

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL CHARTER
MEETING

----- X

January 9, 2019
Start: 12:32 p.m.
Recess: 1:40 p.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: LAURIE CUMBO, MAJORITY LEADER
Acting President Pro Tempore

COREY JOHNSON, PUBLIC ADVOCATE

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Margaret S. Chin
Carlina Rivera
Keith Powers
Ben Kallos
Mark Levine
Diana Ayala
Bill Perkins
Ydanis Rodriguez
Andrew Cohen
Andy King
Mark Gjonaj
Fernando Cabrera
Ritchie Torres
Vanessa Gibson
Rafael Salamanca
Ruben Diaz, Sr.
Paul Vallone
Peter Koo

Francisco Moya
Costa Constantinides
Barry Grodenchik
Rory Lancman
Daniel Dromm
James Van Bramer
Daneek Miller
Adrienne Adams
Karen Koslowitz
Robert Holden
Donovan Richards
Eric Ulrich
Stephen Levin
Antonio Reynoso
Laurie Cumbo
Robert Cornegy
Rafael Espinal
Carlos Menchaca
Bradford Lander
Mathieu Eugene
Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Inez Barron
Justin Brannan
Kalman Yeger
Alan Maisel
Mark Treyger
Chaim Deutsch
Deborah Rose
Steven Matteo
Joseph Borelli

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

Invocation delivered by Rabbi Scott N. Bolton of
Congregation Or Zarua, 127 E. 82nd Street, New
York, NY 10028

2 [sound check] [pause] [gavel]

3 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you for
4 your patience. I think--

5 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet,
6 please.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Attorney General
8 Letitia James might have taken the microphone with
9 her as a souvenir, but I'll re-gavel in [gavel].
10 Good afternoon and welcome to the Charter Meeting of
11 January 9, 2019. Allow me to reintroduce myself. I
12 am the Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo, and please rise
13 for the Pledge of Allegiance.

14 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

15 [Pledge of Allegiance]

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Happy New Year
17 everyone and we will now do roll call.

18 CLERK: Adams.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Present. Happy
20 New Year.

21 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Present.

23 CLERK: Ayala.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present.

25 CLERK: Barron.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

3 CLERK: Borelli.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Present.

5 CLERK: Brannan.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here.

7 CLERK: Cabrera.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

9 CLERK: Chin.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

11 CLERK: Cohen.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

13 CLERK: Constantinides.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Present.

15 CLERK: Cornegy.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Here.

17 CLERK: Deutsch.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

19 CLERK: Diaz.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Presente.

21 CLERK: Dromm, Espinal

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.

23 CLERK: Eugene

24 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Present.

25 CLERK: Gibson. Gjonaj.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Here.

3 CLERK: Holden.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

5 CLERK: Kallos.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

7 CLERK: King. Koo.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

9 CLERK: Koslowitz.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

11 CLERK: Lancman.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.

13 CLERK: Lander. Levin.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

15 CLERK: Levine. Maisel.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

17 CLERK: Menchaca.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

19 CLERK: Miller.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.

21 CLERK: Moya. Perkins.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: I'm here.

23 CLERK: Powers.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Here.

25 CLERK: Reynoso.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Here.

3 CLERK: Richards, Rivera.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.

5 CLERK: Rodriguez. Rose.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

7 CLERK: Rosenthal.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

9 CLERK: Salamanca.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

11 CLERK: Rodriguez.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Present.

13 CLERK: Torres.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Present.

15 CLERK: Treyger.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

17 CLERK: Ulrich. Vallone.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

19 CLERK: Van Bramer.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

21 CLERK: Williams.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I'm here and

23 clear.

24 CLERK: Yeger.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

2 CLERK: Matteo, Cumbo.

3 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Present.

4 CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I'm here. [pause]

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We have a quorum and
7 we will now have today's invocation, which will be
8 delivered by Rabbi Scott N. Bolton of Congregation Or
9 Zarua, which translate to '*Light is the source. It's*
10 *sown for the righteous.*' They're located at 127 E.
11 82nd Street in Manhattan. Please rise.

12 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Please rise. [pause]

13 RABBI SCOTT N. BOLTON: Happy New Year. That
14 was my microphone test. [laughter] L'Chaim. This
15 Hebrew word means, "to life". We first are connected
16 through the bonds of sacred life, to life and the
17 life of this city and the life of each and every
18 individual in this room. We turn to the Master Mixer
19 of stardust and light from infinity. We turn to the
20 greater maker of purposes and ask for blessings,
21 triumphs, achievements for our city, for this Council
22 in the Year 2019. May this leadership cadre of
23 unique souls come together in a unity of purpose to
24 accomplish towering achievements for our city. May
25 their every endeavor to enhance neighborhoods,

2 districts, boroughs, our city, their individual lives
3 or others lead to blessing and be guided by you
4 light. Oseh Shalom Maker of Peace pour out your
5 blessing on the officials who occupy themselves in
6 good faith with the public needs. May the pursuit of
7 peace among brothers and sisters and members of all
8 races, faiths and creed lead us to realize inspired
9 chapters in our city's life. Instruct these leaders
10 from you deepest wells of wisdom. Spark their souls,
11 reveal your presence to inspire. Enable them to
12 understand principles of justice so that peace and
13 tranquility, happiness and freedom might never turn
14 away from our city. Wise One, Source of Life Breath,
15 plant among us the answer to [Speaking Hebrew]. What
16 are our lives? How have we merited to be alive at
17 this moment? Know that we are your faithful servants
18 proving that justice and peace will prevail. Fulfill
19 the yearning of all people of our city who wish to
20 speak proudly of its honor. Let us work together to
21 find solutions to strife, and systems breakdowns.
22 Make us instruments who repair injustice. We are
23 blessed this day to stand together to ask the on who
24 capacitates leaders to help us realize our greatest
25 potentials for our lives and for the inhabitants of

2 our dear city cause to dwell among all her citizens
3 friendship and freedom. Our destinies are
4 intertwined, and our hopes are aligned. God give us
5 strength and let us say amen.

6 COUNCIL MEMBERS: [in unison] Amen.

7 [background comments]

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much
9 Rabbi Bolton for that very powerful New Year's
10 Invocation certainly to set the Council on right
11 track as we handle very complex and challenging
12 issues ahead of us. I'd like to ask Council Member
13 Powers to please spread the Invocation on record.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you and
15 happy New Year, everybody. Today we were joined by
16 Rabbi Scott Bolton, the spiritual leader of
17 Congregation Or Zarua on the Upper East Side of
18 Manhattan located in my district. Quite importantly,
19 Council Member Kallos's Rabbi. He also served as the
20 head of School for two Solomon Schechter Day Schools
21 in New Jersey and New York. He was ordained from the
22 Ziegler School of Rabinic Studies at the American
23 Jewish University, and has served in Alaiia Board at
24 American University, on the International Advisory
25 Board of the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and

2 Reconciliation as well as the board of Rakaz (sp?)
3 USA in addition to the Board of the American Zionists
4 Movement. It took me a long time to say he's very
5 accomplished. We are very lucky to have him here
6 today [coughs] with. Along with all the work I just
7 name and his congregation, he's also proud to be
8 among the sponsoring of religious institutions and
9 clergy of the New York Common Pantry. I know an
10 institution that we fund, and we support very much
11 here in the—in the City Council. I really want to
12 thank him for being here today, and his ongoing work
13 in my district and along the Upper East Side and his
14 support of great organizations serving the city.
15 With that being said, I want us to turn it over to
16 Council Member Kallos to say a few words as well.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you Council
18 Member Powers for spreading the invocation over the
19 Council and for the support of the remarks for Rabbi
20 Bolton. As a member of Congregation Or Zarua
21 traditionally egalatrain and participatory
22 congregation where members are treated equally
23 regardless of gender or income and it's
24 participatory. This is the first time I've heard the
25 Rabbi speak without an interruption by the

2 congregation. So, please don't get used to it. I've
3 had the privilege of meeting Rabbi Scott Bolton and
4 his wife Rabbi Amy Bolton, and the rest of his
5 beautiful family as we hosted him as our guest Rabbi
6 for Ashavea Tone, and hired him right away. Now, my
7 wife is very selective, or so she tells me everyday
8 that she selected me and following my proposal, Rabbi
9 Scott Bolton was the only Rabbi she would have marry
10 us, and as she said in her Russian accent to him, he
11 had ten minutes to do all the Jewish stuff, and he
12 flew down to Saint Thomas to marry us, and most
13 recently helped us give a Hebrew name to our
14 daughter, and I think what is most important to me is
15 following Yom Kippur where we had fasted for 28 days
16 and all anyone wants to do is get something in their
17 mouths. I came to him and I having reflected and I
18 said, What can we do about the homeless crisis in our
19 city? This is back in 2015, and he said we should
20 all come to the table, all the religious
21 institutions, no profits and form a task force, the
22 East Side Task Force for Homeless Outreach and
23 services to actually build supportive housing in the
24 neighborhood regardless of if it cost him his pulpit,
25 cost me my job, what have you, and we did it. We've

2 been able to build supportive housing, and we'll
3 continue to build supportive housing, and we are just
4 so lucky to have in our congregation and in our
5 community and so thank you.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
7 much, and thank you for sharing your very personal
8 experiences about us with Rabbi Bolton. We thank you
9 so much for your prayers today and all of your well
10 wishes for this Council. Thank you so much. Thank
11 you. We will now have the Adoption of the Minutes by
12 Council Member Constantinides.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Motion
14 that the minutes of the Stated Meeting of November
15 28, 2018 be adopted as printed.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
17 much, Council Member and we will now have Messages
18 and Papers from the Mayor.

19 CLERK: None [pause] There are none.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Communication
21 from City, County and Borough Offices.

22 CLERK: None

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Petitions and
24 Communication.

25 CLERK: None.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Land Use Call-
3 ups.

4 CLERK: ~~M-excuse-M-124~~ through M-126

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO:

6 CLERK:

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO:

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Couple on a call-up
9 vote, and at this time I ask for a roll call vote on
10 today's Land Use Call-Ups. Land Use Call-Ups only is
11 what we are now voting on .

12 CLERK: Adams.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Aye on all

14 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye on all.

16 CLERK: Ayala.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

18 CLERK: Barron.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye

20 CLERK: Borelli. Brannan.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

22 CLERK: Cabrera.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

24 CLERK: Chin.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

2 CLERK: Cohen.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

4 CLERK: Constantinides.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye on

6 all.

7 CLERK: Cornegy. Deutsch.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

9 CLERK: Diaz.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Si..

11 CLERK: Dromm,

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye

13 CLERK: Espinal.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

15 CLERK: Eugene

16 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

17 CLERK: Gibson. Gjonaj.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Aye on all.

19 CLERK: Grodenchik.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

21 CLERK: Holden.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye on all.

23 CLERK: Kallos.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

25 CLERK: King. Koo.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

3 CLERK: Koslowitz.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

5 CLERK: Lancman.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

7 CLERK: Lander. Levin.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

9 CLERK: Levine.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

11 CLERK: Maisel.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

13 CLERK: Menchaca.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Yes.

15 CLERK: Miller.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

17 CLERK: Moya.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye.

19 CLERK: Perkins.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye.

21 CLERK: Powers.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.

23 CLERK: Reynoso.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

25 CLERK: Richards, Rivera.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

3 CLERK: Rodriguez.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

5 CLERK: Rose.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye on all.

7 CLERK: Rosenthal.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

9 CLERK: Salamanca.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye. .

11 CLERK: Torres.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.

13 CLERK: Treyger.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

15 CLERK: Ulrich.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

17 CLERK: Vallone.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Yes.

19 CLERK: Van Bramer.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Williams.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Permission to

23 vote non-consent. (sic)

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission

25 granted.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you very
3 much. With the pride of passing on my 54th piece of
4 legislation today, I vote aye on all.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: You're welcome
6 and who's counting.

7 CLERK: Yeger.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

9 CLERK: Matteo, Cumbo.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Aye.

11 CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: [off mic] I vote aye.

13 [pause]

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

15 Today's Land Use Call-Ups are adopted by a vote of 44
16 in the affirmative and 0 in the negative. We will
17 now have communication from Speaker Corey Johnson.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Good afternoon. Happy
19 New Year everyone. I want to thank you all for being
20 here with us on this Wednesday at our first full
21 meeting of 2019, our Charter Meeting. We have a busy
22 agenda ahead of us, but we are beginning today on a
23 sad note. On Sunday night, Probationary Firefighter
24 Steven Pollard died while responding to a car
25 accident in Brooklyn. He fell trying to help two

2 injured drivers while cross the Belt Parkway's Mill
3 Basin Bridge. He was only 30 years old, and he had
4 just cleared his FDNY probationary period. This is a
5 tragedy for his family and for our city. We lost a
6 good man at the start of his career. I just want to
7 acknowledge the loss of NYPD Detective Thomas Lyons
8 another 9/11 First Responder who died from Pancreatic
9 Cancer that he developed at Ground Zero. Detective
10 Lyons was 51 years old. In recent days we lost Luis
11 Garden Acosta, the President and Founder of El
12 Puente. Luis was a champion for the Latino and
13 African-American communities and a pioneer in human
14 rights activism. I'm proud of his work and the work
15 of El Puente, and I can—I think I speak for all of us
16 when I say he will be greatly missed. He made the
17 lives better for so many people, and we a richer city
18 and nation because of his efforts. Two dedicated
19 public servants also passed since our last full
20 meeting. William Thompson, Sr. the first African-
21 American State Senator from Brooklyn died at 94 years
22 old in December. Mr. Thompson was a life long
23 dedicated public servant who first served in the U.S.
24 Army during World War II before serving as a State
25 Senator and a member of this body, the City Council

2 and a long time judge. He was trailblazer who left
3 his mark on our city. To his son and many of our
4 friends Bill, (sic) his daughter Gail and all of his
5 loved ones I send my deepest condolences and best
6 wishes. We also lost Judge Seymour Boyers who passed
7 away at 92 years old this past weekend. Sy served as
8 a Council Member a large representing the borough of
9 Queens in the 1960s. He lived a life devoted to
10 advocacy and education, and he'll be missed. To his
11 wife, his four children, and his 11 grandchildren, I
12 send my best wishes, condolences and my gratitude for
13 his service. I'd like to ask everyone to here to
14 please and take a moment of silence in memory of
15 Detective Lyons, Firefighter Pollard, Luis Garden
16 Acosta, the Honorable William Thompson, Sr. and the
17 Honorable Seymour Boyers. [moment of silence] Thank
18 you. Before we jump into our docket today, we have
19 one more New Yorker who deserves some extra
20 recognition because it falls on our Stated today.
21 Today is the birthday of our amazing friend and
22 Council Member from Corona the cat saver himself, a
23 champion for students, immigrants and New Yorker
24 Francisco Moya. Happy birthday. [cheers/applause]
25 Don't shave. You look a lot younger. Now, diving

2 into today's agenda, the Council will vote on the
3 following Finance items: Introduction 1226, which
4 will establish the Throggs Neck Business Improvement
5 District in Council Member Mark Gjonaj's District in
6 the Bronx. Introduction 1127, which will expand the
7 Hudson Square Business Improvement District in my
8 district in Manhattan. I want to thank the staff who
9 worked on this: Stephanie Ruiz and Noah Brick.

10 Moving on, the Council will vote on the following
11 pieces of legislation: Introduction 1299 sponsored
12 by Council Member Jumaane Williams would clarify for
13 the purposes of enforcing prohibitions against
14 unauthorized commuter van services, the definition of
15 for-hire vehicles and commuter van do not include a
16 public bus service operating pursuant to a contract
17 with any state or local government. I want to thank
18 the staff who worked on this James DeGiovanni, and
19 Elliott Linn. Next, we're going to vote on
20 Introduction 828 sponsored by our Government
21 Operations Chair Fernando Cabrera, which would
22 require the Department of Records and Information
23 Services, DORIS to list all of its reports required
24 by Local Law on it's website including relevant
25 information such as their frequency, the law to which

2 they are being responsive to, and the agency or
3 agencies responsive. We will also provide users with
4 access to every past report of that type received by
5 DORIS, and if an agency fails to submit a required
6 report on time, DORIS would request the report from
7 an agency and post that request in lieu of the report
8 on its website until the agency transmits the report.
9 Finally, this legislation will require that reports
10 be sent to DORIS electronically rather than by hand.
11 This sounds very geeky, wonky, technical. This is
12 actually very, very important because so much of the
13 work we do here at the Council are reporting bills,
14 and many of us wonder if those bills go into a black
15 hold somewhere and never see the light of day. So,
16 our Chair's bill is going to require that they post
17 these reports on their website so the public can see
18 it, so that we can see it, the press can see it, and
19 if they don't produce the report they are required to
20 produce, then they need to post the request that was
21 made of them, which would be embarrassing for that
22 agency if they weren't responsive. So, I want to
23 thank you Fernando for getting this done. It's very
24 important for the work we do, and I want to thank the
25 staff who's worked on this, Brad Reed, Elizabeth

2 Cronk, Emily Forgione and Zach Harris. The Council
3 will vote on Introduction 728 sponsored by Council
4 Member Rafael Espinal, which would require a
5 temporary program for the resolution of outstanding
6 judgments resulting from awning sign violations. It
7 would also establish a 2-year moratorium on the
8 issuance of additional awning sign violations as well
9 as an interagency task force to explore issues
10 related to awning signs and education related to
11 bring existing awning signs into compliance. This
12 bill would also require the Department of Buildings
13 to provide a report to the City Council containing
14 information about awning sign violations and
15 establish a waiver of work without a permit penalties
16 issued in connection with awning signs since December
17 28, 2017 and going forward. This is of great concern
18 for business owners across the city. So, I'm glad
19 that this bill is being voted on today. This is an
20 example of us being responsive to community needs and
21 giving a helping hand to businesses that are the life
22 blood of our city. I want to thank the staff who
23 worked on this, specifically Austin Branford.
24 Finally, we're going to vote on the Student
25 Transportation Oversight Package, the STOP package.

2 Seven bills. Gordenchik, seven that are aimed at
3 improving our city's school bus system. This has
4 received a lot of attention and rightly so. When
5 parents put their children on a school bus, we are
6 the guardians of that child, and we have an
7 obligation to take care of them. This past fall we
8 had a lot of problems that caused a lot of stress to
9 parents.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [interposing]
11 Quiet in the Chamber.

12 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down, please.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: This is related to the
14 storm we in November, and I'm sorry that that
15 happened, and that parents were scared and could not
16 find their children. This package is an attempt to
17 make sure it doesn't happen again. The primary goal
18 of this package is to keep our children safe, to
19 provide a level of transparency for parents and
20 children, and I'm proud to support it. I
21 specifically want to thank our Education Chair who h
22 as worked on this tirelessly and vocally and is very-
23 been very smart on how to handle this package. I
24 want to thank you Mark Treyger, the Chair of our
25 Education Committee for his incredible work on this.

2 First, in the package is Introduction 89 sponsored by
3 Council Member Andy King, which would require the
4 Department of Education report on the average length
5 of time schedule for school bus routes in each
6 community school district. The bill will also
7 require that the DOE share actual school bus
8 transportation times as recorded by GPS trackers with
9 the City Council. That information would need to be
10 shared. Introduction 451 sponsored by Council Member
11 Danny Dromm would require the DOE to distribute a
12 school bus ridership guide and hard copy and
13 electronically to all students and parents. This
14 guide would include a description of eligibility for
15 school bus services, what the service entail,
16 information for parents and students living in
17 temporary housing and students in foster care and the
18 responsibility of student and parents using DOE
19 school bus services. I want to thank Danny our
20 Finance Chair and former Education Chair.

21 Introduction 926, which I sponsored, would require
22 the Department of Education to share with parents and
23 post on its website how parents can file a complaint
24 about a school bus employee, the process by which the
25 department investigates such a complaint and the

2 possible results of such an investigation. This bill
3 also require that DOE share the protocols for school
4 bus services in inclement weather emergencies.

5 Introduction 929 sponsored by Council Member Joe
6 Borelli would require the Department of Education to
7 report on the calls and complaints received from
8 parents and guardians about school bus services, the
9 investigations DOE opened into school bus employees
10 and the number of those investigations that were
11 substantiated, and a description of outcomes taken by
12 DOE in the event of a substantiated investigation.

13 We'll also vote on two pieces of legislation, two
14 very important pieces of legislation as part of this
15 package sponsored by Council Member Ben Kallos.

16 Introduction 1099 would require every school bus to
17 be equipped with a GPS tracking device, and require
18 that the DOE give authorized parents and guardians
19 access to the real time location of their child's
20 school bus. This bill would also require each bus to
21 be equipped with a two-way communication device for
22 allowing communications with the bus operator. And
23 his second bill Introduction 1148 would require the
24 Department of Education report on how school bus
25 routes are determined, goals for time limits for bus

2 routes and any other goals related to school bus
3 services. This bill would require that the
4 Department of Education share school bus routes with
5 parents and guardians at least 15 days before the
6 start of the school year, and report a list of school
7 bus vendors who have completed a dry run of their
8 route as required by their contract, and those bus
9 vendors who were not in compliance with their
10 contractual obligations to complete dry runs of those
11 routes before the school year starts. The bill will
12 require the Department of Education let parents know
13 daily if their child's bus is late arriving or
14 departing school so parents have some sense when
15 their child is going to get home. Finally,
16 Introduction 1173, sponsored by our Education Chair
17 again, Council Member Mark Treyger, would require the
18 Department of Education report on the department's
19 school bus services including the vendors providing
20 school bus transportation to students, the number of
21 vehicles and employees used by such vendors, the
22 number of bus routes and transportation sites in use,
23 the number of students using school bus
24 transportation including the types of students, and
25 the categories of students who are eligible for DOE

2 transportation services. This bill would also
3 require DOE to report on school bus delays and no
4 shows and subcontractors are included in this as
5 well. I want to thank the incredible staff that has
6 worked on this package for a very long time in a very
7 meticulous way: Beth Golub, James Sabutti (sp?),
8 Alla Masawi (sp?) Smita Deshmukh, Andrea Vasquez and
9 Jeff Baker. That is it for today's agenda. Usually
10 the Charter Meeting of the Council we don't vote on
11 anything. We come, we say hi, we gavel in, we gavel
12 out. There is a huge queue of bills, and we're
13 trying to move people's bills. So, I wanted to get
14 through these important bills today so we can keep
15 moving forward with everyone's priorities and start
16 off 2019 in a very productive and good way. So,
17 happy New Year everyone. Thank you for being here.
18 Thank you for your collegiality and for the work you
19 do every single day. I look forward to working with
20 all of you in this auspicious year. Welcome to 2019.
21 Thank you, Madam Majority Leader.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much
23 for your leadership, and we will now move into
24 discussion of General Orders. Seeing none, Report of
25 Special Committees.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 29

2 CLERK: Reports of Standing Committees.

3 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Report of the
4 Committee on Education, Intros 89-C, 451-B, 926-B.
5 929-B, 1099-A, 1148-B and 1173-B School Bus
6 Transportation Package.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
8 General Orders.

9 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
10 Finance, Intros 1226 and 1227, Business Improvement
11 Districts.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General
13 Orders.

14 CLERK: Report of the Committee on For-
15 Hire Vehicles, Intro 1299-A, unauthorized commuter
16 vans.

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended -Amended and
18 coupled on General Orders.

19 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
20 Governmental Operations, Intro 828-A, Online list of
21 required reports.

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

24 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
25 Housing and Buildings, Intro 728-B, Signs Violations.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 30

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
3 General Orders.

4 CLERK: On the General Order Calendar,
5 Intro 720, Site Safety Training.

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Laid over.

7 CLERK: Resolution appointing various
8 persons commission of deeds.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General
10 Orders and at this time I am asking for a roll call
11 vote on all of the items on today General Order
12 Calendar.

13 CLERK: Adams.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Aye on all

15 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Happy New
17 Year everyone. Aye on all.

18 CLERK: Ayala.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye on all.

20 CLERK: Barron.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Highest
22 commendations to all of those who have bills that are
23 being passed today, particularly on the
24 transportation. I vote aye on all.

25 CLERK: Borelli.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Proudly aye on
3 all. We hit a homerun with this school bus package.
4 Brannan.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye on all.
6 Happy New Year.

7 CLERK: Cabrera.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Permission to
9 explain my vote.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
11 granted

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I just want to
13 give a special thanks to Brad Reed, Elizabeth Cronk,
14 Zachary Harris and my own staff, Claire McLeveigh.
15 On my bill 828-A they put a tremendous amount of work
16 on this bill, and helped me to bring clarity as to
17 what was needed on this bill, and also I want to
18 congratulate all of my colleagues regarding the bus
19 bill. It's a tremendous bill. It's amazing and it's
20 going to bring a lot of peace and tranquility and
21 serenity to a lot of parents who are ever-conscious
22 about the safety of our children. Thank you so much.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

24 CLERK: Chin.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

2 CLERK: Cohen.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Madam Majority
4 Leader, permission to explain my vote?

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
6 granted.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Well, I, too,
8 just want to really congratulate my colleagues on the
9 School bus package. I think it's an important
10 package of bills. I think it's really impressive how
11 quickly we turn them around. I think it was sorely
12 needed. So, I just really want to acknowledge that
13 because I think it was our chair Mark Treyger who did
14 an enormous amount of work as well as the bill's
15 sponsors to get it to this point. So, with that, I'm
16 going to vote aye on all.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

18 CLERK: Constantinides.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Happy New
20 Year to everyone, and aye on all.

21 CLERK: Cornegy.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye on all.

23 CLERK: Deutsch.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Permission to
25 explain my voted.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
3 granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you. So,
5 I just want to wish everyone happy and healthy New
6 York [speaking foreign language] to all my
7 colleagues, and I just want to speak briefly about
8 Intro 1099-A, which I'm a Prime Co-Sponsor on that
9 would require the Yellow Buses to have two-way
10 communication as well as GPS system. So, working
11 from my predecessor back in 2000, Council Member Mike
12 Nelson where this bill was originally introduced,
13 that's 18 years ago, it first came in--into fruition
14 with that bill was introduced was when Council Member
15 Nelson was driving up Flatbush Avenue and saw a
16 disabled Yellow Bus at the side of the road with
17 school children that had no communication. The bus
18 driver had no communication, the bus driver had zero
19 communication whatsoever to contact anyone. So
20 that's when the bill was introduced. It was
21 introduced a total of five times. First in 2000,
22 then in 2002, then in 2005 it was added--then to two-
23 way radio was added, the GPS tracking system and was
24 again reintroduced in 2006, and once again in 2010.
25 The previous two speakers did not allow it to come

2 for a vote and that is frankly because my predecessor
3 did not support their role as-to become Speaker, and
4 they put politics before our school children, and I
5 just want to say that we are fortunate to have
6 Speaker Corey Johnson that puts out school children
7 first, and does not play old school politics, and
8 that is why this bill is now coming for a vote. So,
9 I want to thank Council Member Ben Kallos with his
10 strong leadership on introducing-introducing this
11 bill. So, thank you, colleague, and I also want to
12 commend my colleague, Chair of the Education
13 Committee, Council Member Mark Treyger. [bell] Thank
14 you. I vote aye on all.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
16 Council Member Deutsch.

17 CLERK: Diaz.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Permission to
19 explain my vote.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
21 granted, Reverend Diaz.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Thank you, Madam
23 Chairlady. I'm voting yes on all except the
24 Resolution 716, and the reason why I'm voting no on
25 that Resolution is that because it is a resolution

2 calling upon the New York City Department of
3 Education to adopt all of the policy recommendations
4 of the Mayor's Sexual Health Education Task Force and
5 provide comprehensive sexual health education on a
6 regular basis across all grade levels meaning Pre-K,
7 meaning Kindergarten. So, ladies and gentlemen, we
8 seeing not only now-not only are promoting the use of
9 Heroin in the public parks, but juvenile health a
10 redesign, and all of this. Now we are-give
11 extensive, comprehensive sexual health education on a
12 regular basis across all grade levels, to children in
13 Pre-K and K-and Kindergarten, and this is what we're
14 going to. So, I cannot vote for this. I am voting
15 yes on all that on all the-on the rest. So, Madam
16 Chair Lady and all of you-my colleagues, Happy New
17 Year, but this 716 Resolution is wrong, wrong, wrong,
18 wrong. Thank you very much.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
20 much, Reverend Diaz, and as always, you're ahead of
21 s, and so we will be speaking on Resolutions at a
22 later time, but thank you for being proactive.

23 CLERK: Dromm,

24

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I vote aye on all
3 with the exception of Intro 728-B. On that I vote
4 no.

5 CLERK: Espinal.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Permission to
7 explain my vote?

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
9 granted, Council Member Espinal

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Thank you, Ms.
11 Cumbo. Today marks the culmination of nearly two
12 years of hard work and advocacy. I'm grateful to my
13 fellow Council Members, Council Member Mark Gjonaj,
14 Brannan, Koo, Menchaca, Yeger and Holden, the Chair
15 of the Housing and Buildings Committee Cornegy, and
16 Speaker Johnson for all of their effort on pushing
17 this forward. We began putting together this
18 integral piece of legislation when businesses in my
19 district suddenly found themselves with \$6,000 fines
20 for signs they had up on their businesses for years.
21 Since November 2017, there have been over 2,000 sign
22 violations reported to 311 across the five boroughs.
23 The fine combined with the price tag of a new sign
24 can be devastating to a business' bottom line. As
25 the sudden uptick in violations came to the awareness

2 of my colleagues, we quickly worked together to enter
3 into a two-year moratorium on any sign violations.
4 Businesses will not have to feel the burden of these
5 unjust fines while we work on the comprehensive
6 reforms to end this unjust practice. In addition to
7 this moratorium, any small business that has yet to
8 pay these fines will be given complete financial
9 relief. There will be reduced permit fees for
10 hanging new signs, and a task force with small
11 business owners, city agencies and chambers of
12 commerce to investigate any predatory practices that
13 might be going on, and compile strategic reform to
14 prevent this injustice from ever happening again.
15 With that said, I also want to thank all of the
16 advocates who have been part of this effort and all
17 the business owners who stood with us day by day on
18 the steps of City Hall, in City Hall to have these
19 conversations and make this bill happen. So thank you
20 all. I vote aye on all.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you for
22 your leadership.

23 CLERK: Eugene

24 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

25 CLERK: Gjonaj.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Permission to
3 explain my vote.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
5 granted.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you,
7 Majority Leader. I'm wishing all of my colleagues a
8 happy, healthy, productive and hopefully peaceful New
9 Year. I want to congratulate Councilman Espinal on
10 Intro 728. It goes a long way in helping our micro
11 business, a small mom and pop business owners who
12 have been allowed to experience harassment by
13 weaponizing 311 and extortion by sign installers at
14 the cost of tens of thousands of dollars. This is a
15 great way to start up the new year, and I'm so proud
16 that we were able to work on this with so many of my
17 colleagues and stakeholders to make sure that we
18 wrong all the rights. (sic) On Intro 1227, Hudson
19 Square BID congratulations Speaker, and Intro 1226.
20 As a member—as a patient (sic) of the Throggs Neck
21 BID Association, which is in my district, I'm so
22 excited for that area as we create opportunity to
23 promote the small business corridors throughout he
24 city, and I invite all of you to visit the BIDs
25 citywide. Thank you. I vote all on aye.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, and
3 thank you for your leadership.

4 CLERK: Grodenchik.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: A small
6 amount of time to explain my vote, Madam Majority
7 Leader.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: A small amount of
9 time granted.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I-I just want
11 to thank Chair Treyger and the Speaker for
12 shepherding through this package of bills relating to
13 school buses. I represent a district where mass
14 transit is two people in a car, and it's a problem
15 especially I have five stand-alone District 75
16 schools. So that is also a great burden on the
17 parents of these young people as we strive to give
18 them the best possible education in Eastern Queens.
19 So, I thank you all for sponsoring this legislation,
20 which will-I know will go a long way to ensuring the
21 tranquility of many, many thousands of families in
22 this great city of ours. I also remember today Dr.
23 Martin Luther King, Jr. who in six days from now
24 would have been 90 years old, and I remind my
25 colleagues of that, although I don't think too many

2 of them need reminding and I will as I always do on
3 his birthday, watch his most famous speech, the March
4 on Washington, I Have a Dream Speech. It's the best
5 18 minutes I spend every year, and lastly I-I-with
6 that, I-- vote aye on all. Thank you, Madam.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Or Public
9 Advocate or whatever we're calling you today.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Majority Leader
11 today.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Yes, ma'am.
13 Okay. I was trying to give you a pay raise.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: That's for
15 another meeting.

16 CLERK: Holden.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Permission to
18 explain my vote.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
20 granted.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I-I also want to
22 thank Council Member Espinal for his great bill Intro
23 728-B that protects small businesses. They were hit
24 with thousands of dollars worth of fines over the
25 years. It's about time that everybody stood up to the

2 unfair administration with these fines, and the
3 Building Department. So, I want to thank again all
4 my colleagues and especially Council Member Espinal
5 for this great bill. Thank you. Aye on all.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you

7 CLERK: Kallos.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Permission to
9 explain my vote.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
11 granted.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Happy New Year.
13 I'm Council Member Ben Kallos. I want to thank our
14 Speaker and Public Advocate Corey Johnson the Chair
15 of the Education Committee Mark Treyger, the former
16 Education Committee Counsel Laura Popa, who initially
17 drafted one of these bills; the current committee
18 counsel Beth Golub who updated it for the 21st
19 Century; Andrea Vasquez, Alam Msawei (sp?) for all of
20 their work on the Student Transportation Oversight
21 Packet the Stop Act. I'd also like to thank the Co-
22 sponsor of Introduction 1099, Council Member Chaim
23 Deutsch. He started working on this back 2000 as a
24 staffer to then Council Member Mike Nelson. Every
25 school year starts with nightmares of children stuck

2 on buses for hours leaving parents worrying where are
3 their children. The annual bus nightmares reach
4 crisis levels in November when winter storm Avery
5 left young children who receive special education, on
6 a bus in the snow for more than 10 hours. As a new
7 parent, when Jennifer Reynoso called me and told me
8 that she didn't know where her child was at 9:30, I
9 saw my daughter on that bus, and we worked with City
10 Hall, the Mayor's Office. We had to call the Police,
11 the NYPD to rescue that child and that's a huge
12 problem. We now have legislation that takes lessons
13 from cities like Boston where parents get bus routes
14 weeks ahead of the school year in time to challenge
15 routes as well as from the Chancellor's home city of
16 Houston where since 2015 parents have had access to
17 GPS app so that they know where the buses are. Intro
18 1099-A follows year-follows—requires that the DOE to
19 provide real time GPS location data for parents to
20 look at-[bell] at their phones so they can track when
21 the buses are coming to pick up and drop off their
22 kids and know where they are. 140-1148 requires DOE
23 to give bus route—

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [interposing]

25 Thank you, Council Member Kallos.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: One moment for
3 one sentence. Intro 1148 requires DOE to give bus
4 routes to families 15 days prior to the first day of
5 school with time to challenge the routes ,and to do
6 dry runs without children on board with this package.
7 I believe we will be able to finally-

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [interposing]
9 Thank you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: --deliver
11 children home safely from school.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
13 much, Council Member Kallos, and how do you vote?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I vote aye.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

16 CLERK: Koo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

18 CLERK: Koslowitz.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic] Aye
20 on all.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

22 CLERK: Lancman.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

24 CLERK: Lander.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 44

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I vote aye, and
3 request permission to vote aye on all Land Use Call-
4 Ups.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
6 granted.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I vote aye on
8 those as well. Thank you very much.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Happy New Year,
11 Madam Majority Leader.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

13 CLERK: Levin.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

15 CLERK: Levine.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye on all.

17 CLERK: Maisel.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

19 CLERK: Menchaca.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to
21 explain my vote, Madam Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
23 granted.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you.

25 [Speaking Spanish] everyone. I am really excited to

2 support Intro 728-B. You already heard from the
3 prime sponsor Espinal and the rest of the team that
4 has really cultivated I think one of the fastest
5 bills I've seen move on the floor here at the City
6 Council and with good reason. Since late 2018,
7 hundreds of businesses in New York City mostly small
8 and mostly immigrant owned have received violations
9 for improper signage. The violations come attached
10 with a civil penalty of \$6,000, which is incredibly
11 exorbitant and must be paid even if the violation is
12 resolved. For small businesses that can barely
13 afford to make rent month-to-month, the violations
14 are doing more than taking down signs, they are
15 closing up shops. All across my district and those
16 of my colleagues who co-sponsored this bill, small
17 businesses are taking down their signs in fear of
18 receiving the violations, which is not only creating
19 whole avenues of what feels like and constituents
20 have called around blighted streets, but setting them
21 up for further violations for not having the signage
22 or other violations should they put up new signs
23 without being licensed by the hangers or without
24 licensed hangers. So, we to put a stop to this
25 bleeding by halting the DOB from issuing more

2 violations or collecting these penalties. Intro 728-
3 B does that with a two-year moratorium. This will
4 give us the time as a Council to review the
5 regulations surrounding businesses from top to bottom
6 so that we not only prevent this situation from
7 happening again, and this is not the first time that
8 this Council has or the City Council has dealt with
9 this issue, but actually change the way we related to
10 small businesses. We shouldn't be issuing a penalty
11 of \$6,000 for first-time violations. It should be a
12 warning or citation. So, we have more work to do.
13 There are a lot of opportunities that we have to
14 build relationships with our immigrant businesses and
15 this bill is that first step. I look forward to
16 working with my colleagues to continue to heal our
17 small business corridors and with that [Speaking
18 Spanish]. Thank you. I vote aye on all.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

20 CLERK: Miller.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye on all.

22 CLERK: Moya.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye on all.

24 CLERK: Perkins.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye on all.

2 CLERK: Powers.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye on all.

4 CLERK: Reynoso.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye on all.

6 CLERK: Rivera.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: Rodriguez.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

10 CLERK: Rose.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Permission to
12 explain my vote.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
14 granted.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I just want to
16 congratulate my-my-my colleagues and the co-the
17 sponsors of the school bus legislation. As Chair of
18 the Youth Committee, we often pass legislation to
19 protect our young people and keep them safe, and I am
20 really excited that we saw the need to have
21 legislation to protect our young people on the buses.
22 It's long overdue, and it's just common sense
23 legislation, and I thank everyone for putting this
24 package together and I vote aye.

25 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

2 CLERK: Salamanca.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

4 CLERK: Torres.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye on all.

6 CLERK: Treyger.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to
8 explain my vote?

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
10 granted.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you,
12 Majority Leader. I just want to briefly say that
13 this is an example of effective and responsive
14 government. At the start of the school year, we head
15 and fielded calls from parents and families about
16 unacceptable delays, non-pickups. So many questions.
17 Very few answers. This council held hearings. The
18 Speaker actually came to the hearing, listened, spoke
19 very-very powerfully as well. We met with families.
20 We met with bus companies. We met with vendors. We
21 met with a lot of folks, many state labor, a lot of
22 stakeholders. We worked together on this package of
23 legislation that I think is the most comprehensive
24 package of legislation that impacts the student
25 transportation system ever, ever passed by this body.

2 We're introducing the system, which is a \$1.2 billion
3 industry to the 21st Century. There will be greater
4 oversight, greater accountability to better serve the
5 children of New York. So, Speaker, I want to thank
6 you and your team and your office for your leadership
7 for things done. I want to thank all my colleagues
8 and their support. We have amazing, amazing staff in
9 the City Council that was negotiating this bill even
10 during the holiday break up to New Year's Eve and New
11 Year's Day. I want to thank the for their great work
12 and my staff as well, and congratulate all my
13 colleagues on their bills, and with that, I vote aye
14 on e all. Thank you.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

16 CLERK: Ulrich.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye on all.

18 CLERK: Vallone.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: A moment to
20 explain my vote?

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
22 granted.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you,
24 Majority Leader. Happy New Year everyone, and I want
25 to thank Chair Treyger and everyone who worked on

2 these school safety bills and especially the Block
3 Legislation. I think we're all tired of the first
4 day of school and the first day after Labor Day of
5 hearing that whether it's the Chancellor or
6 Commissioner, it was unexpected for what happened on
7 the first of school. It's not longer an excuse.
8 There must be accountability. As a parent and
9 everyone that's in this room, I think we were all
10 disgusted as to what happened this year with the
11 buses and this package comes right to the heart of
12 it. I'm very appreciative and proud to stand withal
13 the Council Members on these bills. Great work
14 Speaker Johnson. Thank you for pushing me so
15 quickly. Thank you to you. Here's to another great
16 year working together. Happy New Year everyone and I
17 vote aye on all.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

19 CLERK: Van Bramer.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: YEGER.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Madam President,
23 may I be excused to explain my vote?

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
25 granted.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you. Today
3 the Council is passing an incredibly wise package of
4 legislation to protect the children who ride New York
5 City school buses. These are—these are smart bills.
6 These are common sense bills, as Chair Treyger said.
7 In particular I want to call the attention of New
8 Yorkers to Intro 1099 sponsored by Council Member
9 Kallos, and Chair Treyger. This is a very, very
10 smart bill, and I don't say that about many pieces of
11 legislation. This is incredibly—it's, you know,
12 okay. It's an incredibly wise thing to do. This is
13 a good thing that we're doing for the parents of New
14 Yorkers of kids who get on our buses and parents
15 simply don't know what happens until the child
16 arrives in school. There are schools in my district
17 that have actually invested money out of their own
18 budgets, private schools, for their own fleet, and
19 I've seen the technology where they can track the
20 buses as they move through the route, and know
21 exactly to the second where the buses are. So, again
22 to Council Member Kallos, this is a wise bill. Chair
23 Treyger, thank you very much for your work in getting
24 this done. I vote aye on all with the exception of
25 Intro 728 on which I abstain.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

3 CLERK: Matteo.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye on all.

5 CLERK: cumbo.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I just want to
7 thank Council Member Treyger and all of those who
8 worked on this particular transportation as it
9 pertains to safety for our young people. As a new
10 mom, I feel so much more at peace knowing that my
11 child will be safer as a result of the legislation
12 that we've passed, and parents all throughout the
13 city of New York, and I also want to thank Council
14 Member Espinal and Council Member Gjonaj for their
15 collaboration and partnership. It was critical
16 particularly for so many small businesses. When we
17 passed legislation to protect workers, it's so
18 important that we continue to balance it with
19 protections to protect our small businesses. So, I
20 proudly vote aye on all, and thank all of my
21 colleagues for this incredible package of
22 legislation.

23 CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: [off mic] I vote aye on
25 all.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All items on
3 today's General Order Calendar are adopted by a vote
4 of 47 in the affirmative, 0 negative and 0
5 abstentions with the exception of Intro 728-B, which
6 was adopted by a vote of 45 in the affirmative, 1
7 negative and one abstention. The Revised Land Use
8 Call-Ups vote is 47 in the affirmative and 0
9 negative. [pause] We will now have Introduction and
10 reading of bills.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: All of the bills are
12 referred to committee as indicated on everyone's
13 agenda.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We will now move
15 into a discussion of resolutions. Are there any
16 members that wish to speak on any of today's revo-
17 resolutions? Seeing none, we will now have an
18 opportunity to vote on our resolutions today.
19 Resolution 540—hold for one moment. I'm going to read
20 Resolution 540 into the record. Resolution calling
21 upon the New York State Education Department to
22 require, implement and enforce more extensive
23 training and tracking of the training of school bus
24 drivers and attendants who transport students with
25 disabilities. All in favor say aye.

2 COUNCIL MEMBERS: [in unison] Aye.

3 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All opposed?

4 Abstentions? The ayes have it. We will now move
5 into General Discussion. If members have signed up
6 for General Discussion, we will now begin with
7 Council Member—we'll begin with Council Member
8 Kallos.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you.

10 Construction related injuries and deaths continue to
11 rise for the fifth straight year to 744 injuries and
12 16 deaths in the Fiscal Year 2018, approximately
13 triple the 212 injuries and six deaths in Fiscal Year
14 2014 according to the Mayor's Management Report as
15 reported by City and State. Under Proposed
16 Introduction 1322, Co-Prime sponsored by Civil
17 Service and Labor Chair I. Daneek Miller, affordable
18 housing and economic development projects receiving
19 city subsidies would be required to pay workers a
20 prevailing wage, provide training in the classroom
21 and on the job through apprenticeship coupled with
22 transparency. Proposed Introduction 1323 forces
23 developers to disclose ownership interests. The
24 revolving door with the city violations, MWBE status
25 and the planned workforce to the City Council prying

2 to—prior to seeking permission to build on city land
3 or obtain millions in city subsidies. This
4 information is already provided to HPD and their 37-
5 page compliance package and there's no reason why we
6 shouldn't have it. I ask my colleagues to please
7 sponsor these important pieces of legislation. Thank
8 you.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
10 much, Council Member Kallos. We will now call on
11 Council Member Barron. I'm sorry, Council Member
12 Barron would like to go last. We will then—it
13 doesn't matter. Okay, we'll call on Council Member
14 Barron.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you and I
16 was just saying that I wanted my remarks in this
17 section, Madam, the first section.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I see.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.
20 Greetings to all my colleagues. Happy New Year. I
21 just want to call attention to the passing of a dear
22 friend and someone was very vocal in the fight
23 against police brutality, and that's Nicholas
24 Heyward, Senior. He passed on New Year's Eve and he
25 became known for his work fighting against police

2 immorality, police corruption and police criminal
3 activity particularly as it relates to killing of
4 unarmed civilians. His son Nicholas Heyward, Jr. was
5 only 13 when he was shot. He was unarmed and he was
6 shot by an NYPD officer and that officer was never
7 brought to justice. So, I just wanted to put into
8 the record that he has passed and that while he was
9 here he was a great fighter. He was a great
10 advocate, not only for his son, but for all of those
11 families who have been subjected to a loss of a loved
12 one due to the criminal activity, criminal actions of
13 NYPD with unarmed children in particular. So, I just
14 wanted that to be noted. Thank you .

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
16 Council Member Barron. We'll now have Council Member
17 Reynoso followed by Council Member Menchaca.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I want to take
19 the time to thank Speaker Corey Johnson for
20 acknowledging the passing of Luis Garden Acosta who
21 was my mentor, and did amazing work in our Southside
22 District related to environmental justice, and
23 empowering of young people. I was fortunate enough
24 to be one of those young people that he took under
25 his wing, and I'm grateful for everything that he's

2 taught me, and he will always be remembered. So,
3 again, just want to thank Corey for acknowledging
4 that. I'm also introducing a bill related to the
5 corrupt practice present-present in our commercial
6 sanitation industry. We have an issue related to sham
7 union or fake unions, and we have a bill that we are
8 introducing today that will employer BIC to go after
9 unions that have bosses or executive level members
10 that are—either have been indicted or criminal
11 charges related to the private sanitation industry.
12 I'm looking forward to everyone's support, and I
13 close my statement here.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. Council
15 Member Menchaca.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you. So
17 something we pride ourselves in the city that—that we
18 live in is that we take care of our immigrants and
19 give everyone the dignity of being heard, and
20 understood no matter your preferred language. In the
21 interest of making that true, every New Yorker's with
22 city agencies we passed Local Law 30 in 2017 to
23 guarantee language access for all New Yorkers making
24 it a requirement for city agencies to provide their
25 services in 10 of the city's most commonly spoken

2 languages. However, back in October, I held a
3 hearing on this language access requirement to review
4 whether city agencies were living up to it. What we
5 discovered was that many service providers on the
6 ground reported clients who are not attended to by
7 the city agencies with proper language access. Yet,
8 the city claimed it had not received complaints on
9 this issues. A review of the city's 311 data makes
10 it almost impossible to confirm this claim since 311
11 personnel are not required to ask first what language
12 a person needs before logging a complaint LS8859
13 would change that making such and ask standard
14 procedure and then requiring 311 to track how many
15 times a call is dropped when the question is asked.
16 We need to have a means of holding the city
17 accountable to provide language access. This is that
18 first and critical step and I urge you all to join me
19 by signing on as prime sponsors. Thank you.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
21 much, Council Member Carlos Menchaca, and as we close
22 out today's meeting, I would be remiss if I also did
23 not add to the remarks Speaker Corey Johnson in
24 regards to Judge William C. Thompson, who was my
25 predecessor. He passed away again on December 24,

2 2018 at the age of 19—at the age of 94. He was a New
3 York State Senator and Justice of the New York
4 Supreme Court Appellate Division and father to New
5 York City Controller Brill Thompson. He was on the
6 City Council from 1969 to 1973, elected to the
7 Supreme Court in 1974 and named Assistant
8 Administrative Judge of the Supreme Court in Brooklyn
9 and Staten Island in 1978. In 1980, he was the first
10 black Associate Justice appointed to the Appellate
11 Division of the Second Judicial Department of
12 Brooklyn. Mr. Thompson was a founder with Robert F.
13 Kennedy of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration
14 Corporation of which he was also Director and the New
15 York City Regional Director of the NAACP. In 1970,
16 when black residents accounted for about one-fourth
17 of Brooklyn's population, Mr. Thompson became a
18 leader of the party in the borough when he was
19 elected Chairman of the Kings County Democratic
20 Committee. He is a leader and has been responsible
21 for so many of the candidates across the city of New
22 York and particularly Brooklyn being elected. He sat
23 counsel to me many times during my election and my
24 campaigns. He will be greatly missed. He has been
25 an icon in Brooklyn politics and the development of

2 the borough. We finally have a speaker, Council
3 Member Levin who will close us out.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you, Madam
5 Majority Leader. My colleagues, I'm introducing
6 three pieces of legislation today, one Introduction
7 1325, which would amend the Administrative Code to
8 allow for the authorization to create legal defense
9 trusts in New York City. This is for public
10 officials. If you recall, last year the Conflicts of
11 Interest Board came out with guidelines that said
12 that—that contributions to legal defense trusts were
13 prohibited over 50 which essentially renders moot any
14 legal defense trust in New York City and so this bill
15 would allow for the creation of legal defense trusts
16 in the unlikely and unfortunate event of anybody
17 finding themselves a public official under and
18 investigation whether they did something wrong or
19 not, but allowing for the opportunity for them to
20 defend themselves. There's a long history in many
21 jurisdictions that allow of legal defense trusts and
22 New York City should—should follow that lead, and
23 this bill creates a responsible, transparent and—and—
24 and separate and apart distinct framework from any
25 other funds, any campaign funds or other funds,

2 public funds to allow for a legal defense. In
3 addition, I have introduced Resolution 715 with
4 Council Member Barry Grodenchik to pass legislative—a
5 resolution to call on Congress to pass legislation in
6 response to reducing poverty in America by promoting
7 opportunities and economic mobility, Executive Order,
8 which was signed by the President in April of 2018,
9 which was very detrimental, and it's important that
10 we stand up strong and say in New York City that we
11 support our social safety net. In addition, with
12 colleagues Treyger, Cumbo, Levine, Rivera, Ampry-
13 Samuel, Chin and Ayala creating a kind (sic) of
14 Department of Education to implement the
15 recommendations to the Mayor's Sexual Health
16 Education Task Force, and lastly, I just want to say
17 a quick word about my friend Nicholas Heyward, Senior
18 who passed away last week Nicholas Heyward lost son
19 Nicholas Naquam Heyward, Jr. to police violence in
20 1994. Nick Heyward has been a leader in our
21 communities for over 20 years calling attention to—to
22 police violence and the devastating consequences of
23 police violence and—but he always was a—such a—a
24 remarkably dignified and kind and gentle person who
25 spoke truth to power from a—from a position of deep

2 righteousness, and it was a privilege to be able to
3 know him and to work with him, and I wish his family
4 and all that he touched my deepest condolences.

5 Thank you.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
7 much, Council Member Levin, and we have been recently
8 joined by Council Member Rosenthal, and we are going
9 to have hear vote and then we're going to hear from-

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: [interposing] I-I want
11 to-before we let Council Member Rosenthal vote, the
12 rules of the Council stat that we have to ask for
13 unanimous consent for that to happen. So, I'm asking
14 my colleagues for unanimous consent to her on the
15 floor, for Council Member Rosenthal to be able to
16 cast votes today. Seeing no objection from my
17 colleagues, I believe we have unanimous consent, and
18 I would ask that Council Member Rosenthal be called
19 upon to cast votes today.

20 CLERK: Council Member Rosenthal.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all
22 with gratitude.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you Council
24 Member Rosenthal, and now we all be closed out. We
25 will now redo the numbers. All numbers on today's

2 General Order Calendar are adopted by a vote of 48 in
3 the affirmative, 0 negative, 0 abstentions with the
4 exception with Intro 728-B. We now have 46 in the
5 affirmative, 1 negative and 1 abstention. The
6 Revised Land Use Call-Ups vote is 48 in the
7 affirmative and 0 negative and that concludes today's
8 votes. We'll now close out with Speaker Corey
9 Johnson.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam
11 Majority Leader. The Charter Meeting of January 9,
12 2019 is hereby adjourned. Happy New Year.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Happy New Year.
14 Thank you all. [background comments/pause]

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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 January 25, 2019