

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

STATED MEETING

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February 26, 2014  
Start: 1:15 p.m.  
Recess: 3:15 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Maria del Carmen Arroyo  
Inez D. Barron  
Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret S. Chin  
Andrew Cohen  
Costa G. Constantinides  
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.  
Elizabeth S. Crowley  
Laurie A. Cumbo  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Inez E. Dickens  
Daniel Dromm  
Rafael L. Espinal

COUNCIL MEMBERS: (CONTINUED)

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

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

Ludger Balan  
New York 26th United States Colored Troops  
Historical Interpreters

Willie Cooper  
Descendant

Dr. Malcolm Beech  
President  
United States Colored Troops  
Living History Association

Estiven Rodriguez  
Honorary Student  
Washing Heights Expeditionary  
Learning School (WHEELS)

Principal  
WHEELS

Rev. T. K. Nakagaki  
The Interfaith Center of New York  
President  
Buddhist Council of New York

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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: ...everybody; this is my first official ceremonials, so [applause, cheers] it may be a little bumpy, but we'll figure it out. I wanna welcome everybody here; we have two ceremonials today that we are gonna do, one by Council Member Jumaane Williams -- I'm very excited about this one -- and the other one by Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez. So Council Member Jumaane Williams will be commemorating the New York City Black Regiment of the Civil War, which is represented by the USCT, a historical interpreters group; we will be honoring this group as part of the commemoration surrounding the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, which was from 1861-1865 and with that I'll pass it on to Council Member Jumaane Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.

I'll ask everybody if they can stand and I'd like to call the 26th Infantry of the United States Colored Troops. [background comments, whistle] Okay. So this is the 150th anniversary of the New York Colored Troop Regiment in the United States Civil War. I wanna thank Mr. Ludger Balan for bringing this to my attention; there was... 200,000 free men of African heritage fought in the Civil War, 4,000 of them were

1  
2 from New York; they made up the 20th, the 26th and  
3 the 31st regiments -- this is a reenactment of the  
4 26th -- these men fought and gave their lives to a  
5 country that didn't even care to acknowledge that  
6 they were fully human beings; they were about three-  
7 fifths a person at that time. New York regiments  
8 recruited black soldiers from around the world,  
9 including Haiti, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Cuba,  
10 Trinidad, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Barbados,  
11 Canada, Cape Verde, and Native Americans from Long  
12 Island. It's hard to imagine the courage it took to  
13 put one's life at risk for a country that at the time  
14 fought to continue the brutal, inhumane institution  
15 of slavery, and keep in mind that these troops still  
16 suffered the injustice of being black in America and  
17 you have to look no further to movies like "12 Years  
18 a Slave" or the movie "Glory" to imagine what it was  
19 like. Frederick Douglas said,  
20 "Once let the black man get upon his person the brass  
21 letter, U.S., let him get an eagle on his button and  
22 a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket,  
23 there is not power on earth that can deny that he has  
24 earned the right to citizenship." There are many  
25 descendants that live and work among us today,

1  
2 actress Vanessa Williams is a direct descendant of a  
3 26th USCT veteran from New York, New York 1 anchor,  
4 Cheryl Wills' great-great-great grandfather fled his  
5 slavemaster and joined the USCT. We are proud to  
6 honor their memory today by presenting the 26th  
7 Regiment USCT Historical Interpreters, led by Ludger  
8 Balan, who will say a few words shortly.

9           Before introducing Lugar I wanna present  
10 this proclamation that he has in honor of those who  
11 fought and died to help create what we now know is  
12 the United States of America. I'm happy to introduce  
13 a resolution to declare February 2014 USCT month and  
14 I wanna say thank you again... is he gonna read the  
15 proc or he's gonna say something? And so I'd like  
16 the... ask the Clerk to read the proc, please.

17           CITY CLERK: Thank you. Council, City of  
18 New York Proclamation. [crosstalk]

19           COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: You can sit  
20 down.

21           CITY CLERK: Whereas, in celebration of  
22 African-American History Month the Council of the  
23 City of New York is very proud to commemorate the  
24 150th anniversary of the New York Regiment United  
25 States Colored Troops and to honor the New York 26th

1  
2 USC Historical Interpreters, who are bringing their  
3 stories to life today. And whereas, the United  
4 States Colored Troops, the USCT, was formed in 1863,  
5 which was comprised of more than 200,000 free men of  
6 diverse African heritage who joined the Federal Army  
7 and Union Navy to fight in the Civil War. Through  
8 courageous battles and countless sacrifices they led  
9 humanity to a victor that helped put an end to  
10 slavery and save the Union. On February 27th, 1864,  
11 three USCT regiments were founded in New York City,  
12 the USCT 20th, 26th and 31st. And whereas, over  
13 4,000 free blacks served in the New York regiments,  
14 all of whom were reined on the East River and  
15 military bases of that era on Rikers and Hart Island.  
16 Enlistees were born near and far, not only from  
17 around the United States and Canada, but also Haiti,  
18 the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Cuba, Trinidad,  
19 Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Barbados, and Cape  
20 Verde, as well as Native Americans from Long Island.  
21 Demonstrating true American character, they sought  
22 beyond their own backgrounds to work together in  
23 common purpose, correct an unjust past and lead our  
24 country toward a brighter future. And whereas, today  
25 more than 200 USCT troops are interred at cemeteries

1  
2 in Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, Long Island, and  
3 Upstate and their descendants live in all five  
4 boroughs and beyond. Their hard-won progress is also  
5 brought to life by the New York 26th USCT Historical  
6 Interpreters, a New York City-based group of  
7 dedicated Civil War aficionados who provide  
8 educational programs, demonstrations, talks at living  
9 history events, classrooms and battle reenactments to  
10 communities in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and  
11 Pennsylvania. Now therefore be it known, that the  
12 Council of the City of New York commends the New York  
13 26th USCT Historical Interpreters for their work and  
14 proudly honors the New York Regiment of the United  
15 States Colored Troops 20th, 26th and 31st in  
16 celebration of their 150th anniversary for their  
17 outstanding service and contributions to the  
18 community. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the  
19 Entire Council; Jumaane D. Williams, Council Member  
20 45th District, Brooklyn; Jimmy Van Bramer, Council  
21 Member 26th District, Queens.

22 [applause]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Mr. Balan. And  
24 I also wanna say, we kinda put it together quickly,  
25 but I would like to take the liberty to say thank you



1  
2 on behalf of the BLAC as well, who I'm sure would  
3 have wanted to participate in this and I'm sorry we  
4 rushed it through, but definitely on behalf of the  
5 BLAC and of course, we wanna thank Speaker Melissa  
6 Mark-Viverito for helping us get this done.

7 [background comments] Okay. I wanted to recognize  
8 The Public Advocate Tish James; for a second I  
9 forgot she's The Public Advocate and I saw other City  
10 Council Member [laughter].

11 LUDGER BALAN: We'd like to thank... I wear  
12 many hats in New York City; I'm gonna keep my  
13 conversation pretty brief; I'll turn over the mic to  
14 our colleagues in the back. But first of all I'd  
15 like to thank the Councilman, Jumaane Williams, who  
16 had the great vision to help bring this together;  
17 been working for a few months to have this honorary  
18 moment for these really special group of people  
19 during a time in history who... there could not be any  
20 greater warrior in and of our time, any greater cause  
21 for war than the war to fight for freedom.

22 With that I wanted to take the  
23 opportunity to introduce you to some... we're not just  
24 living historians; among us there are also  
25 descendants from 26th USCT, there's a descendant from

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the 36th USCT and many of these folks have gone out you know and did a lot of work and published books to tell the story. You know, why do we do this? I have a long history of education in New York City, like I said, wearing different caps, teaching different things; we found that it was very important to teach history. You know in history we learn about what we've done in the past, so we can have something, some kind of a construct to develop what we can do better in the future. So if we do not learn from our past, we will repeat it again and again. So we think the Civil War is an important conversation to have, especially today. So it's very important for us; we're very honored today to be recognized for our work and our efforts. With that I would like to pass the mic to our first descendant, which is Mr. Willie Cooper.

[applause]

WILLIE COOPER: Hello everyone, thank you for the invitation; my name is Willie Cooper; I was born in Windsor, North Carolina; I'm the youngest child of eight; my father, Ulysses Cooper, and my mother, Augustine Basil Cooper. Ulysses Cooper was the oldest child of Martin Cooper and Ann Reed. Ann

1 Reed was the daughter of George Reed and Ann Reed.  
2 Ann Reed was the daughter of Blunt Barnhill and Sarah  
3 Barnhill. Blunt Barnhill and George Reed were  
4 privates in the 36th Regiment. That regiment was  
5 raised in North Carolina, known as the 2nd North  
6 Carolina Colored Volunteers. My great-great  
7 grandfather, Blunt Barnhill, was wounded; he entered  
8 the war in Portsmouth, Virginia, along with my great  
9 grandfather; he was wounded and discharged at Point  
10 Lookout, Maryland in 1864. My great grandfather  
11 served a full three terms from 1863 to 1866, being  
12 discharged in New Orleans, Louisiana.  
13

14           These soldiers fought... had the  
15 distinction of fighting in the 36th regiment, which  
16 was raised in the southern states of Virginia and  
17 North Carolina. Also, they were a majority, not free  
18 men; they were escaped slaves, who escaped from  
19 nearby plantations and farms and joined the Army.  
20 The 36th had the distinction of being the first  
21 infantry to enter the Confederate capital of  
22 Richmond, Virginia. Just one other thing; I see this  
23 famous gentleman over here with this Butler award on  
24 his chest, that Butler award was awarded by Major  
25 General Benjamin Butler for the heroics of the

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soldier, fallen Army of the James. My grandfather's regiment was parley [sic] regiment; they also had the distinction of winning two congressional medals highest honors this country could offer and those soldiers' names were Miles James, Corporal Miles James and Private James Gardner. Thank you.

[applause]

LUDGER BALAN: Thank you. I'd like to turn over the mic to... you know every military, alright, needs an admiralty, so I'd like to turn over the mic to our admiralty of the regent.

DR. MALCOLM BEECH: Good afternoon and thank you very much. My name is Dr. Malcolm Beech and I'm President of the United States Colored Troops Living History Association; it's a national organization of historic interpreters, scholars, reenactors; storytellers, and what we do is talk about the bravery, the heroism of the African-Americans that freed themselves during the Civil War and it's very important that we do talk about it and it's great to be here in New York City to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the 26th New York. And we'd like to also recognize some of the descendants of

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STATED MEETING

some of the members of the Carr family of the 26th and the 36th US Colored Troops.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I just wanna say thank you again for the work you're doing; thank you for the descendants for helping keep the legacy going and I think that ends the ceremony; say thank you again; I wanna give a shout-out to my mother, Patricia Williams, who's somewhere in the back over there. [cheers, applause] Thank you guys.

[pause]

[background comments]

[applause]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you for that, Council Member Williams.

The next and last ceremonial for today is Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez, who will be presenting a proclamation to Estiven Rodriguez... any family relationship? [background comments, laughter] No. Okay, alright. [laughter] We're all family, we're all family. [background comments]

So Estiven Rodriguez is a 17-year-old Washington Heights High School senior who was mentioned by President Obama at the State of the Union Address where he was a guest in the box of

1  
2 First Lady Michelle Obama -- wow, what a privilege.  
3 Estiven is a student at the Washington Heights  
4 Expeditionary Learning School, WHEELS, and is ranked  
5 fifth in a class of 100. Wow. [cheers, applause]  
6 He has earned a full competitive scholarship from the  
7 Posse Foundation to attend Dickinson College in  
8 Pennsylvania in the fall. Estiven arrived from the  
9 Dominican Republic eight years ago and at that time  
10 he did not speak English and he has been incredibly  
11 inspirational in all that he has accomplished.

12           Two months ago he led a march of his  
13 senior class to the post office so that they could  
14 mail out their college applications, and much of his  
15 work and accomplishments by Estiven is due to his  
16 hard work and dedication, the great teachers, an  
17 innovative tutoring program and a wonderful school  
18 environment. So with that, great to have you here  
19 [cheer] and I'll pass it on to Ydanis Rodriguez.  
20 [applause, comments]

21           COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Well thank  
22 you, Madame Speaker for allowing us to recognize  
23 Estiven. Estiven goes to WHEELS and WHEELS has 100  
24 percent of the students getting into college,  
25 [background comments] so they take college readiness

1  
2 very seriously. Every year they walk to the post  
3 office, so the students don't have any choice on when  
4 they bring the application, because they walk with  
5 them every year. So... [background comment, laughter]  
6 I'm there... so I would like to welcome Estiven  
7 Rodriguez of WHEELS High School in Washington  
8 Heights. Estiven is a young man from my native  
9 Dominican Republic who many of you may recognize as a  
10 student acknowledged by President Barrack Obama  
11 during his State of the Union Address earlier this  
12 year. Estiven and his peers are examples of how hard  
13 work and commitment to education can open up so many  
14 doors. As announced by President Barrack Obama,  
15 Estiven Rodriguez has been granted a full scholarship  
16 at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania this year.  
17 [applause, cheers] This after he arrived in this  
18 country at nine years old, not speaking any English;  
19 this is also a testament to his family and his  
20 teachers who have pushed him to this level of  
21 excellence. He ranks fifth in his class and is  
22 primed for an amazing future. His story is a story  
23 of so many immigrants, young people in our community,  
24 including myself. Thank you, Estiven, for making us  
25 all very proud of you, [cheers, applause]

1  
2 congratulations, **00:18:24 [Spanish]**. Now can we get  
3 a clerk to please read the proclamation?

4 CITY CLERK: Council, City of New York  
5 proclamation. [background comments] Whereas, the  
6 Council of the City of New York is proud to honor  
7 Estiven Rodriguez as a model student and to  
8 congratulate him upon being celebrated for his  
9 academic achievements during President Obama's 2014  
10 State of the Union Address. And whereas, Estiven,  
11 the son of Dominican immigrants, arrived in the  
12 Unites States at the age of nine. Although he knew  
13 very little English, he had the ambition, guidance  
14 and dedication needed to work hard and become one of  
15 the top students in his high school class. And  
16 whereas, Estiven currently a high school senior has  
17 been rewarded for his commitment with a full tuition,  
18 four-year Posse Foundation Scholarship to attend  
19 Dickinson College this fall. And whereas, Estiven's  
20 exception accomplishments have been celebrated by  
21 President Barrack Obama on two occasions, one in his  
22 2014 State of the Union Address and in his speech at  
23 the White House's College Opportunity Summit on  
24 January 16th. And whereas, outside of school Estiven  
25 has participated in the Engaging Latinos Community



1  
2 for Education, ENLACE Program, a multi-year cohort  
3 program that provides high-achieving Latino students  
4 with advanced academic enrichment in STEM, science,  
5 technology, engineering and math, [background  
6 comments] critical writing and other college  
7 preparatory disciplines at Lehman College. And  
8 whereas, Estiven Rodriguez is a dynamic member of his  
9 school community who excels as a student athlete and  
10 a member of the school's math club, soccer team and  
11 track team. And whereas, Estiven's extraordinary  
12 accomplishments confirm the essential truth that with  
13 the right support everyone, regardless of background  
14 or circumstance, can achieve their dreams as far as  
15 their talents can take them. Now therefore be it  
16 known, that the Council of the City of New York  
17 proudly honors Estiven Rodriguez for his outstanding  
18 achievements and for inspiring us all to strive  
19 toward our very best. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker  
20 for the Entire Council; Ydanis Rodriguez, Council  
21 Member 10th District, Manhattan.

22 [cheers, applause]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ:

24 Congratulations.  
25

1  
2 ESTIVEN RODRIGUEZ: First of all, I wanna  
3 thank the City Council for the achievement and the  
4 award and I also wanna thank my school and my family,  
5 because without them I wouldn't be here. And I have  
6 worked hard, but I know there's also a lot of  
7 students that are watching and they know... and they  
8 have worked as hard as me and to be honest, I also  
9 think that they also deserve the same award. Thank  
10 you. [background comments, applause]

11 PRINCIPAL OF WHEELS: I'm the principal  
12 of Estiven's school and I feel like a proud parent  
13 today, as I have for the last month. I wanna thank  
14 Council Member Rodriguez, Speaker of the City Council  
15 and all City Council Members for your wonderful  
16 support of our school and I wanna give a special  
17 shout-out to all of our teachers who are not here but  
18 have a huge role in preparing Estiven and all of our  
19 students for the success that they have. Thank you  
20 very, very much.

21 [background comments, applause]

22 FEMALE VOICE: I also wanted to thank  
23 Estiven and the City Council on behalf of New York  
24 City Outward Bound schools. We have a network of  
25 public schools of which WHEELS is one of them and

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there's one or more in every borough of New York City and Estiven is a wonderful role model for all the students, they've all been watching this very closely and very excited and the college march that was talked about was started at WHEELS and now it takes place in every single one of those 11 schools on the same day every year and I see a lot of council members who have come in the past; I hope you all come again next December; I know Jumaane, you were there in the past at Kurt Hahn, and hope to see you there, so invitations will go out.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

[background comments, applause]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright and that concludes ceremonials.

[background cheers, applause]

[pause]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright, we're gonna get started. [interpose]

MALE VOICE: Ladies and gentleman; can I have your attention please? Can I please have your attention? Quiet on the floor, please. Quiet on the floor, please. [background comment] Quiet.

[background comment]

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[gavel]

MALE VOICE: At this time, can you please place all cell phones and pagers to vibrate and will all non-Council employees, non-Council employees, please leave the main floor of the chambers; could have a seat upstairs in the balcony. Thank you.

[pause]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All rise for the Pledge of Allegiance, please. [background comments] Quiet in the chambers; please all rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. [collective Pledge of Allegiance 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. Thank you. Roll call. [background comments, laughter]

CITY CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

CITY CLERK: Barron. Cabrera. Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

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CITY CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Present.

CITY CLERK: Crowley. Cumbo.

[background comments]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May we have  
quiet? Quiet please and.. [background comments,  
laughter]

CITY CLERK: Deutsch. Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

CITY CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

CITY CLERK: Espinal. Eugene. Ferreras.  
Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

CITY CLERK: Gentile. Gibson.  
Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.

CITY CLERK: Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Here.

CITY CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

CITY CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

CITY CLERK: Koo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Here.

CITY CLERK: Koslowitz. Lancman.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Present.

CITY CLERK: Lander. Levin. Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Maisel. Matteo. Mealy.  
Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

CITY CLERK: Mendez. Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

CITY CLERK: Matteo.

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

CITY CLERK: Espinal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here. Here.

CITY CLERK: Thank you. Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.

CITY CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

CITY CLERK: Reynoso.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Here.

CITY CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

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CITY CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CITY CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

CITY CLERK: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Here.

CITY CLERK: Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

CITY CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

CITY CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

CITY CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

CITY CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

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CITY CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Present.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

CITY CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Maisel.

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

CITY CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Aqui.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: If we may have  
some quiet in the chambers for the Invocation  
delivered by Rev. T. K. Nakagaki, The Interfaith  
Center of New York and the President of the Buddhist  
Council of New York.

MALE VOICE: All rise please.

REV. NAKAGAKI: Okay. First of all,  
thank you very much for inviting me to do a Buddhist  
Invocation for today. What I would like to do is the  
silent meditation and so as you stand, maybe try to  
stand, relax and your back straight and follow your  
breath, breathe in and breathe out slowly and deeply.

[bell]

As you breathe in you may invite your  
god, your Buddha, truth, energy to yourself. And as



1  
2 you breathe out you may relax yourself free from the  
3 tensions, from greed, anger, jealousy, pride and  
4 self-centeredness and extend loving kindness to all  
5 living beings.

6 [bell]

7 May all ascension beings be happy, well  
8 and peaceful, may we all free from suffering, may we  
9 all be free from pain, may we all be free from  
10 attachment from greed, anger and ignorance. May we  
11 all attain ultimate happiness and peace of  
12 enlightenment through the guidance of Buddha's wisdom  
13 and compassion and may your mindful action bring  
14 peace and well-being to ourselves as individuals, to  
15 our community and to our city and blessing to you  
16 all. Thank you. Arigato.

17 [background comments]

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. I now  
19 call upon Council Member Levine to spread the  
20 Invocation in full upon the record. May we please  
21 have quiet as we hear from Council Member Levine.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Domo arigato Dr.  
23 Nakagaki. I'm so pleased to say that you hail from  
24 the 7th Council District... [interpose]

25 MALE VOICE: Quiet please.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: The reverend...  
3 [interpose]

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
5 chamber.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: The reverent Dr.  
7 Nakagaki is a Buddhist priest, ordained in the 750-  
8 year-old Jodo Shinshu tradition of Japanese Buddhism.  
9 He hails from Tokyo, Japan originally, arriving to  
10 the United States in 1985 as an overseas minister,  
11 serving first with the Seattle Buddhist Church, later  
12 at the Parlier Buddhist Church and finally here in  
13 New York at the New York Buddhist Church. He is  
14 president of the Buddhist Council of New York, a Vice  
15 President of The Interfaith Center of New York, which  
16 is located on Riverside Drive and 120th Street,  
17 Clergy on Call for Columbia University, Community  
18 Clergy Liaison for the New York City Police  
19 Department and religious advisor to the Japanese-  
20 American Lions Club.

21 Since 1994 Rev. Nakagaki has organized an  
22 interfaith peace event to commemorate the Hiroshima  
23 and Nagasaki atomic bombings. He organized the  
24 annual 9/11 Memorial Floating Lantern Ceremony from  
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2002 to 2011 and was featured on WNYC'S Brian Lehrer Show for this work.

In 2012, following the tragedy of the Wisconsin Sikh Temple shooting, Rev. Nakagaki and other community leaders in New York City responded through a remarkable show of interfaith solidarity at a vigil in Union Square, emphasizing the shared humanity between those of differing religious and political beliefs. I am so please he was able to join us today. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Adoption of Minutes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Messages and papers from the Mayor.

COMMITTEE CLERK: M 0021, Preliminary Mayor's Management Report.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Received, ordered, printed and filed.

COMMITTEE CLERK: M 0022, Preliminary Expense Budget.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Finance.

COMMITTEE CLERK: M 0023 through M 0025 on the next page, Supporting Schedules.

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STATED MEETING

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Finance.

COMMITTEE CLERK: M 0026, Contract

Budget.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Finance.

COMMITTEE CLERK: M 0027, Capital Budget.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Budget.

COMMITTEE CLERK: M 0028, Capital

Commitment Plan.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Finance.

COMMITTEE CLERK: M 0029, City Debt and

Reserves.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Received,

ordered, printed and filed.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication

from the City, County and Borough Offices.

COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and

Communications.

COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-

Ups.

COMMITTEE CLERK: M 0030 through M 0034.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on Call-

Up Vote. Roll call.

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STATED MEETING

CITY CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [background  
comment] Aye.

CITY CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

FEMALE VOICE: Crowley.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Crowley, how do  
you vote?

CITY CLERK: Cumbo. Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

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CITY CLERK: Dromm.  
COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Espinal.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Eugene. Ferreras.  
COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Garodnick.  
COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Gentile.  
COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Gibson. Greenfield.  
COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Johnson.  
COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON:  
CITY CLERK: Kallos.  
COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: King.  
COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Koo.  
COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Koslowitz.  
COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Lancman.  
COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

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CITY CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Maisel.

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Matteo. Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Yes.

CITY CLERK: Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Mendez. Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Reynoso.

[gavel]

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May we have quiet  
in the chambers? Could you please close the back  
door please? Thank you. [background comment]

CITY CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

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STATED MEETING

CITY CLERK: Rodriguez.  
COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Rose.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Rosenthal.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Torres.  
COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Treyger.  
COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Ulrich.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.  
CITY CLERK: Vacca.  
COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Yes.  
CITY CLERK: Vallone.  
COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Weprin. Williams.  
COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Wills.  
COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Eugene.  
COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.  
CITY CLERK: Ignizio.



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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here. Yes

[background comment]

CITY CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here, uh  
present and yes.

CITY CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here. Aye. Aye.

CITY CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Today's Land Use  
Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of 49 in the  
affirmative and 0 in the negative. Communication  
from Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you. First  
of all, good afternoon to all my colleagues and all  
those that are here in the chambers today who have  
come to the City Council. At this Stated Meeting  
we'll be voting on Intro 0001-A, a bill that will  
significantly expand the Earned Sick Time Act that  
was established under Local Law 46 of 2013 and  
amended by Local Law 6 of 2014.

The legislation... [background comments]  
the legislation... can we please have quiet? Thank  
you. The legislation before us would do the

1 following: provide paid sick time coverage for all  
2 businesses of 5 or more employees, up from 15,  
3 providing paid sick leave to 355,000 more working New  
4 Yorkers; broaden the definition of family member for  
5 which sick time can be used to include grandchildren,  
6 grandparents and siblings; institute a 2-year statute  
7 of limitations to file a complaint, up from 9 months,  
8 and imposes a 3-year recordkeeping requirement, up  
9 from 2 years; also authorizes the proactive  
10 enforcement by the Department of Consumer Affairs or  
11 any other agency that the Mayor designates, and  
12 finally, this legislation was amended in response to  
13 implementation concerns raised by small businesses  
14 which were not required to provide paid sick time  
15 under the current law, by adding a grace period for  
16 violation of the law for these newly covered  
17 businesses during the first 6 months that it is  
18 effective. Very proud that we've been able to  
19 present this bill today for a vote; the prime sponsor  
20 of this legislation is Council Member Margaret Chin  
21 who will say a few words, followed by Council Member  
22 Miller, who chairs the Committee on Civil Service and  
23 Labor. Council Member Chin.  
24

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you Madame  
3 Speaker. I am proud to be the prime sponsor of Intro  
4 0001-A, to expand paid sick leave. First I wanted to  
5 thank all the advocates who have worked for years to  
6 see this bill passed and I wanted to thank Borough  
7 President Gale Brewer, of course our Speaker and  
8 Mayor de Blasio for their vision and leadership in  
9 seeing it done.

10 This bill does a number of important  
11 things, including expanding the definition of family  
12 member to cover a more modern idea of family,  
13 including grandparents, grandchildren; siblings and  
14 requiring all employers with 5 or more employees to  
15 be required to provide earned pay sick time and  
16 requires employers with fewer than 5 employees to  
17 provide unpaid earned sick time.

18 I'm also glad that we were able to  
19 address some of the concerns of small businesses  
20 since the last hearing, including requiring the  
21 retention of paperwork for only 3 years, same as the  
22 Federal requirement, and having a filing period of 2  
23 years and extending the cure period to 6 months to  
24 that the newly affected businesses will have the  
25

1  
2 opportunity to correct any violations without  
3 penalty.

4 I know that we need to do more in the  
5 coming terms to address the needs of small business  
6 and the small business environment in New York City  
7 and I have pledged to do my part to make it a  
8 friendlier city for our small businesses. However,  
9 today is about workers; other cities in the United  
10 States that have been operating with paid sick leave  
11 law for several years. I am proud to see New York  
12 City to join them today in safeguarding what should  
13 be both a public health concern and a human right;  
14 that is the idea that if you are sick or if someone  
15 you take care of is sick that you do not need to be  
16 afraid that you will lose your job or your paycheck.  
17 No New Yorker should have to choose between their  
18 health and their financial security, so I urge my  
19 colleagues to vote in favor of this bill today.  
20 Thank you very much.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you Madame  
22 Speaker for the opportunity to speak on this piece of  
23 legislation. I'm honored by the fact that this piece  
24 of legislation has emerged from Civil Service and  
25 Labor Committee and have such a great impact on the

1  
2 lives of working families throughout the City of New  
3 York. This veto override, as was mentioned,  
4 addresses the three technical amendments of Earned  
5 Sick Time Act and it was so eloquently articulated by  
6 the Speaker and by the sponsor, so there's no need  
7 for me to go into it any further. Just to say, as  
8 one has testified before this Committee many years  
9 ago as a working single parent, this is a glorious  
10 day for this Council to recognize the needs of  
11 working families and to address it in this manner.  
12 So I would just join them in urging my colleagues to  
13 vote in the affirmative for this legislation.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Chair  
15 Miller and just to be clear, this is... [interpose]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I'm sorry.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: the bill... stand-  
18 alone bill; this is not the veto override, but we'll  
19 clarify that; it's okay.

20 Another matter that we will be voting on  
21 is a bill titled health insurance coverage for  
22 surviving family members of certain deceased  
23 employees of the Department of Environmental  
24 Protection.

25

1  
2 This bill extends health insurance  
3 coverage for the surviving spouse, domestic partner  
4 and children of employees of the Bureau of Water  
5 Supply who died in the line of duty after 2/2/14, or  
6 February 2nd, 2014, and before February 4th, 2014.  
7 Aron Thomas is survived by his wife and two young  
8 children; this bill will hopefully help to alleviate  
9 the financial burden of having him as the breadwinner  
10 in his family. The legislation would affect the  
11 family of New York City Department of Environmental  
12 Protection workers killed by... he was killed by a co-  
13 worker on February 3rd, 2014.

14 Any time a City worker dies in the line  
15 of duty we all feel that loss. We grieve along with  
16 the families who have lost their loved ones and want  
17 them to know that the City is forever grateful for  
18 their service. So this is again a legislation that  
19 we will be passing today that was also heard in the  
20 Committee of Civil Service and Labor, which is  
21 chaired by Daneek Miller and he will say a few words  
22 on this legislation.

23 [background comments]  
24  
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1  
2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May we have some  
3 quiet in the chambers please before we hear from  
4 Council Member Miller? Quiet please.

5 MALE VOICE: Keep it down please, keep it  
6 down.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you so much  
8 Madame Chair. This second bill coming out of my  
9 committee, which I would like to speak briefly on, is  
10 the Introduction which would provide survival  
11 benefits to the wife, 2-year-old son and the 6-year-  
12 old daughter of Aron Thomas. Aron was a DEP worker,  
13 as was mentioned, who was shot and killed while at  
14 work earlier this month. In addition to his  
15 contributions to the City as a DEP employee, he  
16 served his community as a firefighter and emergency  
17 medical first responder, truly giving back to that  
18 community. He died on February 3rd, 2014 and today I  
19 urge my colleagues to do the right thing and grant  
20 surviving benefits to his family. Thank you.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: If we can please  
22 keep it down; I just... it's getting kinda loud in  
23 here. Also today we'll be voting on Resolution No.  
24 0002, which is an amended resolution supporting the  
25 City's plan to establish high-quality universal pre-K

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2 for all eligible four-year-olds and high-quality  
3 after school programs for middle-school-aged youth.  
4 This was amended and adopted by the Committee on  
5 Education and we'll be voting on this later on today,  
6 which is the City's plan to establish high-quality  
7 universal pre-K.

8           Supporting these essential programs  
9 through a tax increase is the right investment in our  
10 children and our future as a city.

11           And on Friday, this Friday coming up, I,  
12 along with several of my colleagues will be flyering  
13 in districts around the City stressing the need for  
14 this tax to take place and we will travel to Albany  
15 next week to lobby for the City's plan; that's on  
16 Tuesday, so we would encourage people to sign up and  
17 to participate.

18           On some quick other announcements, I want  
19 to recognize that the updated budget schedule is  
20 attached at the end of today's agenda; please refer  
21 to it and to the website for any updates; obviously  
22 the are important hearings -- preliminary budget  
23 hearings begin next Wednesday, March 5th. So we're  
24 gonna start those hearings on the administration's  
25 proposed preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2015, and



1  
2 while this budget is a good start, we will be  
3 thoroughly examining it in upcoming hearings to  
4 determine its impact on New Yorkers.

5           And also tonight, we would encourage  
6 people to come by the City Council Chambers; I'm  
7 happy to announce that we'll be celebrating the Lunar  
8 New Year, one of the most important holidays for many  
9 Asians and Asian-Americans throughout the five  
10 boroughs, and this is obviously important, since  
11 Asian-Americans have made such tremendous  
12 contributions to the City, making it the greatest  
13 city in the world. So I wanna wish everyone a  
14 prosperous and happy year of the horse, which we'll  
15 be celebrating tonight with Council Member Chin and  
16 Council Member Koo.

17           And Thursday we'll be celebrating Black  
18 History Month, a time to celebrate the influence of  
19 African-Americans in every aspect of our country's  
20 life. The Council's African-American History Month  
21 celebration is from 6-8 in chambers; it's co-hosted  
22 with a black-Latino caucus, as well Public Advocate  
23 Tish James; we wanna recognize that.

24           And also, obviously, we wanna say mazal  
25 tov to our council colleague, David Greenfield and

1  
2 the birth... [background comments, cheers, applause]  
3 where is... where is David; I'm sorry? Oh, he's in the  
4 back. [background comment] Congratulations, David,  
5 mazel tov. [background comments, cheers, applause]

6 And with that we end the communications  
7 from the Speaker.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Mazel tov,  
9 Council Member Greenfield.

10 Discussion of General Orders, including  
11 Council Member Greenfield's celebration. Seeing  
12 none.

13 Report to Special Committees.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Hold on.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
17 Garodnick.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Yeah, just wait  
19 General Order.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you  
21 Madame Public Advocate. I am proud to join my  
22 colleagues today in voting for Intro 0001-A; I was a  
23 supporter of the original bill last term and  
24 recognized what an important step this is for working  
25 New Yorkers. It's not acceptable to us as a city

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2 that there are so many employees who today cannot  
3 take even a day to care for themselves or a loved one  
4 when they fall ill. But as we celebrate this action,  
5 let this also be the day when we as a council commit  
6 to focusing on the concerns that have been so clearly  
7 expressed and repeatedly expressed from small  
8 business people. All of our actions to effect social  
9 welfare have cumulative effects on small businesses  
10 and we need to be mindful of that; that's why it  
11 needs to be a priority of this council to find ways  
12 to remain connected to small businesses, hear their  
13 concerns and find ways to support them in any way we  
14 can and let us redouble our efforts to do that.  
15 That's why the Council was right to limit the time to  
16 file a complaint to 2 years from the 3 that were  
17 initially proposed and we were right to dial back the  
18 mandate that businesses keep records from 4 years  
19 down to 3, and I am pleased that we've given  
20 businesses with 5 to 19 employees a grace period for  
21 their compliance and I hope that the de Blasio  
22 administration will be diligent in reaching out to  
23 small businesses during that period to ensure that  
24 they are ready come October 1st of this year. And we  
25 as a council should be committed to hearing further

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2 concerns from small businesses as this bill becomes  
3 fully implemented. We understand their generalized  
4 objections, yes; we also need to be attuned to  
5 consequences that we may not have even contemplated,  
6 and when they speak up we should hear them just as  
7 clearly as we hear the voices of too many New Yorkers  
8 who today have not a single paid sick day to take  
9 care of themselves or a sick relative. I thank the  
10 sponsor, Margaret Chin, the Speaker, Melissa Mark-  
11 Viverito and I'll be voting yes today.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
13 Johnson. Borrow Council Member Rose's... [background  
14 comments]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: It's okay; I'm  
16 pickin' Debi. [background comments, laughter] Thank  
17 you for providing me the opportunity to speak today  
18 and I wanna thank Speaker Mark-Viverito and Council  
19 Member Chin and Council Member Miller for their  
20 leadership on this issue and all the council members  
21 that have played a part in it.

22 I wanna echo Council Member Garodnick's  
23 remarks and concerns by saying that I wholeheartedly  
24 support this bill and I am proud of the Council's  
25 work and listening to all advocates and all sides of

1  
2 the issue to make it a better bill; I just wanna  
3 state to my colleagues and hopefully emphasize that I  
4 do believe that there are many businesses in our city  
5 that don't know about this and have not been educated  
6 at this point, so it is my hope that with the hearing  
7 we had with Deputy Mayor Glen and other folks from  
8 the administration, that they will in fact follow  
9 through on a real, comprehensive, thorough,  
10 educational campaign to small businesses through the  
11 city who otherwise may not have gotten the  
12 information on this. I know this is an issue that's  
13 been talked about for many years in the Council and I  
14 am happy with the grace period that's been put in on  
15 this bill, but I would say that many immigrant  
16 businesses, ethnic businesses, small business  
17 throughout the City may have more difficulty  
18 complying with this than other businesses and I think  
19 it's important that the Council conduct strict and  
20 fair oversight over DCA when they are doing the  
21 education campaign and I'm happy to see that in the  
22 Mayor's preliminary budget he asked for an increase  
23 in funds for DCA to be able to beef up the  
24 educational portion of this. So I'm voting for this  
25 bill today; I'm proud to support it, but I hope the

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Council makes sure that small businesses who may not comply because they don't have the information don't suffer; are not penalized because of it. Thank you Madame Chair.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Seeing none other. Report of Special Committees.

COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: The Reports of Standing Committees.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Civil Service and Labor, Intro 0001-A, employee sick time.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and coupled on General Order.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered Intro 0098.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Order.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land Use LU 0011 and Reso 0096, zoning amendment, Districts 4, 5 and 6.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Order.

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STATED MEETING

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COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0012 and Reso 0097  
and LU 0013 and Reso 0098, zoning amendment, District  
28.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled to be  
Filed Pursuant to Letter of Withdrawal.

COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0014 and Reso 0099,  
tax exemption.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
General Order.

COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0015 and Reso 0100  
and LU 0016 and Reso 0101, sidewalk cafes.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
General Order.

COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0017 and Reso 0102.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
General Order.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: General Order  
Calendar.

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

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

CITY CLERK: Arroyo.

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STATED MEETING

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COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Permission to explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: I will be voting no on Intro 0001-A. I think the speakers earlier stressed the concern that small businesses have raised regarding the impact that this legislation will have on the mom and pop operations in our communities. There is still too much work that needs to be done to address those issues; I cannot comfortably support that bill and aye on all the rest.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

CITY CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Permission to explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: In regards to Intro 0001-A; I have some serious concerns such as has been stated by Council Member Johnson and I really believe that small businesses may be hurt by this bill coming forward; I am so pleased that we're extending sick time, the earned paid sick time and that we're looking at the definition of family, but I



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do have concerns and I'm wondering if perhaps as this bill goes forth we might look at putting some amendments on it that would give further protections to small businesses. Having said that, I will be voting aye, but I do have some concerns on that matter, as I've stated. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. You vote aye?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

CITY CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Permission to explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I also wanted to thank Council Member Miller for chairing the hearing. It was a long hearing and we heard from a lot of the small businesses there and there were small businesses who already are providing paid sick leave and they think that it is also a good thing and it's not burdensome to them. But definitely, we have to work with Department of Consumer Affairs to make sure

1  
2 that there are outreach materials in different  
3 languages to all the communities and businesses.

4 I also wanted to thank the Committee  
5 staff and especially Laura Lopa [phonetic], for  
6 really working on this with full speed and also my  
7 legislative director, Yumay [phonetic] Kidasay  
8 [phonetic]. And I vote aye. Thank you.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

10 CITY CLERK: Cohen.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

12 CITY CLERK: Constantinides.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: May I be  
14 excused to explain my vote?

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I'll be  
17 voting aye on all, but I want to explain my vote on  
18 0001-A. I am definitely proud to be standing with  
19 the workers of New York City, expanding their rights,  
20 for expanding the definition of family member and  
21 also making sure that no one should have to choose  
22 between an unfair choice, between their job or their  
23 health. That said, I definitely look... and wanna  
24 congratulate our Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito, for  
25 her leadership on this important issue, protecting

1  
2 the working people of the City of New York, our  
3 Chair, Daneek Miller; the sponsor of the bill,  
4 Margaret Chin. I do have some real concerns as we  
5 roll this out. I know Queens has 2.2 million people,  
6 we 168 languages or more spoken in the Borough of  
7 Queens; in my district that diversity is very well  
8 reflected; I'm hoping that we're gonna have a robust  
9 rollout in the language-appropriate materials, that  
10 everyone knows -- that the workers know their rights  
11 and that the owners know their responsibilities.  
12 Additionally, I'm looking forward to making this, as  
13 Council Member Chin talked about earlier, you know,  
14 working on legislation to make our city more business  
15 friendly, working with small business and making sure  
16 that all jobs are protected. Thank you.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And your vote.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye on  
19 all.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

21 CITY CLERK: Cornegy.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Permission to  
23 explain my vote please.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, sir.  
25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: So the Earned  
3 Sick Time Expansion bill did not come before the  
4 Committee on Small Business of which I'm the Chair,  
5 however, businesses around the City and their  
6 advocates have approached me to express their  
7 concerns about this bill. Although I'm a co-sponsor,  
8 I feel I'd be remiss if I didn't reference those  
9 concerns in explaining my vote.

10 Small businesses that have reached out to  
11 me, particularly those in my district have legitimate  
12 complaints about the Department of Small Business'  
13 problematic track record with outreach to business  
14 generally and to small businesses in particular. So  
15 they worry that the requirements of this law will not  
16 be timely and thoroughly communicated and that  
17 they'll not be supported in setting up and  
18 maintaining the recordkeeping system the law demands.  
19 I share this worry. Small businesses have suffered  
20 in the past when DCA has imposed duplicative and  
21 punitive fines against them. They worry that this  
22 bill's inclusion of a proactive investigative power  
23 for the enforcement agency will lead to more  
24 aggressive and punitive enforcement rather than  
25 education. I share this worry as well. In the past

1  
2 few weeks I've attended two Civil Service and Labor  
3 Committee hearings about the expanded Earned Sick  
4 Time bill; I'm pleased about the changes that were  
5 made in responses to business' concerns and  
6 specifically, the inclusion of a 6-month cure period  
7 for businesses with less than 20 employees and the  
8 reduction of the statute of limitations for filing  
9 complaints from 3 years to 2, but I believe that  
10 there is much more that can and should be done to  
11 support small business success, particularly as they  
12 adjust to this new legal requirement. Bringing those  
13 ideas forward is my highest priority as Small  
14 Business Chair. [background comment] I look forward  
15 to the conversations with business owners, advocates  
16 and leaders that will inform these ideas. With that,  
17 I offer my congratulations to Council Members Chin  
18 and Miller, Speaker Mark-Viverito, Borough President  
19 Gale Brewer and Mayor de Blasio for their fulfillment  
20 of their vision to improve the lives of working New  
21 Yorkers. I vote aye on all.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

23 CITY CLERK: Crowley.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on all.

25 CITY CLERK: Cumbo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I vote aye on all on the previous Land Use Call-Ups and also permission to explain my vote... [interpose]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: for 0001-A. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: As a small business owner and having operated a business for the last 15 years, I certainly support this initiative and have always given my workers the opportunity to have paid sick leave and they've never taken advantage of that to the detriment of the company. But at the same time it's very important as that small business owner; I feel that... small business owners feel that New York City is not a friend of the entrepreneur or a friend of the small business and I feel that the way that we roll this out will be very critical, as was stated by several of my colleagues and I think it's gonna be very important that we roll this out with all sensitivity and that we give small business owners once again the competence to know that New York City is a friend of the entrepreneur, a friend of the small business and that we are gonna do

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2 everything in our power to support them moving  
3 forward as well. Thank you. Aye on all.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 CITY CLERK: Deutsch.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: May I have  
7 permission to explain my vote?

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, sir.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: As a supporter  
10 of small businesses I'm voting in favor of paid sick  
11 leave so that workers have incentive to stay home  
12 when they're ill and to avoid spreading sickness to  
13 their customers and colleagues. I've made a habit of  
14 routinely consulting with our knowledgeable Chairman  
15 for Small Businesses Committee, Robert Cornegy and  
16 I'm looking forward to working with him and  
17 eliminating unnecessary restrictions and bureaucratic  
18 hassles of owning a business here in New York City

19 In order for New York City to remain  
20 great, our businesses need to flourish; no one  
21 measure can ensure the well-being of all small  
22 businesses, but we can begin to create a more fair  
23 system by issuing warnings in response to violation  
24 of petty summonses as opposed to immediately issuing  
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1  
2 a fine, as well as many other issues we need to  
3 address that concern small businesses.

4           When looking to help consumers and  
5 workers, the best way to start is by ensuring a  
6 healthy and growing small business community. So I  
7 vote aye on 0001-A and all the others and I look  
8 forward to working with our Speaker and our Chair of  
9 Small Businesses.

10           PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11           CITY CLERK: Dickens.

12           COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Permission to  
13 explain my vote.

14           PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, ma'am.

15           COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I'm gonna vote  
16 aye on all; however, on 0001-A I have serious  
17 concerns -- I salute and congratulate Council Members  
18 Chin and Miller and my former colleague in this  
19 house, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, who  
20 was the catalyst who started all of it. Last year we  
21 passed on the earned paid sick time; now two months  
22 later we're expanding on it without having really  
23 negotiated and really talked to small business that  
24 have 5, 6; 7 employees that will be impacted. New  
25 York City, Council Member Laurie Cumbo, has not... this



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has not been a city that has recognized that small businesses are the catalysts that employ local people in the districts and that is exactly what happens; I'm fearful about our small businesses; earned paid sick time is necessary and needed, but I join with Council Members Johnson and Arroyo in having a fear about passing on this expansion and not fully vetting the process of how it is going to impact upon those small businesses. Having voiced that I'm gonna vote aye on it for the reason that Council Members Chin and Miller have stated, but I think we need to revisit it and I think we need to look at it and we need to protect our small businesses and not cause them to have additional punitive fines. Thank you and I vote aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

CITY CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Espinal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Permission to explain my vote..

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Intro 0001-A.

Well I'm voting yes on the paid sick leave bill and

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I'm very supportive of this concept because I believe that everyone should have a right to paid sick leave; I do have a concern with the section that allows the Mayor to designate an agency other than DCA to enforce provisions of the bill. Such enforcement ambiguity has the potential of creating confusion for both the businesses and employees. I believe that the enforcement mechanism should stay within the DCA unless they show that they do not have the capabilities to enforce this law. With those thoughts on the record, I vote yes on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

CITY CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

CITY CLERK: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote aye.

CITY CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Excused to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: While I support 0001-A, I'm also pleased to hear so many of my

1  
2 colleagues talk about the need for some focus on  
3 small business legislation that will be beneficial to  
4 the burdens that many small businesses face here in  
5 the City of New York. Under the old administration  
6 we were not business friendly; we have to prove to  
7 them that we are, and so I look forward to a robust  
8 set of legislation that will help small businesses;  
9 one piece of that legislation... in retrospect, I think  
10 maybe we should have done it sooner, closer to this  
11 bill, but nevertheless we still have time to get that  
12 package of legislation in. One bill that meets that  
13 criteria is being introduced today and I'll talk  
14 about it later; it's Intro 0064 on the Introduction  
15 list and I will speak about that restaurant bill  
16 later today. I vote aye on all.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

18 CITY CLERK: Gibson.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to  
20 explain my vote, Madame Public Advocate.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, Council  
22 Member.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very  
24 much. And I too want to join many of my colleagues  
25 in expressing my support for Intro 0001-A, because I

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2 think it's important when you talk about expanding  
3 paid sick leave we must recognize that no employee  
4 should have to take the day off because his or her  
5 children are sick; it's the right concept, it's the  
6 right thing to do. But I do wanna echo the  
7 sentiments of other colleagues and just my concern  
8 about the education that has to go behind and along  
9 with implementation. The fact that we represent such  
10 diverse communities and the fact that we have diverse  
11 business owners and entrepreneurs, we have to make  
12 sure that the Department of Consumer Affairs actually  
13 has inspectors and employees that represent the  
14 growing diversity of our city. We recognize many of  
15 our small businesses that are the backbone, the  
16 fabric of our communities, they're doin' incredible  
17 work contributions in our communities, they're not  
18 the actual owners, they're the employees and so there  
19 has to be a massive comprehensive education component  
20 that must be included with respect and sensitivity to  
21 the growing diversity across all cultures, across all  
22 ethnicities and languages, and so I also believe we  
23 have to embark on including many of our stakeholders,  
24 those local community groups and organizations that  
25 work every day with our businesses that can help us

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embark on implementing this expanded paid sick leave. I think it's the right thing to do; it provides a fair balance and we have to be cognizant that we need to do everything possible to soften any burden that may be placed on our small businesses so that New York City can always be known as a city that opens and welcomes all businesses providing services in our community. And with that I wanna thank our colleagues, Council Member Chin, Council Member Miller; our Speaker for their leadership; I wanna thank our Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer for being a champion on this issue and with that I vote yes and I vote aye on all Land Use Call-Ups and all General Orders as well. Thank you. [crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

CITY CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: May I be excused to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you very much. First I wanna thank you all for well wishes, thank god mom and baby are doing well; thank you for asking.

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2 I will be voting in favor of all the  
3 items today, including 0001-A; I do just want to  
4 stress a concern that's been brought up here today  
5 and that is in relation to small businesses and I  
6 just wanna say that I think we have improved the bill  
7 with the 6 months that we are going to allow for  
8 those businesses from 5 to 15 until it goes into  
9 effect, but I do believe that at this point the  
10 burden, in terms of small businesses, really needs to  
11 shift to the administration to see how it is that  
12 they execute this legislation; I think that we've all  
13 made clear our intent here today, which is we wanna  
14 help workers, we wanna make sure that they sick time  
15 and we think that has an important role to play in  
16 New York City. But the message that we're sending,  
17 and I think it's a very clear message to the  
18 administration, is that we expect them to make sure  
19 this legislation does not needlessly burden small  
20 businesses and that there is an education component  
21 involved in making sure that small businesses are  
22 aware of this. And I certainly am committed that if  
23 for whatever reason the administration does not do  
24 that, to certainly come back here to make changes to  
25 this legislation to make sure that we protect those

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2 interests of the small businesses as well. So with  
3 that I vote aye and I congratulate the Speaker and  
4 Council Member Chin and thank my colleagues as well.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

6 CITY CLERK: Johnson.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye on all.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

9 CITY CLERK: Kallos.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

11 CITY CLERK: King.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

14 CITY CLERK: Koo.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: May I explain my  
16 vote?

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, sir.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Yeah. I will vote  
19 yes on all the bills, but I want to voice my concern  
20 on Intro 0001-A. Being a small business person, I  
21 worry about the implementation part of this bill. We  
22 have to make sure we have enough time to educate all  
23 the small business people in all five boroughs,  
24 because a lot of immigrants, they are small business  
25 owners; due to culture, language barriers, they don't

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2 understand this bill at all. So before we implement  
3 the bill, we have to make sure we do the educational  
4 part and I'll foresee we have amendments coming  
5 later, once this bill's implemented, because being a  
6 small business owner in New York City is really tough  
7 now, because we have so many regulations and so many  
8 rules to follow and allow them... they don't know  
9 anything about. So of course I support the intent of  
10 the bill, but I worry about the consequences later.  
11 So when we see those consequences, I hope we can  
12 amend them as soon as we can. Thank you.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And how do you  
14 vote?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote yes.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

17 CITY CLERK: Koslowitz.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: May I be  
19 excused to explain my vote?

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, Council  
21 Member.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: While I  
23 absolutely sympathize with small business and work  
24 with the small business in my community, but also  
25 being... having been... I still am, but having been a



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2 single parent and knowing how it feels to go to work  
3 when I was sick so I could be home with my children  
4 when they were sick and sometimes not getting paid  
5 for it, I vote aye on 0001-A and everything else on  
6 the agenda.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 CITY CLERK: Lancman.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: I vote aye to  
10 all.

11 CITY CLERK: Lander.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request  
13 permission to explain my vote.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, sir.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: My son is  
16 applying for his first job this summer and it's led  
17 me to think about what kinds of jobs I want him to  
18 have and frankly, I can't imagine him applying for or  
19 having to get a job where he would not be allowed to  
20 take a day off when he was sick or as he grows up and  
21 has kids that he'd have to send his kids to school  
22 sick because he couldn't take a day off, and I don't  
23 want that for my son, I don't want it for anybody  
24 else's son or daughter either. The right to expect  
25 that when you have a job and you take a few paid days

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2 off is a very reasonable expectation; we are raising  
3 standards here, but we created minimum wage  
4 standards, we've got health and safety standards;  
5 this is a 21st century standard for good jobs in New  
6 York City and businesses can afford it. Now there  
7 are many other things that we should do to try to  
8 help small businesses; it is very difficult to be a  
9 small business owner in this city and I welcome the  
10 conversations about fees and fines, I welcome the  
11 conversation about rising real estate prices and  
12 other things that we can do to help small business  
13 operators, but I don't believe that requiring  
14 businesses to provide five paid sick days to  
15 everybody's son and daughter or mother or father so  
16 that they can take a couple of paid days off when  
17 they're sick or when their family members are sick is  
18 too much to expect in New York City and I proudly  
19 vote aye on all.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

21 CITY CLERK: Levin.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

23 CITY CLERK: Levine.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Permission to  
25 explain my vote?

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, sir.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I wanna echo those who have expressed concern that this bill be implemented in such a way that there is robust outreach and education for the small business community, but I also wanna point out that in localities as diverse as Portland and Jersey City in the State of Connecticut, where such legislation has already been implemented, there's been no measurable negative impact on the small business sector and furthermore, there's arguable been measurable positive impact on the broader economy. It's also true that for the many thousands of small business people who today offer paid sick to their employees; they are now forced to compete on an uneven playing field against competitors who are not bearing that expense and the bill we are hopefully passing today creates a more even playing field for all small business people and therefore I will be voting aye to all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

CITY CLERK: Maisel.

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Matteo.

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

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: I wanna briefly  
6 explain my opposition to this paid sick leave  
7 legislation. While I believe this latest effort is  
8 well-intentioned, it has been less than a year since  
9 many past and current members of this Council, the  
10 business community and other stakeholders forged an  
11 agreement on paid sick leave; it was a compromise;  
12 admittedly, it did not have the support of everyone,  
13 some thought it did not go far enough and others like  
14 myself still thought it'd be a detriment for New York  
15 City small businesses. Now we're being asked to set  
16 aside months of negotiation in favor of a bill that  
17 disregards the concerns of the people that own and  
18 operate the small businesses that are the cornerstone  
19 of our economic vitality. We don't even know the  
20 full extent of the impact of the law that is  
21 currently in place and yet we are now racing to  
22 dramatically expand its application to even more  
23 businesses. I believe there are a number of  
24 difficulties presented by this proposal; the Staten  
25 Island Advance catalogued some of them earlier this

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2 year when they interviewed business owners from my  
3 borough. For instance, one small business owner  
4 stated that the paid sick leave bill doesn't take  
5 into account costs involved, particularly in a  
6 service industry where there are no sales and wages  
7 are quite above minimum wage. The fact is that I  
8 continue to believe that mandated paid sick leave  
9 unnecessarily burdens our city's small businesses at  
10 a time when our economic recovery is still slow and  
11 it's sustainability uncertain. We cannot afford to  
12 make our city a place that is unfriendly to the  
13 startups and longstanding businesses that employ the  
14 individuals and provide services to the communities  
15 that we represent. Consequently, I respectfully but  
16 adamantly vote no and yes on all others.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

18 CITY CLERK: Mealy.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye on all.

20 CITY CLERK: Menchaca.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to  
22 express.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, sir.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Couple notes.

25 I just wanna say thank you to the Speaker and my

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colleagues for voting in affirmative for this bill,  
on Intro 0001-A; I am proud to expand paid sick leave  
and the enhanced worker empowerment that the bill  
brings, and with this vote it's an opportunity to  
begin a conversation about small business  
empowerment, especially those impacted by Sandy, like  
those along Van Brunt Street in Red Hood. We need to  
reduce barriers to accessing financial support in  
times of crisis and our city cannot afford to lose  
these businesses that provide the jobs that come with  
it. I vote aye on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

CITY CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I vote aye.

CITY CLERK: Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye on all.

CITY CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

CITY CLERK: Reynoso.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Permission to  
explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, sir.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Just wanna say  
that I'm extremely proud and honored to be able to

1  
2 vote for the expansion of the bill 0001-A and do  
3 wanna echo the concerns of a lot of our Brooklyn  
4 members in stating that we look forward to the work  
5 that will be done to promote our small businesses  
6 through our Chair, Robert Cornegy, so I vote aye on  
7 all.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

9 CITY CLERK: Richards.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Permission to  
11 explain my vote.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, sir.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I just wanna  
14 echo what Carlos Menchaca said; that we certainly  
15 need to make sure that we take a look at businesses  
16 that are certainly in hurricane zones, such as  
17 businesses that actually are in places like Staten  
18 Island and certainly the Rockaways and Brooklyn that  
19 were affected by Superstorm Sandy, so I don't want to  
20 short-change us. And I also wanna say thank you to  
21 Daneek Miller for ensuring that our hard working men  
22 and women of DEP are now going to be able to have  
23 health insurance and other things that they deserve  
24 if they go onto another place. So thank you Daneek  
25 for ensuring that the hard working people of DEP will

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certainly get some reprieve for the hard work they do. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

CITY CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, sir.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: With this bill we're sending a message loud and clear; no one has to decide between staying home if they're sick or lose their job and I think that this is a good bill for everyone and we will continue supporting the small business in another way; no doubt that small businesses are the first source of jobs in our city and in other cities where a similar bill has been implemented, it shows that it's a good bill for everybody. Thank you. I vote... [crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: How do you vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I vote aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Next member.

CITY CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.



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CITY CLERK: Rosenthal.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Permission to  
explain my vote?

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you. I  
just want to thank my predecessor for doing the heavy  
lifting and all the years of research and hard work  
and I want to thank Council Member Chin and the  
Speaker for bringing this to a vote today; they  
deserve a lot of credit. I vote aye on all and I  
wanna thank Council Member Koslowitz; I too as a  
mother am saying that, you know, as a mother who had  
to stay home and miss meetings and miss work because  
a child in my children's classroom had to come to  
school when they were sick and it affected then my  
family and many other families, we really need to  
have this bill. Also, as somebody who has a masters  
in public health, I know the importance of stopping  
the spread of contagion; this is the clearest and  
easiest way to do that and again, I thank you for  
bringing this to the floor to a vote and I am very  
proud to vote aye on all.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

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CITY CLERK: Torres.

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

CITY CLERK: Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: So as a former member of labor, I know fully well the importance of the rights of workers, especially with paid sick. I was a supporter of the original bill and I know the importance of expanding it to include others. But as a person who represents a district that was also devastated by Superstorm Sandy, we have quite a number of small business corridors that were deeply affected; some are still shuttered along Mermaid Avenue in Coney Island. So I am supporting this with the expectation that there will be a relief packet from this Council and from the city administration to recognized and understand that many people are still hurting, both employers and employees, from Superstorm Sandy. So I am voting aye on all, but I'm voting with the expectation from my colleagues... and I want to applaud, by the way, the work of Chair Miller, Chair Chin and Chair Cornegy for recognizing

1  
2 that and my colleagues, Menchaca and Richards; we  
3 represent districts that were really hit hard by  
4 Superstorm Sandy and particular our small business  
5 corridors and also, Councilman Chaim Deutsch faces a  
6 similar situation in his district as well. So I vote  
7 aye on all, but we must as a council recognize that  
8 there are people who are deeply still hurting from  
9 that storm and we must help them as well. Thank you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 CITY CLERK: Ulrich.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Permission to  
13 explain my vote?

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, sir.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you. As  
16 many of you know, I was one of the early supporters  
17 of the previous paid sick leave bill that we passed  
18 in the previous term and part of the reason why I  
19 voted for that bill was because I believed in the  
20 moral imperative behind it, but I also knew that the  
21 bill was only going to impact large employers and  
22 large corporations and other entities that could  
23 absorb the costs of an unfunded mandate like  
24 providing paid sick leave to their employees. Today  
25 though I think we're taking a step in the wrong

1  
2 direction and I will not be voting for Intro 0001-A  
3 because I believe that this is actually going to be a  
4 detriment to the small businesses that we were trying  
5 to prevent when we passed the first bill more than a  
6 year-and-a-half ago. I represent a district, like  
7 many of you, where pizzerias, bakeries, flour shops,  
8 dry cleaners and other mom and pop stores are the  
9 main job creators, they are the main economic engines  
10 that generate tax revenue, that breathe life into the  
11 commercial corridors and I cannot go back to my  
12 district today and look them in the eye and say that  
13 I voted for something that I know is going to hurt  
14 them. I don't know why in a time like this, given  
15 the state of our economy, the slow recovery that's  
16 been mentioned by many of you, that we would wanna  
17 actually hurt people who work hard, who play by the  
18 rules and who are simply trying to give their kids a  
19 better shot at life. Now whether we realize it or  
20 not, it was in fact a pro-growth, pro-business agenda  
21 that saved this city and literally propelled low-  
22 income and immigrant New Yorkers into the middle  
23 class, the people that own the small businesses, many  
24 of them are new Americans, people that came to New  
25 York City 10 and 20 and 30 years ago seeking a better

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2 life for themselves and for their families. I think  
3 that by passing this bill today we are doing them a  
4 great disservice, and I know that many of my  
5 colleagues voiced their concerns that we were doing  
6 such, but if you believe that this is a bad bill and  
7 that this a job-killing piece of legislation, then  
8 I'm urging you to join me in voting no on Intro 0001-  
9 A. Thank you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 CITY CLERK: Vacca.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye on all.

13 CITY CLERK: Vallone.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Permission to  
15 explain my vote?

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, sir.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: For the very  
18 reasons so many of my colleagues express concern to  
19 this Intro, I vote no to Intro 0001-A only. While I  
20 completely support the original Paid Sick Leave Act  
21 in the best workforce in the country, I oppose the  
22 amendment to include 5-19 employees. As a small  
23 business owner and a member of the Small Business  
24 Committee, we must be every vigilant in protecting  
25 and supporting our most important economic engine in

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2 this great city. The continued cries of our small  
3 businesses that our city has not done enough to  
4 protect them, support them, reduce the existing and  
5 exhausting fines that is crippling their ability to  
6 survive must be heard. I applaud these amendments  
7 and the additional protections that we have included  
8 today, but they are not enough. We never gave the  
9 original legislation a chance to work before we  
10 rapidly amended it. We have removed oversight and  
11 accountability and now inspectors may enter  
12 unannounced, without a complaint being filed, to  
13 these businesses; this will create a chilling effect  
14 on our local economy and the lives of small  
15 businesses and employees. We have not provided  
16 enough time to prepare these changes, especially with  
17 the multitude of ethnic and language barriers that  
18 confront our small businesses. And lastly, we have  
19 not given any extra time to the small businesses  
20 still recovering from Sandy to comply with these  
21 regulations. The very fact that so many council  
22 members have concerns over this should stand for  
23 itself. Again, I stand in support of the original  
24 legislation, but I vote no on this today and aye to  
25 the rest.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you.

CITY CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Permission to explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, sir.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you, Madame Public Advocate. I too wanna vote aye on all, but want to explain my concerns a little bit about 0001-A. I was on the original bill, Gale Brewer's bill, and had many conversations with the Chambers of Commerce about that, about some of the concerns they had. And I'll be honest, like some of their concerns to me, I didn't believe; I said ah, come on; that's not a problem. [laughter] But to be honest, I don't know that that's not a problem and some of these businesses brought up specialty businesses that created unique problems, where the person who provides the service is the only one who can provide the service. So I was happy to support the compromised bill last year, because it was an approach that seemed to incorporate, you know, many of the concerns of the business community. So that being said, I really would have preferred to see the

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other law go into effect in April, as it was supposed to, and see if any of these concerns that were raised by the business community were indeed true. So I don't know... I would prefer this Intro not to be 0001-A, but to be a later Intro at a later time when we could watch that bill. That being said, I was supportive of the original bill and I still believe in the concept and I do wanna just point to Council Member Barron's idea that as we go forward, let's monitor it very closely, because if those concerns are legitimate, I feel they should be addressed. And with that I vote aye on all. Thank you. [crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Thank you.

CITY CLERK: Williams.

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

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, sir.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I am also... [background comment] Sure. I am also gonna vote aye on all; I too wanna echo the concerns that many people spoke about today; I was on the original bill and I'm on this bill and I always said, the only two people who should be against paid sick leave are



1  
2 people who've never been sick and people who will  
3 never be sick again. With that said, I do think  
4 there are some issues with this bill; I do think it  
5 was a little bit rushed and I wish that it weren't; I  
6 understand the need to make sure everybody is  
7 protected, but I also represent some small  
8 businesses, whether it is Haitian, other Caribbean,  
9 Middle Eastern or Jewish; many of them are still  
10 banking from small boxes and I wanna make sure -- one  
11 of the things -- that they have some time to  
12 understand what's going on, as well as some other  
13 measures that I might've tried to tweak a little bit,  
14 so what I'm hoping and would suggest is; one, to echo  
15 the desire to possibly have amendments, but two other  
16 things that we may be able to do more immediately,  
17 which is hopefully we can inform the agencies that  
18 are gonna be responsible for this, that our intent is  
19 not to be crushing on the businesses and perhaps we  
20 can ask them to have some discretion for some of the  
21 small businesses who need to catch up and perhaps we  
22 can agree to have some oversight in a specific time  
23 period and find out how these bills and combinations  
24 are affecting the small businesses. And with that I  
25 wanna vote aye on all.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. We also recognize your mother, Mrs. Williams, who's in the chamber. [laughter]

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Hey, mom. [applause, cheers, background comment]

CITY CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: May I have permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: I do not believe creating a climate where small business and workers' rights are championed or mutually exclusive. I think this bill could have been introduced and passed while implementing safeguards to protect the retention of newly created small businesses, not with just the hopes that the City will do the right thing later on. I am not under the belief that this will lead to a small business Armageddon, but I am under the belief that this bill being pushed so quickly would definitely have negative effects on hiring and expansion of these very same businesses. The political reality is that this bill will pass today, so at the next Stated... I will vote aye today and at the next Stated I will be introducing a bill for the

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2 reporting of all of the DCA's or whatever agency  
3 ultimately will be responsible for this bill's  
4 enforcement, the retention of the small businesses,  
5 the employee retention, the expansion of these same  
6 small businesses, and other indicators; I will also  
7 be introducing a bill for amendments to possibly push  
8 back the actual implementation time of this bill so  
9 that we can actually have a well-thought-out  
10 education plan to the small businesses. I salute  
11 those who put a lot of work into this bill; I do  
12 support it in the very spirit of the bill, but  
13 without those two pieces of legislation, I think that  
14 we will be doing a disservice. So I will be voting  
15 aye and I will be introducing those two next pieces  
16 at the next Stated. Thank you.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

18 CITY CLERK: Ignizio.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes, if I may  
20 explain my vote, please.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, sir.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you,  
23 Madame Public Advocate and good to see you.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, Minority  
25 Leader.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [laughter] I  
3 think what we're doing here today is we're passing a  
4 bill to improve a negotiated bill which has not gone  
5 into existence yet, and I just... I'm sorry; I don't  
6 see the logic in that and I believe and want to be  
7 the clarion call for this bill having unintended  
8 consequences. The unintended consequences for this  
9 laudable bill, I believe, will have a chilling effect  
10 on small business, and when you heard here and I'm  
11 heartened by many of my colleagues who were saying  
12 that they believe that's going to occur in their own  
13 districts. I believe it will foster the underground  
14 economy; you will see business owners that, sadly,  
15 will either not hire, will lay off folks or will  
16 start putting people off the books; that doesn't help  
17 any of us. I thought a better way of going here,  
18 ladies and gentlemen, was to have a conversation with  
19 this body, with the administration and even our  
20 colleagues in Albany and say hey wait a minute,  
21 government believes so strongly in this that we're  
22 willing to be a partner with small business in this.  
23 As my colleagues have spoken about, to foster their  
24 small businesses, and a way we could've done that, in  
25 my view, very easily is by offering some form of tax

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2 incentive to the small business community to say yes,  
3 you're gonna incur this burden, but it's not gonna be  
4 an unfunded mandate; we're going to be partners with  
5 you and we're gonna incentivize you and help and  
6 raise all boats together; your employers, your  
7 employees and government will be a partner in it. I  
8 felt that was the better way to go; it didn't end up  
9 being that way, clearly, but I hope that we can  
10 revisit that aspect of it. But we learned that the  
11 greatest asset that people have in the city is its  
12 employees and those that are responsible owners, they  
13 offer these incentives without the benefit of a  
14 mandate; they do so because they believe that will  
15 bring them the greatest employees. And I always  
16 thought that the Mayor's speaking about Esmeralda  
17 Valencia was actual proof positive; she did this  
18 without a mandate and she said her employees are the  
19 happiest and the most productive. Well I think  
20 that's the competitive market you want to garner; you  
21 want to have people vying for the most talented  
22 people in your business and in doing so you fight and  
23 you raise the minimum wage that you are paying your  
24 employees, 'cause you want the best folks, you offer  
25 them incentives because you want the best folks, and

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2 that is the model, ladies and gentleman, that I  
3 believe works best; not a government mandate, an  
4 unfunded government mandate that'll ultimately, in my  
5 view, lower economic development in this city and end  
6 up in actually less employment than we want, while  
7 fostering an underground economy. With that, my  
8 colleagues, I respect the decisions that were made  
9 here today and as you know, I have a great admiration  
10 for all of my colleagues; I just think that there is  
11 a better way we could've done this, a more thoughtful  
12 way we could've done this and I think the rushed  
13 venue of this bill was unfortunate. Wit that I vote  
14 no on the bill and aye on all others. Thank you very  
15 much. Thank you Madame Public Advocate.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you  
17 Minority Leader.

18 CITY CLERK: Van Bramer.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on all.

20 CITY CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye on all.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All items on  
23 today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a vote  
24 of 51 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and 0 in  
25 the abstentions, with the exception of Intro 0001-A,

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2 which was adopted by a vote of 46 in the affirmative,  
3 5 negative and 0 abstentions. Revised Land Use Call-  
4 Ups were adopted by a vote of 51 in the affirmative  
5 and 0 in the negative. Introduction and Reading of  
6 Bills.

7 [background comments]

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All bills are  
9 referred to Committees as indicated on the agenda.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Discussion of  
11 Resolutions. [background comments] Seeing none. We  
12 will now to a vote on the resolutions and we will be  
13 voting on Resolution 0002-A, an amended resolution  
14 supporting the City's plan to establish high-quality  
15 universal pre-Kindergarten for all eligible 4-year-  
16 olds in high-quality after school programs for  
17 middle-school-aged youth. All in favor, say aye.

18 [collective aye]

19 All opposed.

20 MALE VOICE: No.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Any abstentions?  
22 The Reso is adopted. General Discussion.

23 [background comments] Council Member Weprin.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you Madame  
25 Public Advocate. Ladies and gentlemen, if you could

1  
2 hold on one second, I just... I learned recently that a  
3 member of the Mayor's staff will be leaving us; he's  
4 gonna be resigning and retiring after many years,  
5 having worked for seven mayors; someone who I had the  
6 pleasure of working with when I worked in the Mayor's  
7 Office under the Koch administration and made friends  
8 with this gentleman who worked down the hall from me  
9 at 52 Chambers Street. Many of you know him and many  
10 councils before know him, Al Mullen, who works in the  
11 New York City Mayor's Office... Al, you back there  
12 still? [applause] Knowing he is gonna be resigning...  
13 [applause] Al is a... he is a humble man, a really hard  
14 worker, a terrific person and he'll never speak to me  
15 again, now that I did this and embarrassed him, but  
16 he is someone who we owe a debt of gratitude to. As  
17 I mentioned, I think he started in 1971 with the  
18 Mayor's Office and has lived through seven mayors and  
19 I'm delighted to call on my friend and I thank him so  
20 much for all his service. Thank you, Al.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you... Thank  
22 you Mr. Mullens for your public service. Council  
23 Member Rosenthal.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Oh. I wanna  
25 speak about a resolution and a Intro LF [phonetic]



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2 that are very important to me. If you could go to  
3 Page 13. So on the Upper West Side at Beacon High  
4 School we had a very tragic incident [background  
5 comments] where an entire classroom of science  
6 students in a local high school watched as a young  
7 man...

8 [gavel]

9 [background comment]

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: ...Rosenthal... we  
11 have quiet in the chamber. Council Member.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yeah. So in  
13 December there was a terrible accident in a science  
14 lab at the Beacon High School where because of an  
15 [background comments] experiment that went awry, a  
16 young man was burned across his entire body as the  
17 classroom watched in horror; another student was  
18 burned as well; the first... the young man just got out  
19 of the hospital and is now going to rehab. I ask you  
20 to support a resolution calling on the Department of  
21 Education to reconsider its use of the Rainbow  
22 Science Lab, [music] which has now shown to be not  
23 beneficial to the education of science. And  
24 secondly, as a result of this incident, we then  
25 learned that the school has no responsibility to

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2 educate parents or the Department of Education about  
3 any violation in their school, whether it be from the  
4 Department of Health, Department of Buildings or the  
5 Fire Department. So we've written legislation I ask  
6 you to sign on that requires that school to inform  
7 parents and to inform the Department of Education  
8 upon getting a violation and then informing parents  
9 and the Department of Education when that violation  
10 is cleared up. Thank you very much.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
12 Council Member Barron.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you Madame  
14 Public Advocate. Just a few things; I wanted to put  
15 into the record that I send my condolences to the  
16 family of the Mayor of Jackson, Mississippi, the  
17 Honorable Chokwe Lumumba, who passed yesterday. He  
18 was a great activist, he worked in the community, he  
19 was a lawyer, he represented several outstanding  
20 people in their trials, and he most recently defended  
21 the Scott sisters, who were sentenced to an  
22 inordinate time for a minor crime. He did pass  
23 yesterday and I did want to put it in the record and  
24 we send our condolences to him.

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2           Secondly, I do want to acknowledge that  
3 this past Friday was the anniversary of the  
4 assassination of Malcolm X and we know that he was a  
5 great person, he was also a human rights activist and  
6 we wanted to acknowledge that.

7           And today you'll see several of my  
8 colleagues who are wearing hoodies, Council Member  
9 Rosenthal, Council Member Williams and Council Member  
10 Cornegy, and today is the anniversary of the killing  
11 of Treyvon Martin and we're wearing hoodies to call  
12 attention to that [background comments] and there was  
13 a great program at which Treyvon Martin's mother was  
14 here this past Friday for a program at 1199 and  
15 Council Member King also participated in that, so we  
16 wanted to bring attention to that.

17           And finally, as many of you know, I was a  
18 teacher and as a teacher I had to do things that  
19 would keep my students engaged. So I have a poem  
20 which I prepared for my students some... many years  
21 ago... and it talks about our African history. So if  
22 you can give me some assistance here with some snaps,  
23 [snapping] I'm gonna recite this poem.

24           We're an African people, we're related  
25 you and I, African by heritage beneath god's sky. We

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2 have a common bloodline, we're the first to walk the  
3 earth, black, red, tan and gold, we're the first of  
4 human birth. We built the pyramids and yes we made  
5 the Sphinx, we sailed the ocean wide and with Mexico  
6 we linked. We used the Nile River to cultivate the  
7 land and then we used technology to pull crap from  
8 sand. The Greeks came to African universities, we  
9 taught them how to diagnose and do brain surgery, we  
10 taught them math, geometry and then we taught them  
11 trig, physics and astronomy, oh yes, oh yes we did;  
12 they studied our religion and they learned our  
13 culture too, they listened well to Aesop, the fables  
14 known to you. Iron, salt and chromium are wealths  
15 Africa holds, diamonds for Cleopatra and ivory and  
16 gold. Well this is just a tidbit of ancient Africa;  
17 she civilized the whole wide world, we owe it all to  
18 her. We're an African people, we're an African  
19 people and African people, we're African. Thank you.

20 [cheers, applause, background comments]

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Counc...

22 [background comments]

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member...

24 quiet in the chambers. Coun... [interpose]

25 MALE VOICE: Down please, keep it down.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
Gentile. [background comments]

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Well I was  
hoping I wasn't gonna follow that, but [laughter]  
anyway, maybe I should do some Italian opera; I don't  
know... [laughter] no, no, no, that's fine.

I want... for those of my colleagues...  
[interpose]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: We'll give you  
extra time if you recite a poem.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes. Those of  
my colleagues who were interested in helping small  
businesses, you could take the first step by looking  
at Intro 0064, which is being introduced today, which  
will help small business restaurant owners; the bill  
would prohibit the unannounced arrival of inspectors  
at certain times at restaurants throughout the City.  
As all of us have heard, many restaurants during the  
busiest hours Friday night, Saturday night, will be  
visited by Health or Consumer Affairs and have to  
deal with an inspection while the restaurant is full  
of customers. Now an inspection should take place,  
but it should be within certain hours of the day and  
week and that's what this bill will do to help small

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2 businesses, particularly those restaurant owners who  
3 face that kind of... that kind of harassment in many  
4 ways from City agencies. If you wanna help  
5 restaurant owners, you can do that, but if you also  
6 wanna help your community board chair people, you  
7 could look at Intro 0063, because Intro 0063 will do  
8 something that the Bloomberg administration removed  
9 from community board chairs last year. As you all  
10 know, the 59 community board chairs served with no  
11 compensation, they put in many, many volunteer hours  
12 as chair of the community board and for years, up  
13 until last year, they were granted, as a nod to their  
14 volunteer hours, a parking placard from the  
15 Department of Transportation and that was in  
16 recognition of the work that they do in and around  
17 the community board district. That was removed from  
18 those 59 people last year; I think it was wrong to do  
19 that, for those who put in those kind of hours in the  
20 community board; I see former community board members  
21 shaking their heads [bell] and so I would ask that  
22 you look at Intro 0063 and help restore those parking  
23 DOT placards to the 50, only 59 members, the  
24 community board chairs throughout the city.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

Council Member King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Yes, good evening,  
or good afternoon. I'm asking my colleagues today to  
join in on signing onto Intro 0074, [background  
comments] which talks about amending the Local  
Administrative Law in the City of New York in  
relationship to removal of trees downed by result of  
a severe weather event. We knew during Hurricane  
Sandy that we had challenges with trees falling down  
on power lines and when sanitation went out, they  
didn't wanna move the trees because they didn't know  
if the power lines were live; then when Con Ed went  
out, they didn't wanna touch the power lines 'cause  
there was a tree on it. So this law is to put  
together some organizational structure 4ME [sic]  
Sanitation, Parks and Con Edison when it comes to  
this type of event that happens. So I'm asking  
everybody, please sign on so we can get this piece of  
legislation passed.

And finally, I just wanna say to all the  
BLAC members, [background comments] we are gonna be  
takin' a photo right here, right after Stated,

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2 meeting right in the front, so they're gonna be  
3 setting up for the Lunar event, so if we can just  
4 move forward right after Stated meeting right to the  
5 front so we can take this group shot. Thank you.

6 [background comments]

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Quiet  
8 in the chambers please. Quiet in the balcony.

9 MALE VOICE: Quiet please.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
11 Levin.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you Madame  
13 Public Advocate. My colleagues, I'm introducing and...  
14 or reintroducing a number of bills and resolutions  
15 today, [background comments] there are three... two  
16 Intros and one Reso that are new Introductions that I  
17 wanna call my colleagues' attention to; one is an  
18 Introduction that I'm introducing with Borough  
19 President Gale Brewer, a Local Law to amend the  
20 administrative code in relation to requiring  
21 Department of Social Services, otherwise known as  
22 HRA, to provide semi-annual reports to the Council  
23 regarding referrals to Adult Protective Services;  
24 this is an oversight, a reporting bill, aimed at  
25 making sure that we have transparency and



1  
2 accountability at HRA and Department of Adult  
3 Protective Services.

4 I'm also introducing a Resolution with  
5 Council Member and Chair of the Transportation  
6 Committee, Ydanis Rodriguez, [interpose, background  
7 comment] calling on the state legislature to pass and  
8 the governor to sign legislation that would lower New  
9 York City's speed limit to 20 miles an hour; I want  
10 to acknowledge David Greenfield, Council Member who's  
11 introduced City legislation around this issue in  
12 lowering the speed limit to 20 miles an hour and  
13 saving lives and creating safer environment for  
14 cyclists, pedestrians and motorists in New York City.

15 In addition, I am introducing two  
16 Resolutions, 0085 and 0086, [background comment] that  
17 would create a task force around youth, schools,  
18 health and safety and a requirement that there be a  
19 doctor or a physician's assistant present at all  
20 school football games and youth league football games  
21 in New York City.

22 And I wanna acknowledge on that bill, the  
23 hard work of my Chief of Staff, Ashley Thompson, and  
24 my Legislative Director, Rami Metal, and it is very  
25 sad for me to say today that my Chief of Staff,

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2 Ashley Thompson, is going to be moving on; this is  
3 her last Stated Meeting; she has been my chief of  
4 staff for the last four years and has really been the  
5 bedrock of my office; she has done incredible work;  
6 she is going to be going across the hall to the  
7 Mayor's Office and they are very lucky [bell] and  
8 very fortunate to have her, but on behalf of the  
9 entire City Council I want to acknowledge her hard  
10 work and thank her. Thank you very much, Ashley.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Thank  
12 you.

13 [applause]

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Congratulations.  
15 Council Member Debi Rose.

16 [background comments]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you Chair. I  
18 would like to first say mazel tov to my former seat  
19 mate, Council Member Greenfield, and happy birthday  
20 to Laurie Cumbo. [background comments] Yeah. And  
21 so I just wanna introduce today several pieces of  
22 legislation that would help protect the civil and  
23 human rights of New Yorkers. Intro 0106 is a Local  
24 Law requiring a sign at inaccessible building  
25 entrances indicating that a portable ramp is

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2 available where such a ramp exists. Last year we  
3 passed a law requiring signs regarding accessibility,  
4 but it did not include also indicating if a portable  
5 ramp is available, so let's get the task done.

6 And Intro 0107, a Local Law requiring  
7 that all restaurants have Braille and large print  
8 menus available upon request; not 100 of them, just  
9 one or two, so... that our consumers with disabilities  
10 would have access to the menu.

11 Intro 0108, by request of the Manhattan  
12 Borough President, is a Local Law prohibiting  
13 employment discrimination based on an individual's  
14 actual or perceived status as a caregiver.

15 And today I am introducing a local  
16 Resolution calling on the owners of the property  
17 known as "Mount Manresa," which is Jesuit retreat  
18 house, to protect and preserve the land in its  
19 current form. Mount Manresa is Staten Island's  
20 history; it's a site of the first retreat house in  
21 the United States and has one of the oldest water  
22 towers still standing in New York City and has  
23 provided respite for hundreds for over a century,  
24 [bell] from soldiers convalescing after World War I  
25 to those assisting in recovery efforts after 9/11 and

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serving recently as a place of shelter for Superstorm Sandy victims. It's located in a rare part of Staten Island that has a dearth of park land. So it's a treasure that we don't wanna lose... [interpose]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please conclude your remarks.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Yes... and I hope that there will be support for this Resolution. Thank you. [crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Council Member Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. I ask my colleagues to sign onto Intro 0051, a bill that I am introducing with my colleagues, Council Member Johnson and Council Member Koo; it would require annual reporting on the incidents and demographics surrounding hepatitis B and C. These diseases are treatable; many New Yorkers are not even aware that they are infected. Annual reporting would shine a light on this epidemic which predominantly affects the immigrant community and encourages greater attention, outreach and treatment for these infected communities. So I urge my colleagues to sign on. Thank you.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
3 Constantinides.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Good  
5 afternoon. I ask my colleagues to sign onto... I'm  
6 introducing several bills today, but Intro 0054 -- as  
7 we continue to improve our environment here in New  
8 York City, look to expand our alternative energy  
9 stock and grow good green jobs right here in New  
10 York. I think Intro 0054 provides part of that  
11 opportunity with expanding the amount of biodiesel we  
12 mix into our fuel for New York City ferries, taking  
13 it up to 5 percent by this July and looking to the  
14 future, adding it... make it 20 percent by 2020, and  
15 those good job... those... collecting that cooking oil to  
16 be part of that biofuel will be jobs right here in  
17 New York City; it's something that's achievable; it's  
18 something that we can get done; it won't hurt our  
19 market share and it won't hurt our prices for fuel,  
20 but it will be something that helps green our city,  
21 makes us more sustainable and provide good green,  
22 clean jobs right here in New York City. Thank you.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
24 Council Member Mendez.

25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you.

3 Colleagues, today I rise, [background comments]  
4 'cause no one has risen today. [laughter] Today I'm  
5 introducing Intro 0096; I introduced this eight years  
6 ago and reintroduced it four years ago; hoping this  
7 term we can actually pass it. It is legislation  
8 requiring that every senior citizen, one of our  
9 city's most vulnerable populations, be guaranteed  
10 legal representation in housing or Supreme Court. So  
11 if a senior is about to lose their apartment through  
12 an eviction proceeding or lose their home because  
13 they're subject to predatory lenders and are in  
14 Supreme Court, that they will be provided an  
15 attorney, because more often than not they're on a  
16 limited income and to lose their home at that stage  
17 in their lives in this city, where the housing market  
18 is so tight, would put them among the ranks of the  
19 homeless and an attorney provided to them would help  
20 them in this situation. So I hope my colleagues sign  
21 onto this.

22 Also, real quickly, I'm also introducing  
23 Intro 0097 at the request of Manhattan Borough  
24 President Gale Brewer, who was then a Council Member,  
25 and this would go a long way into helping us with our

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Vision Zero; it would give schools knowing where parking garages are near schools and pedestrian safety areas for our kids. So I hope my colleagues sign onto that as well. Thank you. [interpose]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And bef.. and before we adjourn, I would urge members of the City Council to join the Office of Public Advocate in introducing Intro 0103, a bill requiring the New York City Police Department to report on arrests of individuals under 18, Intro 0104, in relation to collecting and reporting data related to youth aging out of foster care, and Intro 0105 in regards to requiring signage regarding application processing and fair hearings at job centers, SNAP centers and Medicaid offices and we now stand adjourned.

[background comments]

[gavel]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright. Thank you everybody, it's 3:15, enjoy the rest of your day.

[cheers, background comments, applause]

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            March 21, 2014