inaudible].

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Koo voted
3 yes. Koslowitz.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye on
5 all and [inaudible].

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Koslowitz
7 votes aye on all. Lander.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request
9 permission to explain?

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
11 granted.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thanks, Madam
13 Majority Leader. I'm voting aye on all, including on
14 the blood center, but I do believe this is an
15 important moment to stop and look at what is broken
16 in our reactive land use process. In the era of the
17 climate crisis, of an affordability crisis, of aging
18 infrastructure, we need a more strategic and more
19 proactive process that grounds future planning in the
20 shared values of New Yorkers. It doesn't work to
21 have the vast majority of proposals proposed by a
22 developer or come from City Hall, have a community
23 get in a defensive crouch and fight against them, and
24 then have it land here amidst what's so often a
25 shrill debate. Ah, Speaker Johnson has a bill that

2 would move us towards a system of comprehensive
3 planning with communities developed in dialogue by
4 this body that would involve New Yorkers at the
5 front. You could do it every 10 years, every 4
6 years, and saying what are our goals for our land use
7 process, what kind of affordability do we need, how
8 do we think about what neighborhoods it should go in,
9 what kind of infrastructure investments do we need,
10 how do we relate our planning process to our capital
11 budget and our infrastructure process, and then
12 ground it in shared values when rezonings reach this
13 chamber we would be able to debate with something
14 other than is member deference the thing or does this
15 project have broader values, but we lack that in our
16 process. So I just think it's important, I don't
17 know that there's time between now and the end of the
18 year to get there, but the next council could pick
19 that bill up and move us towards, ah, a model of
20 comprehensive planning with communities grounded in
21 shared values. I just submit let's use this moment,
22 seeing how broken this reactive land use process is
23 to move us forward into something that in the era of
24 the climate crisis with such a gaping lack of
25 affordability, with aging infrastructure is

2 sufficient to the task of a land use vision of an
3 infrastructure plan that's up to the future New York
4 we deserve. Let's, ah, take that shot. Thank you,
5 colleagues. Congrats to members passing their first
6 bills and members passing some, ah, career-capping
7 bills. I vote aye on all.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Levin.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Permission to
11 explain my vote?

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
13 granted.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you, Madam
15 Majority Leader. Ah, for, I just want to
16 acknowledge, ah, some people's work on the CITYFEPS,
17 ah, legislation. Um, ah, Jamie, ah, Plowich at, um,
18 ah, Coalition for Homeless Youth, ah, Beth
19 Hoffmeister, and Theresa Moser at Legal Aid, Amy
20 Miguez at Good Shepherd, Elizabeth Garcia at Good
21 Shepherd, um, and Jane Ligelson at Covenant House,
22 um, along with, um, ah, Aminta Kilawan, um, ah, ah,
23 and, um, Elizabeth Adams from my office, and, um, and
24 Nicole Hunt from my office as well, and they all put
25 a tremendous amount of work into, into that

2 legislation. Um, I invited, um, ah, ah, Lou's family
3 today but, um, they weren't able attend, um, ah, his
4 wife, Robin, informed me that his, ah, Robin, Lou and
5 Robin's grandson, ah, Lucas Aaron Fidler, was, was
6 just born, um, over the last couple of days and so we
7 want to, ah, ah, welcome, ah, welcome Lucas into the
8 world. Um, and, ah, on the, ah, Gowanus Street
9 zoning I just wanted to, ah, acknowledge the, the
10 amazing amount of work by the, ah, ah, ah, Gowanus
11 community, in particular public housing residents,
12 and the GNCJ members. Um, ah, the, the commitment by
13 the administration to supporting public housing in
14 this rezoning is extraordinary, 200 million dollars
15 to refurbish every single apartment in, ah, in these
16 two developments. Every single apartment at Gowanus
17 and, and Wyckhoff Gardens is going to be refurbished
18 by NYCHA, not through, um, ah, not through RAD and
19 not through privatization of any kind or any type of
20 private development or infill. Um, but just as an
21 investment from NYCHA, which is, um, ah,
22 extraordinary and unprecedented and for, for aging
23 infrastructure like these, these two developments, 70
24 and 60 years old, um, this will give them, ah, a
25 longer life. So just want to acknowledge all of

2 their great work. Um, again, thanks, ah, Council
3 Member Lander for, ah, leading the way all on this.
4 Thank you. I vote aye on all.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Levine.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you. With
8 congrats to all the sponsors of so much important
9 legislation. I will be voting aye on all.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Louis.

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

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
14 granted.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Thank you so much,
16 Madam Majority Leader. The nonprofit center is the
17 lifeblood of underserved communities, offering a vast
18 scope of services to address many needs of New
19 Yorkers. One of the challenges that many nonprofit
20 organizations face is balancing daily operations
21 while keeping pace with the needs of New Yorkers
22 struggling at time of need. As a city I think we can
23 all recognize that running a nonprofit is no easy
24 feat and difficult to navigate checks and balances to
25 ensure transparency and accountability. My bill,

2 Intro 1784-A, is intended to provide nonprofit
3 organizations with a liaison that can help streamline
4 the budgeting process from allocation to
5 disbursement, while bridging the communication and
6 information gap between city agencies and
7 organizations working on the ground. I want to thank
8 Speaker Johnson, government operations chair
9 [inaudible], my colleagues, as well as Jason Goldman,
10 Jeff Baker, Rebecca Chasen, C. J. Murray, and David
11 Seltzer for working on this bill. Lastly, I want to
12 recognize my staff, including former legislator
13 Virginia Cabaloni for advocacy on this bill. I also
14 want to congratulate, ah, Council Member Riley on the
15 passage of your first bill, and all my colleagues
16 passing bills today. Thank you so much. Sorry, I
17 vote aye on all.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Maisel.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Ah, no on 1392...

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member, please
22 go, could you come use the microphone?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: No on 1392, yes
24 on everything else.

1 STATED MEETING

80

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, sir.
3 Menchaca.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you. I
5 will be voting no on all the blood center LUs and
6 accompanying resolutions, and no on the Gowanus
7 rezoning, and all the LUs and accompanying
8 resolutions.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Had you all
10 understood that?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: OK, I'm gonna
12 be voting aye on all, except for the blood center,
13 all the land use items and accompanying resolutions,
14 ah, and then I wanting to be voting no on the
15 Gowanus, ah, neighborhood rezoning and accompanying
16 resolutions also. Thank you.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Miller.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Permission to
19 explain my vote, Madam Majority Leader?

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
21 granted.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Madam
23 Majority Leader. Ah, while it was not my intention,
24 ah, to speak this afternoon, nor was it to justify my
25 vote or explain my actions on this particular issue,

2 the actions of my colleague have precipitated such a
3 response. Council Member Kallos and his despicable,
4 irresponsible, accusatory actions have done more to
5 undermine the integrity of this body and this
6 institution than anything I've seen in my eight-year
7 experience here. I am saddened to see that because
8 of, once again, he's blinded by the enclaves of
9 privilege that he's failed to see that this project
10 benefits the greater good. He's failed to see the
11 value of the project. He has failed to see the, his
12 task as a legislator to serve those who are
13 marginalized and the least of thee. This project
14 will serve to benefit roofs that have been
15 historically received less attention, less funding,
16 like sickle cell, while simultaneously supporting the
17 next generation in housing, life science,
18 development, and research center. For these reasons
19 I am voting yes, with the exceptions of 2253 and
20 2279. Thank you, Madam Majority Leader.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Moya.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye on all.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Moya votes
25 aye. Perkins. Powers.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye on all.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Powers
4 votes aye. Reynoso.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Good afternoon.

6 Um, I just want to say that we are voting on two
7 projects in my district for affordable housing. One
8 is, ah, 700, ah, 500 units of affordable housing with
9 200 bed shelter. Ah, it's a project that we've been
10 working on for, ah, over 40 years in my district
11 after the Greenpoint Hospital got shut down, and now
12 we're gonna have 700 spaces for people in our
13 community to finally be able to continue to move into
14 Williamsburg. No market rate housing, a not-for-
15 profit developer. Um, it's everything that we could
16 ask for and we're really excited about it in our
17 district. We also have another one on Metropolitan
18 Avenue which is a, ah, um, a rezoning in which we're
19 going to see, ah, MIH rezoning, so it won't be all
20 affordable housing but it's a much smarter building,
21 but, ah, in total we're talking about 800 units of
22 housing, of which 700, over 750 are affordable.
23 We're also passing legislation related to a
24 transportation issue that I think is really
25 important. The way of the future is that we're going

2 to get all of our stuff through deliveries and
3 packages. It is just the reality. We're going to
4 see more trucks. Hopefully we could move away from
5 those and move to micro mobility and have bikes
6 delivering most of our goods. But we need of the
7 make sure space for these trucks so they're not
8 double parking, putting the lives of pedestrians,
9 cyclists, and vehicle drivers in danger, um, and in
10 doing so what we're doing is cutting out spaces in
11 the city for delivery trucks and freight. I think
12 it's a good move. Um, I wish we could go further. I
13 always do. But I think this is a very good
14 compromise and we did a really good job of setting
15 the foundation for how we're going to be moving goods
16 in the future. Again, thank you all. Happy
17 Thanksgiving and happy holidays to you all. Um, with
18 much love in my heart I vote aye on all.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Rivera
23 votes aye. Rose.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Permission to
25 explain my vote please?

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
3 granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you. Um, I
5 want to say congratulations to, ah, Council Member
6 Riley. Um, ah, that first, that first piece of
7 legislation is really special. I really want to
8 thank, um, Council Member Steve Levin for his
9 dedication and tenacity, um, for pushing this
10 legislation for our most vulnerable youth, our
11 runaway and homeless youth and, and youth in foster
12 care. This is a population that is often forgotten
13 and I want to thank you so much, Steve, for, um, for,
14 you know, just sticking to it and, and fighting for
15 them. And I'm really pleased that you gave honor to
16 Lou Fidler, who really, his first love was, ah,
17 runaway and homeless youth and vulnerable youth. And
18 to my colleague, um, Minority Leader Steven Matteo, I
19 want to see I'll be seeing you. I'll be seeing you
20 walking in Staten Island, and with that I'm voting,
21 um, aye on all, and I want to say to Council Member
22 Kallos, I'm doing so because I really do believe that
23 there should be a greater good for the greater number
24 of people. Thank you.

25 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Rosenthal.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye on
4 all, and permission to explain my vote?

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
6 granted.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you.
8 Council Member Riley, ah, congratulations on your
9 first bill. First bills are always special. Um,
10 Council Member Louis, thank you so much for your
11 legislation in support of nonprofits, um, and helping
12 them, ah, deal with the bureaucracy that is city
13 government. Thank you for that. Um, and, ah, you
14 know, I'm, I'm just so pleased that the council is,
15 as a body, voting yes on the blood center and so
16 impressed with my colleagues who were able to see the
17 bigger picture and lead, um, so that we'll be
18 addressing, um, issues that affect the whole city,
19 perhaps not the Upper East Side, but the whole city.
20 Um, ah, especially I, I would just like to say that,
21 um, thank you to Council Member Powers, Borough
22 President Brewer, um, for navigating this for, ah,
23 the rest of us and stepping up coming to the table,
24 going to the meetings, and navigating this, um, for
25 the council. I think that, um, ah, what the whole

2 city will benefit from is tremendous, you know, the
3 one concern that's been raised that gives me pause is
4 about the letter of, ah, agreement from the blood
5 center enumerating the things that they will do for
6 the larger community, and, um, I, I really want make,
7 just put on the record to hold their feet to the fire
8 to prove, ah, the naysayers wrong. And, ah, ah, the
9 blood center, you know, I challenge you to really
10 come through on all of these promises, including the
11 sentence that says you'll work with the council
12 members to try to do even more for those with sickle
13 cell. Um, please follow through on everything that
14 you've agreed to. Um, it is for this larger good
15 that the body as a whole is voting yes today for the
16 blood center and we're really pleased to have that
17 opportunity to do so. Thank you so much. Thanks for
18 the time. Oh, ah, and congratulations to Council
19 Members Salamanca, Moya, um, for leading on this
20 effort. Ah, I really appreciate Council Member
21 Salamanca what you said on the floor today. Thank
22 you very much.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Salamanca
3 votes aye on all. Treyger.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Ah, I vote aye,
5 and I just want to also extend, ah, my appreciation
6 and thanks to Minority Leader Matteo, ah, and thank
7 him, ah, for his service. Ah, he mentioned earlier
8 that he may not have agreed always with, with the
9 majority in the council, but I can tell you as a
10 member of the budget negotiating team we had a strong
11 supporter for public education, for public schools.
12 I want to thank him for that support and wish him
13 continued success, and congratulate all my colleagues
14 on the passage of their bills today. And, again,
15 with that I vote aye on all.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye on all
19 with the exception of 1392. I vote no on 1392 and
20 aye on all others, and I wish everybody a happy
21 Thanksgiving.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, Council
23 Member. Van Bramer.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: [inaudible].
25

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
3 granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you
5 very much. Ah, like Council Member Adams, I just
6 wanted to, ah, talk about, ah, former Council Member
7 Ed Sadowsky, ah, who, ah, passed away. He lived for
8 the last few decades of his life in Long Island City
9 and was an amazing, amazing person, an amazing
10 council member, ah, for 24 years, chair of the
11 Finance Committee. But even in retirement he was
12 extremely active on the board of our beloved Queens
13 Public Library with Council Member Adams and was a
14 driving force behind the new Hunter's Point Library
15 that was built. That wouldn't have happened without
16 Ed Sadowsky's passionate, ah, leadership and, and I
17 loved that man. He was such a good person and I just
18 wanted to call Ed Sadowsky. I have a photo from this
19 chamber and this body in 1970, and Ed sat somewhere
20 around there, and it's a great photo, um, that I
21 inherited. So thank you, ah, Council Member Ed
22 Sadowsky. I also just want to say, ah, Brad Lander,
23 an amazing job on Gowanus. Ah, few people have
24 worked harder and more successfully and done as well
25 with this very, very difficult process that you

2 outlined before. Ah, so, ah, thank you. And Steve
3 Levin, um, ah, we've served for 12 years together, a,
4 a dear friend. Congratulations on all of that. Ah,
5 with all of that said, I vote aye on all.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Yeger.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: With respect to
9 Gumby, may I be excused to explain my vote, Madam
10 President?

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
12 granted.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: I just don't want
14 stand in front of him, so everybody can see who I'm,
15 thank you very much. Um, you know, today, today I
16 guess is the culmination of four years, my four years
17 in the council on contentious or non-contentious or
18 whatever you have it land use matters. And, um, for
19 some reason no matter how contentious they've been
20 we've always come to the place where the member whose
21 district they're in is really the deciding factor.
22 Should it be that way? Maybe, maybe not. Um, you
23 know, in my view the people sent somebody to this
24 body and if they don't like how we do things they can
25 throw us out. Term limits changed that dynamic a

2 little bit, but at the end of the day elections do
3 mean something, for me, I think so at least. And so
4 in their wisdom, maybe not, the people of the east
5 side of Manhattan sent Ben Kallos here to the
6 council. Maybe he's done a good job, maybe he
7 hasn't, maybe he's smart, maybe he isn't, maybe he's
8 a good councilman, maybe he's awful. But he decided,
9 ah, in his wisdom, or lack thereof, as whatever you
10 may think of it, that the future of his neighborhood
11 it doesn't make sense to have this project in its
12 current iteration. Doesn't mean no project at all.
13 Like he said, the blood center doesn't actually do
14 their blood stuff, they do it in other places. So
15 for the same reason that I'm gonna vote with Council
16 Member Lander on the Gowanus, which I don't think is
17 actually a very good project, but I respect your work
18 and I respect Council Member Levin's work, even when
19 I disagree with both of you, which is as frequent as,
20 ah, I can imagine. Today I'm here to agree with
21 Council Member Menchaca, which is also as infrequent
22 as you can imagine. So, ah, with that, ah, I'm gonna
23 vote no on Intro 1392, um, because we do not have the
24 right to regulate district attorneys. If you don't
25 believe me, you can just check how we just voted. We

2 don't have rank choice voting for district attorneys.

3 We don't have campaign finance, ah, board regulations
4 and rules and matching funds for district attorneys.

5 Um, the district attorneys don't report to us. They
6 are not part of the City Charter. They're not
7 creations of the city. They are state officials, and
8 even if we did this would nonetheless be preemptive.

9 Don't have to believe me. Five district attorneys in
10 this city say that. Now, the argument, the

11 counterargument, Madam President, may I just for a

12 few more seconds? Thank you. The counterargument to

13 that is what the city's, the City Council's lawyers

14 say this is a good bill and we're allowed to do that.

15 The balancing act for me is five district attorneys

16 versus the lawyers who work here at the City Council,

17 every single time I'm gonna go with what the five DAs

18 say. So no on that. Ah, no on Intro 2279, Intro

19 2253, Intro 2277, clerks, tell me if I'm good. OK.

20 And with respect to those who feel differently, um,

21 there will still be a blood center in New York and it

22 will still do good work, but I am a no on land use

23 864, 865, 866, resolutions 1815, 1816, 1817, and very

24 quickly, I apologize, but I wanted to do this at the

25 beginning, um, ah, the Speaker, Mr. Speaker

2 mentioned, um, my new colleague, our new colleague,
3 ah, Councilwoman Elect Inna Vernikov. Ah, I share
4 the longest border of any, of part of my district
5 with Council Member from the 48th District, and she
6 is here today, and I would like to offer her my
7 congratulations and my welcome as well. Thank you
8 very much, Madam President.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Madam President,
11 ah, I have to clarify, I believe, the clerk asked me
12 to, ah, mention, ah, my nos. 2279, 2253, and 2277.
13 Thank you.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Congratulations on
16 being minority leader.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Well, thank you
18 very much, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate it. And, ah,
19 permission to explain my vote briefly?

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
21 granted.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Thank you very
23 much. Ah, yes, it is an honor to, to be the City
24 Council Minority Leader. Ah, I would go into some of
25 the no votes that we have today, but Kalman Yeger did

2 such a tremendous job of articulating them that I'll
3 only point out the one he missed, Intro 2279-A. Ah,
4 it's a seemingly innocuous bill about DOT and loading
5 zones. We all know we need loading zones. But when
6 we set a criteria and then set a mandate we sometimes
7 have to fill a number that we set ourselves in law,
8 ah, and our view is that if we have a criteria and
9 it's good you should put a loading zone there. If we
10 have a criteria and it's not good you shouldn't put
11 it there. Why mandate, ah, something that we haven't
12 even set the criteria for now, ah, in advance. Ah,
13 the other bill, I just want to thank everyone for
14 passing my bill on Zambones. It's a historic and
15 transformative day for Zambones in this great city.
16 It's only the first step. Our ice refreshing friends
17 will have years of, of work to do in our city and we
18 support them. Obviously it's a silly comment I just
19 made, a joke, um, but it's not a silly bill. We've
20 been running Zambones against the manufacturer's
21 instructions for many years because of a [inaudible].
22 Thank you all for your support. Oh, and I vote aye
23 on all except 2279-A, 1392-A, 2448-A, 2252, 1784-A,
24 2312-A. Thank you.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Kallos.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Permission to
3 change my vote on Introduction 1392-A? Majority
4 Leader?

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: The vote is still
6 open.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Ah, if I just
8 may explain very briefly, I'll only take a minute.
9 Ah, I, I, after such nice things that Council Member
10 Yeger said about me or not, um...

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [laughs]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: ...he and I have
13 rarely agreed on things. Ah, but, ah, I'd like to
14 say that things people say on the floor can actually
15 change somebody's mind and, ah, when you mentioned
16 trying to do campaign finance on the district
17 attorneys you better believe I've tried to do that
18 for eight years and been told we couldn't. You
19 better believe I wanted to do rank choice voting on
20 the DAs and for every good government reason you
21 mentioned for why we can't do it is why I am changing
22 my vote on 1392-A. Thank you.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Cumbo.

25 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I vote aye.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Borelli,
3 could we verify something with you real quick?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Yes.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: You said, ah, Intro 2252?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Yes. I'm voting
7 no on Intro 2252. I'm voting aye on all, except
8 2279-A, 1392-A, 2448-A, 1784-A, 2312-A.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, Council
10 Member. Speaker Johnson.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I vote aye on all.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you all for
13 your patience. All items on today's general order
14 calendar are adopted by a vote of 48 in the
15 affirmative, 0 negative, and 0 abstentions, with the
16 exception of Intro 2279-A, which was adopted by a
17 vote of 41 in the affirmative, 7 negative, and 0
18 abstentions, and Intro 1392-A, which was adopted by a
19 vote of 37 in the affirmative, 11 negative, and 0
20 abstentions. Intro 1784-A, which was adopted by a
21 vote of 46 in the affirmative, 2 negative, and 0
22 abstentions, and Intro 2448-A, which was adopted by a
23 vote of 46 in the affirmative, 2 negative, and 0
24 abstentions, and Intro 2456, which was adopted by a
25 vote of 47 in the affirmative, 1 negative, and 0

2 abstentions. LUs 897 and 898 with accompanying resos
3 which was adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative,
4 1 negative, and 0 abstentions. LUs 864, 865, 866,
5 and accompanying resos which was adopted by a vote of
6 44 in the affirmative, 4 negative, and 0 abstentions.
7 And Intro 2312-A, which was adopted by a vote of 46
8 in the affirmative, 2 negative, and 0 abstentions.
9 LUs 869 through 874 with accompanying resos which was
10 adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative and 1
11 negative and 0 abstentions. And Intro 2253-A, which
12 was adopted by a vote of 46 in the affirmative, 2
13 negative, and 0 abstentions. And Intro 2277-A, which
14 was adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative, 1
15 negative, and 0 abstentions. At this time this
16 meeting is going to stand at a pause, um, until we,
17 we're gonna make a minor change and then we're gonna
18 come right back. So the meeting will stand at a
19 pause until that such time. [pause] We are going to
20 make, if you all could please return back to your
21 seats. Quiet in the chamber.

22 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Quiet down

23 [inaudible].

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We're gonna make
25 a minor adjustment to Intro 1392-A, which was adopted

2 by a vote of 36 in the affirmative and 12 negative.

3 There was also one other change. We're changing LUs

4 864, 865, 866, and accompanying resos which was

5 adopted by a vote of 43 in the affirmative and 5

6 negative. And that is the total count and it is

7 corrected and we're gonna continue on with the rest

8 of the meeting. Introduction and reading of bills.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: All bills have been,
10 shhh.

11 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Quiet on the floor,
12 please.

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Sit down please,
14 please sit down.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: All bills have been
16 referred to committees as indicated on today's
17 agenda.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. There
19 are no resolutions on today's calendar, so now we
20 will move into general discussion. We're gonna start
21 with Council Member Barron, followed by Council
22 Member Miller, Levin, and Powers.

23 UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you, Rafael.

24 UNIDENTIFIED: Are you good?

25 UNIDENTIFIED: A little lower, thank you.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, that's
3 great. Ah, good afternoon to all my colleagues.
4 First I want to express condolences regarding the
5 death of Malika Shabazz, daughter of Alhazmalik El
6 Shabazz and Betty Shabazz, and, ah, just want to
7 express the condolences to the family and let them
8 know that the assembly member and I continue to send
9 them our support. Secondly, I want to call your
10 attention to the fact that this past Saturday we had
11 a street co-naming for Akai Gurley who was killed
12 seven years ago by the NYPD. He was not obstructing
13 any movement or progress or any programs. He was not
14 armed. He did not confront anyone. Yet he was
15 killed in the stairway of the NYCHA at Pink Houses,
16 just as he was walking down the stairs. He was shot
17 and killed. He was arrested. He was tried. He was
18 convicted. And he received, the perpetrator of the
19 crime received no jail time at the request of the
20 Brooklyn district attorney and the trial judge, and
21 we feel that that was a grave miscarriage of justice.
22 But the family was there and glad to have the street
23 conamed in his honor. And thirdly, yesterday we had
24 a ribbon cutting. You may know the NYHOP program
25 which said we would take small areas and build homes

2 and we celebrated the construction of three brand-new
3 two-family homes aimed at those who qualify to
4 purchase it if they were earning \$56,000, six two-
5 family homes with the eligibility requirement of
6 \$75,000, and four three-family homes with the
7 eligibility requirement at \$95,000. And you might
8 ask me, well, what the sale price of the homes? The
9 sale price of the homes ranged from \$300,000 to
10 \$570,000. And finally, and standing in this
11 particular microphone because I'm celebrating the
12 fact that we no longer have the statue of Thomas
13 Jefferson here in our chambers. It was 20 years ago
14 that the then Council Member Charles Barron
15 challenged the fact that this body, where we
16 deliberate and where we talk about fairness and
17 equity, should have a statue of Thomas Jefferson, who
18 was a slave-holding pedophile, as my husband
19 described him, who felt that blacks were inferior,
20 and who did not seek any justice for black people.
21 So we're celebrating that here 20 years later this
22 body, ah, also with the support of the BLAC and many
23 members of you who are here and with the support of
24 the speaker and Jason and the efforts that they

2 raised we no longer have that ominous statue here and
3 we're glad he's gone. Thank you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
5 Council Member Barron. We will now have Council
6 Member Miller, followed by Levin, and then finally
7 Powers.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Madam
9 Majority Leader. Um, I just wanted to mention that
10 today I humbly and honored, I'm honored to introduce
11 legislation that would rename St. Albans Park in
12 honor of the late Archie Spigner, former Council
13 Member for the 27th District, district leader, and
14 New York City transit bus driver, like myself. Ah,
15 there's so many things I'd like to say about what,
16 who we called the dean of southeast Queens, Archie
17 Spigner, but I will say that I will leave those
18 remarks and just say as Council Member Barron just
19 said that the removal of the statue would be in his
20 honor as well as in the honor of the students of PS-
21 134Q, which in these very chambers three years ago
22 asked why he was there. After an unnecessarily long
23 and hard-fought battle we have finally secured the
24 removal of Thomas Jefferson statue from City Hall
25 Chambers. It is reassuring that our collective

2 voices were heard on this matter after having been a
3 topic of discussion for nearly two decades. It
4 speaks volumes to the body and its leadership that we
5 are finally able to secure its removal and location
6 to a more appropriate venue where the complex legacy
7 of Thomas Jefferson, including his notable inhumane
8 treatment of African slaves and Native Americans. We
9 have held for a long that such figure does not belong
10 in the people's house. Despite the provocateurs
11 trying to justify his presence in this legislative
12 body of what is now the most diverse city in the
13 world. Today we can unequivocally say that this
14 institution values the opinions of its members, its
15 constituency, and that those that they represent.
16 And in the years to come, 2022, when the council is
17 welcomed in, it will be the most diverse body in the
18 history of this body, and we cannot do so with, with
19 good conscience with Jefferson domineering presence
20 overlooking the work that we do here. So with that I
21 want to thank all and welcome all that have remained
22 here from the BLAC, Progressive Caucus, and all
23 members of good conscious to, we're inviting everyone
24 to take a picture when we're done where Jefferson

2 once stood. Thank you, Madam Majority Leader. Thank
3 you all, Mr. Speaker, for your leadership.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
5 much, Council Member Miller, for your leadership.
6 Council Member Levin, followed by Council Member
7 Powers.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you, Madam
9 Majority. I'll keep this brief. I just wanted to,
10 um, thank and acknowledge my, my friend, Steven
11 Matteo, our Minority Leader, former Minority Leader,
12 um, for his years of service to this council. I've
13 had for the last almost four years the opportunity to
14 serve on the Standards and Ethics Committee, um,
15 along with Council Member Chin, Council Member
16 Gibson, Council Member Koslowitz, and Steve, um, has
17 been our chair during that time, um, on some very
18 difficult issues, um, and, and difficult matters and
19 he is, is, is a great example of integrity in this
20 body. And, um, and somebody that, um, I know, ah, I
21 can count on and that the people of New York can
22 count on, and so I just want to thank him, take this
23 opportunity to thank him on record for, um, his years
24 of service and for his integrity, ah, in, in that
25 service. Thank you.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. I'm

4 here also to say a very nice word about Steven
5 Matteo, who is not here today with us, but I know
6 he's watching at home and I'm texting with him, and I
7 just will say that I think what the Speaker said
8 about, ah, Steven Matteo is very true. He is a man
9 that you find, ah, very few in politics at times,
10 somebody who keeps his word, somebody who is a man of
11 integrity, and somebody who wants to work together,
12 even when you disagree. And I wish we had so many
13 more people like that in politics on both sides of,
14 ah, both parties. And while he won't be here for his
15 last day, Steve and are avid Yankee fans and text
16 each other all the time and I know we'll still be
17 able to see each other, but I want to thank him and
18 of course congratulate Joe Borelli, who is our new
19 Minority Leader as well. And, again, in that spirit
20 of what Steve brings to the City Council every day I
21 hope in the next council until the end of this
22 session we continue to foster, ah, agreement and or
23 at least collegiality when we disagree. So, thanks
24 so much.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
3 much, and I also want to share my condolences to the
4 entire, um, Malcolm X family and with that I'll now
5 turn it over to Speaker Corey Johnson to close
6 today's Stated Meeting.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: The Stated Meeting of
8 November 23, 2021, is hereby adjourned. We have two
9 Stated Meetings left of this body. Thank you, Madam
10 Majority Leader.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: But who's
12 counting? Thank you. [gavel]

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Me.
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STATED MEETING

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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 December 11, 2021