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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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April 25, 2018

Start: 1:36 p.m.

End: 3:01 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Speaker Corey Johnson  
Public Advocate Letitia James

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Corey D. Johnson  
Adrienne E. Adams  
Alicka Ampry-Samuel  
Diana Ayala  
Inez D. Barron  
Joseph C. Borelli  
Justin L. Brannan  
Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret S. Chin  
Andrew Cohen  
Costa G. Constantinides  
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.  
Laurie A. Cumbo  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Ruben Diaz, Sr.  
Daniel Dromm  
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.  
Mathieu Eugene  
Vanessa L. Gibson

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

- Mark Gjonaj
- Barry S. Grodenchik
- Robert F. Holden
- Ben Kallos
- Andy L. King
- Peter A. Koo
- Karen Koslowitz
- Rory I. Lancman
- Brad S. Lander
- Stephen T. Levin
- Mark Levine
- Alan N. Maisel
- Steven Matteo
- Carlos Menchaca
- I. Daneek Miller
- Francisco P. Moya
- Bill Perkins
- Keith Powers
- Antonio Reynoso
- Donovan J. Richards
- Carlina Rivera
- Ydanis A. Rodriguez
- Deborah L. Rose
- Helen K. Rosenthal
- Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
- Ritchie J. Torres
- Mark Treyger
- Eric A. Ulrich
- Paul A. Vallone
- James G. Van Bramer
- Jumaane D. Williams
- Kalman Yeger

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4           SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ladies and gentlemen  
5 could I have your attention please. Could I please  
6 have your attention.

7           COUNCIL MEMBER COMBO: Everybody, members  
8 could you please come forward. Council Member  
9 Cornegy, yes. Council Member Richards. Council  
10 Member Chin. We are doing things a little bit  
11 differently today.

12           SPEAKER JOHNSON: Nice.

13           COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you we're  
14 going to begin the first ceremonial.

15           SPEAKER JOHNSON: What about Council  
16 Member Barron?

17           COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: This is Council  
18 Member Barron. This is Council Members guest, so we  
19 are going to invite you to come forward as well.  
20 Public Advocate Letitia James.

21           COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Good Afternoon  
22 everyone. I am Laurie Cumbo the Majority Leader of  
23 the New York City Council and we are pleased today to  
24 have Council Member Inez Barron recognized. Harriet  
25 A. Washington. Whoooo. [APPLAUSE]. The Council of  
the City of New York is proud to honor science

1 writer, editor, teacher, and ethicist Harriet A.  
2 Washington for her outstanding activism that has  
3 raised public awareness and advanced public discourse  
4 in New York and across the nation. It is a huge  
5 honor for us to have you here today to celebrate your  
6 accomplishments, your challenges, and your triumphs  
7 here in City Hall on this very auspicious occasion.  
8 At this time, I would like to turn it over to Council  
9 Member Inez Barron who has made this historical  
10 moment possible. Ladies and gentlemen Council Member  
11 Inez Barron. [APPLAUSE].

13 INEZ BARRON: Thank you Council Member  
14 Laurie Cumbo. We want to talk about the fact that we  
15 had a significant victory recently and what happened  
16 was that the statue of Dr. J. Marion Sims that was on  
17 Fifth Avenue and a hundred and something street,  
18 103<sup>rd</sup> street is no longer there. [APPLAUSING]. It  
19 has been removed, so there has been a coalition of  
20 people, men and women who have come together over a  
21 period of time to talk about how we would make sure  
22 that this would happen, and this is not something  
23 that was a reaction to any other recent events in  
24 other parts of the country. In 2006 or 2007, Harriet  
25 Washington, the guest here wrote a book. She did

1  
2 medical research, research medical journals in the  
3 bowels of so many libraries across this country and  
4 found first hand material that talked about the  
5 atrocities, the horrors that were perpetrated on  
6 African American men, women, and children during the  
7 time that this country was coming out of its colonial  
8 period, during the time that there was enslavement  
9 and that these are people who form the basis of  
10 experiments that were later translated and refined  
11 into more specific techniques used on other people  
12 with anesthesia and with their consent. So, she laid  
13 out in her book the foundation for the protest that  
14 took place and in 2008, Ms. Viola Plummer army of  
15 one, or two, or three with her went and started  
16 protesting. So, this is not something that just  
17 started. It started back in 2008 protesting the  
18 community said it was an insult. It was an insult to  
19 have an honor and a tribute to this person in the  
20 community. So, all of those people who are on that  
21 commission, on our committee, raise your hand. We  
22 have people here who have worked and met, or they  
23 sent representatives and we met weekly and I have to  
24 give Indigo[SP?] Washington a big shout out because  
25 she coordinated that. She coordinated all of that.

1 Yes, happy birthday. Her birthday was yesterday.

2 So, we're so pleased that we have this opportunity as

3 a legislative body of New York City to be able to

4 recognize that. So, we're so pleased and is the

5 clerk going to read the proc? Okay good, thank you.

6 Thank you and we will now have the clerk read the

7 proclamation.

8 CITY CLERK: Thank you, sorry. Council

9 City of New York Proclamation. The Council of the

10 city of New York is proud to honor science writer,

11 editor, teacher, and ethicist Harriet A. Washington

12 for her outstanding activism that has raised public

13 awareness and advanced public discourse in New York

14 and across the nation and whereas Ms. Washington has

15 been a research fellow in medical ethics at Harvard

16 Medical School. Visiting fellow at Harvard T.H. Chan

17 School of Public Health. A visiting scholar at the

18 DePaul University College of Law and the senior

19 research scholar at the National Center for Bioethics

20 at Tuskegee University. Today, she teaches a

21 Bioethics course at Columbia University. However, as

22 Ms. Washington has written widely for popular and

23 science publications and also authored the award-

24 winning book, Medical Apartheid the Dark History of

1 Experimentation from Colonial Times to the Present.  
2 The research and background outlined in this book  
3 prepared the ground work for activism by community  
4 members, residents, and elected officials to reassess  
5 the permanent statue of Dr. J. Marion Sims and  
6 whereas, an addition to being the founder of the New  
7 York Women's Hospital, Dr. J. Marion Sims was held as  
8 the "father of American gynecology and a medical  
9 hero". Although he died in 1883, Sims has been  
10 immortalized for decades in medical textbooks and in  
11 his towering bronze like this at the corner of 103<sup>rd</sup>  
12 street and fifth avenue, just across the street from  
13 the New York Academy of Medicine. And whereas Ms.  
14 Washington has spent many months at the New York  
15 Academy of Medicine researching her book perusing  
16 antebellum medical journals and physician memoirs  
17 that documented the enslavement and medical torture  
18 of African Americans and the rational colony that  
19 scientist of the era used to justify it. She also  
20 learned of other statues of Sims and committed to  
21 digging for a deeper truth and raise public  
22 consciousness about his work. And whereas despite  
23 Sim's contributions to the medical profession in both  
24 surgery and gynecology, much of his work was made at  
25

1 the expense of a powerless population. He frequently  
2 used and enslaved black women and while anesthesia  
3 had recently become available, Sims did not use it  
4 with his experimental subjects. And whereas, in the  
5 words of Ms. Washington, "confederate generals or  
6 physicians whose success was based on the savage  
7 abuse of African Americans, we in the United States  
8 have chosen to honor the perpetrators. More over the  
9 erection of many such status correlates with terror  
10 campaigns against African Americans. They are  
11 symbols of racial power. Statues are raised to those  
12 people a culture wants to honor and Plaques install  
13 the commemorate victims have sometimes been placed in  
14 less then conspicuous positions down playing past  
15 wrongs. This is why the Sims statue must go. "As  
16 the statues and portraits of Sims made clear, art can  
17 create beautiful lies. To find the truth, me must  
18 dig deeper and be willing to confront ugly facts. No  
19 scientist, no thinking individual should be content  
20 to accept pretty propaganda. And whereas on April  
21 17, 2018, by the order of Mayor Bill deBlasio the New  
22 York City Parks Department relocated the statue to  
23 Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn where Sims is buried.  
24 Now therefore be it known that the council of the  
25



1 city of New York gratefully honors Harriet A.  
2 Washington for her outstanding service which  
3 continues to strengthen our city and the nation.  
4 Corey Johnson, Speaker for the Entire Council.  
5 Laurie A. Cumbo, Majority Leader New York City  
6 Council, Inez D. Barron Council Member 42<sup>nd</sup> District  
7 Brooklyn, Helen Rosenthal, Council Member 6<sup>th</sup>  
8 District Manhattan. [APPLAUSE]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: And we just want  
11 to thank you because black women past, present, and  
12 future are better because of you and we want to thank  
13 you for your tireless effort because often our  
14 tragedies, our attacks, our brutalization, often do  
15 not go recognized and so we thank you for your  
16 tireless effort combined with our fearless leader,  
17 Council Member Barron who continued to bring this  
18 effort forward through the women's caucus and we  
19 thank you for your leadership and because of these  
20 dynamic women. This is what women's leadership looks  
21 like. We create real change in the city of New York  
22 and we hope to see more statues toppled down as we  
23 continue to fight for equity all throughout the city  
24 of New York and women erected and we want to see a  
25 woman statue in Central Park to make sure that the

1  
2 women's lives who were so brutally attacked and taken  
3 have an opportunity to have their true story told and  
4 to understand the brutalization that they faced. At  
5 this time, before I bring it to you I want to bring  
6 it to our Speaker Corey Johnson, who has been  
7 instrumental in making today happen and recognizing  
8 the powerful and important work that you have brought  
9 to American history. Thank you so much.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I just want to say  
11 congratulations and we're so lucky to have you. I'm  
12 sorry I am delayed but you're in good hands with our  
13 Majority Leader and the amazing Inez Barron and we  
14 want to give you the opportunity to speak as well.  
15 Thank you so much, congratulations.

16 HARRIET A. WASHINGTON: I just want to say  
17 that I am happy and proud that I made people aware of  
18 these horrible abuses, but whats really important is  
19 that a huge community in New York came together to  
20 make sure that the symbols of these abuses was  
21 toppled. The women who lived in the community there,  
22 also some men, also medical students, it is a really  
23 good example how rather than only race, the belief in  
24 whats good and moral can unite people and they get  
25 things done. So, thank you so much. [APPLAUSE]

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Congratulations.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

Did you get a photo?

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Let's get a group photo. [Many congratulating Harriet A. Washington]

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: There will be a brief reception downstairs in the Midday Smith[SP?], so please stop by and have an opportunity to shake Harriet Washington's hand. Thank you. Well it is scheduled for two, but well see. But it is there. It is ready, thank you. Alright, we are getting ready for the Cardozo Highschool Volleyball team. Can we have the Cardozo Highschool Volleyball team with Council Member Gorodn-Grodenchik.

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I still love ya.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Say it louder.

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Grodenchik, G  
R-

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I'm sorry.  
[LAUGHTER]. Okay, I'm giving back the mic to our speaker, Corey Johnson.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: And all of a sudden, they're shy. If the Lady Judges can please come up

1 from the Benjamin and Cardozo Highschool Girls  
2 Varsity Volleyball team. [APPLAUSE]  
3  
4 Who is the next Misty May? So, I want to first of  
5 all congratulate all of you on this amazing  
6 accomplishment, it is so great. I play volleyball on  
7 the beach in the summers. So, we have to – I'll come  
8 out to Queens. I'm not as fast as I used to be. So,  
9 we're going to ask our great City Clerk to read the  
10 proclamation and then we're going to give it Council  
11 Member Grodenchik and we would love to hear from you  
12 all as well. So, here we go. Yes, wonderful.

13 CITY CLERK: Council City of New York  
14 Proclamation. Whereas the Council of the city of New  
15 York is proud to honor the Benjamin and the Cardozo  
16 Highschool Girls Varsity Volleyball team, also known  
17 as the Lady Judges for their outstanding championship  
18 season. And whereas Benjamin and Cardozo High School  
19 in Bayside Queens is named for the Supreme Court  
20 Justice who served from 1932 to 1938. Over the years  
21 Cardozo High has been ranked among the best public  
22 high schools in New York City, true to its name sake.  
23 The school is known for its mentor law and humanities  
24 program, yet its record of performance and athletics  
25 is equally impressive. And whereas in November 2017

1 with the unwavering dedication of Coach Daniel  
2 Scarola, the Lady Judges of Cardozo issued their  
3 decisive verdict to win the PSAL Class A Girls  
4 Volleyball championship and we affirm the school's  
5 reputation for excellence. And whereas the talented  
6 players who comprise the Lady Judges are Angeline  
7 Onakas[SP?], Rhianna Davis, Susan Arfonni[SP?],  
8 Tamara Gilpeneao[SP?], Nicole Kump[SP?], Ho li[SP?],  
9 Angie Lamb, Meagan Lee, Rona Lynn, Reece  
10 Metacavo[SP?], Amber Saladin[SP], Ashley  
11 Solodyn[SP?], Ungi Shin[SP?], Venessa Valendia[SP?],  
12 Leanne Wong and Stephanie Woo[SP?]. And whereas may  
13 the lady judges inspire all New Yorkers not only with  
14 the hard word, discipline and dedication each player  
15 has demonstrated but also with their shared  
16 commitment to team work. We congratulate these  
17 champions on their accomplishments and wish them  
18 continued success both on and off the volleyball  
19 court. Now therefore be it known that the Council of  
20 the city of New York proudly honors the Lady Judges.  
21 The Benjamin and Cardozo High School Girls Varsity  
22 Volleyball Team for their outstanding achievements  
23 and teamwork. Corey Johnson, Speaker for the entire  
24 Council. Barry S. Grodenchik, Council Member 23<sup>rd</sup>  
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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

District Queens, Karen Koslowitz, Chair Queens  
Delegation Council Member number 29<sup>th</sup> District and  
the rest of the Queens delegation. [APPLAUSE]

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Congratulations. I am  
going to turn it over to Council Member Grodenik,  
Grodenschik.

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Oh man, this  
is a tough day. Good afternoon everybody. Thank  
you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to all my colleagues but  
especially to these outstanding young women.

[APPLAUSE] Outstanding young women and we know  
they're outstanding because they are the New York  
City Champions. [APPLAUSE] And Cardozo has a rich  
tradition of athletics and academic excellence and we  
have also from this school and very recently Dalilah  
Muhammad who was a gold medal winner at the last  
Olympics in the 400-meter-high hurdle, so this is a  
long history here, but I am delighted to be here.  
Mr. Scarola, I am going to ask you to say a few  
words. Danny Scarola is the coach. This is his 7<sup>th</sup>  
city championship. [Crowd cheers]

DANNY SCAROLA: Thank you everybody for  
inviting us and our team here. Thank you Councilman  
Grodenschik of course for having us here, but as you

1  
2 can see you have sixteen individuals who come  
3 together as a team and work really hard. It has been  
4 a few months since we've been together like this, but  
5 the memories are still fresh, which is a great thing  
6 and you will always have this with you wherever you  
7 go. So, I give you the congratulations. Its been  
8 one heck of a ride and we'll always be 2017-2018  
9 champions. Give yourselves a round of applause.

10 [APPLAUSE] Good for them. I would like to give the  
11 microphone over to my two captains Ashley Solodyn and  
12 Vanessa Valendia. [Cheering]

13 ASHLEY SOLODYN: Well first of all, thank  
14 you very much for inviting us here. Its been an  
15 amazing ride playing with them and its such an honor  
16 to be a part of this team and be with Coach Scarola  
17 for four years. Yeah, uhm. Well, taking a look back  
18 to our quarter [inaudible 25:10] how to make an  
19 impact on our victory, we all had the mentality of  
20 owning nothing and I think that's what contributed to  
21 our next step of becoming the city champs but now I  
22 would like to thank everyone here, especially my  
23 teammates and coach who have not only been my  
24 motivation but my family. [APPLAUSE]

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I want to thank you for all making the trip to City Hall. This is your City Hall and I want to thank our speaker today because when you go back, and you see Ms. Colby you tell them that I said that the speaker said because of the work that the Council has done and our increase in fair student funding and this will give you an example of how it matters. More than \$400,000 is going to be next year in the Benjamin Cardozo budget. So, that's important. So, you tell Ms. Colby I said that as a proud parent of a young man David Grodenchik who graduated in 2014 as a varsity athlete football player and a JV baseball player, I am going to end this ceremony as I always did when we watched him play football. GO GOZO! [APPLAUSE]

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Congratulations. Let's get a photo. Thank you, congratulations. [Many talking and cheering]. Is Carl ready? Send him up. We're going to get going. Okay folks, we need to clear the main floor right now. We need to clear the main floor, so we can begin, thank you. Sergeant start removing people please. Checking ID's. All sergeants start checking ID's. Quite on the floor please. Quite on the floor please. Ladies and



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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

gentlemen, can I have your attention please? Could I please have your attention at this time? Please place all cellphones, all electronic devices to vibrate. Will all non-council employees, non-council employees please leave the main floor of the Chambers? Quite on the floor please. Thank you, madam Public Advocate.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: All quite in the chambers please as we close the doors. Members please have your seats. SHH- All rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITY CLERK: All rise.

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

CITY CLERK: Adams?

COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Present.

CITY CLERK: Ampry-Samuel?

COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMEUEL: Here.

CITY CLERK: Ayala?

COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Here.

CITY CLERK: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CITY CLERK: Borelli?

COUCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Present.

CITY CLERK: Brannan?

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Present.

CITY CLERK: Cabera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABERA: Present.

CITY CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Cohen?

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN:

CITY CLERK: Constantinides?

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Present.

CITY CLERK: Cornegy?

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Present.

CITY CLERK: Deutsch?

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

CITY CLERK: Diaz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Present.

CITY CLERK: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

CITY CLERK: Espinal?

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.

CITY CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CITY CLERK: Gibson?

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Here.

CITY CLERK: Gjonaj?

COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Here.

CITY CLERK: Ampry-Samuel?

COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Present.

CITY CLERK: Thank you. Grodenchik?

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Here.

CITY CLERK: Deutsch?

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

CITY CLERK: Holden?

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Kallos?

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

CITY CLERK: King?

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Here.

CITY CLERK: Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

CITY CLERK: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

CITY CLERK: Ayala?

COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Here.

CITY CLERK: Lancman?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CITY CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Levine?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Miasel?

COUNCIL MEMBER MIASEL: Here.

CITY CLERK: Menchaca?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente

CITY CLERK: Miller?

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.

CITY CLERK: Moya?

COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Present.

CITY CLERK: Perkins?

COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Present.

CITY CLERK: Powers?

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Here.

CITY CLERK: Reynoso?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Here.

CITY CLERK: Richards?

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

CITY CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CITY CLERK: Rodriguez?

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CITY CLERK: Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Salamanca?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

CITY CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Torres?

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Here.

CITY CLERK: Treyger?

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Ulrich?

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

CITY CLERK: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Diaz.

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Here.

CITY CLERK: Gibson?

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Here.

CITY CLERK: Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CITY CLERK: Yeger?

COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Matteo?

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

CITY CLERK: Cumbo?

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.

CITY CLERK: Speaker Johnson?

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Here.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Quite in  
the chambers please. All rise for the invocation.

CITY CLERK: All rise.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: We  
recently celebrated the independence of Greece and  
today our imbrication will be delivered by the very  
reverend Father Nektarios, Papazafirooulos the  
Archimandrite and Dean of the Saint Demetrios  
Cathedral at 30-11, 30<sup>th</sup> drive in the borough of  
Queens and Astoria.

REVEREND FATHER NEKTARIOS: Oh Lord the  
creator of all that exists and lover of man kind.  
You who are along suffering in most merciful with  
compassionate who loves just and are merciful to  
sinners. Who grants forgiveness to those who hate  
and wrong us. We be seat your merciful one to do good

1  
2 to those who do good. As we commemorate Greek  
3 Independence Day lets remember those who have fought  
4 for our freedom and those who have given their life  
5 so that we may be free today. Remember Lord, your  
6 servants who have gathered here today in your holy  
7 name especially our Mayor and all the City Council  
8 Members and our Public Advocate who represent our  
9 great city of New York. Let's give thanks for being  
10 fortunate to live in this great country in the United  
11 States of America. A nation that is forth provide  
12 freedom to all its citizens. We are also grateful to  
13 our ancestors of the Greek of Public who introduced  
14 democracy and liberty for all as well as our ancestor  
15 region Macedonia, let your countenance shine upon  
16 them. Grant turn arrest to those who are not depart  
17 from this world as a result of their struggle in the  
18 name of freedom. Remember oh Lord those who still  
19 struggle in the name of freedom and are suffering in  
20 captivity. Lastly, we be seat you oh Lord to  
21 enlighten our mind with the light of your knowledge  
22 and to guide us in the way of your commandments to  
23 return this phony world to its original state of  
24 perfection. We ask this Oh Lord in your name for  
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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

your name is Holy now and forever and its engaged of ages, AMEN.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Amen.

Please be seated and Father, please excuse me for mispronouncing your name and a motion to spread the invocation, Council Member Constantinides. Quite in the chambers please.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Thank you madam public advocate. I moved to spread the invocation to the entire chamber. A just a little bit about the very Reverend Father Nektarios who grew up in Astoria -

PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Excuse me, Council Member. May we have quite in the Chambers and please give respect to the Council Member speaking. Shh. I apologize.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: No problem. The very Reverend Father Nektarios grew up in Astoria. He attended college in New York City at Polytechnic University where he received his bachelor's and master's degree. Upon finishing, his theological studies, he went to Greece where he was ordained a Deacon and then a Priest six years ago. Father Nektarios returned back to New York to become



1 Dean of the community of Saint Demetrios Cathedral of  
2 Astoria. Saint Demetrios the Greek orthodox church  
3 of Astoria was founded in 1927 by a small group of  
4 immigrants. In 1937, their church was erected. The  
5 Greek community has continued to grow in Astoria  
6 rapidly and the first Greek American Parochial school  
7 in Queens opened its doors in 1957. The annex church  
8 of Saint Catherine and George was completed in 1972.  
9 Today it is the biggest Greek orthodox community in  
10 the United States and Saint Demetrios Parochial  
11 School is the largest operating Greek American School  
12 outside of Greece with classes from Pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup>  
13 Grade. I am proud that Father Nektarios can be here  
14 today and this is the church that I was baptized in,  
15 so I think you and wonderful to be on Fifth Avenue  
16 celebrating Greek Independence Day on Sunday. Thank  
17 you.  
18

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Thank you  
20 Father. Thank you for the blessing. Adoption of  
21 minutes. Council Member Koslowitz.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I move to  
23 adopt the minutes.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: So,  
25 moved. Messages and papers from the Mayor.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 26

2 CITY CLERK: M-39 submitting Allen  
3 Cappelli for appointment to the planning commission.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Our rules, privileges  
5 and elections.

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

8 CITY CLERK: Pre-considered M-40 Michael  
9 M. McSweeney for reappointment as City Clerk and  
10 Clerk of the Council.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Very happily rules,  
12 privileges and elections.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Yeah,  
14 okay. Petitions and communications?

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: None.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Land Use  
17 call ups?

18 CITY CLERK: M-41 Sidewalk Café.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Roll call. I would ask  
20 for a roll call vote on today's land use call up  
21 calendar.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Quite in  
23 the Chambers please.

24 CITY CLERK: Adams?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAM: I and all.

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CITY CLERK: Ampry-Samuel?

COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: I and all.

CITY CLERK: Ayala?

COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I and all.

CITY CLERK: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote I.

CITY CLERK: Borelli?

COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: I.

CITY CLERK: Brannan?

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: I.

CITY CLERK: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I.

CITY CLERK: CHIN?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I.

CITY CLERK: Cohen?

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I.

CITY CLERK: Constantinides?

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I.

CITY CLERK: Cornegy?

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I.

CITY CLERK: Deutsch?

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: I.

CITY CLERK: Diaz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: I.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CITY CLERK: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I.

CITY CLERK: Espinal?

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I

CITY CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I

CITY CLERK: Gibson?

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I.

CITY CLERK: Gjonaj?

COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I.

CITY CLERK: Grodenchik?

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I.

CITY CLERK: Holden?

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I.

CITY CLERK: Kallos?

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I.

CITY CLERK: King?

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I

CITY CLERK: KOO?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I.

CITY CLERK: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I and

congratulations to Michael McSweeney.

CITY CLERK: Lancman?

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: I.

CITY CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I.

CITY CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I.

CITY CLERK: Levine?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I.

CITY CLERK: Maisel?

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

CITY CLERK: Menchaca?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I.

CITY CLERK: Miller?

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote I.

CITY CLERK: Moya?

COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I and  
congratulations to brother McSweeney.

CITY CLERK: Perkins?

COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: I.

CITY CLERK: Powers?

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I and  
congratulations to Mr. McSweeney. Thanks.

CITY CLERK: Reynoso?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I.

CITY CLERK: Richards?

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 30

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: On behalf of my  
3 wife after seven years of marriage, I happily vote I  
4 upon Michael McSweeney. Thank you for signing that  
5 certificate when still kicking. Thank you, I vote I.

6 CITY CLERK: Rivera?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I.

8 CITY CLERK: Rodriguez?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I.

10 CITY CLERK: Rose?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I.

12 CITY CLERK: Rosenthal?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I.

14 CITY CLERK: Salamanca?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I.

16 CITY CLERK: Torres?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I.

18 CITY CLERK: Treyger?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: With  
20 congratulations to Mr. McSweeney, I vote I.

21 CITY CLERK: Ulrich?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Mike you signed  
23 my certificate, it didn't work out too well for me,  
24 but I love ya anyway. I am going to vote for you  
25 anyway. I love you. I vote I. [LAUGHTER]

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CITY CLERK: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I and all and  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary coming up, so thank you.

CITY CLERK: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: With pride  
and hearts of every wood sider I proudly vote for our  
Native son, Mike McSweeney. Yes, and all.

CITY CLERK: Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: My mothers  
hoping you might sign mine one day, we'll see.  
Congrats, I vote I.

CITY CLERK: Yeger?

COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: I.

CITY CLERK: Matteo?

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Yes.

CITY CLERK: Cumbo?

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I vote I.

CITY CLERK: Speaker Johnson?

SPEAKER JOHNSON: I.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Today's  
Land Use call ups are adopted by a vote of 46 in the  
affirmative, zero in the negative and congratulations  
Mike McSweeney. Quite in the chambers as we now hear

1  
2 from the speaker Corey Johnson. Quite in the  
3 Chambers. Corey Johnson.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Good afternoon. I  
5 would like to begin by honoring some of New York  
6 Cities icons who we recently lost. The Council lost  
7 one of its own, former Council Member John Gangemi,  
8 having previously served as a Council Member for the  
9 43<sup>rd</sup> district in Brooklyn. John was an outstanding  
10 public servant who cared for his community for many  
11 decades. Our thoughts and prayers are with his  
12 family, friends, and former colleagues. Another  
13 tragedy struck – another tragedy in Brooklyn occurred  
14 earlier this month when David Buckel, a prominent  
15 lawyer fighting for LGBT and environmental rights  
16 took his own life in Prospect Park. Our thoughts and  
17 prayers with his family, friends, and his former  
18 colleagues at Lambda Legal. Also, let us honor the  
19 memory of Dallas police officer, Rogelio Santander  
20 who died after getting shot responding to an incident  
21 at Home Depot today. Our prayers and thoughts are  
22 with officer Santander's family and friends. Let us  
23 take a moment of silence. If folks could please  
24 rise.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Rise.



SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

We have some very special guests up in the balcony today. If everyone could please welcome someone who we've never seen his name in the paper before, Doug Muzio and his class from the Community Macaulay Honors College. Give him a nice round of applause, [APPLAUSE] Welcome. The council is very, very, proud to reappoint our City Clerk, Mike McSweeney, and before I turn it over to someone to speak about Mike, I want to say that besides all the stuff that people don't see day in and day out. The responsibilities by our City Charter that the City Clerk does, a lot of stuff that most folks don't realize but that are important to the city of New York. There is one very proud moment that I can think of and I'm sure Council Member Van Bramer is going to talk about this in a very personal way. That in June of 2011, when marriage equality passed and marriage became possible in July, one of the few individuals, not few, one of the main individuals in this city who stepped up on that first day that marriage was allowed and spent countless hours after countless hour helping LGBT couples who had been denied the ability to marry their life partner and

1 spouse for decades was Michael McSweeney and he  
2 ensured that his staff and that the resources were  
3 there so that every single person that showed up at  
4 the City Clerk's office, were welcomed, were  
5 celebrated, were treated with respect and dignity,  
6 and his entire staff with a smile on their face and  
7 he was marrying couple after couple after couple that  
8 day with the biggest smile on his face emanating  
9 affection and love to folks who were experiencing one  
10 of the most special moments of their entire life.  
11 And that goes to speak to the type of man that  
12 Michael McSweeney is. The type of service that he  
13 has committed to our city for years and decades, and  
14 so I am extremely proud that Michael McSweeney is  
15 going to be reappointed City Clerk today and I want  
16 to turn it over to Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer  
17 who is - Mike is a constituent of his, to say a few  
18 words about a great public servant and our friend.

19  
20 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you  
21 very much Mr. Speaker for allowing me to speak on  
22 behalf of all Woodsiders, everyone in Queens and  
23 really all of New York City. Many folks here know  
24 Mike and they know of his long career. His  
25 distinguished career in public service in Queens.

1  
2 Whether its working for Congressman Crowley making  
3 sure that Woodside on the move a great civic  
4 organization is strong. Or so many other things that  
5 he has done, but everyone should know that Mike  
6 McSweeney as our City Clerk helped make history in  
7 the city of New York, in the state of New York. In  
8 this nation by making sure that he was there present  
9 at those critical moments when the very first same  
10 sex couples lined up to get married. Performing the  
11 very first historic wedding between two senior  
12 lesbians in our community. But I wanted to tell a  
13 short but very powerful story of Mikes goodness and  
14 that is the story of two Woodsiders. A middle-aged  
15 man who had been together for 30 years before they  
16 were able to get married and Mike, after I called  
17 him, married those Woodsiders. Lewis Bowley[SP?] and  
18 Daniel Lawson in 2011, but shortly after Lu was  
19 attacked at a tragic, tragic murder, he was left for  
20 dead on the streets and when he got to the hospital,  
21 he was already brain dead and his partner and now  
22 husband of over 30-years, Daniel was left with a  
23 decision of whether or not to take him off life  
24 support. As you can imagine, it was really tragic.  
25 Ultimately, Daniel made the decision to take Lu off

1  
2 of life support. But the hospital asked him for  
3 proof that they were married and asked for the  
4 wedding certificate. They could not find the wedding  
5 certificate. Obviously, it was very traumatic time.  
6 They called me from the hospital. The only person I  
7 could think to call was Mike McSweeney and I said  
8 Mike, they need the wedding certificate to prove  
9 they're married. I don't know if you can help.  
10 Without missing a beat, on a Saturday morning, Mike  
11 McSweeney said, Jimmy, I got this. Don't worry about  
12 it. He left his home in Woodside, went all the way  
13 down to lower Manhattan, made a photocopy and printed  
14 out another copy of the wedding certificate and then  
15 physically brought it to me in Sunnyside Queens. I  
16 was then able to bring it to the hospital. Daniel  
17 was able to take Lu off of life support and Lu died  
18 shortly thereafter. I will never forget Mike  
19 McSweeney's unbelievable act of kindness and  
20 compassion. Making sure that the two men he married,  
21 could also be at peace with one of their deaths. It  
22 is an unusual act of kindness, of generosity, and  
23 Mike did it because he knew they needed it. He knew  
24 it was the right thing to do. So, Mike all of the  
25 things you've done for our city are part of why you

1 are being unanimously reelected to this position.  
2 But I want this story to be known, because everybody  
3 should know. The decency and the goodness in your  
4 heart and how many people would rise to that level  
5 and call it on in that moment. So, Mr. Speaker, I'm  
6 sure you join me. I'm sure all of us join me in  
7 thanking Mike McSweeney, and unusually kind and  
8 decent public servant. Thank you, Mike, on behalf of  
9 everyone in Woodside. Everyone in Queens, but most  
10 especially Lewis Bowley and Daniel Lawson. Thank  
11 you. [APPLAUSE]

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: That was beautiful.  
14 You're a good man Mike McSweeney. You're a good man.  
15 As they said in Charlie Brown. Jumping into our  
16 docket for the day. The Council will vote on four  
17 Land Use items. One on west 108<sup>th</sup> street. The  
18 Council will vote on a series of actions to  
19 facilitate a project that will include senior  
20 housing, supportive housing, a transitional shelter,  
21 and affordable housing. All together this project  
22 will produce close to 400 units of affordable  
23 housing. This application is in Council Member Mark  
24 Levine's district. There is a park haven rezoning.  
25 The Council will vote to rezone a sight at Saint

1 Ann's Avenue and east 142<sup>nd</sup> street to produce  
2 approximately 170 units of affordable housing and an  
3 affordable grocery store. The project is in Council  
4 Member Diana Ayala's district. Next is a project at  
5 500 west 174<sup>th</sup> street, the Council will vote on an  
6 Article 11 Tax Exemption to preserve 27 units of  
7 housing in Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez's  
8 district. And lastly, a project at 721 Van Sicklen,  
9 the Council will vote on Article 11 Tax Exemption to  
10 Preserve 37 units of housing in Council Member Inez  
11 Barron's district. I want to thank the staff who  
12 worked on all these projects. Jeff Une[SP?], James  
13 Lloyd, Brian Paul, Amy Levitan[SP?], and July  
14 Luban[SP?] all from the Council inaudible [50:59]  
15 division. Next, the Council will vote on some very  
16 important legislation. First, we're going to vote on  
17 introduction 858. Sponsored by Council Member and  
18 Women's Committee Chair Helen Rosenthal. These bills  
19 are going to make some amendments to recently passed  
20 legislative bills. Introduction 612 A for the year  
21 of 2018 and Introduction 664 A for the year of 2018.  
22 The bill we're voting on is going to include some  
23 technical amendments to those two bills which we  
24 passed recently. These amendments clarify that  
25

1 interactive training on anti-sexual harassment  
2 practices shall be determined by the Department of  
3 Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), instead of  
4 the Human Rights Commission. We determined they were  
5 the better agency to make the call on what is deemed  
6 and how we clarify interactive training. The other  
7 amendment is going to further clarify the climate  
8 surveys would be available to all agencies for  
9 dissemination to agency employees on or before  
10 September 30<sup>th</sup> of this year 2018. So, this bill  
11 cleans up those two parts of the package of bills we  
12 passed at the last Stated Meeting. I want to thank  
13 the staff who worked on this Malcolm Buhorn[SP?],  
14 Brenda McKenney who also just passed the New York  
15 Bar, so congratulations to Brenda. [APPLAUSE].  
16 Aminta Kilawan, Andrea Vasquez, Tears and Nassar, and  
17 Daniel Croup. Thank you to all of you. Moving on,  
18 we are going to vote on some environmental protection  
19 bills in a package implementing wind, power and  
20 energy efficiency measures. Although we just  
21 celebrated Earth Day, we should always be cognizant  
22 of our environment and how we can do our part to  
23 protect mother nature with this environment, the  
24 protection package, the Council serves as a model for  
25

1  
2 other municipalities to take action in saving our  
3 planet at a time when we face rapid climate change.

4 I would like to thank Environmental Protection  
5 Committee Chair Costa Constantinides for his hard  
6 work. He was all over the place for Earth week and  
7 he is going to speak in a moment on his bills. My  
8 bill Introduction 598A, is going to require that  
9 every city owned building will be completely powered  
10 by green energy sources by 2050. Every building will  
11 have to be completely powered by green energy  
12 sources. This bill would also require the  
13 commissioner of citywide administrative services to  
14 report concerning the implementation of this  
15 requirement every ten years. Chair Constantinides  
16 has two bills up for vote today. Introduction 48A  
17 would require each long-term sustainability plan  
18 required by the Charter to contain a wind resource  
19 assessment that would identify and map the areas of  
20 the city where wind resources are available for the  
21 effective utilization of a wind turbine. Introduction  
22 50A would authorize the installation of small wind  
23 turbines designed to generate electricity along with  
24 supporting structures. This would cover design  
25 standards, wind speed, brakes and locks, visual



1 appearance, signal interference, noise, shadow, and  
2 setbacks. And next, we have Introduction 96A,  
3 sponsored by Council Member Peter Koo, which would  
4 allow residential cooperatives to file a single  
5 consolidated energy efficiency report with  
6 cooperative covers multiple buildings on different  
7 tax block numbers. Lastly resolution, Resolution 176  
8 sponsored by Council Member Donovan Richards which  
9 expresses support for New York State Governor Andrew  
10 Cuomo's commitment to and facilitation of the  
11 development of large scale off shore wind projects by  
12 2030. I want to thank the staff who worked on this  
13 package of environmental bills Samara Swanston, Megan  
14 Chin, Nadia Johnson, Jose Conde, Smita Deshmukh and  
15 Ed Atkin. That completes the house of our docket and  
16 I look forward to proceeding with today's votes.  
17 Thank you, Madam Public Advocate.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Thank  
19 you. Discussion of General Orders seeing none – Oh  
20 Council Member Constantinides.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I just  
22 want to briefly thank you Madam Public Advocate. I  
23 just would like to thank the speaker for his great  
24 environmental leadership and his bill. What is  
25

1 setting the tone for what we should expect from all  
2 buildings in New York City being fully powered by  
3 renewable sources. Our bills today help us walk the  
4 path by fifty and we want people to adopt the  
5 technologies as soon as possible but we have to make  
6 it easier. Too often when it comes to special  
7 permits like currently exist for wind power,  
8 residents don't want to deal with them. They see the  
9 path and they see it to be too arduous. So, this  
10 legislation today INTRO 48A creates a wind of  
11 resource map. So, residents can look to see if when  
12 wind power is good for their buildings and they can  
13 make better informed decisions. INTRO 50A cuts red  
14 tape and moves away from special permits and  
15 bureaucratic hurdles and allows for basic regulations  
16 of how to maintain and remove turbines. How turbines  
17 should be removed, wind speed station would stand.  
18 How they should be locked in a hurricane. How large  
19 they can be and so on. We know that a climate change  
20 will take every effort and making it easier for us to  
21 walk the path of a green future is so important. I  
22 want to thank the staff Samara Swanston, Nadia  
23 Johnson at Ed Atkin, Smita, our intern Kent Williams.  
24 Everyone at that Mayor's office sustainability and my  
25

1  
2 staff Nick Wazowski, my attorney and I want to give a  
3 special shout out to my Communications Director  
4 Shachar Sharon who is actually leaving me on Friday.  
5 Who has done great work for our office. She has been  
6 with me since the very beginning. She has been a  
7 hard worker. Someone that has always served greatly  
8 the people of the city of New York and I look forward  
9 to seeing her in her new role as a Communications  
10 Director for the league of conservation voters  
11 starting in May. So, congratulations Shachar and  
12 thank you for your services.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Thank  
14 you. Council Member Koo.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you Madam  
16 Public Advocate. I would like to thank Speaker  
17 Johnson and my colleagues for supporting INTRO 96A.  
18 A bill that would allow residential co-ops to  
19 consolidate their energy deficiency reports. In 2009,  
20 the city passed Local Law 87, which requires certain  
21 large buildings to audit their energy consumption and  
22 to submit energy efficiency reports. Those energy  
23 efficiency reports document any actions taken by the  
24 buildings to come into compliance with the law. As  
25 we know, many residential co-ops have multiple

1 buildings on different tax marks and Local Law 87  
2 requires each of them to submit separate reports with  
3 separate deadlines. This hazard filing system  
4 creates an administrative nightmare where management  
5 companies are constantly scrambling to meet deadlines  
6 for multiple buildings. Allowing residential co-ops  
7 to consolidate the energy efficiency reports. More  
8 significantly we deal with this administrative burden  
9 for those [inaudible 58:27] properties. Looking to  
10 comply with Local Law 87. As residential co-ops are  
11 leading middle class [inaudible 58:36] for home  
12 ownership in many parts of the city. Especially the  
13 northeast Queens, this effort was streamline  
14 reporting and simplified paperwork for both the city  
15 and property owners. Ultimately this will cut the  
16 red tape by making it easier for more buildings to  
17 come into compliance with the cities sustainability  
18 laws which are so important in our modern and more  
19 mentally conscious cities. I would like to thank the  
20 Speaker, Chair Constantinides and his staff. I would  
21 also like to thank Jeff Baker and Ed Atkin, Samara  
22 Swanston, Nadia Johnson, John Sosa, Brendon McKinney  
23 and Megan Chin. Thank you.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Thank you. Any other discussion on items on the general order calendar.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Madam Public Advocate. We're missing one thing which is we are losing an employee at the council this Friday who has been a real superstar and I am very sad to see him leave. We are losing Brian Crow who has been a committee council. He has worked in a variety of areas. Juvenile justice, Criminal Justice, almost everything related to Rikers Island. Related to our Criminal Justice packages that were done under speaker Viverito. He has been an amazing committee council. He has been involved in some of the most difficult issues that we've tackled here during his time in the council. He is leaving this Friday. I am very sad to see him go. I did not want him to leave but I am happy for him and he is going to be working at Attorney General Eric Straetman's office. So, I am really grateful for him that he was able to do great work here and now he is going to be doing great work for the state of New York. So, I want to give Brian Crow a big round of applause. [APPLAUSE] Thank you, Madam Public Advocate.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES:

Congratulations Brian. Any other discussions? Seeing none. Reporter special committees.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Reports of standing committees?

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Report of the committee on Environmental Protection INTROs 48A, 50A, 96A, and 598A, Earth Day Package.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on general orders.

CITY CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land Use LU52 through LU57 on the next page. West 108<sup>th</sup> Street and Park Haven Projects.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Approved of modifications and referred to the City Planning Commission pursuant rule 11.70B of the Rules of the Council and Section 197D of the New York City Charter.

CITY CLERK: L - excuse me. LU58 and RESO 315 and LU 59 and RESO 316 Tax exemptions.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general orders.

2 CITY CLERK: Report on the committee on  
3 rules, privileges and elections. Pre-considered M40  
4 and RESO 317 approving the reappointment of Michael  
5 M. McSweeney City Clerk and Clerk of the Council.

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Proudly coupled on  
7 general orders.

8 CITY CLERK: Report on the Committee on  
9 Women, pre-considered INTRO 858 anti-sexual  
10 harassment bill.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general  
12 orders.

13 CITY CLERK: On the general order  
14 calendar INTRO 720 Sight Safety Training.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Laid over.

16 CITY CLERK: LU 52 and RESO 318 through LU  
17 57 and RESO 323 various applications.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled to general  
19 orders.

20 CITY CLERK: Resolution appointing  
21 various persons. Commissioner of Deeds.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled to general  
23 orders and at this time, I would ask for a roll call  
24 vote on all items on today's general order calendar.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Quite the  
3 chambers.

4 CITY CLERK: Adams?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: I.

6 CITY CLERK: Ampry-Samuel?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: I.

8 CITY CLERK: Ayala?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I.

10 CITY CLERK: Barron?

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

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Yes.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I just  
15 want to call my colleagues attention to LU59 and RESO  
16 316. Its an Article 11 for an HDFC in my community  
17 and not far from where I live. 721 Van Sicklen  
18 Avenue, and what this provision will do, it will be  
19 able to keep this property from going into a third-  
20 party transfer. It will give them tax benefits. It  
21 will keep them regulated for the next 40 years and it  
22 will allow those persons to live in this building who  
23 are share owners - share holders to not use the  
24 equity that they have built over the years that  
25 they've lived there. So, I want to thank all of



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those who work so diligently to bring this to this point. It was a battle at some instances, but we came to a great resolution and I ask that all my colleagues will support this and I vote I and all.

CITY CLERK: Borelli?

COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: I.

CITY CLERK: Brannan?

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: I.

CITY CLERK: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I.

CITY CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBR CHIN: I and all.

CITY CLERK: Cohen?

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I.

CITY CLERK: Constantinides?

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

PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I just wanted to echo all of my colleagues and congratulations to Mike McSweeney. He is a public servant of the highest order. He is in this for the right reasons to help the people of the city of New

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York. He is a humble guy and we all love him. So, congratulations Mike.

CITY CLERK: Cornegy?

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I.

CITY CLERK: Deutsch?

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: I

CITY CLERK: Diaz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: I.

CITY CLERK: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I.

CITY CLERK: Espinal?

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I

CITY CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote I.

CITY CLERK: Gibson?

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: With my warmest congratulations to Mike McSweeney and congratulations to Brian Crow. Thank you so much for your incredible service. Looking forward to working with you and I want to wish Brian continued success and thank him for helping me with all the criminal justice work. Specifically, on the Nursery Program at Rikers Island. Deeply grateful for Brian and his service and I vote I and all. Thank you.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CITY CLERK: Gjonaj?

COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I.

CITY CLERK: Grodenchik?

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Brief  
permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CRODENCHIK: I just want to  
- I will vote I and all Madam Public Advocate. I was  
going to congratulate Mr. McSweeney but I've known  
him for many decades and I know him to be a very  
modest and humble individual. So, instead I'm going  
to congratulate my speaker, Corey Johnson and all of  
the people in this room who are voting to extend his  
clerkship over the great New York City Council and  
the city of New York and with that I vote I and all.  
Congratulations Michael.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Thank  
you.

CITY CLERK: Holden?

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I and all.

CITY CLERK: Kallos?

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you to  
clerk McSweeney for swearing me in and even renewing  
my vows without charging me extra. I vote I and all.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CITY CLERK: Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I also want to congratulate Michael McSweeney for being reappointed as our City Clerk. He has done both of my childrens marriages and I'm honored to have him in my childrens marriages. Thank you Michael and I vote I and all.

CITY CLERK: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote I.

CITY CLERK: Lancman?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: I.

CITY CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I.

CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I.

CITY CLERK: Lavine?

COUNCIL MEMBER LAVINE: Permission to briefly explain my vote Madam Public Advocate?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAVINE: I am pleased I will be voting today on Land use item 52, which would allow for creation of 281 units of 100% affordable senior supportive and family housing on 108<sup>th</sup> street between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenue. A project which will bring many benefits to the broader

1 community. Included in the package is replacements  
2 of a worn out artificial turf athletic field across  
3 the street at MS54, a partial renovation of nearby  
4 playground, the villas playground, a creation of a  
5 new community health clinic, parking space for the  
6 volunteer of Central Park Ambulance car and many,  
7 many, other benefits to the surrounding community and  
8 I'm pleased that I am able to consult with all  
9 stakeholders from all sides over the last year and a  
10 half as a consensus emerged in my district about the  
11 importance of this project and I want to specifically  
12 thank the great non-profit developer, the West Side  
13 Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing Wish  
14 Fish whose president I believe is here with us in the  
15 balcony Shelly Fine, whose provided great leadership  
16 on this project together with the whole agency and  
17 I'm grateful for the incredible staff in the Land Use  
18 division who did so much work on this very  
19 complicated project, including Roger Mann, Amy  
20 Levitan, Julie Luven[SP?], Jeff Yuen and my own chief  
21 of staff I. Akeef[SP?] who did her usual brilliant  
22 work on this project. Thank you very much. I will  
23 be voting I and all.

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25 CLERK: Levin?

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you madam Public Advocate. I want to vote I and all, but I was remised earlier in not congratulating my friend Mike McSweeney. Next week Mike, it will be three years and so far, so good with - [LAUGHTER]. Thank you so much for all that you've done for our city and I am proud to vote I on your reappointment and I and all. Thanks.

CITY CLERK: Maisel?

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

CITY CLERK: Menchaca?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to explain my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I also want to pile on to the love fest for our incredible City Clerk. I was there in that room the first couple being married. I was an LGBT liaison for Speaker Christine Quinn back then and I watched you in action Mike and you never failed anyone. The stories here today are the stories of the past, but I can't wait

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for your next term. You next chapter. There are a lot of things in the future that are going to require us all as public servants to follow your lead. You're going to leave some big shoes behind, but I'm really excited your going to have another opportunity to continue to serve our incredible community. I am not going to thank you for marrying me because I am not yet married but if your available, I might be calling you. Thank you. I vote I and all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Thank you.

CLERK: Miller?

COUNICL MEMBER MILLER: I vote I and I would also like to congratulate our unassuming Mike McSweeney and Eric V.[SP?] is betting about 999. So, with that batting average, you're doing great. Keep up the great work, thank you Mike. I vote I and all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Thank you.

CLERK: Moya?

COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I and all.

CLERK: Perkins?

COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: I and all.

CLERK: Powers?

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I and all and I also want to congratulate Brian Crow on his new job and thank you for his service to the Criminal Justice Committee. Thank you.

CLERK: Reynoso?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Mike, I just want to say, thank you for coming out to Williamsburg in the French Bistro at nine o'clock on a Saturday to get things done and helping me out and finding time to make sure I can remain a Council Member and its just little things like that that you always did for a lot of people here that really speak to who you are as a person. So, congratulations well deserved, and I vote I and all.

CLERK: Richards?

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I and all.

CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I and all.

CLERK: Rodriguez?

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I and congratulations Mike.

CLERK: Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Mike there's a lot of pressure on you with all these weddings man. I



1  
2 want to thank you for coming to Staten Island and  
3 swearing me in on Staten Island and I vote I and all.  
4 Congratulations Mike.

5 CLERK: Rosenthal?

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

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL:  
10 Congratulations Mr. McSweeney. We all appreciate what  
11 you do every day. I'm so glad you're here and I too  
12 would like to wish good luck to Brian Crow who is an  
13 amazing legislative drafter and understands - I think  
14 his brilliance is born by the fact that he really  
15 understands the plate of people who will be on the  
16 receiving end of the legislation that we pass and his  
17 heart drives whats in there and he's always been  
18 wise. I appreciate him very much, congratulations  
19 Council Member Levine for bringing in this affordable  
20 housing and there was one other thing, Costa oh did  
21 he leave? I'm not going to congratulate him if he  
22 left.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: He's here.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Oh, he's here.  
25 Costa, Congratulations on all the environmental

1  
2 legislation you bring to the city. Really, we're so  
3 lucky to have you here. Thank you very much. I vote  
4 I and all.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Thank  
6 you.

7 CLERK: Salamanca?

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

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: First I want  
12 to congratulate Mike McSweeney. I also want to  
13 congratulate Council Member Inez Barron and Mark  
14 Levin on the projects on the Land Use Projects, but  
15 most importantly I want to congratulate Council  
16 Member Diana Ayala. This project came to committees,  
17 this [INAUDIBLE 1:11:24] project and it was not a  
18 right fit for her community. She stood up, she  
19 fought, and she ensured that they changed the MIH  
20 option two to MIH option one and she also ensured  
21 that there were units for low income families at the  
22 30% AMI level and she set an example by allowing the  
23 30% homeless set aside. So, I congratulate you  
24 Council Member Ayala. I vote I and all.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Thank  
you.

CLERK: Torres?

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I and all.

CLERK: Treyger?

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I.

CLERK: Ulrich?

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote I.

CLERK: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I and all.

CLERK: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I and all.

CLERK: Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I Vote I and  
all.

CLERK: Yeger?

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

PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you. First,  
I would like to congratulate Council Member  
Constantinides and Council Member Koo for  
extraordinarily wise pieces of legislation that this  
Council is passing. It'll make it easier, cheaper,

1  
2 more efficient to go green. To do well by our  
3 children for the earth that we're borrowing from them  
4 and I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to serve  
5 on the Environmental Protection Committee under our  
6 Chair and to be a part of this. I will probably vote  
7 I and all. To our City Clerk, I've been involved in  
8 politics for a long time but being sworn in for the  
9 first time, there's really nothing like it. It was  
10 three days before my term started. You were kind, I  
11 was not terrified, but you put your arm around me and  
12 you told me I'm going to do okay. I don't know if  
13 I've done that yet, you'll let me know, but I am  
14 grateful for the way you treated me, my family, and  
15 I'm honored to cast my vote in favor of your  
16 reappointment. God Bless. Thank you, Madam  
17 President.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Thank  
19 you.

20 CLERK: Matteo?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: I.

22 CLERK: Cumbo?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I proudly vote I

24 and I just want to celebrate Mr. McSweeney as well

25 because being sworn in is probably the most memorable

1  
2 event in many of our lives. It's something that we  
3 share with our family, our friends, our constituents  
4 and the photographs that we take are often so  
5 meaningful, and so to have you be a part of the most  
6 meaningful memory in many of our lives is so touching  
7 and so today, also gives us an opportunity to really  
8 explain when people say, who's that guy? We have an  
9 opportunity to explain a bit more about your history  
10 and the important work that you do in the city of New  
11 York. So, thank you and I proudly vote I.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Thank  
13 you.

14 CLERK: Speaker Johnson?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER SPEAKER JOHNSON: I and  
16 all.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Thank  
18 you. I too want to thank Michael McSweeney for  
19 marrying five members of my staff. Thank you for  
20 accommodating them. All items on today's general  
21 order calendar were adopted by a vote of 50 in the  
22 affirmative, zero in the negative, and zero  
23 abstentions with the revised Land Use call up vote is  
24 50 in the affirmative and zero negative.  
25 Introduction of Reading of Bills?

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

SPEAKER JOHNSON: All bills have been referred to committee as indicated on the agenda.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES:

Discussion of Resolution and the Resolution is 176 and it reads as follows: A resolution in support of the Governor of New York state and the commitment to and facilitation of the development of large scale off shore wind projects by 2030. Any discussion on the resolution? Seeing none, all of those in favor say I. [CROWD SAYS I] All of those oppose?

[SILENCE] Any abstentions? The I's have it. General discussion beginning with Council Member Barron.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Council Member Barron may I just say one thing before we turn it over to you? I was again remised in not acknowledging someone who has served this council for 28 years. 28 years on staff here at the New York City Council, Margaret Griffin from the Land Use division is retiring, and she is someone who we don't see at committee hearings or we don't see here at the Chamber, but who has dedicated herself for almost three decades in the Land Use division as an administrative assistant in helping make sure

1  
2 everything gets done. Whether it be that the agendas  
3 are done for the subcommittee hearings. Whether the  
4 documents are being prepared appropriately on large  
5 or small Land Use Projects. She has served the  
6 Council impeccably and given almost three decades of  
7 her life to serve the city of New York. She always  
8 has a smile on her face whenever I drop by Rogers  
9 office or Julies office, she is always there. She is  
10 friendly and welcoming and kind and wonderful. So, I  
11 want us to give a big thank you to Margaret Griffin  
12 for 28 years of service for the New York City  
13 Council. [APPLAUSE] Council Member Barron.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Council  
15 Member Barron.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you Madam  
17 Public Advocate. Just a brief statement.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Excuse  
19 me. SHHHHH. I'm sorry Council Member.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Regarding the  
21 removal of the J. Marion Sims statue. I want to  
22 acknowledge the protest that were initiated in 2007,  
23 eleven years ago by Viola Plummer who was in Chief of  
24 Staff to then Council Member Charles Barron and I'm  
25 pleased to be a part of the coalition for the removal

1 of the Dr. J. Marion Sims statue. Dr. J. Marion Sims  
2 experimentations on enslaved African Women and  
3 children were horrendous. His experimental,  
4 surgical, intrusions on black women and children were  
5 without their consent to their bodies being subjected  
6 to his torturous probes. It is indicative –  
7 indicative of the institutionalized racist beliefs on  
8 which this country is founded. Monuments and  
9 memorials should serve as a tribute to all of those  
10 who have made significant contributions to society.  
11 These public monuments must certainly be evaluated in  
12 context with Dr. Sims to have bought and slaved  
13 African women for the purpose of his horrific  
14 experiments and to not use anesthesia is revealing of  
15 the mindset of his mindset and of this countries  
16 willingness and complicatedness in elevating this  
17 racist butcher. In his own words, he said “he  
18 believed that Africans had specific physiological  
19 traits that allow them to have increased tolerance  
20 for pain”. His actions are part of the pattern of  
21 Americas history of dehumanizing African Americans as  
22 described in Harriet Washington book Medical  
23 Apartheid, medical experimentations on black  
24 Americans from Colonial times to the present. When  
25



1  
2 Sims used these procedures on white women, he did use  
3 anesthesia. That Sims statue has been removed, is an  
4 acknowledgment that Dr. Sims is not worthy of being  
5 honored. The inscription on the base of the statue  
6 should also be obliterated. I believe that the  
7 statue should have been put in some obscure storage,  
8 but since the statue is being moved to Greenwood  
9 Cemetery, I say let's finish the job and burry him  
10 there and we can think of prominent African women to  
11 put in that place. We can use Dr. Susan McKenney  
12 Stuart who was the first African American doctor in  
13 New York state, or Dr. McQuinn Chin, another African  
14 American woman who was significant in New York  
15 history. Thank you.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Thank  
17 you.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And I want to -  
19 my congratulations to our City Clerk Mike McSweeney.  
20 Thank you so much.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Thank  
22 you. Council Member Cabrera.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you so  
24 much. Today, I'm introducing three very straight  
25 forward pieces of legislation. There is two bills

1  
2 and one RES to expand the voter franchise to eligible  
3 New Yorkers. Increase transparency in reporting by  
4 agencies in Cortell the number of homeless families  
5 with children living and properly maintaining  
6 privately owned buildings. Resolution 307 calls for  
7 New York state to enact legislation to authorize same  
8 day voter registration allowing eligible New York  
9 City residents to register to vote and cast a ballot  
10 at the pole site on election day. INTRO 828 will  
11 require the Department of Records and Information  
12 Services which is currently mandated to receive and  
13 pose all reports required by law, or executive order  
14 on its website to list all required reports when they  
15 were last received and when they are next due. In  
16 addition, this bill will require a request for  
17 transmission to be sent to any agency that does not  
18 transmit or require a report and requiring the  
19 posting of such requests on the website in lieu of  
20 the required report into such reports received.  
21 Lastly, INTRO 827, will prohibit additional homeless  
22 families with children from being temporary housed in  
23 private buildings where more than five class seat  
24 housing mentioned in this code violation. Current  
25 homeless families with children, such buildings will

1  
2 be permitted to remain, but no additional families  
3 could be housed in such buildings until corrections  
4 have been certified by HPD. Thank you so much.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Thank you.  
6 Council Member Rodriguez.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you and  
8 I would like to encourage my colleagues who will sign  
9 on three bills related to the taxi industry. I also  
10 would like to ask my colleagues to sign on INTRO 857  
11 that would create a residential parking's bill. With  
12 this bill we can review suggestions, save time and  
13 money. As we know many New Yorkers they waist a lot  
14 of time looking for parking in their community. This  
15 residential parking system will be establishing  
16 Council district where Council Members and Committee  
17 Boards express interest of such initiative. San  
18 Francisco and Boston created this residential parking  
19 system in the 1970's. Let's do it in New York City  
20 in 2018. A survey in 2013 conducted by NYU showed  
21 that a large majority of New Yorkers would like to  
22 see a residential parking system in our city and I  
23 hope to be working with my colleagues. Especially  
24 Council Member Stephen Levin who will be my  
25 co[inaudible 1:22:09] on this bill. My other

1  
2 colleague also Powers, Mark Levine and Helen  
3 Rosenthal that they also have a similar initiative  
4 for the [inaudible 1:22:18] area. Council Member  
5 Moya has showed interest for this initiative and also  
6 Constantinides and my great friend Peter Alonso. I  
7 hope that we can continue addressing this issue.  
8 This is our time to bring a residential parking  
9 system to our city of New York. [Speaking Spanish].  
10 Thank you.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCAE LETITIA JAMES: Gracias.

12 Council Member Williams.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. I  
14 just want to call my colleagues attention to a bill  
15 and two resolutions. The first one is a company  
16 called the Boss bill cosponsored by myself, Majority  
17 Leader Laurie Cumbo, Helen Rosenthal, Chair of the  
18 Women's Committee along with Cochair of the Women's  
19 Carlina Rivera and Margarete Chin and Council Member  
20 Deborah Rose. The bill protects against  
21 discrimination on the bases of a sexual and  
22 reproductive health decisions which refer to any  
23 decision to receive services which are arranged for  
24 or offerred while providing to individuals related to  
25 the reproductive system. It's a reintroduction.

1  
2 Hopefully, we can have a hearing. Two resolutions  
3 313 applauds the US Court of Appeals. Second in  
4 decision recognizing protections for LGBTQTG&C  
5 employees from employment discrimination on the Title  
6 7 of the Civil Rights Act and denouncing sessions DOJ  
7 trying to deny this protection, Resolution 314 calls  
8 on a state legislation to pass the signing [inaudible  
9 1:23:45] legislation which would establish a center  
10 for research in to fire arm related violence and a  
11 fire arm research fund. I also just want to say  
12 thank you to the administration for the formation of  
13 the crisis prevention and response task force. Many  
14 of us from the council side last term including Andy  
15 Cohen, the progressive caucus, the BLAC and myself  
16 requested this after Duane June was shot and killed  
17 in my district. I want to thank them as well as  
18 Council Member Richards, Council Member Ayala, and  
19 for requesting again this term after the death of  
20 Syed and hopefully this task force will lead to the  
21 prevention of other EDP persons being killed.  
22 Lastly, I just want to point out that HUD secretary  
23 Ben Carson, who I've said occasionally not only is in  
24 the sunken place has created the sunken place. Is  
25 reposing that subsidized tenants have to pay 35% of

1  
2 their gross income or 35% of their earnings. This  
3 approximately triples the requirement currently being  
4 held eliminating deductions for medical and childcare  
5 cost when determining rent. It just again shows why  
6 it is so important for folks to focus on local  
7 elected officials. We are the ones that have to  
8 protect from the madness being sent down. Thank you.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Thank  
10 you. Council Member Cumbo.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. I want  
12 to recognize the incredible work of Council Member  
13 Barron. She has shown that persistence, dedication,  
14 and a strong fight can make almost anything possible  
15 and so to see Dr. Sim's sculpture to come down is a  
16 huge victory for people all over the world  
17 particularly for African American women and this  
18 shows that when we come together, when we fight we're  
19 dedicated and we're persistent incredible things can  
20 happen. I also stand today because today is denim  
21 day and like many of you, we have worn denim with  
22 people and individuals and legislatures all over the  
23 world to recognize a court case where unfortunately a  
24 victim of rape, it was determined by the judge that  
25 she must have consented to it because of the fact

1  
2 that she was wearing tight jeans and in an act of  
3 protest, legislatures in Italy came to work that day  
4 all wearing jeans to show a sign of solidarity. And  
5 so today is denim day. I wear denim and I look good  
6 in my denim but no matter how good I look in my  
7 denim, its not an invitation to cat call. It's not  
8 an invitation to touch. It's not an invitation to  
9 grope and it's not an invitation for rape. It  
10 doesn't matter what you are wearing, where you are,  
11 whether its in your workplace, your school campus, a  
12 park, a night club, no means no and today we as a  
13 City Council continue to elevate that message and  
14 through the recent package of legislation that we  
15 passed in terms of sexual harassment, we have made  
16 sure that we have sent the message loud and clear  
17 legislatively as well. So, I thank all of the  
18 individuals all across the world who have worn denim  
19 today. Who inspirit wore denim today and we must  
20 continue to raise this message and elevate those.  
21 Thank you.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Thank  
23 you. Times up. Council Member Levin.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you Madam  
25 Public Advocate. I want to speak for a moment on

1  
2 INTRO 3620 which is being sponsored by you, our  
3 Public Advocate and I'm happy to cosponsor it  
4 regarding onsite childcare for city employee's. Far  
5 too many New Yorkers don't have access to realistic  
6 child care options with the majority of families now  
7 in dual income households, we are long over due in  
8 the meaningful ways to address this issue. As you  
9 all know, I Chair the General Welfare Committee and  
10 spend a lot of time working with Advocates and the  
11 Administration to expand childcare resources for our  
12 cities residence, but its not enough. Too many  
13 people are caught in the middle and forced to make an  
14 impossible choice between caring for their children  
15 or their livelihood. In a city as great as New York,  
16 I know that we could do better, and we need to do  
17 better. So, as you all also know I am personally  
18 impacted by this issue. My wife and I have a  
19 wonderful daughter Francis and even with two of  
20 taking care of her, it's a lot and not everyone has  
21 that. So, it takes a village to raise a child. It  
22 takes family members, love ones, and trusted adults  
23 to make sure that children have everything that they  
24 need to grow up. On site childcare options would  
25 open the door for countless New Yorkers to raise



1  
2 their families in a way that is right for them  
3 bringing 21<sup>st</sup> Century solutions to address an  
4 increasingly expensive lack of options. So, I'm  
5 proud to cosponsor this legislation. I want to thank  
6 our Public Advocate for introducing this important  
7 bill and then on another note, I forgot to  
8 acknowledge that not only did Mike McSweeney our  
9 marriage, we were married by his deputy but this past  
10 year, he actually came out to Greenpoint on New Years  
11 Eve, or the day before New Years Eve to swear me in  
12 on the sidewalk on Green street with his wonderful  
13 partner and it was just another example of Mike going  
14 above and beyond. They also introduced me to E3  
15 Lives. So, if you know about E3 live, Mike's one of  
16 the biggest advocates for E3 live for healthy living.  
17 So, with that I turn it back to the speaker.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Council  
19 Member Cornegy.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you Madam  
21 Public Advocate. Today I'm proud to introduce three  
22 bills which I encourage all my colleagues to sign  
23 onto. The first one requiring agency designation by  
24 the Mayor to submit a zombie property report every  
25 other year to each member of the council detailing

1 the vacant residential buildings and vacant lots  
2 located in each Council district. It is my belief  
3 that the information will empower individual members  
4 to identify opportunities for the development of  
5 affordable housing in their respective districts and  
6 remain actively engaged and encouraging such  
7 properties to be developed responsibly based on  
8 unique needs of their respective districts. The  
9 second bill I'm introducing today will streamline a  
10 submission and review process for alternative  
11 automatic fire extinguishing systems, fire alarm  
12 systems, and fire protection plans by consolidating  
13 these processes under the fire department. Saving  
14 money and time for small business owners. The  
15 consolidation of overlapping review and approval  
16 process is now performed by the Department of  
17 Buildings and the Fire Department is a part of cities  
18 small business first initiative. The purposed  
19 amendments to the administrative building mechanical  
20 and fire codes further the goal of streamlining the  
21 approval process for these systems to save small  
22 business owners time and money and enable them to  
23 begin operating sooner. The new process will be less  
24 burdensome for the business without sacrificing  
25

1 important city oversight. Applications and plans for  
2 such systems will be filed with and subject to the  
3 approval of the FDNY. Finally, the third bill will  
4 require the administration to resurrect the Mayors  
5 office of Industrial and manufacturing businesses.  
6 The industrial sector remains a cornerstone of our  
7 cities economy representing over 15% of private  
8 sector employment. In addition, manufacturing jobs  
9 represent an important pathway to the middle class  
10 with medium wages of \$50,400 per year. I was  
11 encouraged two and a half years ago by the  
12 announcement of a ten-point action plan to modernize  
13 the cities industrial policy which was backed by more  
14 than \$115 million in funding. I believe its critical  
15 that there be an office dedicated to the complete  
16 implementation of this plan and the support of the  
17 industrial sector to ensure we make the zoning  
18 policies work force programming and other incentives  
19 aimed at promoting industrial and manufacturing  
20 business work effective as possible. With that, I  
21 thank you for listening and I ask all of you to sign  
22 onto those three very important bills. Thank you.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Thank you  
25 and our last speaker is Council Member Kallos.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you Public  
3 Advocate James for introducing Bill 853. In relation  
4 to providing onsite childcare for city employees. I  
5 join with my father's caucus, Council Member Levin,  
6 and asking colleagues to please sign on. I think  
7 that this is something that is for everyone in this  
8 body who is a parent. Would like to be a parent.  
9 Who represents parents. In addition, some of you may  
10 have read I've been working with Council Member  
11 Espinal on the idea of reducing the number of plastic  
12 bottles in our waste stream. New York City  
13 contributes \$1 billion plastic bottles a year to the  
14 waste stream and so one idea would be to limit their  
15 sale just from the city. At least the city shouldn't  
16 purchase them here in the Council. We don't use  
17 plastic bottles. We haven't since Speaker Quin and  
18 we shouldn't use them in our parks. We shouldn't  
19 sell them in our parks and we figure if we can lead  
20 by example and do what San Francisco did I know that  
21 when I went there and couldn't buy a water bottle, I  
22 got a reusable bottle and kept using it for the rest  
23 of my time there and I still use one most of the time  
24 to this day. Additionally, we have other items  
25 inspired by Earth Day including requiring recycling

1  
2 bins in commercial locations INTRO 843. Trying to  
3 attain a goal of zero waste and actually having it in  
4 the Law INTRO 844, which was supported by Sanitation  
5 Chair Antonio Reynoso and one for those who like  
6 looking up at the sky and dreaming. For those who  
7 might like astronomy, INTRO 845 to limit light  
8 pollution from street lights. Thank you and I motion  
9 to adjourn.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: Thank you  
11 Council Member Kallos again for joining me regarding  
12 that comprehensive study regarding onsite childcare  
13 to city employees. And now the speaker to close.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I am seconding Council  
15 Member Kallos motion to adjourn. Good night and good  
16 luck. Thank you all.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES: We stand  
18 to adjourn. [gavel].

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date April 1, 2018