

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING
***CHARTER MEETING**

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Wednesday, January 7, 2026
Start: 12:07 P.M.
Recess: 2:04 P.M.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Letitia James, New York State
Attorney General
Michael McSweeney, City Clerk

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Julie Menin, Speaker
Shaun Abreu
Shirley Aldebol
Joann Ariola
Alexa Avilés
Chris Banks
Erik D. Bottcher
Gale A. Brewer
Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
Tiffany L. Cabán
David M. Carr
Carmen N. De La Rosa
Eric Dinowitz
Elsie Encarnación
Harvey D. Epstein
Amanda C. Farias

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Simcha Felder
Oswald J. Feliz
James F. Gennaro
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Shahana K. Hanif
Ty Hankerson
Kamillah M. Hanks
Crystal Hudson
Rita C. Joseph
Shekar Krishnan
Linda Lee
Farah N. Louis
Virginia Maloney
Christopher Marte
Darlene Mealy
Frank Morano
Mercedes Narcisse
Sandy Nurse
Chi A. Ossé
Vickie Paladino
Lincoln Restler
Kevin C. Riley
Yusef Salaam
Pierina A. Sanchez
Justin E. Sanchez
Kayla Santosuoso
Lynn C. Schulman
Althea V. Stevens
Shanel Thomas-Henry
Sandra Ung
Inna Vernikov
Nantasha M. Williams
Julie Won
Phil Wong
Susan Zhuang

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

A P P E A R A N C E S

INVOCATION DELIVERED BY:

Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, Executive Vice-President
of the New York Board of Rabbis, 420 Lexington
Avenue, New York, NY 10170

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4

2 SERGEANT PAYTUVI: This is a microphone
3 check for the Charter Meeting, recorded on January 7,
4 2026, located in Chambers, by Nazly Paytuvi.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Please take your seats.
6 At this time, please place all electronic devices,
7 all electronic devices to vibrate.

8 CITY CLERK: [GAVEL] Good afternoon, and
9 welcome to the Charter Meeting of January 7, 2026. I
10 am Michael McSweeney, the City Clerk and the Clerk of
11 the Council, and I would like to thank you for
12 joining us. I call this meeting to order pursuant to
13 Section 42 of the Charter.

14 Please join us for the Pledge of
15 Allegiance.

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

17 ALL: [PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE]

18 CITY CLERK: Thank you. The Board of
19 Elections certified the election of the members of
20 the Council of the City of New York on December 2,
21 2025. The following Council members have been duly
22 elected:

23 1st District, Christopher Marte

24 2nd District, Harvey D. Epstein

25 3rd District, Erik D. Bottcher

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2	4th District, Virginia Maloney	
3	5th District, Julie Menin	
4	6th District, Gale A. Brewer	
5	7th District, Shaun Abreu	
6	8th District, Elsie Encarnación	
7	9th District, Yusef Salaam	
8	10th District, Carmen N. De La Rosa	
9	11th District, Eric Dinowitz	
10	12th District, Kevin C. Riley	
11	13th District, Shirley Aldebol	
12	14th District, Pierina A. Sanchez	
13	15th District, Oswald J. Feliz	
14	16th District, Althea V. Stevens	
15	17th District, Justin E. Sanchez	
16	18th District, Amanda C. Farías	
17	19th District, Vickie Paladino	
18	20th District, Sandra Ung	
19	21st District, Shanel Thomas-Henry	
20	22nd District, Tiffany L. Cabán	
21	23rd District, Linda Lee	
22	24th District, James F. Gennaro	
23	25th District, Shekar Krishnan	
24		
25		

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2	26th District, Julie Won	
3	27th District, Nantasha M. Williams	
4	28th District, Ty Hankerson	
5	29th District, Lynn C. Schulman	
6	30th District, Phil Wong	
7	31st District, Selvena N. Brooks-Powers	
8	32nd District, Joann Ariola	
9	33rd District, Lincoln Restler	
10	34th District, Jennifer Gutiérrez	
11	35th District, Crystal Hudson	
12	36th District, Chi A. Ossé	
13	37th District, Sandy Nurse	
14	38th District, Alexa Avilés	
15	39th District, Shahana K. Hanif	
16	40th District, Rita C. Joseph	
17	41st District, Darlene Mealy	
18	42nd District, Chris Banks	
19	43rd District, Susan Zhuang	
20	44th District, Simcha Felder	
21	45th District, Farah N. Louis	
22	46th District, Mercedes Narcisse	
23	47th District, Kayla Santosuosso	
24	48th District, Inna Vernikov	
25	49th District, Kamillah M. Hanks	

2 50th District, David M. Carr

3 51st District, Frank Morano

4 I would now direct the Clerk to call the
5 roll of those members so elected for the purpose of
6 determining the presence of a quorum.

7 CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Present

9 CLERK: Council Member Aldebol?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: Present

11 CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Present

13 CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: (NO RESPONSE)

15 CLERK: Council Member Banks?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Here

17 CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: Present

19 CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here

21 CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Present

23 CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present

25 CLERK: Council Member Carr?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Present

3 CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Here

5 CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Present

7 CLERK: Council Member Encarnacion?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ENCARNACION: Presenté

9 CLERK: Council Member Epstein?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Here

11 CLERK: Council Member Farias?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Presenté

13 CLERK: Council Member Felder?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Here

15 CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: (NO RESPONSE)

17 CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here

19 CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Presenté

21 CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Present

23 CLERK: Council Member Hankerson?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Present

25 CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Present

3 CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Present

5 CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Present

7 CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Here

9 CLERK: Council Member Lee?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Here

11 CLERK: Council Member Louis?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present

13 CLERK: Council Member Maloney?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Present

15 CLERK: Council Member Marte?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Present

17 CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: 100% present

19 CLERK: Council Member Menin?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Present

21 CLERK: Council Member Morano?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Here!

23 CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSSE: Prezan

25 CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Here

3 CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Here

5 CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Here

7 CLERK: Council Member Restler?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Here

9 CLERK: Council Member Riley?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present

11 CLERK: Council Member Salaam?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Present

13 CLERK: Council Member Justin Sanchez?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Present

15 CLERK: Council Member Pierina Sanchez?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Present

17 CLERK: Council Member Santosuoso?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSO: Here

19 CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here

21 CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Here

23 CLERK: Council Member Thomas-Henry?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Present

25 CLERK: Council Member Ung?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Present

3 CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Present

5 CLERK: Council Member Williams?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I'm here.

7 CLERK: Council Member Won?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Present

9 CLERK: Council Member Wong?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: Present

11 CLERK: Council Member Zhuang?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Present

13 CLERK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We have a
14 quorum.

15 CITY CLERK: Thank you. I would now ask
16 New York State Attorney General Letitia James to
17 administer the Oath of Office.

18 (APPLAUSE)

19 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: Good afternoon.
20 Good afternoon. It's an honor and a privilege to be
21 back in my old seat.

22 (LAUGHTER)

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: When I look at
24 the group before me, I see really the best of New
25 York City...

(APPLAUSE)

ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: Yeah.

New Yorkers made their priorities loud and clear, and our constituents want a city that they can afford, a city where they can raise their families safely and comfortably. A city that powers the economy with opportunity for all, in the city that fosters the world's greatest art, greatest culture, music, food, and so much more, and a city that respects and reflects all.

Challenges await us in the coming year, my friends, with prices soaring and too many families struggling to make ends meet. But New York has always led the way out of darkness and together, all of us together, we can ensure that this is a city where we look out for our neighbors, where we finally leave the tired zero sum politics behind us and where public servants work in lockstep to bring down cost and uplift working people, and where justice reigns and prosperity abounds. This council is perfectly positioned to deliver all of that. And I'm so honored and privileged to be here today with all of you. And I join with all of you, as we accomplish that, and I

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2 will be your partner in all that you do every step of
3 the way.

4 And now I have the honor and privilege of
5 issuing the oath. And so I now request that all
6 council members please stand for the oath of office.

7 Please raise your right hand and repeat
8 after me. I...

9 ALL: I

10 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: State your name.

11 ALL: (STATE NAME)

12 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: Do solemnly swear
13 and affirm—

14 ALL: Do solemnly swear and affirm—

15 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: That I will
16 support the Constitution of the United States.

17 ALL: That I will support the Constitution
18 of the United States.

19 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: The Constitution
20 of the State of New York.

21 ALL: The Constitution of the State of New
22 York.

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: And the Charter
24 of the City of New York.

25

2 ALL: And the Charter of the City of New
3 York.

4 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: And that I will
5 faithfully discharge—

6 ALL: And that I will faithfully
7 discharge—

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: The duties of—

9 ALL: the duties of—

10 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: The Office of—

11 ALL: The Office of—

12 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: Council Member

13 ALL: Council Member

14 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: In your
15 respective districts. State your district.

16 ALL: (STATE RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS)

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: And now state
18 your respective borough. In the borough of?

19 ALL: (STATE RESPECTIVE BOROUGHS)

20 (LAUGHTER)

21 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: In the City of
22 New York, according to the best of my ability.

23 ALL: In the City of New York, according
24 to the best of my ability.

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2 ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES: Congratulations,
3 and so help all of you.

4 (APPLAUSE)

5 CITY CLERK: We will now have today's
6 Invocation, which will be delivered by Rabbi Joseph
7 Potasnik, Executive Vice-President of the New York
8 Board of Rabbis, which is located at 420 Lexington
9 Avenue in Manhattan.

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

11 RABBI JOSEPH POTASNIK: Thank you. I'm
12 humbled by the applause.

13 (LAUGHTER)

14 (APPLAUSE)

15 RABBI JOSEPH POTASNIK: Council Member
16 Menin reminded me of an old religious proverb, which
17 states, "Blessed are those who speak briefly, for
18 they shall be invited back."

19 (LAUGHTER)

20 RABBI JOSEPH POTASNIK: Thank you very
21 much for the reminder.

22 On this special day in our city, let us
23 walk away remembering two words: united and united.
24 Interestingly, both are spelled with the exact same
25 letters. The only difference is where you place the

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2 letter "I". If a person only speaks of "I" rather
3 than "we," a relationship becomes untied. But where
4 the "we" takes precedence over "I", that relationship
5 can remain united.

6 We teach our children that in
7 mathematics, $1+1=2$. We have to show our children that
8 in human relationships, $1+1$ can also equal one. And
9 they all share members of the human family in our
10 DNA. We all have to teach them that unity of spirit
11 and diversity of thought can walk hand in hand.

12 Interestingly, in medical terms, the word
13 "menin" is a protein that suppresses disease. We need
14 more menin.

15 (LAUGHTER)

16 RABBI JOSEPH POTASNIK: to stop the spread
17 of this disease of hatred of the other, whoever the
18 other may be. As Cardinal Dolan said to me recently,
19 "Anti-Semitism is anti-Christianity is anti-Islam,"
20 and you can reverse that equation any way you want.

21 So Council Member Menin, keep in mind
22 that a leader is one who knows the way, who shows the
23 way, and who goes the way. All of us here will go on
24 that way together, different and the same, one and
25 one equaling two and equaling one. May you, members

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2 of the City Council, be blessed for who you are and
3 be blessed for what you do. Amen.

4 ALL: Amen.

5 CITY CLERK: Thank you, Rabbi Potasnik. I
6 would now ask Council Member Virginia Maloney to
7 spread the Invocation on the record.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Thank you. I
9 would like to thank Rabbi Potasnik for being here
10 today. Rabbi Potasnik is a faith leader whose work
11 reflects the values of service, compassion, and civic
12 responsibility that define New York City.

13 Rabbi Potasnik serves as Executive Vice-
14 President of the New York Board of Rabbis, the
15 largest interdenominational rabbinical organization
16 in the world, and he serves as the Chief Chaplain of
17 the New York City Fire Department, the first time a
18 chief has ever been named in 160 years.

19 In the aftermath of September 11, he was
20 a steady and important presence supporting families,
21 first responders, and communities across our city as
22 New Yorkers confronted loss with resilience and care.

23 Through decades of leadership, Rabbi
24 Potasnik has been a consistent and principled voice
25 for Jewish life in New York. At moments of rising

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2 anti-Semitism and uncertainty, he has spoken with
3 moral clarity and resolve, reminding us that public
4 life is strongest when grounded in dignity,
5 responsibility, and care for one another.

6 I make a motion for unanimous consent to
7 spread the Invocation in full upon the record.

8 CITY CLERK: So ordered, thank you.

9 We will now move to M 1, the continuation
10 of the Rules. I would like to recognize Council
11 Member Sandra Ung to make a motion regarding the
12 Rules of the Council.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: I make a motion
14 pursuant to Section 46 of the New York City Charter
15 that the 2024 to 2025 Rules of the Council, as
16 amended, be continued and in effect until the new
17 rules are adopted or set rules are otherwise amended
18 or modified.

19 CITY CLERK: Thank you, Council Member
20 Ung.

21 I will now call for a voice vote on the
22 motion.

23 Will all those in favor say aye?

24 ALL: Aye

25 CITY CLERK: All opposed say nay?

2 ALL: (SILENT)

3 CITY CLERK: Any abstentions?

4 ALL: (SILENT)

5 CITY CLERK: The ayes have it; the motion
6 passes.7 We will now move on to M 2, the
8 Nomination of the Speaker.9 Pursuant to Section 44 of the Charter and
10 Rule 3.00 (d) of the Rules of the Council, I hereby
11 open the floor for nominations for the Office of
12 Speaker of the City Council for the term commencing
13 January 1, 2026, and terminating December 31, 2029.

14 I hereby recognize Council Member Riley.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Okay, good
16 afternoon, everyone.17 Today, I want to submit the nomination
18 for Council Member Julie Menin for Speaker of the New
19 York City Council. Julie brings more than two decades
20 of public and private sector experience to this body.
21 As an attorney, a former small business owner, a
22 civic leader, and a three-time city commissioner, she
23 understands how the city works and how the decisions
24 we make here affect New Yorkers in their daily lives.

2 In working alongside Julie, I have seen a
3 thoughtful, steady leader and a true bridge builder—
4 someone who brings people together, listens across
5 differences, and moves towards solutions. She has
6 consistently centered her oversight on fairness,
7 transparency, and equity while advancing policies
8 that support working families, protect reproductive
9 rights, expand access to childcare, and strengthen
10 small businesses, continuing a strong tradition of a
11 women-led City Council, and the men who get it.

12 Julie also has a clear understanding of
13 the crisis facing our city and our country today and
14 the responsibility the Council has to lead in moments
15 of uncertainty. As an adjunct professor at Columbia
16 University, she teaches how cities can innovate and
17 step up when the federal government pulls back. She
18 is a leader who gets things done, respects the
19 intuition and institution, and brings people together
20 around real impact. I trust that she will lead this
21 council with integrity, collaboration, and a clear
22 sense of purpose.

23 For those reasons, I am proud to nominate
24 Council Member Julie Menin to serve as the Speaker of
25 the New York City Council, and I look forward to

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2 continuing our work together in the body on behalf of
3 the communities across the five boroughs. Thank you.

4 (APPLAUSE)

5 CITY CLERK: Thank you. I now recognize
6 Council Member Abreu.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: It is an honor to
8 stand before you today for this historic moment. I
9 rise to nominate a leader, a friend, and a colleague
10 to serve as the next Speaker of the New York City
11 Council, Julie Menin.

12 In 2015, I was 24 years old and working
13 as a liaison for the City, meeting with workers
14 across Manhattan to let them know about the new law
15 that guaranteed them the right to take a sick day.
16 The person leading that work on behalf of Mayor de
17 Blasio was Department of Consumer Affairs
18 Commissioner Julie Menin. Yes, she was my boss.

19 Today, most New Yorkers take for granted that we can
20 take time from work for a doctor's appointment or to
21 recover from an illness. But that did not happen by
22 accident. It happened because of the leadership from
23 a strong City Council and people like Julie with a
24 determination to fulfill the City's responsibility to
25 stand up for New Yorkers.

2 As commissioner, Julie did not just
3 enforce the laws; she reimagined what the Department
4 of Consumer Affairs could be. She took an agency
5 known primarily for issuing fines and transformed it
6 into one that emphasized fairness and prevented
7 abuses before they happened. Under her leadership,
8 the Department instituted more than two dozen reforms
9 that gave small businesses a chance to cure
10 violations and dramatically increase consumer
11 restitution, and she will be sure to remind you by
12 more than 70%.

13 Julie also understood that consumer
14 protection and worker protection are deeply
15 connected. Drawing on her experience as a regulatory
16 attorney, she led the effort to expand the Agency's
17 mission to include worker protection. In addition to
18 paid sick leave, she launched and implemented
19 landmark laws, including the Living Wage, the Car
20 Wash Workers Bill, and the Freelance Isn't Free Act.
21 Those efforts fundamentally reshaped the agency into
22 what we now know as the Department of Consumer and
23 Worker Protection. She paired strong enforcement with
24 deep outreach. When implementing paid sick leave,
25 Julie made sure information was available in 26

2 languages, far exceeding what the law required,
3 because she understood that rights only matter if
4 people knew that they had them. Under Julie Menin's
5 leadership, no community is overlooked.

6 Julie also believed that enforcement
7 should put real money back into people's pockets. She
8 launched a new Earned Income Tax Credit initiative
9 that returned more than \$260 million to low-income
10 New Yorkers and expanded access to the City's free
11 tax centers, resulting in a remarkable 50% increase
12 in participation. And she would be sure to remind you
13 that we did that through the most unprecedented
14 phonathon throughout our city.

15 Her leadership extended beyond immediate
16 protections to long-term opportunity as well. As
17 commissioner, she helped launch New York City Kids
18 RISE, creating a universal college savings account
19 for every New York City kindergartener. More than
20 280,000 children received accounts totaling over \$50
21 million. A powerful statement about what we owe the
22 next generation.

23 Most importantly, Julie Menin offers no
24 quarter to those who wish to take advantage of New
25 Yorkers for their own profit. She led investigations

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2 into for-profit colleges, fraudulent auto loans,
3 abusive debt collection practices, and illegal online
4 sales, showing that consumer protection can also be a
5 matter of public safety.

6 This remarkable slice of Julie Menin's
7 career is somehow sandwiched between time spent
8 running a small business and starting a family on one
9 side and demonstrating exceptional leadership as a
10 member of the City Council on the other. I'm proud to
11 have known her then and now, and it is an honor to
12 nominate Julie Menin to serve as the next Speaker of
13 the New York City Council.

14 (APPLAUSE)

15 CITY CLERK: I now recognize Council
16 Member Louis.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: If we are serious
18 about advancing women's equity and building an
19 economy that works for all New Yorkers, then we need
20 a Speaker who has delivered results in both arenas.
21 That leader is Julie Menin.

22 Long before it was common to talk about
23 women in leadership, Julie helped create She Should
24 Run, a national organization that has now trained
25 more than 12,000 women across the country to step up

2 and run for office. That work helped change who sees
3 themselves as a leader and who gets a seat at the
4 table.

5 Julie carried that same commitment into
6 her role as Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of
7 Media and Entertainment, where she paired women's
8 equity with real economic growth. She launched the
9 nation's first municipal film fund, providing direct
10 cash grants for women filmmakers, musicians, and
11 playwrights, and created programs that connected
12 women creators with the financing they needed to
13 complete their work.

14 At the same time, Julie delivered
15 extraordinary economic results for New York City. She
16 expanded the Made in New York production program,
17 helping thousands of diverse young people enter the
18 film and television industry. Under her leadership,
19 New York reached historic levels of television and
20 film production, generating more than \$9 billion in
21 economic activity and tens of thousands of jobs.

22 For the first time, the Office of Media
23 and Entertainment formally included the music
24 industry, publishing, and advertising, and she
25 negotiated the agreement to bring the Grammy Awards

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2 back to New York City, generating more than \$200
3 million in economic impact.

4 Julie Menin understands how to grow our
5 economy while lifting up women and working families.
6 That is the kind of experience, values-driven
7 leadership we need in a speaker.

8 Today, I am proud to nominate Julie Menin
9 as the Speaker of the New York City Council, and I'm
10 confident in her proven ability to lead with vision
11 and champion inclusive economic growth to guide the
12 Council into a new era of innovative, equity-driven
13 governance for all New Yorkers. Thank you.

14 (APPLAUSE)

15 CITY CLERK: Thank you. I now recognize
16 Council Member Lee.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Good afternoon,
18 colleagues. Today, it is my great pleasure to
19 nominate my friend and colleague, Julie Menin, to
20 serve as our next City Council Speaker.

21 Throughout her career, starting from her
22 time as a Community Board Chair to her time as our
23 colleague in the Council, Julie has served as a
24 dedicated advocate for our workforce, whose labor
25 built our city brick by brick, and for everyday

2 working families who have struggled far too long to
3 make ends meet in New York City.

4 As Chair of the Committee on Mental
5 Health, Disabilities and Addictions, I've had the
6 privilege of working closely with Julie on our
7 resolution for first responders and survivors of
8 September 11th. More than two decades after the
9 events of 9/11, New Yorkers still suffer from the
10 effects of exposure to toxins and debris at Ground
11 Zero.

12 And as a former Community Board Chair in
13 Lower Manhattan who fought for the creation of the
14 World Trade Center Health Program, Julie stepped up
15 once again when the federal government failed to
16 address critical funding gaps for the medical care
17 and support survivors deserve. Julie has continued to
18 demonstrate the aptitude for coalition building
19 paired with an unwavering focus on delivering real
20 results for New Yorkers.

21 And at a time when our city grapples with
22 the issue of affordability, Julie Menin has displayed
23 her commitment to economic mobility, starting with
24 our youngest New Yorkers, those who will grow to
25 become our future leaders. Through her work as the

2 founding board chair of New York City Kids RISE,
3 Julie has laid the foundation to launch career-saving
4 accounts for every kindergartner in New York City.

5 Research has shown that children with
6 even the most modest savings accounts are three times
7 more likely to enroll in college and four times more
8 likely to graduate, creating the pathway for economic
9 stability in their professional careers.

10 During the pandemic, parents across our
11 city experienced firsthand the consequences of a
12 broken childcare system, myself included. And in the
13 push for universal childcare, Julia Menin was
14 instrumental in building a coalition of advocates and
15 providers to advance pivotal legislation that made
16 childcare more accessible—positioning New York City
17 as one of the first major cities in the country with
18 the ability to make universal childcare a reality.

19 Julie has spent her career fighting for
20 New Yorkers, bringing that same passion and
21 determination to her work and the Council. And as we
22 confront continued challenges around housing and
23 affordability, she is the innovative leader—I want
24 to say that again—innovative leader—and coalition

2 builder that our council needs to deliver real
3 results for families across New York City.

4 It is with my great honor that I nominate
5 my colleague Julie Menin.

6 (APPLAUSE)

7 CITY CLERK: Thank you. I now call upon
8 Council Member Hanks.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Good afternoon, I
10 stand today from the fabulous 5th borough of Staten
11 Island. I am proud to nominate Council Member and
12 friend, Julie Menin, for the Speaker of the New York
13 City Council.

14 (APPLAUSE)

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Throughout her
16 career, Julie has led innovative public-private
17 partnerships that address some of the City's most
18 pressing needs. As Commissioner of the Department of
19 Consumer Affairs, she's helped launch the NYC Kids
20 RISE partnership with the Grey Foundation, seeking
21 college saving accounts for more than 280,000 public
22 school children and investing over \$50 million in
23 their futures. That is how we begin to close the
24 wealth gap and invest in the next generation.

25

2 Julie has partnered with Asphalt Green to
3 launch Wave Makers, providing 2,000 second graders
4 with free swim lessons in their own neighborhoods,
5 improving safety, health, and access for families and
6 for the City.

7 Julie has also led the groundbreaking
8 partnership with the Museum of Jewish Heritage,
9 bringing 85,000 public and charter school students
10 into Holocaust education to confront anti-Semitism
11 and learn the consequences of hate.

12 She has been a leading voice in digital
13 equity, helping to bring zero-cost internet to NYCHA
14 residents by working with providers and leveraging
15 federal subsidies, recognizing that collective
16 connectivity is essential to opportunity.

17 From Manhattan to Staten Island, Julie
18 understands that communities may look different, but
19 they deserve the same level of leadership,
20 investment, and follow-up. Julie Menin knows how to
21 turn collaboration into impact, and that is the
22 leader that this Council needs, and that is why I am
23 proud to nominate her for Speaker of the New York
24 City Council.

25 (APPLAUSE)

2 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Mazel tov. Thank
3 you.

4 CITY CLERK: Thank you. I now recognize
5 Council Member Krishnan.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Good afternoon.

7 I am proud to be here today nominating Council Member
8 Julie Menin to be our next leader and City Council
9 Speaker.

10 A Speaker to lead this body must be
11 relentless in fighting for New Yorkers and defending
12 our values. Whether it's street vendors facing Donald
13 Trump's mass deportation campaign or the Uber and
14 Lyft drivers of our city trying to get answers after
15 being unfairly fired from billion-dollar tech
16 companies, I know that this Council always stands up
17 for New Yorkers and takes on those fights.

18 We need a leader who is willing to back
19 us up and fight right next to us, who has taken on
20 Donald Trump, big corporations, and anyone who stands
21 between New Yorkers and justice, and who has won in
22 those fights. Julie Menin is that leader. She has a
23 clear and bold vision for the job and the proven
24 track record to execute on that vision. She has done
25 that time and again in city government. For example,

2 Julie stepped up to serve as New York City Census
3 Director at a moment of extraordinary challenge. The
4 stakes were enormous during the pandemic. Over a
5 trillion dollars in federal funds over the next
6 decade for New York schools, healthcare, housing, and
7 social services were on the line. When the Trump
8 administration attempted to undermine the census by
9 adding a citizenship question, which matters to
10 communities like mine in Jackson Heights, Elmhurst,
11 and Woodside, Queens, a question designed to suppress
12 participation among immigrant communities, Julie
13 fought back. Working alongside Attorney General
14 Letitia James, she helped take the fight all the way
15 to the Supreme Court and won. Time and again, when
16 the federal government tried to manipulate the census
17 to deprive our city's resources and look past our
18 immigrant communities like my own, Julie stood firm
19 and fought back.

20 This is the type of fight that Julie
21 brings into our body. She's willing to take on the
22 long fights for all New Yorkers. And I know this
23 because I've worked with Julie not only as a fellow
24 lawyer in the City Council, but also in my capacity
25 as Parks Chair to create long-lasting change for New

2 New Yorkers. You see, together with legislation and \$1
3 million in funding from philanthropy, Julie and I
4 created Wave Makers, the most comprehensive free swim
5 program for children in the highest need areas of our
6 city when it comes to swimming—from Jackson Heights,
7 Queens to the Northwest Bronx—ensuring that all New
8 Yorkers get access to swim programs, not just the
9 wealthiest New Yorkers.

10 Julie looks at every problem the same
11 way; she looks at every problem New Yorkers face with
12 the same dedication, and she will lead to make sure
13 everyone in our city can thrive.

14 Under Speaker Menin's leadership, I know
15 we will deliver a truly affordable city by investing
16 in programs that matter to New Yorkers. We will
17 improve our parks and public spaces, we will hold
18 predatory billion-dollar companies accountable, and
19 we will protect tenants. We will take on the hard
20 fights for New Yorkers and win.

21 I'm confident that with Julie Menin as
22 Speaker, our City Council will fight for all New
23 Yorkers, and that is exactly why I proudly nominate
24 her as our Speaker.

25 (APPLAUSE)

2 CITY CLERK: Thank you. I now call upon
3 Council Member Dinowitz.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Thank you, Mr.
5 Clerk. Is anyone else excited besides me? Are we all
6 excited?

7 (APPLAUSE)

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: I'm really
9 excited. I'm not just excited for the nominations,
10 I'm excited because of the work that we get to do,
11 the work that we get to do in this room, and if we
12 think about the work that our constituents have
13 entrusted us to do, it is an awesome responsibility.
14 We come here, some of us as new council members, some
15 of us returning to confront enormous challenges,
16 challenges we've heard about with affordability to
17 divisiveness in our government, and we must confront
18 those challenges and govern with purpose and clarity
19 in service of our shared values and the people that
20 we were elected to represent, to fight for our
21 children, our working families, older adults, people
22 with disabilities, and everyone in between. It's in
23 moments like these that leadership matters most;
24 moral leadership, leadership that unites, navigates

25

2 complexity, and moves this institution and our city
3 forward with principle and resolve.

4 Julie Menin has demonstrated time and
5 again that she possesses that rare and essential
6 ability. I speak about the work we do in this room,
7 these historic decisions we make, but I do have to
8 bring up, since we're in the room, and Julie's family
9 is here, this is also the room where we celebrate our
10 culture and diversity. And where not even a month
11 ago, Julie's daughter, who is here, hi—Julie's
12 daughter and my twin boys, all descendants of
13 Holocaust survivors, stood right there and did the
14 Hanukkah blessings as they lit the menorah. As we do
15 these blessings that are hundreds and hundreds of
16 years old, those are the moments that I'm reminded
17 about our shared history, our city's shared history,
18 and what we pass on to the children of our city.

19 And we stand on the cusp of making
20 history by electing Julie as the first Jewish Speaker
21 of the New York City Council. And I am mindful, not
22 simply of her identity, but that she's guided by our
23 traditions from generation to generation, what those
24 values mean.

2 I'm going to share one with you that in
3 Jewish tradition, one of our Pirkei Avot - The Ethics
4 of the Fathers, and Simeon ben Gamliel teaches the
5 world stands on three things: on justice, on truth,
6 and on peace. In other words, fairness, honesty, and
7 unity. And in choosing a speaker today, we are
8 choosing a moral steward of this institution, someone
9 entrusted with fairness, with honesty, and with
10 unity.

11 Julie's record proves that she embodies
12 those values and acts on them. Julie has built an
13 extraordinary record focused on justice, honesty, and
14 unity by lowering costs for New Yorkers, increasing
15 transparency for New Yorkers, and delivering real
16 accountability for New Yorkers—all by unifying
17 members of broad and diverse coalitions. She passed a
18 landmark Healthcare Accountability Act, which created
19 the first in the nation Office of Healthcare
20 Accountability to shine a light on excessive hospital
21 prices, protect patients and taxpayers alike, and
22 lower costs. She reduced red tape for small
23 businesses by creating a one-stop portal for city
24 permits and licenses, supporting the small
25 businesses—the backbones—of our communities.

2 In a time when our civil rights are under
3 question from the federal government, she, in New
4 York City, strengthened our civil rights by
5 establishing a Right to Counsel for survivors of
6 domestic violence and codified the right to
7 reproductive health care into City law.

8 Her leadership goes beyond legislation.
9 Julie led a public-private partnership ensuring that
10 every 8th grader in New York City has the opportunity
11 to visit the Museum of Jewish Heritage because she
12 understands that memory, education, and empathy are
13 not luxuries. They are not extras. They are
14 obligations, particularly for us as elected leaders;
15 they're vital to unifying this city and combating
16 hate. Justice, truth, peace made real through Julie
17 Menin's actions.

18 And today, we write the next chapter into
19 our city's shared history, choosing what kind of
20 legislature we will be and what values we will
21 elevate. In choosing Julie Menin, we are choosing a
22 stronger and fairer New York City. We are choosing a
23 bold council that will stand up for everyday New
24 Yorkers.

2 As Speaker, Julie is ready to lead a
3 council that protects the vulnerable, expands
4 opportunity, and strengthens trust in our public
5 institutions. She understands the weight of this
6 moment and the responsibility of this role.

12 (APPLAUSE)

13 CITY CLERK: Thank you. Seeing that no
14 other Members have signed up to speak and hearing no
15 further candidates, I now close the nominations and
16 direct the Clerk to call the roll.

20 CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye for Menin.

22 CLERK: Thank you.

23 Council Member Aldebol?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: Aye, Julie Menin.

25 CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye for
3 Julie Menin proudly and with no reservation.

4 CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye, Menin.

6 CLERK: Thank you.

7 Council Member Banks?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye, and Julie
9 Menin.

10 CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: I proudly vote
12 for Julie Menin.

13 CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye for
15 Julie Menin, and I want to add that she did a great
16 job on the census, and I know she has already brought
17 it up again.

18 (LAUGHTER)

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: And I want to say,
20 we are friends, even though I have beaten her for
21 borough president. Thank you.

22 (LAUGHTER)

23 CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

24 MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: Permission
25 to explain my vote?

2 CITY CLERK: Permission granted.

3 MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: Got ya, you
4 thought I was going say something spicy. But I just
5 (LAUGHS) wanted to congratulate Council Member Julie
6 Menin. Julie, after listening to you directly in
7 terms of your commitments to what you'd like to do
8 for this body, I am full of optimism and hope for
9 what we can achieve in this council. As we all have
10 said, council members are the city's first
11 responders. When people need something on their
12 block, they don't call their U.S. senators. They call
13 their council member. This is why I am heartened by
14 Council Member Menin's plans to run this institution
15 the right way with both principle and pragmatism,
16 with both accountability and transparency. And, as
17 for me, a daughter of South East Queens, I look
18 forward to working with all of my colleagues here to
19 continue the work with the same grit that blue-collar
20 neighbors exhibit day in and day out.

21 There's a lot of work that is left ahead
22 of us, and I look forward to working with Council
23 Member Menin and all of our colleagues on these
24 priorities and more. Our mission is clear, our work
25 is before us, our time is now, and we must honor the

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2 trust that New Yorkers have bestowed upon us to serve
3 with action.

4 Again, we must honor their trust with
5 action. With that is my honor to nominate Council
6 Member Julie Menin as Speaker of the New York City
7 Council.

8 (APPLAUSE)

9 CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

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

12 CITY CLERK: Permission granted.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you. I vote
14 aye for Council Member Menin as our next Speaker of
15 the New York City Council. It's an honor to vote for
16 the first Jewish Speaker of the New York City
17 Council, who will serve alongside our first Muslim
18 Mayor of the greatest city in the world. My community
19 sent me to City Hall to serve and fight for workers,
20 for immigrants, and for queer and trans community and
21 everyone of our beloved neighbors. And I can't wait
22 to do that together. So I vote aye. Thank you.

23 CLERK: Council Member Carr?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye for Julie Menin.

25 CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye, Menin,
3 and congrats.

4 CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Proudly vote for
6 Julie Menin.

7 CLERK: Council Member Encarnacion?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ENCARNACION: Permission to
9 explain my vote?

10 CITY CLERK: Permission granted.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ENCARNACION: Thank you,
12 Billy.

18 District 8 needs an aggressive affordability agenda,
19 strong economic and workforce development, access to
20 childcare and youth services, and critical
21 investments in our infrastructure. These priorities
22 guide every vote that I will take on this floor. I
23 believe, and I pray that each vote I cast advances
24 these goals and reflects the vision of the people who
25 elected me. Today's vote reflects that commitment.

2 Julie Menin brings experience, steady leadership, and
3 a clear understanding of the importance of
4 affordability, economic opportunity, and equity for
5 our communities. Her values align with the needs of
6 District 8 and with my belief that this Council must
7 work collaboratively to deliver those real results
8 for New Yorkers.

9 With that, and with the people of East
10 Harlem and the South Bronx at the forefront of my
11 mind, I proudly cast my vote for Julie Menin as
12 Speaker. Thank you.

13 CLERK: Council Member Epstein?

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

16 CITY CLERK: Permission granted.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: I want to thank
18 you all, Julie, for your leadership, your commitment.
19 We've known each other for over 20 years, and the
20 work you've done for future generations of this city
21 has really been remarkable. You know, families are
22 facing displacement, and we know that New Yorkers are
23 struggling every single day, and they turn to the
24 City Council to look towards us, to help them, to

2 support them, to be with them. And that's exactly
3 what I know you're going to do every single day.

4 We have to fix the affordability crisis.
5 We have to deal with childcare. We have to make New
6 Yorkers feel like they can continue to live here and
7 stop the displacement of (INAUDIBLE) families. That
8 is our commitment. I know that is your commitment for
9 the next four years. I look forward to you being our
10 amazing Speaker. I vote aye for Julie Menin.

11 CITY CLERK: Council Member Fariás?

12 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: I vote aye for
13 Julie Menin, for Speaker of the City Council. She
14 understands the responsibility of this role and the
15 moment that our City Council is in to respond and
16 serve our communities. Congrats.

17 CLERK: Council Member Felder?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Aye for Council
19 Member Julie Menin.

20 CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Permission to
22 explain my vote?

23 CITY CLERK: Permission granted.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: I am proud and
25 honored to vote for my good friend, Julie Menin, for

2 Speaker of this City Council for many reasons,
3 including because of the many priorities that she's
4 mentioned these past few months, including affordable
5 housing, childcare affordability, and procurement
6 reform.

7 Briefly, on procurement reform, New York
8 City is a large city, a large city with a budget of
9 approximately \$116 billion, and a city with many
10 challenging issues. We have to make sure that we
11 properly manage our city, make sure that we're
12 getting the best results out of our budget.

13 Can we say we're doing the very best we
14 can when it costs millions of dollars to build the
15 city bathroom, or it takes \$20 million and 10 years
16 to renovate a small park in the Bronx? If it takes
17 that long, you know, by the time that the park is
18 renovated, residents who live there will probably no
19 longer live there. So we have to make sure that we
20 work on many things, including and especially
21 procurement reform.

22 But more than that, Julie understands the
23 importance of working together, bringing people
24 together in such diversity. She has decades of
25 experience in government, as a former small business

2 owner and former census director. Her dedication to
3 this city has prepared her to fight and to resolve
4 the challenges that we face. So I proudly vote yes
5 for Julie. Congratulations to you and to your family
6 who have joined. Thank you.

7 CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I very proudly
9 vote for my dear friend and colleague, Julie Menin.
10 Notwithstanding the fact that I am a Roman Catholic,
11 I am "schepping naches".

12 (LAUGHTER)

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: at the prospect
14 of voting for the first Jewish Speaker. God Bless
15 Julie Menin.

16 CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Permission to
18 explain my vote?

19 CITY CLERK: Permission granted.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: I want to
21 express my support for Ms. Julie Menin for Speaker of
22 the City of New York.

23 In the last four years, I've gotten to
24 know her, work with her, and I think the thing that
25 brings us close together is that we have children and

2 that we believe that childcare should be universal
3 for all. I know that she is serious about creating
4 opportunities for all New Yorkers. We believe
5 childcare is truly infrastructure. It is not a
6 luxury, and I can't wait to accomplish that for our
7 city and to support you, Julie. Honestly, I think
8 you're going to be great, and I support Julie. That's
9 who my vote is for. Thank you.

10 CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

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

13 CITY CLERK: Permission granted.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you. I vote
15 aye alongside my colleagues to appoint Council Member
16 Menin as Speaker of the City of New York in the City
17 Council. As the first Muslim woman in the City
18 Council, faith is personal to me and drives my fight
19 and love for New York City, and I know that Council
20 Member Menin will be a strong partner against all
21 types of hate—Islamophobia, anti-Semitism have no
22 place in our city, and our Council has so many
23 opportunities to show the path of what solidarity,
24 love, care looks like for all New Yorkers.

25

2 Council Member Menin brings decades of
3 public service and a strong commitment to standing up
4 for workers and consumers. I look forward to
5 partnering with Speaker Menin to advance an
6 affordability agenda that puts working class New
7 Yorkers and families first and to work together to
8 meet this moment with collaboration and care. Thank
9 you.

10 CLERK: Council Member Hankerson?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: I vote aye for
12 Council Member Julie Menin. Congratulations in
13 advance, Madam Speaker.

14 CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: I proudly vote aye
16 for Council Member Julie Menin for Speaker.

17 CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

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

20 CITY CLERK: Permission granted.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Thank you. Our
22 city has embarked on a new chapter in its storied
23 history. New Yorkers have made their demands clear.
24 Out with government by the few for the few, in with
25 leadership that centers communities too often pushed

2 to the margins. Out with lobbyists and special
3 interests delivering for the wealthy elite and in
4 with leadership that centers communities too often
5 pushed to the margins. Rather than accept
6 conventional thinking that the city can't boost
7 affordability, raise wages, improve public transit,
8 or make our city safer, New Yorkers are now asking,
9 "How can we can make this happen?"

10 Though it may be the enemy of
11 bureaucracy, innovation is the friend of the people.
12 Today, we are selecting a new Speaker to represent us
13 during what will be the final term for many members
14 of this body. This Council under this Speaker has the
15 opportunity to continue the work we began under
16 Speaker Adrienne Adams and deliver the agenda that
17 New Yorkers went to the ballot box in record numbers
18 last fall to support, one that calls on government to
19 help make our city more affordable, build more
20 housing, bolster safety, improve mass transit, and
21 ensure our most marginalized neighbors have what they
22 need to thrive. I know many in this body are
23 committed to delivering that agenda and will fight
24 tooth and nail to enact it over the next four years.

2 We're governing at a time when democratic
3 norms are under strain nationally and when progress
4 is regularly framed as unrealistic. We'll certainly
5 face numerous challenges with those coming from the
6 Trump administration, not the least of them. And we
7 know our constituents are the ones who will be most
8 impacted. But we also know who we are. New York is
9 resilient. We are a city of problem solvers and of
10 innovators. We have faced profound crises before, and
11 each time we have met the moment by working towards
12 our shared goals.

13 As Ella Baker reminds us, "Strong people
14 don't need strong leaders, but they do need leaders
15 willing to share power." My hope is that in the next
16 four years, we will lead with collaboration and
17 innovation and never lose sight of who we are here to
18 serve. Congratulations, Speaker Menin. I vote aye.

19 (APPLAUSE)

20 CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: I vote aye for
22 Speaker Menin. And look forward to working on the
23 universal childcare agenda with you. Thank you.

24 CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: I proudly vote
3 aye for Council Member Julie Menin as our next
4 Speaker.

5 CLERK: Council Member Lee?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: I proudly vote aye
7 for Julie Menin as our next City Council Speaker.

8 CLERK: Council Member Louis?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I am proudly voting
10 aye for Julie Menin as Speaker of the City Council.

11 CLERK: Council Member Maloney?

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

14 CITY CLERK: Permission granted.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: This is my first
16 Stated Meeting as a member of the New York City
17 Council, and this vote is a particularly important
18 one. The Speaker sets the standard for how this
19 institution governs how we work together and how we
20 effectively deliver for New Yorkers. I'm proud to
21 support Julie Menin to serve as our Speaker. Council
22 Member Menin brings more than two decades of
23 experience inside and outside of city government, and
24 as her neighbor, I have seen firsthand the depth of
25 her dedication to community.

2 As an East Sider, I've personally
3 benefited from her consistent focus on execution and
4 results through her funding of parks, schools,
5 cultural institutions, things that make our shared
6 Manhattan communities such wonderful places to live
7 and work. She's taken that same love of community to
8 the City level, with legislation protecting New
9 Yorkers from unfair medical costs, streamlining small
10 business permits process, and championing universal
11 childcare. Her commitment to the Council's role as a
12 serious and independent branch of government has
13 earned her the respect of her colleagues. Her
14 experience matters, particularly at a moment when New
15 Yorkers look to City leaders for competence and
16 effective government.

17 This Council must work together to meet a
18 new era of challenges. Council Member Menin is
19 uniquely prepared to lead us in that effort, and I am
20 proud to support her as our next Speaker.

21 CLERK: Council Member Marte?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Permission to
23 explain my vote?

24 CITY CLERK: Permission granted.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Julie has led
3 through troubling times. Here in Lower Manhattan,
4 decades ago, Julie Menin was Community Board One
5 Chair, and she called Financial District and Tribeca
6 home for a really long time. And during that time,
7 people thought that Lower Manhattan was over, that it
8 wouldn't see the great days ahead of it, that it once
9 lived. But Julie had a vision that separated her from
10 most. She envisioned families. She envisioned new
11 schools. She envisioned pedestrianized streets. She
12 made a commitment to make sure that no matter who you
13 worship, you could call Lower Manhattan your home.
14 And today, the Financial District is one of the
15 fastest growing neighborhoods all throughout the city
16 and country because of her vision, because of her
17 commitment to people in New York.

18 I want to talk about another museum that
19 wasn't mentioned earlier today, and that's the
20 Tenement Museum where Julie and her husband Bruce
21 have supported for a really long time, which shows
22 the struggles of not just people living in tenement
23 buildings, but immigrants that have come to New York
24 City for a better future. And this living museum
25 teaches us the importance of our neighbors, whether

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2 you lived here for generations or you just came
3 yesterday. And so I'm glad to cast a vote from the
4 Lower East Side to the Financial District to Tribeca
5 to say Julie Menin is our Speaker of the next City
6 Council.

7 (APPLAUSE)

8 CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: May I explain my
10 vote?

11 CITY CLERK: Permission granted.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I just want to take
13 this opportunity for someone who have been through
14 three speakers and it's my fourth one. I want to
15 thank Julie Menin for being a friend. I want to thank
16 her for-- after she got the super majority. I said
17 let me see something happened--I said let me see if
18 she answered the phone. She did answer the phone, so
19 I thank her.

20 (APPLAUSE)

21 (LAUGHTER)

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: So and I just want
23 to thank my colleagues. I'm looking forward to all of
24 us working together to never forget why we are here.
25 And I proudly support Julie Menin because I know she

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2 know it's the government of the people, by the
3 people, for the people, and I believe in Julie Menin
4 Thank you, thank you, thank you.

6 CLERK: Council Member Menin?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Well, Menin, well,
8 it's a toss up, but I am an aye for myself.

9 || (LAUGHTER)

10 CLERK: Council Member Morano?

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

13 CITY CLERK: Permission granted.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Before explaining
15 my vote, I want to begin by thanking the other
16 candidates who put themselves forward during this
17 process. Each of you did this body, I think, a real
18 service. You forced ideas to be sharpened, priorities
19 to be clarified, and ultimately I think you made this
20 a better body and you made the person that we are
21 about to elect a better candidate, I believe, and a
22 better Speaker.

23 On a personal level, I want you to know
24 how much I appreciated the opportunity to get to know
25 each of you that reached out to not only me, but the

2 Republican Conference. As a Republican and a
3 freshman, neither of which is typically viewed as a
4 powerhouse combination in this chamber...

5 (LAUGHTER)

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: it meant a great
7 deal to me that you took the time to meet with me to
8 listen and to offer advice. And those conversations
9 made me a better council member, and I'm grateful for
10 them.

11 But I'm also proud to enthusiastically
12 vote for Council Member Menin for Speaker today in
13 unity with the Staten Island Delegation and to my 10
14 new colleagues, by the way, who joined this body this
15 year, I would just gently suggest you keep Staten
16 Island's new nickname in mind going forward, "The
17 Speaker Maker".

18 (LAUGHTER)

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: I've known Julie
20 Menin for a long time. I've always been impressed by
21 her energy, her intellect, and her deep command of
22 the issues. But since becoming a candidate for City
23 Council, I've been especially struck by her genuine
24 passion for this body and its members. When I first
25 considered running for office, I had a pretty

2 successful career as a radio commentator. And more
3 than a few people, some out of genuine concern,
4 others out of cynicism, asked me, why would you want
5 to do this? Do you really think you'll be able to
6 make a difference? And I'll admit there were moments
7 when I wondered if I was crazy. And when I told Julie
8 I was thinking about running, she didn't hesitate.
9 She was encouraging. And then she followed up with a
10 call and said something I'll never forget and has
11 stuck with me since then—she said, "You're going to
12 love it." And that reassurance meant more to me than
13 she probably realized. And she's been right every day
14 of these last eight months. But the reason I'm most
15 enthusiastic about voting for Julie Menin today
16 (TIMER) is because my constituents are counting on
17 this body to speak for them. I know a lot of my
18 colleagues are excited about the new administration,
19 but nearly a million New Yorkers voted for someone
20 else and something different. They're not excited.
21 In many cases, they're fearful. And on behalf of
22 middle class homeowners, small landlords, parents of
23 children, gifted and talented programs, Jewish New
24 Yorkers, and yes, people who still think capitalism
25 is a good thing, I believe they're counting on this

2 council and on the new Speaker to be a voice for
3 them. Republicans are New Yorkers too, and they
4 deserve just as much of a voice as anyone else. And
5 Madam Speaker, that's my hope and quite frankly, my
6 expectation that we can work with the administration
7 whenever we can but to be a check on the
8 administration when it goes too far. I'm proud to
9 enthusiastically cast my vote for Julie Menin. I wish
10 you the very best of luck. I know you're going to be
11 terrific and have a great new partner in the Minority
12 Leader as well.

13 (APPLAUSE)

14 CITY CLERK: Council Member, how do you
15 vote?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: I enthusiastically
17 vote aye for Julie Menin.

18 CITY CLERK: Just making sure, thank you.

19 CLERK: Thank you,

20 Council Member Narcisse?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: All right. This
22 is so special today because I'm very proud of all my
23 colleagues. For those that have questioned about how
24 government works, you have to think when it comes to
25 City Council, we are the people's workers. We work

2 for them and we put them first. And I'm so proud of
3 all my colleagues to put together-- so far, I hear so
4 many ayes and why and I am very proud to be a City
5 Council member today more than ever.

6 This is New York City. This is how we get
7 peace in the Middle East. Over here in New York City,
8 we can have a Muslim, the first Muslim Mayor and the
9 first woman Jewish Speaker in our home. And we're
10 going to work together.

11 (APPLAUSE)

12 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: We're going to
13 work together and we know our responsibility.

17 Throughout your career, Julie, you have
18 worked so hard, and I can say you work hard, girl, to
19 be the Speaker today. You work, you work, you pave,
20 you really, really work hard. And I love to see when
21 people work hard. You know, being a nurse, being in
22 business, a businesswoman. We have so many
23 conversations, but I can say I give it to you, you
24 work. You made it easy for me in many ways. And I can
25 remember for the census, you all know, over here,

2 Caribbean people don't like to be counted by the
3 government. And now you know why. But Julie, you are
4 able to put a strategy in place for us to be able to
5 get people out. And as we said, the first time ever,
6 my community, especially in the Black community, were
7 counted, many of us, it was such a big increase. So
8 thank you for that.

9 Julie, you sent it up for working
10 families. Thank you for making the city government
11 work for everyone, not just one group for everyone.
12 Thank you for that. And that's when we sat down for
13 you to explain how we're going to make it work,
14 (TIMER) I am very satisfied. That's why I can say yes
15 to that. You have been among the best advocates with
16 me whenever I have an issue. You always answer my
17 question. Julie, you're going to be a great partner,
18 and I'm going to hold you accountable, and you know
19 that, so we're going to make it work for the people
20 of New York City.

21 I am very proud of you, and
22 congratulations in advance because from all the
23 "yes", so Julie, let's work together make it happen
24 for New York City despite all that's going on at the
25 federal level, I know we've got this. So, thank you

2 Congratulations already. I vote aye.

3 (APPLAUSE)

4 CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Permission to
6 explain my vote?

7 CITY CLERK: Permission granted.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I just want to
9 congratulate my seatmate on your win. I'm looking
10 forward to collaborating with you, and I know you're
11 going to be a great Speaker.

12 And I just want to welcome and
13 congratulate again every new member who's here.
14 Looking forward to working with all of you. And
15 lastly, just want to extend my deep gratitude and
16 appreciation for all of the residents of the 37th
17 District. Thank you for trusting me and sending me
18 back. I am so committed to you and to all New
19 Yorkers, and I'm excited to get back to work.

20 And I vote aye for Menin. Thank you.

21 CLERK: Thank you.

22 Council Member Ossé?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Permission to
24 explain my vote?

25 CITY CLERK: Permission granted.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Today, I cast my
3 vote for Council Member Julie Menin to serve as our
4 Council's next Speaker. Council Member Menin and I
5 may not necessarily align on every issue, but when
6 you think about it, who really does? As Chair of the
7 Consumer and Worker Protection Committee, Council
8 Member Menin worked with my office to move the FAIR
9 Act through committee at a moment when the real
10 estate lobby sought to stall it. She helped ensure a
11 fair, transparent, and notably long hearing so every
12 Council member in this body and New Yorkers across
13 the city could fully understand the bill on its
14 merits.

15 I look forward to working with Council
16 Member Menin and my colleagues to deliver an
17 affordable New York City for the millions of working
18 families who make the city the greatest in the world.

19 With that, I vote aye and vote for Julie
20 Menin as our next Speaker.

21 CLERK: Thank you.

22 Council Member Paladino?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: As a rugged
24 individual who believes in rugged individualism,
25 (LAUGHS) get a kick out of that? Okay, uh, I proudly,

2 uh, vote for Julie Menin, for many different reasons,
3 most of all because of her understanding and her
4 ability to, I hope, steer this trip on a center--
5 ship on a very centrist course. We make up a body
6 here of many different individuals. I believe in the
7 First Amendment right to express how we feel. We are
8 here to do the job, and the job is to serve the
9 people. And we know best our constituents and the
10 city of New York. We are resilient. We've watched
11 this city burn to the ground many, many times, but
12 we've also watched it grow again. The Phoenix did
13 rise. So I look forward, Julie, to working with you,
14 having conversations with you, and my other members.
15 You all know my door is always open for conversation.
16 But once again, as a rugged individual--rugged-- who
17 believes in rugged individualism and capitalism at
18 its very best, I proudly vote for Julie Menin for
19 Speaker of the City Council. Thank you.

20 (APPLAUSE)

21 CLERK: Council Member Restler?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: I proudly vote
23 for Council Member Menin. I really want to just say
24 how impressed I was by the campaign that you ran and
25 the coalition that you built. I know that you're

2 going to bring real rigor and substance and a robust
3 policy agenda to this body that will not just serve
4 the Council well, but New Yorkers. And I'm looking
5 forward to working together. And I really want to
6 thank the people of District 33 for sending me back.
7 I'm excited for the work ahead. Thank you.

8 CLERK: Council Member Riley?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: I proudly vote for
10 Julie Menin to be our next Speaker of the City
11 Council.

12 CLERK: Council Member Salaam?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Permission to
14 explain my vote?

15 CITY CLERK: Permission granted.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: May the peace,
17 mercy, and blessings from the owner of all peace,
18 mercy, and blessings be upon each and everyone of you
19 and your families.

20 Council Member Julie Menin, I am honored
21 to vote for you as our next Speaker of this body. You
22 have shown yourself to be a principled and effective
23 leader with a deep command of the City's budget,
24 small business, workers' rights, and oversight.

2 Last year, Julie chaired the Committee on
3 Consumer and Worker Protection, in which my bill to
4 hold unlicensed contractors accountable to ensure
5 home improvement projects are undertaken based on our
6 city's permitting standards was heard and passed by
7 this council. She understands how to move complex
8 policy forward while keeping equity, accountability,
9 and good governance at the center of the Council's
10 work.

11 I'm proud to support Julie Menin for
12 Speaker and confident that she will lead this council
13 with integrity, with discipline, and with a clear
14 vision for New York City's future. With that, I am
15 proud to vote aye for Council Member Julie Menin, and
16 I look forward to working with you in the upcoming
17 years.

18 CLERK: Council Member Justin Sanchez?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Permission
20 to explain my vote?

21 CITY CLERK: Permission granted.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTIN SANCHEZ: I proudly
23 vote aye for Julie Menin.

24 I am deeply proud to be here today in
25 this chamber with all of you, ready to begin the work

2 the people of New York City sent us here to do. Today
3 feels like the culmination of a long journey of
4 service, not just for me, but for so many who have
5 dedicated their lives to your communities, your
6 boroughs, and to our city. It is a big day for many
7 of us, especially our soon-to-be newly elected
8 Speaker, Julie Menin, whom I'm proud to serve under
9 and look forward to calling my Speaker.

10 Julie Menin has been a resolute voice
11 for progress, forged coalition amongst her colleagues
12 and bridged gaps, finding common ground across
13 differences in our vast ideological spectrum. Her
14 steadfast commitment to her values, her colleagues,
15 and community will usher in what is truly shaping up
16 to be a new era for our city—an era rooted in
17 competence and collaboration driven by results for
18 New Yorkers.

19 While today is certainly a high point, it
20 is also just the beginning. I'm eagerly looking
21 forward to the work ahead. I rode the four train down
22 to City Hall today, and I cannot help but think about
23 the neighbors that I represent in District 17 who
24 made something very clear when they elected me as
25 their representative in this council. They issued a

2 mandate. They elected a leader who will ensure that
3 they are treated with the same dignity afforded to
4 residents in every corner of our city. A leader who
5 will fight to make sure the South Bronx receives the
6 resources it deserves. One who knows and will ensure
7 that all of their colleagues know that the Bronx is
8 not just an afterthought, but a vital part of the
9 fabric that makes New York City the cultural capital
10 of the world. And above all, my neighbors want to see
11 their quality of life improve. That means safer
12 streets, cleaner blocks, and a government that shows
13 up and delivers. And yes, sometimes that starts with
14 a very simple idea like cleaning the damn streets—
15 I'd like to be excused for cursing in this chamber.
16 And while those four simple words are simple, the
17 work will not always be. In the next four years, we
18 have a lot of opportunities and a lot to get done. I
19 look forward to putting my agenda into action under
20 the guidance of our Speaker (TIMER), turning theory
21 into practice, and working alongside each of my
22 colleagues to accomplish the work ahead and build
23 stronger communities across our city. Thank you.

24 (APPLAUSE)

25 CLERK: Council Member Pierina Sanchez?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Sanchez,
3 two, but I was first.

4 (LAUGHTER)

5 COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ:
6 Debatable.

7 Anyway, 2026 marks a new chapter for our
8 city, and I'm energized by the opportunity to lead it
9 alongside a Speaker with the track record of
10 effective leadership, delivering for New York City's
11 children and families, (INAUDIBLE) women in
12 leadership, and a Mayor who has made clear that
13 tenants, working families and communities long pushed
14 to the margins will be at the center. That shared
15 commitment to equity and affordability is what
16 excites me most about the work ahead.

17 Representing one of the lowest-income
18 districts in the city, my North Star is clear:
19 protecting tenants living in the worst conditions,
20 holding bad landlords accountable, and expanding
21 pathways to economic security, like bringing street
22 vendors out of the shadows.

23 I'm excited to work with Julie to advance
24 a council agenda that meets this moment with
25 seriousness, urgency, and results. I'm thankful for

2 your past support, and I look forward to the many
3 great things this council will do together under your
4 leadership.

5 I look forward to partnering with you to
6 strengthen this institution to govern thoughtfully
7 across all differences and to ensure that equity is
8 not just a value that our body speaks of, but one
9 that we continue to deliver on for working families
10 in every borough.

11 Aye for Julie Menin.

12 CLERK: Council Member Santosuoso?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSO: Permission to
14 explain my vote?

15 CITY CLERK: Permission granted.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSO: From one
17 former Law Department attorney to another, from one
18 former small business owner to another, and from one
19 mom-to-be to a mom.

20 (APPLAUSE)

21 UNIDENTIFIED: Yay! Mazel Tov!

22 COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSO: I cast my
23 vote for Julie Menin for Speaker, and particularly
24 with a shared goal of delivering universal childcare
25 and affordability for working families and working

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parents across New York City, and especially in Southern Brooklyn, which I am so proud to be here today to represent.

5 And finally, I just want to congratulate
6 all of my fellow new colleagues for joining the
7 Council, and congratulate my returning colleagues on
8 the New York City Council. I am very happy to be
9 here. Thank you so much.

10 (APPLAUSE)

11 CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

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

14 CITY CLERK: Permission granted.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: As the first
16 Jewish lesbian elected to the New York City Council,
17 I proudly cast my vote for Julie Menin. Julie Menin
18 is the Speaker the New York City Council needs in
19 this moment when the federal government is decimating
20 our democracy. I have known Julie for more than a
21 decade, and in that time she has consistently
22 demonstrated her leadership through her executive
23 positions in government and as the Director of the
24 2020 New York City Census. I worked as a staff member
25 in the City Council after 9/11 and remember Julie's

2 efforts as Chair of Community Board One in Manhattan
3 to support an Islamic center and mosque near Ground
4 Zero with an interfaith component.

5 As a council member, Julie has been
6 laser-focused on universal childcare, along with
7 healthcare transparency and accountability, among
8 other important issues to New Yorkers. In addition,
9 the character of a person is often measured by what
10 they do, out of the spotlight, and Julie has offered
11 a helping hand to organizations and individuals
12 dealing with both mundane and substantive issues. I
13 will never forget her being there for me when I was
14 being treated for breast cancer during my run for
15 City Council in 2021. As a breast cancer survivor and
16 someone who cares deeply about our city, I cannot
17 think of a better person to lead our body.

18 (APPLAUSE)

19 CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: I proudly vote
21 aye for Julie Menin, and want to say congratulations
22 and thank you for your friendship for these last
23 couple of years, and look forward to doing the work
24 for all the young people in New York City. Thank you.

25 (APPLAUSE)

2 CLERK: Council Member Thomas-Henry?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Permission
4 to explain my vote?

5 CITY CLERK: Permission granted.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Good
7 afternoon. I am grateful for the opportunity to
8 address you today. I stand here as a voice for my
9 community and as a point of accountability in these
10 halls for the residents of District 21. What I have
11 learned and what continues to guide my service is
12 this: To govern well, we must know the people, not
13 study them from a distance, but listen to them, work
14 alongside them, and remain accountable to them. That
15 principle matters as this body focuses on delivering
16 lasting solutions for New Yorkers across every
17 borough. Leadership in this moment is not about
18 personality or praise. It is about collaboration,
19 experience, and the ability to translate shared
20 priorities into effective governance.21 In District 21, our challenges are deeply
22 interconnected. Public safety, affordability, and
23 protecting immigrant communities cannot be addressed
24 in silos. Small businesses are working to stay open.
25 Parents are navigating access to childcare while

2 worrying about safety. Families depend on healthcare
3 systems that must be transparent and responsive. Our
4 creative workers and cultural institutions fuel our
5 local economy and sustain our neighborhoods. These
6 realities demand leadership that understands how
7 policy works across systems and communities and how
8 to bring people together to solve problems.

9 Council Member Menin's governing
10 experience reflects that approach, from supporting
11 small businesses through streamlined permitting to
12 advancing universal childcare to strengthening the
13 creative economy and workforce. That experience
14 creates opportunities for real collaboration across
15 boroughs and across communities, which is essential
16 for districts like mine.

17 As a grandchild of small business owners
18 who migrated to Corona, New York, from the Jim Crow
19 South of Mississippi in hopes of building a new life
20 for their family, I am especially encouraged by the
21 opportunity to work together to strengthen
22 neighborhood economies in Queens and across this city
23 while ensuring working families, caregivers, and
24 immigrant communities are not left behind.

2 This moment represents a new era for New
3 York City, (TIMER) one where leadership experience
4 with the people is centered, collaboration is
5 prioritized, and accountability remains at the core
6 of our work.

7 The overwhelming majority reflected in
8 this vote signals this body's readiness to move
9 forward together. For these reasons, I vote aye for
10 Council Member Julie Menin to serve as Speaker of the
11 New York City Council.

12 (APPLAUSE)

13 CLERK: Council Member Ung?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: I proudly vote aye
15 for Council Member Julie Menin. Congratulations.

16 CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Permission to
18 explain my vote?

19 CITY CLERK: Permission granted.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Thank you. I'd
21 like to congratulate and wish a big mazel tov to our
22 new Speaker of the City Council, Julie Menin, and her
23 successful election. The members of this body who
24 supported Julie encompass a broad range of
25 representation from liberal Democrats to conservative

2 Republicans. This is a sentiment that is needed in
3 our city now more than ever, and the broad spectrum
4 of support for leadership is a testament to who Julie
5 Menin is, someone who's willing to work with and
6 listen to everyone, regardless of political
7 affiliation or differing opinions.

8 Further, at a time when anti-Semitism has
9 entered every corner of our society, it is especially
10 heartening to see Julie Menin, a daughter of
11 Holocaust survivors and an important voice against
12 anti-Semitism, to be sworn in as our first Jewish
13 Speaker today. Even though we may not agree on all
14 issues politically, Julie has extensive government
15 experience, a record of success, and has not only
16 delivered for New Yorkers but has exhibited qualities
17 that I have no doubt will result in her being an
18 extremely competent Speaker.

19 I also want to thank Council Member
20 Joanne Ariola for her leadership of the Republican
21 Conference thus far, and want to wish a big
22 congratulations to my good friend and fellow
23 Republican Council Member David Carr, who was elected
24 as our Minority Leader today.

25 (APPLAUSE)

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: In the last four
3 years, working together with David Carr, he has
4 proven himself to be a man of high integrity and will
5 be a steady, principled, and unifying leader. Today,
6 I'm excited and look forward to standing by the
7 Minority Leader and our Republican Delegation as we
8 fight against and hold to account a mayor whose first
9 couple of days have confirmed some of our worst
10 fears. This body must be a (INAUDIBLE) on the Mayor's
11 radical Marxist agenda, and Minority Leader Carr,
12 along with our delegation, will be leading the
13 opposition (TIMER) and fighting for the issues New
14 Yorkers care about most.

15 I proudly vote aye for Julie Mannon for
16 speaker today. Thank you and congratulations to all.

17 CLERK: Council Member Williams?

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

20 CITY CLERK: Permission granted.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Over the years,
22 I've known Julie to be steady, prepared, and
23 consistent, someone who shows up the same way in
24 public, privately, and at work. I value our working
25 relationship, but most importantly, our friendship,

2 and I'm confident we will move the Council forward
3 together in a way that's both thoughtful and result-
4 driven.

5 And with that, 'cause I want to be like
6 the Rabbi and be invited all the time, so I'll be
7 brief. I vote aye to support Council Member Julie
8 Menin for Speaker.

9 (APPLAUSE)

10 CLERK: Council Member Won?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: I vote aye.

12 Congratulations, Julie Menin, Speaker Menin.

13 CLERK: Thank you, Council Member.

14 Council Member Wong?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: Yes, I proudly vote
16 for Julie Menin.

17 CLERK: Thank you.

18 Council Member Zhuang?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Permission to
20 explain my vote?

21 CITY CLERK: Permission granted.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Thank you. I
23 represent the largest AAPI majority district in
24 Brooklyn, the first Asian majority district in
25 Brooklyn. Council Member Julie Menin has visited my

2 district so many times. We see Julie Menin on almost
3 every single corner. She danced on the stage with me
4 during the first-ever Jewish and AAPI Heritage Month
5 celebration. In my district, she walked along with me
6 in the first Lunar New Year Parade in Brooklyn
7 together.

8 During my first term, I watched Julie
9 champion public safety and quality education. Also,
10 when I was using my daughter's leftover folder from
11 the New York Kids RISE program, she said she created
12 that program. She's everywhere!

13 (LAUGHTER)

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: And also, I see
15 she fights for seniors, and also, the most important
16 we need to unite everyone to fight for our city.

17 Next year-- as an Asian, Chinese, I'm
18 especially proud of my Heritage. I always talk about
19 the Lunar New Year. Next year is the year of the Fire
20 Horse in the Lunar New Year. It symbolizes energy,
21 freedom, strength, and progress, and represents a
22 time for bold action and positive change. These
23 (INAUDIBLE) strengths and the positive change also
24 describe my good friend, the next Speaker, Julie
25 Menin.

2 (APPLAUSE)

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: I'm very proud to
4 vote yes for our next Speaker, Julie Menin!

5 (APPLAUSE)

6 CITY CLERK: By a vote of 51 in the
7 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and 0 abstentions,
8 the Council has duly elected Council Member Julie
9 Menin as the Speaker...

10 (APPLAUSE)

11 CITY CLERK: of the City Council for the
12 term commencing January 1, 2026, and terminating
13 December 31, 2029.

14 (APPLAUSE CONTINUES)

15 CITY CLERK: Madam Speaker, you have the
16 floor!

17 (APPLAUSE CONTINUES)

18 SPEAKER MENIN: Thank you, everyone. Thank
19 you so much. What an incredible moment. First of all,
20 most importantly, want to thank my colleagues, my
21 amazing, wonderful colleagues. Thank you for the
22 trust, for the faith, for the confidence that you
23 have placed in me to be your Speaker.

24 (APPLAUSE CONTINUES)

25 SPEAKER MENIN: Thank you, and I...

2 (APPLAUSE CONTINUES)

3 SPEAKER MENIN: Thank you, and I pledge to
4 be a speaker for each and every single member and
5 your respective communities.6 Now, we have a lot of honored guests here
7 today, so please bear with me because we have a lot
8 of people that we want to thank.9 So first of all, I want to thank the
10 former Speakers of the City Council...

11 (APPLAUSE)

12 SPEAKER MENIN: Adrienne Adams!

13 (APPLAUSE)

14 SPEAKER MENIN: Melissa Mark-Viverito!

15 (APPLAUSE)

16 SPEAKER MENIN: Gifford Miller!

17 (APPLAUSE)

18 SPEAKER MENIN: Corey Johnson!

19 (APPLAUSE)

20 SPEAKER MENIN: Thank you so much for your
21 leadership. Thank you for joining us today. And we've
22 also, of course, been joined by our great New York
23 State Attorney General, Tish James!

24 (APPLAUSE)

25

2 SPEAKER MENIN: New York City Public
3 Advocate Jumaane Williams, thank you for being here.

4 Our new Comptroller, Mark Levine!

5 (APPLAUSE)

6 SPEAKER MENIN: From the Administration, I
7 am so happy he could join us today, someone I have
8 worked with for literally over 20 years, and that is
9 First Deputy Mayor Dean Fuleihan.

10 (APPLAUSE)

11 SPEAKER MENIN: Dean, thank you so much.

12 And I believe we were joined by the
13 Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Jahmila
14 Edwards.

15 (APPLAUSE)

16 SPEAKER MENIN: And from Governor Hochul's
17 Office, Debbie Louis, Assistant Secretary of
18 Intergovernmental Affairs, thank you so much for
19 being with us.

20 (APPLAUSE)

21 SPEAKER MENIN: We have been joined by
22 Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson! Is she still
23 here? I think she was here before.

24 (APPLAUSE)

25

2 SPEAKER MENIN: Okay, Borough President
3 Antonio Reynoso! He was here; he just left.

4 (APPLAUSE)

5 SPEAKER MENIN: Manhattan Borough
6 President, Brad Hoylman-Sigal!

7 (APPLAUSE)

8 SPEAKER MENIN: He is here!

9 Former Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz
10 Jr.!

11 (APPLAUSE)

12 SPEAKER MENIN: New York State Senator Sam
13 Sutton!

14 (APPLAUSE)

15 SPEAKER MENIN: And we have been joined by
16 Brooklyn County Democratic Chairwoman, New York State
17 Assemblymember, Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn!

18 (APPLAUSE)

19 SPEAKER MENIN: So many other people, I am
20 going to recognize, I really want to first recognize
21 all our incredible friends in Labor, many of whom are
22 here today.

23 First of all, the great friend and
24 partner, President of HTC, Rich Maroko!

25 (APPLAUSE)

2 SPEAKER MENIN: Another great friend and
3 partner, President of 32BJ, Manny Pastreich!

4 (APPLAUSE)

5 SPEAKER MENIN: I believe we are joined by
6 Henry Garrido, Executive Director of DC 37!

7 (APPLAUSE)

8 SPEAKER MENIN: And the President the UFT,
9 Michael Mulgrew, was here; he had to leave, but we so
10 appreciate that he joined us today.

11 (APPLAUSE)

12 SPEAKER MENIN: And we have the President
13 of the AFT, Randi Weingarten!

14 (APPLAUSE)

15 SPEAKER MENIN: Randi!

16 We've got the President of RWDSU, my
17 constituent, Stuart Applebaum!

18 (APPLAUSE)

19 SPEAKER MENIN: And from the Central Labor
20 Council, the President, Brandon Griffith. And we have
21 also been joined by the District Council of
22 Carpenters!

23 (APPLAUSE)

24 SPEAKER MENIN: So let me take a moment to
25 thank a few individuals who could not be here today,

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2 but I want to extend them very special things with
3 both Washington and Albany in session. I want to give
4 a special shout-out to Queens County Democratic
5 Chairman, Congress Member Greg Meeks, who's in D.C.
6 right now.

7 (APPLAUSE)

8 SPEAKER MENIN: and who is represented by
9 Frank Bowles, counselor to the Queens Democratic
10 Party.

11 (APPLAUSE)

12 SPEAKER MENIN: And Bronx County
13 Democratic Chairman, State Senator Jamaal Bailey, who
14 is up in Albany!

15 (APPLAUSE)

16 SPEAKER MENIN: But he is being
17 represented here by Ariana Collado, Executive
18 Director of the Bronx Democratic Party.

19 (APPLAUSE)

20 SPEAKER MENIN: And I am so proud we could
21 be joined by a few former city council members—
22 Keith Powers

23 (APPLAUSE)

24 || SPEAKER MENIN: Danny Dromm!

25 (APPLAUSE)

2 SPEAKER MENIN: Mark Treyger!

3 (APPLAUSE)

4 SPEAKER MENIN: Mark Weprin!

5 (APPLAUSE)

6 SPEAKER MENIN: And former Bronx Borough
7 President, Rubén Díaz Jr.

8 (APPLAUSE)

9 SPEAKER MENIN: We have also been joined
10 by former Congress member, Carolyn Maloney.

11 (APPLAUSE)

12 SPEAKER MENIN: Okay, so I want to also
13 thank my colleagues who ran for Speaker—who ran such
14 incredible campaigns based on integrity, based on
15 substance, based on principle—Crystal Hudson, thank
16 you so much for everything that you did.

17 (APPLAUSE)

18 SPEAKER MENIN: Selvena Brooks-Powers!

19 (APPLAUSE)

20 SPEAKER MENIN: Amanda Farías!

21 (APPLAUSE)

22 SPEAKER MENIN: Chris Marte and Carmen De
23 La Rosa!

24 (APPLAUSE)

25

2 SPEAKER MENIN: So thank you. I really
3 look forward to working with all of you.

4 Now, the most important thank you is to
5 my amazing family. Thank you to my incredible
6 husband, Bruce, for all of your love and support. My
7 daughter Maddie.

8 (APPLAUSE)

9 SPEAKER MENIN: Yay, Maddie! And my sons,
10 Mason, Lucas, and Max, thank you so much for
11 everything.

12 (APPLAUSE)

13 SPEAKER MENIN: So I know that I am here
14 today in part because of the path that every single
15 member in this city council has blazed, and I really
16 want to give a special thanks and shout out to our
17 incredible historic majority-women city council.

18 (APPLAUSE)

19 SPEAKER MENIN: There is truly no greater
20 honor in my life than to stand before you as your
21 Speaker. And when I think about what that honor
22 means, I think about what brought me to this moment
23 and what, frankly, brought all of us here today. And
24 that is the story of America, which is a story of New
25 York, and that is the story of immigrants. Right now,

2 we gather here at City Hall, but just a few blocks
3 from here is where that story starts by the shoreline
4 of Battery Park. It's a place where land meets the
5 water and history meets the present, the place where
6 newcomers become New Yorkers and where immigrants
7 came to seek a better life. But they came here with
8 hope. Hope that this city and this country could give
9 them a chance to achieve the American Dream.

10 In the early 1950s, two of those
11 immigrants were my mother and grandmother. Yet, their
12 journey to the Land of the Free was far from a timid
13 one. They both survived the Holocaust in Hungary by
14 hiding in a cellar. And my grandfather and other
15 relatives were murdered just because they were
16 Jewish. After the war ended, my mother and
17 grandmother stayed in Hungary, but even this new
18 chapter did not lead them into a world of freedom.
19 When the Soviets took over Hungary, they planted
20 mines and bombs all along the border, and there was
21 literally no way out. But my grandmother was
22 fearless, and thanks to the compassion of a stranger,
23 in the middle of the night, she took my mother and
24 escaped into Czechoslovakia. Europe was still no

2 friendly place for Jews, and the only country that
3 would take them in was Australia.

4 But after living in Sydney for six years,
5 they finally fulfilled their dream to come to New
6 York. When they arrived, they settled into a rent-
7 controlled apartment in Little Hungary with little
8 more than that newly American hope and the stubborn
9 refusal to give it up. The East Side of Manhattan was
10 a community that welcomed my family with open arms, a
11 community that gave them a better life after the
12 horrors that they had been through. And with the
13 beauty of life brings things full circle, I now have
14 the great honor and distinction of representing that
15 neighborhood.

16 UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah!

17 (APPLAUSE)

18 SPEAKER MENIN: This is a story of so many
19 New Yorkers. It's Dominican families in Washington
20 Heights and Mexican families in Sunset Park opening
21 doors to their homes and small businesses to new
22 arrivals. It's Haitian households in Flatbush and
23 Canarsie embracing those fleeing instability, and
24 Caribbean communities in Crown Heights and in East
25 New York extending the same support that they once

2 received. It's Polish families in Greenpoint and
3 Ridgewood helping the next generation find their
4 footing, and Chinese families in Flushing, supporting
5 them through family networks and local shops. It's
6 South Asian families in Jackson Heights and Richmond
7 Hill welcoming newcomers with opportunity. And West
8 African families in the Bronx and Staten Island,
9 building communities that are rooted in faith and
10 work and in mutual care.

11 Now I want to personally say that I never
12 in a million years thought I would be a politician
13 and run for office. In fact, after practicing law for
14 seven years, I opened up a small business, a
15 restaurant not that far from here, in Lower
16 Manhattan. But when 9/11 happened, it changed
17 everything. Both my restaurant and my apartment at
18 the time were located just a few blocks away from
19 Ground Zero. And my husband, Bruce, was supposed to
20 be at the World Trade Center that fateful morning for
21 a 9:00 a.m. meeting. Unbeknownst to me, he moved the
22 location of his meeting. My mother, who lived with
23 us, had gone out that morning for a doctor's
24 appointment. We frantically tried to find her all
25 day. Thankfully, our family was okay. But my small

2 business was decimated, with every single window
3 blown out and the shards of glass everywhere. And
4 when the towers collapsed, the white, grayish ash hit
5 every inch and crevice of my business.

6 When insurance carriers took out full-
7 page ads in the local papers, they promised New
8 Yorkers that they were in our corner. And when
9 insurance carriers gave us small business owners five
10 days of business interruption insurance, and I know
11 our Attorney General is nodding her head, five days
12 of business interruption payments despite us being in
13 the frozen zone for months on end, they broke that
14 promise. But that broken promise forged a new one
15 within me, a promise to take on large corporations
16 that engaged in predatory conduct.

17 While the windows of my restaurant were
18 shattered, our spirit of resilience was anything but.
19 After founding a not-for-profit organization in Lower
20 Manhattan that was focused on rebuilding downtown and
21 growing into over 30,000 members, I chaired, as
22 Council Member Marte said, Community Board One for
23 over seven years. From programs we launched like Art
24 Downtown and Music Downtown, to building new schools
25 and building the World Trade Center Performing Arts

2 Center, to helping over 600 small businesses stay in
3 Lower Manhattan, we planted the seeds for Lower
4 Manhattan's revival at a time when people, quite
5 frankly, doubted us.

6 But our city also faced another
7 distressing issue in the wake of 9/11, the deplorable
8 surge of Islamophobia. When the construction of an
9 Islamic cultural center was proposed near Ground
10 Zero, a center to foster dialogue and unity, people
11 fiercely opposed it. And that shameful opposition
12 sent a signal to Muslim New Yorkers that they did not
13 belong in a city that was meant to welcome everyone.
14 When their freedom of religion was protested in
15 public, we could not stand by in silence. Along with
16 Daisy Khan, who proposed a project, and who I'm so
17 honored is here with us today—Daisy, thank you.

18 (APPLAUSE)

19 SPEAKER MENIN: We stood up to champion
20 the rights of every New Yorker. Despite the death
21 threats I received, not for a week, not for a month,
22 but for well over a year, we did not waver in support
23 of this project. So, as Chair of the Community Board,
24 I was proud to write the resolution and guide it

2 through our community boards to vote overwhelmingly
3 in favor of the Islamic Cultural Center and Mosque.

4 Sadly, that surge we saw over 20 years
5 ago is not unlike the atmosphere that we are
6 unfortunately currently experiencing. Hatred and
7 violence are running rampant across our country and
8 around the world, from the horrific shooting at Brown
9 University to the anti-Semitic terror attack at Bondi
10 Beach in Sydney. It's happening all over, and we must
11 ensure that New York continues to serve as a beacon
12 of hope, of tolerance, and inclusion.

13 We live in a day when the first Muslim
14 Mayor of New York City and now the first Jewish
15 Speaker of the Council are serving at the same time.

16 (APPLAUSE)

17 SPEAKER MENIN: This moment is truly
18 historic, but what will write this interfaith
19 leadership into the history books is if it can act as
20 an opportunity for all of us to come together, to
21 calm tensions, to bridge divides, and to recognize we
22 are one city, no matter the religion we practice or
23 the language we speak.

24 Building that Islamic Cultural Center
25 meant upholding the dignity that every New Yorker

2 deserves. And for the past four years in the City
3 Council, it's been an honor striving to do that with
4 all of you in so many different ways.

5 For the past four years, we've worked to
6 build more affordable housing in every single
7 borough. We work to combat anti-Semitism through
8 education, launching a program to bring every 8th-
9 grade public school student to the Museum of Jewish
10 Heritage.

11 We've worked to address issues around
12 health disparities and maternal mortality, and yes,
13 we have taken the first steps to enact universal
14 childcare. And by working with the mayor and the
15 governor, we can truly make it a reality.

16 But now we all have an exceptional
17 opportunity, and I would argue an attendant
18 obligation to take the Council into a new era, a
19 proactive era, an era of initiative and ingenuity.
20 Rather than simply wait for ULURPs to come to us, we,
21 as a council, will release our own affordable housing
22 plan by looking at the 215 Public Library branches to
23 see where we can build affordable housing. And we're
24 going to study the over 1,000 DCAS underutilized and

2 city-owned assets that we can convert into affordable
3 housing for New Yorkers who need them.

4 As a council, we must make it easier for
5 our small businesses to operate by slashing fines and
6 cutting bureaucratic red tape.

7 And we must, *we must*, tackle skyrocketing
8 healthcare costs because medical debt is the leading
9 cause of debt for New Yorkers. Why should a woman
10 who's giving birth by C-section be charged \$55,000 at
11 one New York City hospital, and then another woman
12 who's giving birth by C-section be charged \$17,000 at
13 another hospital just blocks away? It shouldn't, and
14 we will use the new Healthcare Accountability Office
15 that we created to lower exorbitant healthcare costs
16 once and for all.

17 (APPLAUSE)

18 SPEAKER MENIN: Yes.

19 As a council, we must confront the
20 culture of fraud, waste, abuse, and corruption that
21 has plagued City Hall and enact procurement reform to
22 end no-bid contracts that have cost our city billions
23 of dollars. And we need procurement reform because
24 why should it cost the Parks Department \$4 million to
25 build a bathroom or take 10 years to renovate a park?

2 (APPLAUSE)

3 SPEAKER MENIN: And we have to ensure that
4 City services are functioning at the very highest
5 levels and restore the enormous staff vacancies with
6 agencies being gutted in the last administration.7 We must counter income inequality with
8 historic investments in baby bonds and universal
9 college savings accounts because ongoing education,
10 whether it be vocational school or community college,
11 can lead to double the wages earned in one's
12 lifetime.13 And in certain parts of the city, we know
14 our immigrant communities are facing an increasingly
15 hostile environment. As a council, we must work to
16 ensure that every single family feels safe enough to
17 put down roots in their neighborhoods.

18 (APPLAUSE)

19 SPEAKER MENIN: Roots that strengthen the
20 structure, shape the culture, and provide the
21 vibrancy of our five great boroughs.22 But as your Speaker, I want to anchor
23 our vision of leadership in the story of our city. A
24 vision that's hopeful of the immigrants who come here
25 and as persistent as the spirit that drove them here.

2 The waves of immigrants that arrived on our shores
3 created waves of change that forever altered the
4 fabric of history. They brought new perspectives and
5 ideas. They brought new solutions to old problems and
6 new people to solve them. And they still do.

7 As the first Jewish Speaker, I want my
8 vision of leadership to be as focused on dissolving
9 division as it is on uniting all coalitions. But most
10 of all, I want to be a Speaker for every single
11 member of this City Council, because I know that the
12 fight to create a safer, stronger, and more
13 affordable New York is not won alone. And we need to
14 work together to make the greatest city in the world,
15 even greater.

16 As the body of 51 individuals, the
17 legislation that is most life-changing and forward-
18 thinking comes from the collection of policies to
19 which all of us contribute. Our city has flourished
20 because our foundation wasn't built on simplistic
21 paradigms and because of our ability to hold two
22 truths that may seem mutually exclusive but in fact
23 are mutually reinforcing. For example, our city needs
24 meaningful criminal justice reform, and at the same
25 time, we must have the requisite resources for robust

2 public safety measures. Our city needs to attract new
3 businesses, and at the same time, we must have the
4 strongest worker protections in the country. And our
5 city needs to protect the First Amendment right to
6 protest peacefully, which is sacrosanct, but at the
7 same time, we must never jeopardize a New Yorker's
8 right to worship. Because we cannot let what happened
9 outside Parkview Synagogue ever happen again at any
10 House of worship.

11 (APPLAUSE)

12 SPEAKER MENIN: To me, this especially
13 hits home. Our faith is about our family.

14 Now, I know I said earlier that being
15 elected Speaker is the greatest professional honor of
16 my life, but I'll happily admit that being a mom is
17 the greatest joy and pleasure in my life.

18 (APPLAUSE)

19 SPEAKER MENIN: As a mother of four, my
20 children give me so much love, so much support, so
21 much pride. But they also give me a lot of ideas. And
22 as I was speaking to them about what I should say
23 today, they offered a few ideas. So one of the ideas
24 my 7-year-old daughter proposed was that we should
25 pass a law that social media should only be used to

2 show nice things, like baking cakes or cute stuffed
3 animals.

4 (APPLAUSE)

5 SPEAKER MENIN: It's hard to disagree with
6 her on that one. But then she said something else.
7 She said that we should pass a law that when you
8 cross the street, you must all smile at each other.

9 (APPLAUSE)

10 SPEAKER MENIN: And that made me smile.
11 But in the next instant, it sent me back more than 20
12 years. I thought of the days right after 9/11 and how
13 we all had a little more love, a little more
14 compassion, and a little more patience for one
15 another. Or how during COVID, we all checked in on
16 one another, we looked out for one another. In the
17 worst of times, we still had the capacity to give our
18 best. And we still do. It should not take childhood
19 exuberance or a tragedy or even the memory of one to
20 forge compassion within us. It shouldn't take
21 retelling the story of New York to remind ourselves
22 that immigrants in every decade have built and
23 rebuilt this city. But when we do, and when we
24 remember who planted the seeds that bore the fruits
25 of our success, when we recall that the cohesion of

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 99

2 our community is rooted in the tolerance of our
3 differences, not the echo chamber of our
4 similarities, we can celebrate New York as a city
5 that leaves no one behind, a city that was founded as
6 much on courage as on kindness, a city that raised me
7 and my family and millions of others. And we will be
8 a council that works for all of them. Thank you.

9 (APPLAUSE)

10 SPEAKER MENIN: Okay, thank you.

11 Now to the order of the Council. We're
12 going to get to business. Right to work.

13 CITY CLERK: Messages and Papers from the
14 Mayor?

15 CLERK: M 3 through M 22, Mayoral vetoes?

16 SPEAKER MENIN: Referred to committee as
17 indicated on the Agenda.

18 CITY CLERK: Communication From City,
19 County, and Borough Offices?

20 CLERK: M 23, Comptrollers Report?

21 SPEAKER MENIN: Received, Ordered,
22 Printed, and Filed.

23 CITY CLERK: Petitions and Communications?

24

25

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 100

2 CLERK: M 24, Nomination and Election of
3 the temporary Committee on Rules, Privileges and
4 Elections?

5 SPEAKER MENIN: Pursuant to Rule 7.10, I
6 move to elect the following council members as the
7 temporary members of the Committee on Rules,
8 Privileges, and Elections: The purpose of this
9 committee will be to meet on Thursday, January 15th,
10 2026, to recommend the membership and chairs of all
11 other committees of the Council.

12 I nominate Council Member Sandra Ung to
13 serve as the temporary Chair of this committee. And I
14 also nominate the following council members to serve
15 as temporary members of the Committee: David Carr,
16 myself, Kevin Riley, Shaun Abreu, Shekar Krishnan,
17 and Chris Banks.

18 I would now ask the Clerk for a roll call
19 vote on the motion to elect these nominees.

20 CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye

22 CLERK: Council Member Aldebol?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: Ave

24 || CLERK: Council Member Ariola

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye.

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 101

2 CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: (NO RESPONSE)

4 CLERK: Okay, we'll come back.

5 Council Member Banks?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye

7 CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: Aye

9 CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yes

11 CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

12 MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: Aye

13 CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye

15 CLERK: Council Member Carr?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye

17 CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye

19 CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye

21 CLERK: Council Member Encarnacion?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ENCARNACION: Aye

23 CLERK: Council Member Epstein?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Yes

25 CLERK: Council Member Farias?

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 102

2 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye.

3 CLERK: Council Member Felder?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes

5 CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye

7 CLERK: Thank you

8 Council Member Gennaro?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye

10 CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye

12 CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye

14 CLERK: Council Member Hankerson?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Aye

16 CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye

18 CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye

20 CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye

22 CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye

24 CLERK: Council Member Lee?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye

2 CLERK: Council Member Louis?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye

4 CLERK: Council Member Maloney?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Aye

6 CLERK: Council Member Marte?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye

8 CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye

10 CLERK: Council Member Morano?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Aye

12 CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I vote aye.

14 CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

16 CLERK: Thank you.

17 Council Member Ossé?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

19 CLERK: Thank you.

20 Council Member Paladino?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye

22 CLERK: Council Member Restler?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye

24 CLERK: Council Member Riley?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 104

2 CLERK: Council Member Salaam?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: I vote aye.

4 CLERK: Council Member Justin Sanchez?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Aye

6 CLERK: Council Member Pierina Sanchez?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Aye

8 CLERK: Council Member Santosuoso?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSO: Aye

10 CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye

12 CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye

14 CLERK: Council Member Thomas-Henry?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Aye

16 CLERK: Council Member Ung?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye

18 CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye

20 CLERK: Council Member Williams?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

22 CLERK: Council Member Won?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: (NO RESPONSE)

24 CLERK: Council Member Wong?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: I vote yes.

2 CLERK: Council Member Zhuang?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Aye.

4 CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

6 CLERK: Thank you.

7 Council Member Won?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: (NO RESPONSE)

9 CLERK: Speaker Menin?

10 SPEAKER MENIN: Aye.

11 (PAUSE)

12 CITY CLERK: M 24 is approved with a vote
13 of 50 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and 0
14 abstentions.

15 CLERK: Thank you, Mr. City Clerk.

16 M 25, Designation of Minority Leader?

17 SPEAKER MENIN: Received. After a duly
18 convened meeting of the Republican Conference,
19 Council Member David Carr was elected Minority Leader
20 of the City Council.

21 (APPLAUSE)

22 SPEAKER MENIN: First of all...

23 (APPLAUSE)

24 SPEAKER MENIN: I really want to
25 congratulate you, Mr. Minority Leader. Your election

2 is historic. I can't wait to partner with you. We're
3 all very excited for you, and we now turn it over to
4 you to say a few words.

6 MINORITY LEADER CARR: Thank you so much,
7
8 Madam Speaker. Let me begin by congratulating all
9 members on their elections from this past November
10 and all of those who were chosen for leadership
11 positions today, especially you, Madam Speaker.
12 Congratulations. I know the way that you sought this
13 post is the way that you intend to govern, with
14 relentless energy, a passion for every detail of city
15 government, and a strong commitment to engaging and
16 working in partnership with all fifty of your
17 colleagues in this body. I look forward to your
18 tenure and working together to advance our city's
19 future, and I also look forward to starting Stated
Meetings on time.

20 (LAUGHTER)

21 MINORITY LEADER CARR: I must begin, of
22 course, by thanking my husband, Don. He's not here
23 today, A because he's working, and B because he knew
24 that I was going to mention him. But he is my love
25 and my heart, and for years I walked alone, and now I

2 never do, and it's because of him, and I thank him so
3 much from the bottom of my heart for being a part of
4 my life and making it whole.

5 I must thank my Republican colleagues.
6 They are phenomenal representatives for this city.
7 Their tenacity on behalf of their constituents and
8 our shared, deeply held principles always shine
9 through. From Council Member Ariola's unwavering
10 pursuit of justice for city workers who were
11 wrongfully terminated during the pandemic, to Council
12 Member Paladino's unabashed championing of homeowners
13 in the face of rising costs due to property taxes and
14 mandates like Local Law 97, to Council Member
15 Morano's forging of bipartisan coalitions on critical
16 health issues like support for in vitro
17 fertilization. To Minority Whip Vernikov, who has
18 been a warrior across a range of issues, including
19 the fights against anti-Semitism and radical policies
20 deeply at odds with the values of common-sense New
21 Yorkers. To my colleagues, Council Members Ariola and
22 Paladino, you are strong, you are fierce, and I have
23 the example of your leadership before me and your
24 dedication to our conservative values. I thank you
25 for your leadership.

2 (APPLAUSE)

3 MINORITY LEADER CARR: I want to also
4 thank Minority Whip Vernikov and Council Member
5 Morano for their faith in me, their constant
6 companionship and advice, and most importantly, for
7 their treasured friendship. I could not be here
8 without you.

9 Now more than ever, I believe the
10 minority delegation has a crucial role to play in
11 this council and in the broader body politics of the
12 City of New York. The 19th-century British statesman
13 Benjamin Disraeli once observed that a good
14 opposition "proposes nothing and opposes everything".
15 That has not been the position of this delegation.
16 While we will never shrink from fighting for what we
17 believe in, we will continue to build our
18 relationships across the aisle in this body and with
19 our new Speaker to advance common-sense legislation
20 that will improve the lives of all New Yorkers.

21 I also know that in our hearts, we five
22 share a fierce dedication to the principles upon
23 which our great nation was founded. This July 4th, we
24 will celebrate 250 years since the birth of our
25 country. And yet, here in New York City, the legacy

2 of our founding generation, which is grounded in
3 individual liberty, property rights, and the free
4 enterprise system, is being threatened by the
5 smothering heat of collectivism. Our new mayor
6 outlined the stakes himself when he said New Yorkers
7 were asking the question of whether the left can
8 govern. We already know the answer. History has
9 proven socialism to be a formula for tyranny, misery,
10 and economic failure. It will not only serve to
11 divide our city, but it will obstruct any progress we
12 can make for our five boroughs because it runs
13 counter to that most basic principle that has made
14 our city, and indeed our country, great, the dignity
15 and the freedom of individuals to pursue their own
16 happiness.

17 The greatness of our city stems from the
18 vitality, the intellect, and the aspirations of the
19 individual and the voluntary collaboration of
20 communities, not from the coercive power of an all-
21 encompassing government. That is the history of the
22 success of our country and our city, and the
23 foundation of our future success.

24 So, in what do we believe? We believe
25 that prosperity and liberty are built on public

2 safety, and so we will always have the backs of our
3 men and women in law enforcement and our first
4 responders. We believe our nation's largest city must
5 never forget the lessons of the 1970s financial
6 crisis, so we must balance the budget through fiscal
7 responsibility, not with crushing taxes that will
8 destroy our financial base. We believe that we must
9 educate our children to be part of the workforce of
10 tomorrow, and at a level that will lead to their
11 success, whether it be specialized high schools and
12 gifted and talented seats, or STEAM programming, or
13 the development of skilled trades. We believe that we
14 must ease the financial burden for our middle and
15 working class families wherever we can, and that
16 starts by providing them with real property tax
17 relief so that they can stay in their homes. And no,
18 we do not believe that home ownership is a weapon for
19 white supremacy...

20 (APPLAUSE)

21 MINORITY LEADER CARR: but rather a vital
22 pathway to financial stability and empowerment for
23 all New York families.

24 We believe that we must deliver the
25 essential services of government, infrastructure,

2 sanitation, public safety, support for our seniors,
3 and investments in our parks and open spaces. These
4 are the cornerstones of quality of life, and we stand
5 ready to work with each of you and all of our
6 partners to achieve these worthy goals and to make
7 great things happen for our magnificent city. Thank
8 you.

9 (APPLAUSE)

10 CITY CLERK: Thank you, Minority Leader
11 Carr.

12 I will now call on Speaker Julie Menin to
13 close today's Charter Meeting.

14 SPEAKER MENIN: Thank you. The Charter
15 Meeting of January 7, 2026, is hereby adjourned.

16 (APPLAUSE)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World 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 no interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date January 14, 2026