

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024

Start: 2:00 P. M.

Recess: 2:43 P. M.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: ADRIENNE E. ADAMS, Speaker
AMANDA FARIÁS, Majority Leader

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ADRIENNE E. ADAMS
JOANN ARIOLA
ALEXA AVILÉS
DIANA I. AYALA
CHRIS BANKS
JOSEPH C. BORELLI
ERIK D. BOTTCHER
JUSTIN L. BRANNAN
GALE A. BREWER
SELVENA N. BROOKS-POWERS
TIFFANY CABÁN
DAVID M. CARR
CARMEN N. DE LA ROSA
ERIC DINOWITZ
AMANDA FARIÁS
OSWALD FELIZ
JAMES F. GENNARO
JENNIFER GUTIÉRREZ

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING
COUNCIL MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

SHAHANA K. HANIF
KAMILLAH HANKS
ROBERT F. HOLDEN
CRYSTAL HUDSON
RITA C. JOSEPH
SHEKAR KRISHNAN
LINDA LEE
FARAH N. LOUIS
KRISTY MARMORATO
CHRISTOPHER MARTE
DARLENE MEALY
JULIE MENIN
FRANCISCO P. MOYA
MERCEDES NARCISSE
SANDY NURSE
CHI A. OSSÉ
VICKIE PALADINO
KEITH POWERS
LINCOLN RESTLER
KEVIN C. RILEY
CARLINA RIVERA
YUSEF SALAAM
RAFAEL SALAMANCA, JR
PIERINA ANA SANCHEZ
LYNN C. SCHULMAN
ALTHEA V. STEVENS
SANDRA UNG
INNA VERNIKOV
NANTASHA M. WILLIAMS
JULIE WON
KALMAN YEGER
SUSAN ZHUANG

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

A P P E A R A N C E S

INVOCATION:

The Invocation was delivered by Pastor Louis Lam, Brooklyn Alliance Church, located at 7504 Bay Parkway, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11214

2 SERGEANT POLITE: Testing one, two, today's date
3 is February 28, 2024. The Stated Meeting is being
4 recorded in the Chambers by Keith Polite.

5 AUTOMATED: (RECORDING IN PROGRESS)

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Quiet on the floor please,
7 quiet on the floor please, quiet on the floor please!
8 Ladies and gentleman, at this time please place all
9 electronic devices, all electronic devices to vibrate
10 or silent mode. Madam Majority Leader, it's all
11 yours.

12 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Good afternoon and
13 welcome to the Stated Meeting February 28, 2024. I am
14 Majority Leader Amanda Fariás, and I would like to
15 thank you for joining us. If you would like to follow
16 along, the agenda for today's meeting is posted on
17 our website.

18 On behalf of the body, I welcome the members of
19 the public who have joined us here today. During
20 Stated Meetings, only members of the Council may
21 speak. Members of the public shall remain silent. If
22 you wish to express support of any remarks, you may
23 make the silent approval gesture.

24 I want to remind my colleagues that decorum is to
25 be respected at all times. Insulting each other is

2 not appropriate, all remarks are to be addressed to
3 the Chair, and members shall not speak unless
4 recognized by the Chair. It is essential that even if
5 we disagree, we treat each other with respect.

6 CITY CLERK: Please join us for the Pledge of
7 Allegiance.

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

9 ALL: (PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE)

10 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Roll call?

11 CITY CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: (ABSENT)

13 CITY CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Present

15 CITY CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Presenté

17 CITY CLERK: Council Member Ayala?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Here

19 CITY CLERK: Council Member Banks?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Present

21 CITY CLERK: Council Member Bottcher

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Here

23 CITY CLERK: Council Member Brannan?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here

25 CITY CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here

3 CITY CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: (ABSENT)

5 CITY CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present

7 CITY CLERK: Council Member Carr?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Present

9 CITY CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Here

11 CITY CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Here

13 CITY CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: (NO RESPONSE)

15 CITY CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: (NO RESPONSE)

17 CITY CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: (NO RESPONSE)

19 CITY CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: (NO MIC) Here... Here!

21 CITY CLERK: Thank you

22 Council Member Hanks?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: (NO RESPONSE)

24 CITY CLERK: Council Member Holden?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here

2 CITY CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Present

4 CITY CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Present

6 CITY CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Presenté

8 CITY CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Here

10 CITY CLERK: Council Member Lee?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Here

12 CITY CLERK: Council Member Louis?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present

14 CITY CLERK: Council Member Marmorato?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Present

16 CITY CLERK: Council Member Marte?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Present

18 CITY CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: (ABSENT)

20 CITY CLERK: Council Member Menin?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Here

22 CITY CLERK: Council Member Moya?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Here

24 CITY CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Present

2 CITY CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Here

4 CITY CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Present

6 CITY CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: (NO MIC) Here... Here

8 CITY CLERK: Thank you

9 Council Member Powers?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: (NO MIC) Here

11 CITY CLERK: Council Member Restler?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Here

13 CITY CLERK: Council Member Riley?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: (ABSENT)

15 CITY CLERK: Council Member Rivera?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present

17 CITY CLERK: Council Member Salaam

18 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Present

19 CITY CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present

21 CITY CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Present

23 CITY CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Present

25 CITY CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Here

3 CITY CLERK: Council Member Ung?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Present

5 CITY CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Here

7 CITY CLERK: Council Member Williams?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here

9 CITY CLERK: Council Member Won?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: (PARENTAL)

11 CITY CLERK: Council Member Yeger?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here

13 CITY CLERK: Council Member Zhuang?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Here

15 CITY CLERK: Council Member Borelli?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: (NO RESPONSE)

17 CITY CLERK: Council Member Farías?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Present

19 CITY CLERK: Speaker Adams?

20 SPEAKER ADAMS: Present

21 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: We will now have today's
22 invocation which will be delivered by Pastor Louis
23 Lam of Brooklyn Alliance Church, which is located at
24 7504 Bay Parkway in Brooklyn.

25

2 PASTOR LOUIS LAM: I'm going to pray in English
3 first and then Cantonese afterwards.

4 Let us pray. Dear heavenly Father, thank you for
5 bringing us here to serve the people of New York
6 City, may you give us the wisdom to serve; may you
7 open our eyes to see things without bias; may you
8 open our hearts to love others dearly; may you open
9 our ears to understand our people. Father bless this
10 council, and make this council a blessing to the city
11 of New York; to the region around us; to the whole
12 nation. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus.
13 Amen. (SPEAKING CANTONESE)

14 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you. I would now
15 ask Council Member Susan Zhang to spread the
16 Invitation on the Record.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Thank you Majority Leader.
18 I would like to thank Pastor Luis Lamb from Brooklyn
19 Alliance Church for being here today. I want to thank
20 him for his dedicated work with the Chinese
21 Bensonhurst community organizing local events,
22 including food drives, after school programming, and
23 summer day camps. These programs have been
24 fundamental to so many members in our community. I

2 want to make a motion for unanimous consent to spread
3 the Invocation in full upon the Record.

4 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: We will now have the
5 Adoption of Minutes by Council Member Christopher
6 Marte.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Motion that the Minutes of
8 the Stated Meeting of January 30, 2024 and the Stated
9 Meeting of February 8, 2024 be adopted as printed.

10 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Messages and Papers from
11 the Mayor?

12 CLERK: None

13 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Communications from City,
14 County and Borough Offices?

15 CLERK: None

16 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Petitions and
17 Communications?

18 CLERK: None

19 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Land Use Call-Ups?

20 CLERK: None

21 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you, we will now
22 have Communication from Speaker Adrienne E. Adams.

23 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you very much, Madam
24 Majority Leader.

1
2 Good afternoon everyone. Before we begin, I do
3 want to express my condolences to our colleague,
4 Council Member Shaun Abreu, on the passing of his
5 beloved Abuela, Francisca (phonetic) Gonzalez. Our
6 hearts are with you and your family during this time.
7 Your Abuela will be missed by her family, friends,
8 and her beloved community.

9 Our city is also mourning the loss of 33-year-old
10 Juan Tamay Ganzhi, a construction worker who was
11 killed on the job during a partial building collapse
12 in Council Member Yeger's district earlier this
13 month.

14 Just two days ago, we also lost 36-year-old Nazim
15 Berry, a bodega worker in Council Member Hudson's
16 district, to senseless gun violence. Our thoughts are
17 with their loved ones.

18 We're also heartbroken by the death of 27-year-
19 old journalist, Fazil Khan, whom we tragically lost
20 during a deadly fire in Council Member Salaam's
21 district last week. Fazil was known for his
22 generosity and kindness, and he is survived by his
23 five siblings, mother, and grandmother. We send them
24 our condolences during this difficult time.
25

1
2 March 1st will mark exactly 30 years since the
3 death of 16-year-old Ari Halberstam, the beloved son
4 of community leader, and my friend, Devorah
5 Halberstam. Ari was devoted to his family and his
6 community, and his death was heartbreaking. But in
7 the three decades since losing her son to senseless
8 violence, Devorah has worked to keep his memory alive
9 by establishing the Jewish Children's Museum in Crown
10 Heights in his honor. She has fought to combat gun
11 violence and helped bridge communities together. I
12 thank you, Devorah, for channeling your pain and
13 grief into efforts that will continue to impact our
14 city and create a better future for our children. We
15 will always keep Ari and your family and our hearts.

16 Yesterday was Dominican Independence Day. New
17 York City is proud to be home to a vibrant and
18 dynamic Dominican community. It is critical that we
19 honor the many contributions of our Dominican
20 community to our city and beyond. Tonight the City
21 Council and some of our members will host a Dominican
22 Republican Independence Celebration, so I hope you
23 can join us right here in Chambers this evening for
24 the celebration.

1 March 1st is also Independence Movement Day, an
2 important day for our Korean American community in
3 commemoration of the March 1st Movement for
4 Liberation and Independence. Please join our Korean
5 American neighbors in celebrating this important day.

6 And as March is almost here, that means we will
7 be celebrating Women's History Month. I'm so proud to
8 lead this council, which has demonstrated to the city
9 and the world what strong women's' leadership looks
10 like. Women are the cornerstone of society and the
11 backbone of our families. When women are healthy,
12 safe, and have access to opportunities, we all
13 succeed. That's why we have advanced solutions that
14 will create a stronger and more equitable city for
15 all New Yorkers, and I look forward to continuing our
16 progress together. Happy Women's History Month.

17 March is also Greek American Heritage Month and
18 Irish American Heritage Month. We look forward to
19 celebrating the cultures and contributions of our
20 Greek and Irish communities right here in New York
21 City and around the world.

22 Before I continue, I do want to wish a Happy
23 Belated Birthday to Council Member Salaam, whose
24 birthday was yesterday (APPLAUSE), and a Happy Early
25

1
2 Birthday, she's out celebrating, to our Majority Whip
3 Selvena Brooks-Powers, whose birthday is March 1st.
4 We wish them both Happy, Happy Birthday. (APPLAUSE)

5 On Wednesday March 14th at noon, I will be
6 hosting my 2024 State of the City Address at the
7 Brooklyn Academy of Music. (APPLAUSE) I hope to see
8 you all there.

9 Before I continue, I want to thank our council
10 staff, especially our Legislative Division and our
11 Legislative Documents Unit, including Ruthie DeFranco
12 and Jillian Jeffries, for their hard work in
13 preparation for today's Stated Meeting, listen to
14 this: over 500 bills are being introduced today, and
15 I want to acknowledge their dedication for making
16 today possible. (APPLAUSE)

17 Now, let's move onto our Stated Agenda.

18 First, we will vote on the following Finance
19 items:

20 A Preconsidered Resolution, sponsored by Council
21 Member Justin Brannan, authorizing a 40-year Article
22 XII tax exemption for new construction of a 7-story
23 rent stabilized building in Council Member Sanchez's
24 district.

2 A Preconsidered Resolution, also sponsored by
3 Council Member Justin Brannan, amending a previously
4 approved Article 5 tax exception in Council Member
5 Abreu's district. The amendment makes necessary
6 technical changes.

7 Today we will also vote on a set of bills
8 sponsored by Council Member Julie Menin, related to
9 mobile vending requirements. These bills emerged from
10 recommendations made by the Street Vendor Advisory
11 Board, which was established by Local Law 18 of 2021,
12 and consists of various stakeholders, including
13 vendor advocates and brick and mortar business
14 representatives. Together this package of bills will
15 streamline vending regulations while also ensuring
16 that vending does not occur in bike lanes.

17 Introduction 49-A would allow mobile food vendors
18 to display or store goods on top of their carts, and
19 it would simplify the display requirements for
20 general vendors. Additionally, this bill would repeal
21 the City's bookkeeping requirements for general
22 vendors and mobile food vendors.

23 Introduction 50-A would eliminate the requirement
24 for individual employees of mobile food vending carts
25 or trucks to each have a New York State Certificate

1 of Sales Tax Authority. This bill would also
2 eliminate the requirement that mobile food vendors
3 and general vendors obtain a Tax Clearance
4 Certificate upon renewal of a license or permit.
5

6 And Introduction 51-A would prohibit general
7 vendors and mobile food vendors from vending in
8 bicycle lanes. A bike lane is defined as a portion of
9 the roadway that is marked off or separated for the
10 preferential or exclusive use of bicycles. This bill
11 would clarify that vendors cannot operate or leave
12 their items in bike lanes. Thank you to our staff
13 members Sarah Swaine, Natalie Meltzer, David Seitzer,
14 and Rachel Cordero.

15 Next, we will vote on two bills sponsored by
16 Council Member Gale Brewer that aim to increase
17 safety related to the use of lithium ion batteries
18 and powered mobility devices. Over the past few
19 years, as e-bikes, e-scooters, and powered mobility
20 devices have become more prevalent, the City has
21 experienced a rapid increase in lithium ion battery
22 related fires in both residential and commercial
23 properties that have resulted in a dangerous uptick
24 in fatalities. This legislation is part of the
25 Council's ongoing efforts to mitigate the dangers of

1 lithium ion batteries and improve fire safety
2
3 citywide.

4 Introduction 19-A would require all businesses
5 that sell e-bikes, e-scooters, and other personal
6 mobility devices powered by lithium ion batteries to
7 post informational materials and guides about battery
8 safety both in their physical stores and on their
9 online retail platforms. A violation would be subject
10 to civil penalties ranging from \$150-\$350 per
11 violation.

12 And Introduction 21-A would enhance enforcement
13 efforts for the sale in rental of uncertified powered
14 mobility devices such as e-bikes and e-scooters. This
15 bill would give the Fire Department enforcement
16 authority for these laws, increase penalties for
17 illegal device sales, and give the Department of
18 Consumer and Worker Protection and the Fire
19 Department sealing authority for repeat violators. We
20 thank our staff members Sarah Swaine, Natalie
21 Meltzer, David Seitzer, and Rachel Cordero.

22 Thank you very much for your attention, now I
23 turn it back over to our majority leader.

24 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you, Speaker Adams.
25 We will move into Discussion of General Orders. I

2 would like to recognize Council Member Brewer,
3 followed by Council Member Menin.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much. I
5 want to thank the Speaker and everyone who has been
6 working on the battery issue for quite some time. We
7 know that just this last Friday there was a lithium
8 ion battery fire that killed, one, a journalism
9 student as you heard, injured 22. It's the 31st blaze
10 caused by these batteries this year, 18 killed last
11 year, and 200 fires.

12 What Local Law 19-A would do, it would basically
13 tell retailers who have these batteries in their
14 portfolio to post information that talks about no
15 mixing and matching of batteries - and if you don't
16 do it you will be fined. We still need our federal
17 partners. I want to say that we thank Majority Leader
18 Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, and Congressman Torres,
19 because they have all introduced the legislation to
20 give the Consumer Product Safety Commission a
21 directive to create federal mandatory standards so
22 that we have batteries that are all certified. But,
23 that has not happened.

24 Introduction 21 would talk specifically also
25 about the stores. It would mandate that both Fire

2 Department and Department of Consumer and Worker
3 protection, both together, enforce what needs to be
4 enforced at these stores. Number one, that they
5 should have... if they have three summonses that
6 they're given then there could perhaps be some kind
7 of... either a fine and/or a padlocking. At the same
8 time, they also have to keep track of some kind of an
9 inventory of what they're selling. Again, this is not
10 ,you know, getting rid of all the online batteries;
11 it is hopefully continuing with what this council has
12 done in the past, which is to focus on the batteries
13 here in the city and trying to get only certified
14 batteries to be used by these wonderful delivery
15 workers. We do not want any more fires. Thank you
16 very much.

17 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you. Council Member
18 Menin?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Thank you, Majority Leader.
20 Today I'm proud that the New York City Council will
21 be passing several bills related to street vending.
22 And I first of all want to thank the Speaker for
23 prioritizing these important issues for street
24 vendors.

1
2 My three pieces of legislation that we are voting
3 on today were recommendations from the Street Vending
4 Advisory Board's Report that was released in 2022.

5 The first bill, Introduction 49, repeals arduous
6 bureaucratic requirements for street vendors, just as
7 we have done so for small businesses in the city.

8 Next, Introduction 50 removes the requirement
9 that all mobile food vendor employees obtain a
10 Certificate of Authority to collect sales tax. This
11 duplicative requirement is quite frankly unfair and
12 unjust. We don't require every bartender or waitress
13 employed a restaurant to obtain a sales tax license,
14 so why should we require every food vendor employee
15 that is working for a food truck to do so? Under this
16 legislation, only the licensed vendors will be
17 required to submit proof of their certificate when
18 applying for their permit.

19 Finally, Introduction 51 is common sense,
20 it would prohibit vending either on or in a bike
21 lane. I want to thank bill drafter, Sarah Swaine, for
22 her work on these bills, and from my team, my Chief
23 of Staff, Jonathan Szott and my Legislative Director,
24 Brandon Jordan. Thank you.

2 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you. Seeing no
3 other members signed up to speak and no one's hands,
4 we will forward.

5 Report of Special Committees?

6 CLERK: None

7 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Report of Standing
8 Committees?

9 CLERK: None

10 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Report of Standing
11 Committees?

12 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Consumer and
13 Worker Protection, Introductions 19-A and 21-A,
14 lithium ion safety information and illegal powered
15 mobility devices?

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
17 Orders.

18 CLERK: Introductions 49-A and 50-A general
19 vendors and mobile food vendors?

20 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
21 Orders.

22 CLERK: Introduction 51-A, vending in bicycle
23 lanes?

24 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
25 Orders.

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 23

2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance M 26
3 and Resolution 199, budget modifications?

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders...

5 [CROSS-TALK]

6 PROTESTOR: [INAUDIBLE]

7 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: We will have no
8 interruptions on the Council floor. The floor... The
9 gallery is to remain silent.

10 PROTESTOR: [INAUDIBLE]

11 SPEAKER ADAMS: (GAVEL) Security, please do remove
12 the disruption from the Chambers, thank you.

13 (PAUSE)

14 CLERK: Madam Speaker? [CROSS-TALK]

15 PROTESTOR: We will not be silenced!

16 CLERK: [INAUDIBLE]... [CROSS-TALK]

17 PROTESTOR: We will not be silenced!

18 CLERK: We were on the Report of the Committee...

19 [CROSS-TALK]

20 PROTESTOR: [INAUDIBLE]

21 (PAUSE)

22 PROTESTOR: [INAUDIBLE]

23 (PAUSE)

24 CLERK: Madam Speaker? We...

25 SPEAKER ADAMS: Please continue.

2 CLERK: Thank you. Preconsidered LU 19 and
3 Resolution 200 and Preconsidered LU 20 and Resolution
4 201, tax exceptions?

5 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

6 CLERK: Report of the Committee Land Use, LUs 11
7 and 12, 230 Kent Avenue Rezoning?

8 SPEAKER ADAMS: Approved with Modifications and
9 Referred to the City Planning Commission pursuant to
10 Section 197-(d) of the New York City Charter.

11 CLERK: On the General Orders Calendar, a
12 resolution appointing various persons Commissioner of
13 Deeds?

14 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

15 And I now ask that the clerk take a roll call
16 vote on all of the items coupled on today's General
17 Orders Calendar.

18 CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: (ABSENT)

20 CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye on all.

22 CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye on all.

24 CLERK: Council Member Ayala?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye

2 CLERK: Council Member Banks?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye on all.

4 CLERK: Council Member Bottcher

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye on all.

6 CLERK: Council Member Brannan?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye

8 CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye on all. And I want to
10 thank my staff, uh, Sam Goldsmith in particular, as
11 well as the Speaker's staff, and certainly passing
12 through the committee, thank you, Chair Menin, and
13 the Speaker, thank you.

14 CLERK: Thank you.

15 Council Member Brooks-Powers?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: (ABSENT)

17 CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye on all.

19 CLERK: Council Member Carr?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye

23 CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye

25 CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all.

3 CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye

5 CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye

7 CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye on all.

9 CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: (ABSENT)

11 CLERK: Council Member Holden?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye

13 CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye on all.

15 CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye

17 CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye

19 CLERK: Council Member Lee?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Council Member Louis?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye

23 CLERK: Council Member Marmorato?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Aye on all.

25 CLERK: Council Member Marte?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye on all.

3 CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: (ABSENT)

5 CLERK: Council Member Menin?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye on all.

7 CLERK: Council Member Moya?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

9 CLERK: Thank you

10 Council Member Narcisse?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye on all.

12 CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

14 CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Aye on all.

16 CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye on all.

18 CLERK: Council Member Powers?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: (NO MIC) Aye

20 CLERK: Thank you

21 Council Member Restler?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye

23 CLERK: Council Member Riley?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: (ABSENT)

25 CLERK: Council Member Rivera?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

3 CLERK: Council Member Salaam

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Aye on all.

5 CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

7 CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye

9 CLERK: Thank you

10 Council Member Schulman?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye on all.

12 CLERK: Thank you

13 Council Member Stevens?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all.

15 CLERK: Council Member Ung?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all.

17 CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye on all.

19 CLERK: Council Member Williams?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: (NO RESPONSE)

21 CLERK: Council Member Won?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: (PARENTAL)

23 CLERK: Council Member Yeger?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye

25 CLERK: Council Member Zhuang?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Aye

3 CLERK: Council Member Williams?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: (NO RESPONSE)

5 CLERK: Council Member Borelli?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye on all.

7 CLERK: Council Member Farías?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye on all.

9 CLERK: Speaker Adams?

10 SPEAKER ADAMS: Aye

11 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: All items on today's

12 General Orders Calendar are adopted by a vote of 44

13 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and 0

14 abstentions.

15 Introduction and Reading of Bills?

16 CLERK: (NO RESPONSE)

17 (PAUSE)

18 CLERK: Madam Speaker, all items are referred to

19 committee as indicated on the Agenda.

20 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you. There are no

21 resolutions on today's calendar, so we will now move

22 in to General Discussion. I will now recognize

23 Council Member Narcisse, followed by Council Member

24 Sanchez, and Council Member Salaam.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Thank you Madam Majority
3 Leader.

4 I speak today to sound the alarm on behalf of
5 healthcare workers in hospitals across our city. As a
6 council... nurse I am calling a code blue. Doctors,
7 nurses, and hospital staff can handle most
8 emergencies, but every now and then even healthcare
9 heroes need a lifeline. We need all hands on deck. We
10 are facing a critical issue. Medicaid currently pays
11 hospital 30% less than the actual cost of care of New
12 York. This understanding has created an urgent
13 healthcare crisis, and it is severely impacting the
14 more than 4 million New Yorkers who rely on Medicaid
15 for their healthcare. We are seeing severe cuts and
16 mental health services, longer wait times in
17 emergency rooms, and dangerous healthcare staffing
18 shortages. This underpayment harms low income New
19 Yorkers, especially in the Black and Latino
20 communities, leading to worse healthcare outcomes and
21 shorter life expectancies. Safety net hospitals,
22 which are a lifeline for many communities, are being
23 pushed to the brink and even worse, some like Suny
24 Downstate and Beth Israel Center are on the chopping
25 block. Jobs and lives will be lost. So with that,

1 there is hope; we have a solution. We need Governor
2 Hochul to raise Medicaid reimbursement rates to cover
3 100% of cost of care by 2028 starting with a sizable
4 down payment in this year's State Budget. If New York
5 increases Medicaid reimbursement, the federal
6 government will pay for half of the cost. Fully
7 funded Medicaid means hospital can provide quality
8 care and mental health services New Yorkers need. It
9 means our seniors, children, and mothers and babies
10 will receive the best quality care they deserve. I
11 urge all my colleagues to send a message clear to
12 Albany by supporting Resolution 170 when it comes up
13 for the legislature to fully fund Medicaid. Thank
14 you. (TIMER CHIMES)

16 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you, we will now
17 move to Council Member Salaam, followed by Council
18 Member Dinowitz, and Council Member Hanif.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Thank you, Madam Majority
20 Leader.

21 As has been discussed, Friday afternoon on
22 February 23rd, a deadly blaze began on the third
23 floor of the apartments at 2 Saint Nicholas Place in
24 my district. The fire quickly spread to the floors
25 above, putting the lives of several tenants in peril.

1 I'm still shaken by images of people hanging from the
2 ledges of the buildings as they awaited rescue.

3 Friday's fire resulted in several injuries, and most
4 unfortunately, as has been discussed, the passing of
5 Fazil Khan. My heart cries for the family and friends
6 of Fazil Khan. Young and full of promise, Fazil
7 arrived in Harlem by way of New Delhi, India to
8 pursue life in journalism. He came to our city in
9 2020 after being accepted into the Columbia
10 Journalism School, where he immediately made an
11 impact as a brilliant data reporter on his way to
12 earning his Masters of Science in Data Journalism.
13

14 One thing that stands out about Fazil and his work is
15 that he immediately used his talents in the service
16 of others. While at Columbia, Fazil contributed to
17 the Missing Them Project where his research and
18 analysis revealed how many children in this city had
19 lost a parent or caregiver to COVID-19. It is
20 delightful to hear stories of how Fazil treated the
21 families that he spoke with so much care and
22 kindness. In his professional work, he also developed
23 the College Welcome Guide an easily accessible tool
24 for prospective college students to gain knowledge on
25

1 colleges and universities beyond their costs and
2 academic reputation.

3
4 Simply put, Fazil represented the absolute best
5 of Harlem, a vibrant individual blessed with a spark
6 and intelligence that he used in the service of his
7 neighbors. My community was extremely blessed to have
8 him. This city was blessed to have him. May he rest
9 in peace. He was a devout Muslim (TIMER CHIMES)...
10 And in ending, I just want to say, as we say in
11 Islam, Inna Lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un, we come
12 from God and to God we shall return. And, if it's
13 okay, I would like to ask our Speaker if we may have
14 a moment of silence for Fazil Khan and all of those
15 mentioned who lives were lost in the past few days.

16 ALL: (MOMENT OF SILENCE)

17 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Thank you.

18 MAJORITY LEADER FARIAS: Thank you, Council Member
19 Salaam. I will now call on Council Member Dinowitz.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Thank you, Majority
21 Leader.

22 Today I'm proud to introduce three pieces of
23 legislation that seek to insure more New Yorkers are
24 able to access our city and the great resources and
25 information we have.

1 The first bill I am introducing, uh,
2
3 Introduction 163, is inspired by an actual mailer
4 from the FDNY that was sent to constituents in my
5 district. Everything about this mailer was
6 inaccessible from the font size to the colors used.
7 This bill, introduced in collaboration with Council
8 Member Borelli and Council Member Lee, establishes
9 accessibility guidelines and ensures that every
10 public facing print document follows these
11 accessibility guidelines. From fire safety mailers to
12 public assistance applications, print documents from
13 the City should be accessible to everyone -
14 particularly our older adults and people with
15 disabilities.

16 The second bill, Introduction 162, introduced
17 alongside Council Member Marte, is focused on
18 increasing accessibility to alternative modes of
19 transportation by creating bike storage for employees
20 and visitors of City owned buildings. 2023 showed
21 record numbers for New Yorkers biking, and by
22 prioritizing bike parking in public buildings we are
23 making cycling a more accessible and viable option
24 for commuters contributing to a more environmentally
25 friendly city.

2 And, finally, Resolution Number 75 urging the New
3 York State legislator to require all schools to
4 provide comprehensive information on post-secondary
5 financial aid opportunities, including programs like
6 FAFSA and the Dream Act to their students. The
7 numbers speak for themselves, high school seniors who
8 complete the FAFSA are 84% more likely to immediately
9 enroll in post-secondary education, and this
10 percentage increases to 127% amongst students in the
11 lowest socioeconomic quintile. I urge my colleagues
12 to support these measures as we work towards a more
13 inclusive and accessible city for all.

14 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you, Council Member
15 Dinowitz... before time.

16 I would now like to acknowledge Council Member
17 Williams.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you, Majority
19 Leader. I would like to request unanimous consent to
20 vote all items on today's Agenda.

21 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Are there any objections?

22 ALL: [SILENT]

23 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Seeing none, permission
24 granted.

2 I would now like to call on Council Member
3 Hanif... Sorry, you actually have to vote now, and I
4 will call on the clerk.

5 CLERK: Thank you.

6 Council Member Williams?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

8 CLERK: Thank you.

9 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: I would like to recognize
10 Council Member Hanif, followed by Council Member
11 Stevens, followed by Council Member Sanchez.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you, Majority Leader.

13 Today I'm re-introducing Introduction 210, which
14 would end the Mayor's cruel and counterintuitive 30
15 and 60 day caps on shelter day stays for asylum
16 seekers. I'm grateful to Council Member Restler,
17 Council Member Gutiérrez, Council Member De La Rosa,
18 Council Member Hudson, Council Member Sanchez,
19 Council Member Nurse, and Council Member Won for
20 introducing this bill alongside me, and for many more
21 members for joining as sponsors.

22 In recent weeks, we've seen the devastating
23 consequences of this policy. Street homelessness has
24 been exacerbated and students have had their
25 education disrupted. I urge my colleagues to meet

1 this urgent moment and stand up to end shelter
2 evictions. I'm also very excited that this bill will
3 be heard by the Committee On General Welfare this
4 Friday at 10 a.m. Thank you so much, Deputy Speaker
5 Ayala; I am also holding a rally along many faith-
6 based leaders and issue advocates immediately
7 beforehand at 9 a.m. on the City Hall steps, and I
8 would love my colleagues to join there. Thank you.

9 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you, Council
10 Member.

11 I now call on Council Member Stevens, followed by
12 Council Member Sanchez.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Good afternoon. I am
14 proud to introduce two pieces of legislation
15 alongside the (INAUDIBLE) caucus members Council
16 Member Nantasha Williams and Council Member Kevin
17 Riley. The first piece of legislation would limit
18 social media access for young people unless waived by
19 a parent or guardian. The second bill would require
20 the City to conduct a report on the impact of social
21 media on the mental health of young people.

22 Data from 2021 indicates that 77% of our city
23 high schoolers spent three or more hours per day in
24 front of a screen on average school day - not
25

2 including time spent on schoolwork. Social media has
3 become an integral part of our daily lives. Youth
4 mental health in New York City has been declining for
5 over a decade and cannot be ignored. Our youth are
6 being exposed to harmful and toxic content daily, and
7 we must be proactive in promoting healthier online
8 habits and ensuring that young people citywide have
9 the tools and support to navigate the digital
10 landscape in safety. This is a proactive step to
11 address the youth mental health crisis as we know
12 that they disparities between Black and brown
13 communities and the disproportionate impact of the
14 harmful effects. I urge colleagues to sign onto
15 Introductions 442 and 443, thank you.

16 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you, Council Member
17 Stevens. I would like to call on Council Member
18 Gutiérrez, and then Council Member Sanchez.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you Majority
20 Leader.

21 I'd like to just extend my heartfelt condolences
22 to the family of the man tragically killed yesterday
23 in traffic violence amidst the chaos of Broadway in
24 both mine and Council Member Restler's district.

1
2 Yesterday was another difficult day for me as
3 every traffic death is just knowing how preventable
4 this loss of life was. Broadway is a designated
5 vision zero priority quarter, stands as a symbolic
6 artery coursing through the heart of Brooklyn, but it
7 is notoriously unforgiving. The J-M-Z line runs
8 above, while below is a major commercial corridor for
9 pedestrians and drivers. It's a main pathway from
10 East New York to Williamsburg and the city on the
11 other side. It's a truck route, it's the fastest way
12 to travel by bike; it's used by everyone, but works
13 for no one. Band-Aid fixes, though well intentioned,
14 fail, in comparison to the holistic approach needed
15 to stop the tragedies that keep happening. To truly
16 honor those who have fallen victim to this lack of
17 action, we must confront systemic challenges head on
18 acknowledging the complexity of its network, and the
19 diversity of array users it accommodates. Only
20 through a concerted effort to address its
21 multifaceted challenges can we hope to transform
22 Broadway. I'm thankful to my colleagues Council
23 Member Restler, Council Member Narcisse, Council
24 Member Ossé, and Council Member Mealy who have all
25 been engaged in this much needed action, and I

2 implore DOT and this administration to work
3 collaboratively and urgently to save lives, thank
4 you.

5 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you. I would now
6 like to call on Council Member Sanchez on Zoom.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Thank you, Majority
8 Leader. Hi everybody, reporting live from 250 where a
9 screaming toddler is refusing to nap, so hi
10 everybody.

11 I am introducing a number of bills today as all
12 of our colleagues are, and I want to highlight two
13 bills in particular that I would love for the 25+
14 members that were on it before to jump back on.

15 First is going to be Introduction 431, which was
16 formally 1270. Street vending is as old as New York
17 City itself, and yet most vendors in New York City
18 operate in the shadows. Estimates are that 60 to 70%
19 of the vendors that you see out in the streets are
20 operating without a license, without a touchpoint
21 with government, and in ways that are not necessarily
22 harmonious with our communities. So, Introduction 431
23 asks the city of New York to take a step in the
24 direction of regulating vending in a way that allows
25 people not to be in the shadows, that allows folks to

2 not operate in the shadows and effectively regulate
3 vending instead of placing arbitrary caps. We are the
4 only large city in the United States that places a
5 cap on vending. So, I invite everybody to rejoin 431
6 and also to be a part of the dialogue that we will be
7 a spearheading with advocacy organizations and groups
8 all over the city to insure that there is robust
9 conversation.

10 And Introduction 435, which was formally 895, is
11 about increasing access to rapid STI testing. The
12 Bronx in particular suffers from the highest rates of
13 HIV across New York State - 62 counties, including
14 having double the rate of our sister boroughs right
15 here in New York City. So by expanding access to
16 testing, we can make a real difference and save lives
17 in the city of New York. It is time to ensure that
18 everyone has access to the services that they need.
19 Thank you so much, Majority Leader.

20 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you, Council Member
21 Sanchez.

22 Seeing no one else up to speak, I would like to
23 note that all items on today's General Orders
24 Calendar are adopted by a revised vote of 45 in the
25 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and 0 abstentions.

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

I will now call on Speaker Adrienne Adams to close today's Stated Meeting.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Majority Leader. The Stated Meeting of February 28, 2024 is hereby adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date March 6, 2024