

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
STATED MEETING

----- X

February 24, 2022  
Start: 2:20 p.m.  
Recess: 3:46 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Adrienne Adams  
Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Shaun Abreu
- Joann Ariola
- Alexa Avilés
- Diana I. Ayala
- Charles Barron
- 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 Farías
- Oswald Feliz
- James F. Gennaro
- Jennifer Gutiérrez

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Shahana K. Hanif  
Kamillah Hanks  
Robert F. Holden  
Crystal Hudson  
Kristin Richardson Jordan  
Rita C. Joseph  
Ari Kagan  
Shekar Krishnan  
Linda Lee  
Farah N. Louis  
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  
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.  
Pierina Ana Sanchez  
Lynn C. Schulman  
Althea V. Stevens  
Sandra Ung  
Marjorie Velázquez  
Inna Vernikov  
Natasha M. Williams  
Julie Won  
Kalman Yeger

Roderick Roberts, Sr.  
Ramah Christian Center Inc.



SERGEANT AT ARMS: Okay, folks, we're about to start the digital portion. Please take your seats, please. The digital portion is going live. Take your seats.

COUNCIL CLERK: Good afternoon and welcome to today's hybrid Stated Meeting. We ask the Council Members and staff please turn on their video for verification purposes. Thank you for your cooperation. We're ready to begin.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Ladies and gentlemen, at this time, please place all electronic devices, all electronic devices to vibrate. Mr. Majority Leader?

[gavel]

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Good afternoon and welcome to the Stated Meeting of February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022. I am Majority Leader Keith Powers. I'd like to thank everyone for joining us here today. If you'd like to follow along, the agenda for today's meeting is posted on the City Council website.

COUNCIL CLERK: Please join us for the pledge of allegiance.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise.

COUNCIL CLERK: [inaudible]

1 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Roll call?  
2  
3 COUNCIL CLERK: Abreu?  
4 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Present.  
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Ariola?  
6 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Present.  
7 COUNCIL CLERK: Avilés?  
8 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Presente.  
9 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala?  
10 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present.  
11 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron?  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.  
13 COUNCIL CLERK: Bottcher?  
14 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Present.  
15 COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer?  
16 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.  
17 COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan?  
18 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here.  
19 COUNCIL CLERK: Brooks-Powers?  
20 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Here.  
21 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabán?  
22 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present.  
23 COUNCIL CLERK: Carr?  
24 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Present.  
25 COUNCIL CLERK: De La Rosa?

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Present.  
3 COUNCIL CLERK: Dinowitz?  
4 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Present.  
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Farías?  
6 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Present.  
7 COUNCIL CLERK: Feliz?  
8 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Presente.  
9 COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro?  
10 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.  
11 COUNCIL CLERK: Gutiérrez?  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Present.  
13 COUNCIL CLERK: Hanif? Hanks?  
14 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Present.  
15 COUNCIL CLERK: Holden?  
16 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.  
17 COUNCIL CLERK: Hudson?  
18 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Present.  
19 COUNCIL CLERK: Joseph?  
20 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Present.  
21 COUNCIL CLERK: Kagan?  
22 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Present.  
23 COUNCIL CLERK: Krishnan?  
24 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Here.  
25 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Lee?

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Present.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Louis?  
COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Marte?  
COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy?  
COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Menin?  
COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Present.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Moya?  
COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Present.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Narcisse?  
COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Present.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Nurse?  
COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Ossé?  
COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Present.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Paladino?  
COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Present.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Restler?  
COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Richardson Jordan?  
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Riley?

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera?  
COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca?  
COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Sanchez?  
COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Present.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Schulman?  
COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Present.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Stevens?  
COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Present.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Ung?  
COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Present.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Velázquez?  
COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: [inaudible]  
COUNCIL CLERK: Vernikov?  
COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Present.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Williams?  
COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Present.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Won?  
COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Present.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger?  
COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli? Powers?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Present.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Adams?

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: I'm present.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll  
6 now have today's invocation which will be delivered  
7 by Bishop Roderick Roberts, Senior, Spiritual Leader  
8 at Ramah Christian Center, Incorporated which is  
9 located at 3360 Fish Avenue in the Bronx.

10 BISHOP RODERICK ROBERTS: Good afternoon,  
11 everyone. It's an honor to be here. Father, we're  
12 thankful to you for your grace, for your mercy. We  
13 thank you for this city government. Thank you for  
14 our national government, all elected officials  
15 represented here today. Your word said, "Except you  
16 build a house, we labor in vain that build it. Except  
17 you keep the City, the watchman waiteth [sic], but in  
18 vain." So we lift up every representative here this  
19 afternoon. We pray for great grace and wisdom to  
20 conduct the affairs of the City. Pray for our  
21 educational sector, our law enforcement officials,  
22 our local municipalities, those in our medical field,  
23 our essential workers, those in housing. We pray oh,  
24 God, for strategies to combat crime, sickness, and  
25 mental illness in our city. Pray for the healing of

1 families, for we understand that families create  
2 cities. Cities create states, and states create  
3 nations. Pray for healing amongst our families,  
4 healing in our city and our nation. Pray for healing  
5 among ethnic, Lord God, clashes and diversity. We  
6 pray for healing amongst political parties and  
7 political lines. We pray for great grace as we  
8 conduct the affairs of the business of this city and  
9 for wisdom and strategy to lead the people of New  
10 York City. Amen.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you Bishop  
13 Roberts, and welcome to City Council. I now ask City  
14 Council Member Kevin Riley to spread the invocation  
15 on the record.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you,  
17 Majority Leader. Bishop Roberts' leadership extends  
18 his founding church Ramah Christian Center, and  
19 reaches throughout the community in the 12<sup>th</sup>  
20 District. Also serving as the Continental Bishop for  
21 the Jabula New Life Ministries, North American and  
22 Caribbean delegation, as well as the second Vice  
23 President for the 47<sup>th</sup> precinct-- excuse me-- 47<sup>th</sup>  
24 Precinct Clergy Coalition in my district. Bishop  
25 Roberts' leadership calls to uplift and strengthen

1 the community by building relationships with all  
2 stakeholders. I would like to thank Bishop Roberts,  
3 Roderick S. Roberts, for being here today, and I make  
4 a motion for unanimous consent to spread the  
5 invocation in full upon the record. Thank you.

6  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you,  
8 Council Member Riley. We'll now have the adoption of  
9 minutes by Council Member Eric Bottcher.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: Motion to adopt  
11 the minutes?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Of the Stated  
13 Meeting of February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 be adopted as printed.  
14 Hold on one second.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: I make a motion  
16 that the minutes of the Stated Meeting of February  
17 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 be adopted as printed.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you,  
19 Council Member Bottcher. Messages and papers from  
20 the Mayor?

21 COUNCIL CLERK: M-- excuse me. M21  
22 through M26 various budget documents.

23 SPEAKER ADAMS: Finance.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: M27 City debt and  
25 reserves.

2 SPEAKER ADAMS: Received, ordered,  
3 printed and filed.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Communications  
5 from City, County, and Borough Offices?

6 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Petitions and  
8 communications?

9 COUNCIL CLERK: M28 Intro Nine.

10 SPEAKER ADAMS: Withdrawn, filed.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Land Use Call-  
12 ups?

13 COUNCIL CLERK: M29 through M31.

14 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on call-up vote.

15 I would now ask that the clerk take a roll call vote  
16 on all of today's Land Use Call-ups.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Abreu?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye on all.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Ariola?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye on all.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Avilés?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye on all.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye on all.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Just wanted to  
3 get some clarity. Are these on the Land Use items  
4 that are going before [inaudible] today?

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Land Use call-ups,  
6 Council Member.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Just the call-  
8 ups?

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Yes.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye on all.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Bottcher?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye on all.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye on all.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Brooks-Powers?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Aye on  
19 all.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabán?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: I vote aye on all  
22 except for Land Use item 0001 in which I abstain.  
23 Thank you.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Cabán,  
25 we're only voting on Land Use call-ups at the moment.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Ah, thank you.

Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Carr?

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: De La Rosa?

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Dinowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Farías?

COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Feliz?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gutiérrez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Hanif? Hanks?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Holden?

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Hudson?

COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Joseph?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye on all.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

COUNCIL CLERK: Kagan?

COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Krishnan?

COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Lee?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Louis?

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I make a motion  
for all unanimous consent to vote on all Land Use  
call-ups and all items coupled on General Orders  
Calendar.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Any objections?

Okay, motion is granted. How do you vote, Council  
Member?

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Marte?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy? Menin?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Moya?

COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Narcisse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Nurse?

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Aye on all.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Ossé?  
COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Aye on all.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Paladino?  
COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye on all.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Restler?  
COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Richardson Jordan?  
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Aye on  
all.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Riley?  
COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye on all.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera?  
COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca?  
COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Sanchez?  
COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye on all.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Schulman?  
COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye on all.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Stevens?  
COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Ung?  
COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Velázquez?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Aye on all.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Vernikov?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye on all.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Williams?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye on all.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Won?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye on all.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

13 Council Member Mealy? Borelli? Powers?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I vote aye.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Adams?

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: I vote aye.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Today's Land Use

18 Call-ups are adopted by a vote of 48 in the  
19 affirmative and 0 in the negative. We will now have  
20 communication from Speaker Adrienne Adams.

21 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Majority

22 Leader. Good afternoon everyone. Happy Thursday. As  
23 always, I want to remind all members that masks are  
24 required to be worn throughout the meeting, even when  
25 we're speaking. I'm going to start today by

1  
2 acknowledging some concerning news that we all found  
3 out this morning. Russia invaded Ukraine, a nation  
4 of more than 44 million people. This has already led  
5 to death and destruction in Ukraine, and my heart  
6 goes out to the Ukrainian people and all Ukrainian  
7 communities throughout our city, from Manhattan's  
8 Little Ukraine, to Brighton Beach and Brooklyn. We  
9 are home to more than 150,000 Ukrainians, one the  
10 largest, if not the largest Ukrainian communities in  
11 the entire nation. This avoidable violence is  
12 heartbreaking, and we stand in solidarity with our  
13 Ukrainian neighbors. Next, I want to offer some  
14 remarks on issues that have arisen lately related to  
15 some Mayoral appointments that I know have been--  
16 that I know have unsettled some of our members and  
17 New Yorkers. As leaders, it is important that we  
18 ensure our staff appointments are reflective of the  
19 City and positioned to best advance the work of our  
20 city government on behalf of all New Yorkers,  
21 especially marginalized and underserved communities.  
22 It is also important that we be mindful about the  
23 messages that our actions send about the priority  
24 city government places on certain New Yorkers and the  
25 issues that affect them. We are here to advance and

1 support all New Yorkers and address the issue that  
2 affect their health, safety, and wellbeing. I'm a  
3 supporter and ally of our LGBTQ community, and I'm an  
4 advocate for the right and access to safe  
5 reproductive healthcare. In fact, I worked at a  
6 women's health clinic that provided reproductive  
7 healthcare when I was a Spellman College student. My  
8 team and I have let the Mayor's Office know our  
9 feelings on the importance of this, and our concerns  
10 about the role appointments have in this regard.  
11 Appointees come with a history and a track record,  
12 and it's fair for people to voice their concerns and  
13 questions about them based on that. I believe in the  
14 ability for people to change, grow and address past  
15 harm that their actions or words have caused. That  
16 has to be followed by a demonstrated change in  
17 actions and behavior. At the end of the day, the  
18 Mayor has the authority to appoint staff that serve  
19 at his pleasure, and that means it's for him to  
20 answer New Yorker's questions on his appointees and  
21 to ensure they're accountable to the duty and  
22 expectation to serve all New Yorkers. It will be our  
23 role as a council to conduct oversight of how city  
24 agencies and government are serving all New Yorkers,  
25

1  
2 regardless of whether we approve or disapprove of any  
3 appointees. That's a responsibility that I take very  
4 seriously, and I know that all of my colleagues do as  
5 well. And I want to make clear that I stand with our  
6 Council Members in solidarity for the rights of all  
7 LGBTQ New Yorkers and for the constitutional freedoms  
8 of women to make their own reproductive health  
9 choices. Next week, we begin the month of March  
10 which marks the start of our hearings to analyze the  
11 Mayor's Preliminary Budget. As we look forward to a  
12 post-pandemic recovery, the Council will work  
13 tirelessly to ensure we pass a budget that is laser-  
14 focused on promoting equity and safety for all New  
15 Yorkers. Our Committee on Finance will kick off the  
16 first Preliminary Budget hearing on Wednesday, March  
17 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the Committee on Environmental Protection  
18 will close the hearings on Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. In  
19 total, we currently have scheduled 29 hearings to  
20 examine the proposals in the Preliminary Budget for  
21 Fiscal Year 2023. As we start the budget process, we  
22 know that COVID continues to impact our city. It has  
23 been almost two years since New York City confirmed  
24 its first Coronavirus case on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. In  
25 our recovery, we must focus on initiatives that

1 strengthen the health and wellbeing of New Yorkers.  
2 The Mayor's budget is a starting point. Through the  
3 Council's advocacy we have base lined funding for  
4 initiatives like Fair Fares, a critical program that  
5 provides half-priced metro cards for low income New  
6 Yorkers. That is a floor, not a ceiling. The  
7 Council fought hard for this funding, and we now need  
8 to ensure we reach all New Yorkers who need it,  
9 something we'll be working closely together on moving  
10 forward. In this budget process the Council will  
11 prioritize investments in our children and families,  
12 workforce development, mental health, community  
13 safety, healthcare equity, education, and much more.  
14 This is a critical budget for our city. New York  
15 City is on a path to recovery, and as we get closer  
16 to a post-pandemic world, our city will emerge  
17 stronger than ever. Bringing it in house: we have  
18 some sad news in the council family. Recently, we  
19 lost Ann Holden, the mother of our friend and  
20 colleague, Council Member Robert Holden. I want to  
21 send my condolences once again to Council Member  
22 Holden, his family, and his friends. We're also  
23 mourning the death of fire fighter Jesse Gerhard  
24 [sp?], a brave public servant who responded to a two-

1 alarm fire in a three-story home in Far Rockaway, and  
2 worked extensively inside and outside the burning  
3 building looking to rescue victims. A day after the  
4 fire he suffered a medical episode inside his  
5 firehouse, Ladder 134 in Far Rockaway. He was 33  
6 years old. Let us now pause for a moment of silence  
7 to honor all New Yorkers we have lost.  
8

9 [moment of silence]

10 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you. On February  
11 28<sup>th</sup> we will mark the annual Hindu festival of Maha  
12 Shivaratri, also known as The Great Night of Shiva,  
13 one of the most important festivals in Hinduism.  
14 Hindus throughout our city will gather to remember  
15 Shiva with prayers, fasting, and meditation. And on  
16 March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Christians will be observing Ash Wednesday  
17 which marks the start of Lent, a time for fasting and  
18 penance. We also want to take a few moments at this  
19 time to acknowledge some staff departures. This is  
20 the last Stated today for or friend and dedicated  
21 Chief of Staff to the Speaker, Jason Goldman. Jason,  
22 we salute you for over four years of dedicated  
23 service, commitment, and genuine love that you have  
24 for this institution. Your work is not in vain. This  
25 Council will continue the good work, because of the

1 foundation that you leave us. Let's give Jason a  
2 round of applause.  
3

4 [applause]

5 SPEAKER ADAMS: Well done, and thank you,  
6 Jason. Next, Terzah Nasser, our First Deputy  
7 Director for the Infrastructure Division is retiring  
8 from the City Council after almost three decades of  
9 service. Terzah began as a counsel to our Parks and  
10 Housing and Buildings Committees before being  
11 promoted to a supervisory role where she has served  
12 with distinction. Terzah was instrumental in the  
13 development of the construction code revision process  
14 that we use today to keep our city and its buildings  
15 safe, and has overseen the drafting and development  
16 of countless local laws. Just as importantly, she  
17 has served as a mentor and guide to generations of  
18 central staff, attorneys and analysts. Her wisdom  
19 and spirit will continue to influence this body  
20 through them. We wish Terzah well, and we thank her  
21 for her stellar service to the City Council. Let's  
22 give Terzah a round of applause.

23 [applause]

24 SPEAKER ADAMS: I also want to  
25 acknowledge that Genan Zilkha [sp?], Co-counsel to

1  
2 our Housing and Buildings Committee will be departing  
3 form the Council as well-- as well, after over three  
4 years of service. During her time here she has  
5 played an important role in legislation on topics  
6 including the electrification of city buildings, the  
7 installation of bird-friendly glass, preventing the  
8 displacement of tenants in the nearly 3,000 page  
9 building code revision bill passed last year. Genan  
10 will not be going far. She will be joining the Law  
11 Department where we wish her continued success.  
12 Let's give her a round of applause.

13 [applause]

14 SPEAKER ADAMS: And last, but certainly  
15 not least, I want to acknowledge that Regina Poreda  
16 Ryan is leaving the Council after more than 25 years  
17 here. Regina began at the Council working on the  
18 Public Safety Committee where her work was  
19 instrumental as she helped launch the Alternative to  
20 Incarceration Initiative funded by the Council in  
21 1996. In the Finance Division she worked on various  
22 committees including Contracts, Cultural Affairs, and  
23 Education. She spent countless hours advising and  
24 developing budget and policy proposals with Council  
25 Members and numerous advocates. From serving as

1 Principal legislative financial analyst to Deputy  
2 Director, Regina has been instrumental in the Finance  
3 Division's growth. Through her leadership and  
4 advice, she contributed to the development of several  
5 signature proposals and initiatives, including the  
6 Family Leave Policy for the Council, the New York  
7 City Council Taskforce to Combat Gun Violence, the  
8 Young Women's Initiative, the Youth Employment  
9 Taskforce Report, and the Close Rikers Taskforce.  
10 Regina is a visionary leader and public servant who  
11 brought so much positive change that encouraged and  
12 empowered the most vulnerable, and Regina we thank  
13 you.  
14

15 [applause]

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: And there's still time to  
17 change your mind. We have 24 hours more. It's so  
18 important to recognize the dedication of our public  
19 servants who serve our city and its residents every  
20 single day. It's not easy, and as leaders we may not  
21 always agree on policy or how to approach difficult  
22 issues that face New Yorkers, but as a Council we  
23 respect each other no matter our background, how we  
24 identify, or where we come from, that's the only way  
25 that we will succeed as a body. Now, onto our

1 agenda. Today, we will be voting to provide advice  
2 and consent on nominees for the City's Corporation  
3 Conclude and Department of Investigation  
4 Commissioner. For Corporation Council, the nominee is  
5 Justice Sylvia Hinds-Radix who has served on the  
6 judiciary for a number of years in a variety of  
7 rolls, most recently as Associate Justice of the  
8 State Appellate Division, Second Department.  
9 Corporation Counsel is the attorney and counsel for  
10 the City and all agencies, leading the Law Department  
11 that conducts all the legal business of the City,  
12 bringing legal action on behalf of the City or  
13 defending the City. For Department of Investigations  
14 Commissioner, the nominee is Jocelyn Strauber. She  
15 previously worked at the US Attorney's Office for the  
16 Southern District and more recently has been a  
17 partner at the law firm Skadden Arp, Slate Meagher,  
18 and Flom. The Council's Rules Committee held a  
19 through hearing last week to examine these nominees  
20 where our Chair, Majority Leader Keith Powers, other  
21 members of the Committee including myself, questioned  
22 them to ensure we were confident in their abilities  
23 to fulfill the duties of these important roles. This  
24 morning, the Committee voted to move them forward to  
25

1 the full Council. Also out of the Rules Committee  
2 today and to be voted on are a few minor changes to  
3 Committee Assignments. We also have several Land Use  
4 items on today's agenda. Today, we will vote on a  
5 zoning change which will move sidewalk café rulers of  
6 out the zoning resolution to eventually be replaced  
7 by local law. This is the first step in establishing  
8 a permanent outdoor dining program that balances the  
9 many considerations of neighborhoods to ensure the  
10 needs of these critical small businesses are aligned  
11 with the quality of life needs of our neighborhood.  
12 Today's change simply removes restrictions that have  
13 limited outdoor dining opportunities in non-COVID  
14 times to mainly Manhattan, opening potential  
15 opportunities to outer borough neighborhoods. At the  
16 height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City established  
17 a temporary open restaurants program by Emergency  
18 Executive Order. This allowed restaurants in areas  
19 of the city that had long been restricted from such  
20 opportunities because of the zoning text to access  
21 the lifeline of outdoor dining during the pandemic as  
22 indoor dining limitations curtailed their ability to  
23 operate. We know that this helped so many of our  
24 restaurants that are central to our small business  
25

1 community, and stayed afloat during the devastating  
2 impacts of the pandemic, saving thousands of jobs.

3  
4 It also allowed so many of us to support our  
5 restaurants in a safe way. As we seek to move toward  
6 our City's recovery and establish a permanent outdoor  
7 program, we will work hard to balance the needs of  
8 restaurants and their local neighborhoods' concerns  
9 by gathering feedback from the many stakeholders in  
10 neighborhoods across the City to ensure outdoor  
11 dining is equitable, better-regulated, and accounts  
12 for the many considerations in our respective  
13 communities. The work to establish a program that  
14 works for all New Yorkers will happen over the coming  
15 weeks and months. I want to thank the Chairs of the  
16 Committees who have been leading this effort, Council  
17 Member Rafael Salamanca, Chair of the Land Use  
18 Committee, Council Member Kevin Riley, Chair of the  
19 Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises, and Council  
20 Member Marjorie Velázquez, Chair of the Committee on  
21 Consumer and Worker Protection. I also want to thank  
22 staff Angelina Martinez Rubio, Noah Meixler, and Leah  
23 Skrzypiec. We will also be voting on the following  
24 Land Use items: NYPD Bronx Special Victims Services,  
25 a site selection and acquisition of a property for a

1  
2 new a facility which will include 20,000 feet of  
3 office space including interview rooms, a holding  
4 cell, locker rooms, and interrogation rooms. There  
5 will also be separate entrances and waiting rooms for  
6 victims, and the facility will accommodate services  
7 for victims that the existing facility did not allow.  
8 This project is in Council Member Pierina Sanchez's  
9 district. The Landmarks Preservation Commission  
10 designation of 200 Madison Avenue first floor  
11 interior in Majority Keith Powers' district. 749 Van  
12 Sinderen Avenue, a rezoning to allow the development  
13 of a new nine-story mixed-use commercial and  
14 residential building with 119 units which will be  
15 affordable. The Council will modifying the MIH option  
16 to strike option two and add the deep affordability  
17 option in Council Member Charles Barron's district.  
18 99-07 Astoria Boulevard commercial overlay which will  
19 facilitate the development of a one-story retail  
20 building in Council Member Francisco Moya's district.  
21 2892 Nostren Avenue rezoning in application for  
22 rezoning to allow an eight-story mixed-use commercial  
23 and residential building. It will include 51 housing  
24 units; 13 units will be permanently affordable. The  
25 Council will be modifying the MIH option to strike

1 option two and add the deep affordability option in  
2 Council Member Farah Louis' district. Finally, 2134  
3 Coil Street rezoning, a new five-story mixed-use  
4 commercial and residential building. It will include  
5 148 housing units and the Council will be modifying  
6 the MIH option to strike option two and add the deep  
7 affordability option in Council Member Mercedes  
8 Narcisse's district. And now with that, I happily  
9 turn it back over to the Majority Leader.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you,  
12 Speaker Adams. We'll now move into the Discussion of  
13 General Orders. We have no one who has signed up, so  
14 we're going to move over to the report of special  
15 committees.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Reports of  
18 standing committees?

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee  
20 on Land Use LU 1 and Reso. 42, NYPD Bronx Special  
21 Victims Services.

22 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General  
23 Orders.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 2 and Reso. 43, 200  
25 Madison Avenue.

2 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General  
3 Orders.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: LU's 3 and 4, 749 Van  
5 Sinderen Avenue rezoning.

6 SPEAKER ADAMS: Approved with  
7 modifications and referred to the City Planning  
8 Commission pursuant to Section 197-D of the New York  
9 City Charter.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 7 and Reso. 44, 9907  
11 Astoria Boulevard commercial overlay.

12 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General  
13 Orders.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: LU's 8 through 12,  
15 various applications.

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: Approved with  
17 modifications and referred to the City Planning  
18 Commission pursuant to Section 197-D of the New York  
19 City Charter.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee  
21 on Rules, Privileges and Elections, Pre-considered  
22 Reso. 26, Council Committee changes.

23 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General  
24 Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: M12 and Reso. 45,  
approving the appointment of Judge Sylvia Hines-Radix  
as Corporation Counsel.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General  
Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: M13 and Reso. 46,  
approving the appointment of Jocelyn Strauber, DOI  
Commissioner.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General  
Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: On the General Orders  
Calendar, LU 3 and Reso 47 through LU 12 and Reso.  
53, various applications.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled and General  
Orders, and I would now ask that the Clerk take a  
roll call vote on all of the items coupled on today's  
Genera Orders calendar.

COUNCIL CLERK: Excuse me. Abreu?

COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ariola?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Avilés?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: May I be excused  
5 to explain my vote?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission  
7 granted. Sorry.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I  
9 want to vote aye on 749 in my district. It's one of  
10 the 100 percent affordability. We did a lot of work  
11 on that, and even the commercial space where--  
12 commercial space will be relocated. They worked out  
13 everything with the developers on this, 100 percent  
14 affordable. So I'd like to vote aye on that. I'm  
15 voting no on NYPD facility, and I am voting yes on  
16 the outdoor café legislation, parts of the budget and  
17 parts of the vote. I'm voting yes on Hinds and I  
18 abstain on Jocelyn. I don't know her, and I abstain  
19 on all the rest of the items on the-- I want to make  
20 sure I got everything. I got have stuff written  
21 down. I abstain on all the other Land Use items.  
22 Thank you.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Barron,--

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [interposing]

25 [inaudible]

2 COUNCIL CLERK: if I may ask, on the Land  
3 Use items, you abstain on which Land Use item please,  
4 just to clarify?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yeah, because I  
6 was just-- I abstain on all of the Land Use items  
7 except for 749 and except for the café, the outdoor  
8 café, for the other outer boroughs. The rest I  
9 abstain on.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And I abstain on--  
12 - I vote yes for Radix and abstain on the other.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Okay, thank you.  
14 Bottcher?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Permission to  
16 explain my vote?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission  
18 granted.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: I want to thank  
20 Chairs Salamanca and Riley and City Council Land Use  
21 for their work on the Open Restaurants text  
22 amendment. I also want to thank Consumer Affairs and  
23 Worker Protection Chair Velázquez for coming down to  
24 the Village this morning and doing a walk-through  
25 with Council Member Marte and I and some of our

1  
2 constituents. On a walk-through, local residents  
3 pointed out some of the issues that the temporary  
4 outdoor dining program has presented on certain  
5 blocks. We now have the opportunity to craft a  
6 program that keeps the best parts of the temporary  
7 outdoor dining program, and it's added so much  
8 vibrancy to the streets of our city while addressing  
9 the parts of the program that have been problematic,  
10 and today's vote is only the first step in that  
11 process, and I vote aye on all.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Brannan?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: May I please be  
16 explained to--

17 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission  
18 granted.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yeah, my vote--  
20 Open Restaurants text amendment I think Council  
21 Member Bottcher said it correctly. I do want to  
22 point out to the public that it is not the final  
23 decision on this issue, and certainly I've gotten  
24 hundreds of emails from people who think it is. So,  
25 I agree that there is much time to discuss, and I

1 want to thank all the Chairs because a 10-hour  
2 meeting is a long one, and it was very constructive  
3 in terms of the committees, but-- and I think a lot  
4 of good ideas have come out of that discussion. So,  
5 congratulations, and we all look forward to working  
6 on it. Second, I certainly, in terms of a member of  
7 Rules, Privileges, and Elections I want to thank the  
8 Chair and say that in my opinion both of them are  
9 very qualified. I want to thank Jocelyn Strauber who  
10 is up for appointment as the Commissioner of the  
11 Department of Investigations for following up on the  
12 suggestions that the committee made in terms of her  
13 committees and appointments that she's currently on,  
14 that she has said that she will no longer be on those  
15 committees. Thank you very much. I vote aye on all.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Brooks-Powers?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Aye on  
18 all.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabán?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: I vote aye on all  
21 except for Land Use item 001 in which I abstain.  
22 Thanks.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Council  
24 Member Carr?  
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye on all.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: De La Rosa?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Permission to  
5 explain my vote?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission  
7 granted.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: I want to  
9 thank our Chairs Salamanca, Riley, and Velázquez for  
10 their diligent work on the hearing and the work  
11 around the Open Restaurants text amendment. While I  
12 understand the concerns expressed by local Community  
13 Boards and our neighbors around quality of life  
14 issues that have risen because of the sidewalk cafes  
15 or the sidewalk open restaurants, those issues-- most  
16 of those issues were stemming from the fact that the  
17 previous program lacked regulation and oversight for  
18 the existing structures. This is just the first  
19 step, as has already been said by the colleagues, and  
20 I believe that this is precisely why voting in favor  
21 of this amendment today, we will have the opportunity  
22 to create a program that works well for all, where we  
23 will have strict oversight to make sure that quality  
24 of life disruptions are not-- do not continue in our  
25 community. I also want to say that COVID-19 has

1 changed the way in which the world works, as well as  
2 the use of our streets and sidewalks, and for many of  
3 the small businesses in my community, this program  
4 has been a lifeline that is much-needed at this time.

5 I vote aye on all.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Dinowitz?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye on all.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Farías?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Permission to  
10 explain my vote?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission  
12 granted.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Thank you,  
14 Majority Leader. While I am voting yes on Land Use  
15 12, I would like to express my sentiments and  
16 concerns moving forward. During the joint committee  
17 hearing with Consumer and Worker Protection and  
18 Zoning and Franchises, I raised concerns about what  
19 agencies are responsible, or if they have the  
20 capacity needed to implement the permanent Open  
21 Restaurants program. I still believe we need to see  
22 more concrete plans from DOT and other agencies prior  
23 to this amendment's adoption and implementation. As  
24 a member of the Committee on Consumer and Worker  
25

1 Protection, I'll make sure that these issues are  
2 addressed and prioritized, as I stated prior, we can  
3 no longer afford to be reactive. We need to be a  
4 proactive government. While I still have these  
5 reservations, I'm voting yes today because the  
6 implementation of Open Restaurants during the COVID-  
7 19 pandemic has both saved and created thousands of  
8 jobs. Supporting the economic wellness of New York  
9 City's restaurants helps everyone, families, workers,  
10 small businesses, tourism industry and so much more.  
11 Restaurants are cultural hubs and favorite places and  
12 one of the most used gathering spaces. As we begin  
13 to collectively recover from COVID-19, I think it's  
14 best we not lose something as fun and beautiful as  
15 allowing restaurants to have more outdoor spaces with  
16 less restrictions, but I believe it's necessary to  
17 properly implement this roll out, and I'll make sure  
18 to work to do so. And lastly, I'd just like to say  
19 thank you to my colleagues Council Members Salamanca,  
20 Riley, and Velázquez for all their diligent work. I  
21 vote aye on all.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Feliz?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote aye on  
3 all with the exception of Land Use item 12 and  
4 companion Resolution 53 on which I vote no.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, Council  
6 Member. Gutiérrez?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: I vote aye on  
8 all with the exception of Land Use 1, which I  
9 abstain.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Hanif?  
11 Hanks?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye on all.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Holden?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye on all with  
15 the exception of LU 12 and accompanying Resolution 53  
16 which I vote no.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Hudson?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye on all with  
19 the exception of Land Use item 1 for which I abstain,  
20 and permission to explain my vote?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission  
22 granted.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: The Open  
24 Restaurants program which was a lifeline for our  
25 city's restaurant owners was compiled quickly and

1  
2 unintended consequences surfaced. We saw many New  
3 Yorkers who were happy to have the opportunity for  
4 socially distanced dining and felt a sense of  
5 normalcy for the first time in months. But we also  
6 many New Yorkers who understandably experienced  
7 issues of safety, hygiene, pest control, noise, and  
8 inaccessibility. The city has heard feedback and is  
9 working to provide a fair, safe path forward to  
10 ensure restaurants can offer outdoor dining while  
11 also accounting for the concerns of local residents.  
12 This zoning text just paves the way for a more  
13 equitable and safe Open Restaurants program, one that  
14 allows restaurants to expand capacity and offer  
15 outdoor dining citywide in all neighborhoods. It  
16 does not enact the Open Restaurants program, but  
17 insisted removes the geographic restrictions on  
18 sidewalk cafes. Over the next few weeks, the Council  
19 will consider Intro 31, which establishes the  
20 parameters for the Open Restaurants program. During  
21 this time I'll be sure to listen to my constituents  
22 and work to make sure that the bill and the  
23 Department of Transportation's proposed rules, should  
24 that bill pass, meet the needs of the residents of  
25 the 35<sup>th</sup> district. Thank you.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Joseph?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye on all.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Kagan?

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

7 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission  
8 granted.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Okay, I'm planning  
10 to vote on Land Use item 12 Open Restaurants text  
11 amendment. All three Community Boards in my district  
12 are strongly against it. Disability rights advocates  
13 strongly against it, and the issues they're expressed  
14 during the hearings about sanitation and  
15 accessibility, obstruction of sidewalk of the roads,  
16 noise pollution, lack of enforcement, etcetera. When  
17 all of these concerns will be addressed in the new  
18 legislation that I'm expecting, then I will consider  
19 voting yes, but for now I have huge skepticism about  
20 this program, and I'm a big supporter of restaurants,  
21 and I'm voting no on this issue, on this topic, but  
22 I'm voting yes on everything else. Thank you.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Krishnan?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye on all,  
25 except abstaining on Land Use 0001.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Lee?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Permission to  
4 explain my vote?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission  
6 granted.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: I will plan to vote  
8 aye on all, but just wanted to express some of the  
9 same concerns on Land Use item 12 with the Open  
10 Restaurants text amendment, and just to express the  
11 same concerns that others have, especially our  
12 Community Boards in my district have brought up a lot  
13 of issues with just sanitation, quality of life. So,  
14 just looking forward to working with local  
15 communities, local voices to make sure that we're  
16 having the best outcomes for both restaurants,  
17 businesses, small businesses, as well as those that  
18 live in the area. Thank you. Aye on all.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Marte?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Permission to  
21 explain my vote?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission  
23 granted.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: I want to thank  
25 Chair Riley, Velázquez, and Salamanca for being

1 really open about what's coming next. This morning,  
2 Council Member Velázquez toured part of my district  
3 and part of Council Member Bottcher where we saw five  
4 feet tall piles of trash, dead rats, abandoned and  
5 broken sheds, cars and bikes not being able to go  
6 down a street, and puddles of sludge. We think it's  
7 sludge. It might be worse. What we've seen these  
8 past-- what we've seen these past two years is that  
9 the temporary program has not worked. There's been  
10 almost no enforcement or oversight, and so tension  
11 has risen between residents and small business  
12 owners. I appreciate my colleagues' commitment to  
13 understanding the concerns of both sides and hope we  
14 can all work together to make sure the legislation  
15 that pass does not take a one-size-fit-all approach.  
16 I especially want to shout out and thank my fellow  
17 Council Member Bottcher for really being a partner in  
18 making sure that residents of lower Manhattan are  
19 heard and we can improve their quality of life. I  
20 vote aye on all. Thank you.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: May I explain my  
24 vote?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission  
3 granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye on all,  
5 and I just hope that we can really look at this  
6 amendment, text amendment. On my way coming here I  
7 just saw one of the outdoor restaurants, they have  
8 clothes for sale, and that's parking. We're not  
9 thinking about the people who are practically  
10 sleeping in their cars because there's no parking.  
11 So, I thought DOT was going to really address that to  
12 a point where I put in some legislation that maybe we  
13 could start having the drug stores to-- maybe with a  
14 small fee-- that people can use parking. We really  
15 do not have a lot of parking right now, and I just  
16 hope this legislation go much further with the  
17 sanitation, the rodents. So I will be voting no on  
18 this, and I would love to see how-- and I would stay  
19 on this myself, because my district don't want it,  
20 but I know it's a necessity to our community, because  
21 we do need the jobs and we-- it did help a lot of  
22 restaurants, but I really feel we have to look much  
23 deeper than just approving this, because these bills  
24 was in place so long and it made sure that people  
25 didn't take advantage of the outdoor. So now, with

1 these structures standing, why not let it be on the  
2 sidewalk and not on-- in the streets. And I vote no  
3 on LU 12. Thank you.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Menin?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye on all.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Moya?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye on all.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Narcisse?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Can I have  
10 permission to explain my vote?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission  
12 granted.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I'm having a  
14 tough time because as a business person, I understand  
15 business and the needs for small business to thrive.  
16 The Open Restaurants did indeed save jobs and provide  
17 lifeline to struggling restaurants during the  
18 pandemic. However, I have deep concerns that there  
19 is no guarantees or budget. I haven't seen any  
20 budget to increase for DOT-- I mean, DOT or  
21 Sanitation to implement and manage the sidewalk café,  
22 road café. It is hard for me today from my  
23 perspective and knowing the support that the business  
24 need in our community, but both of my Boards, 15 and  
25

1  
2 18, strictly say no. So I'm going to say aye on all  
3 others except LU 12. It sadden my heart to do that,  
4 but this bill need to be reviewed and we need to do  
5 the right thing, and I'm looking to strike a balance.  
6 Thank you.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Nurse?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: No on LU 1 and aye  
9 on the rest.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Ossé?

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

13 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission  
14 granted.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I support Land Use  
16 item 12. This program born of pandemic necessity has  
17 been a gift to our city in many ways. It was an  
18 economic lifeline and still is to many of our small  
19 businesses, and it has now fundamentally changed how  
20 many dining establishments operate and how New  
21 Yorkers utilize their public spaces. However, this  
22 program needs to ensure that our streets are for the  
23 people and not the rats. The rodent population  
24 growth has been undeniable and is clearly linked to  
25 outdoor dining, which we instituted more quickly than

1 we could devise proper methods for sanitation. I  
2 support outdoor dining, but we need to ensure that we  
3 do it right and ensure the public health and  
4 cleanliness of our streets so that we can refuse  
5 seeing more sludge like in my colleague's district.  
6 Thank you. And I vote aye on all, except Land Use  
7 item 1, in which I abstain. Thanks.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Paladino?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye on all.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Restler?

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

14 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission  
15 granted.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: The Open  
17 Restaurants program has been one of the silver  
18 linings of this pandemic, and we've not only  
19 supported thousands of restaurants, but many tens of  
20 thousands of workers who would have otherwise been in  
21 an impossible situation these last couple of years.  
22 This is a prime example of creative government in  
23 action, and I'm deeply appreciative of all of the  
24 workers in city government who put together this  
25 program on the fly. There is no doubt that there are

1  
2 opportunities for improvement in the program  
3 management. I share my colleague's concerns that DOT  
4 is not the right agency to ultimately manage this  
5 program, but the leadership that Chairs Velázquez and  
6 Riley and Salamanca have demonstrated already gives  
7 me confidence that we as a Council will devise the  
8 right protocols to make Open Restaurants even better.  
9 And so I enthusiastically vote aye and vote aye on  
10 all. Thank you.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Richardson  
12 Jordan?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: I vote  
14 no on the NYPD facility Land Use item 1, aye on all  
15 others, and permission to explain my vote?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission  
17 granted.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: I  
19 reject the inherent classism and the arguments that  
20 restaurants should be prevented from operating  
21 outdoor dining structures because a few elite members  
22 of the community find them to be eyesores. These  
23 structures allow us to support our restaurants and  
24 small businesses while still remaining cognizant of  
25 the lingering health and social distancing needs from

1  
2 the ongoing pandemic. With regards to sanitation, we  
3 should fight to restore the sanitation budget so we  
4 could feed the people and not the rats. Outdoor  
5 dining structures are a testament to the creatively,  
6 perseverance and ingenuity of New Yorkers, and I am  
7 proud to place my vote in favor of the bill.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Riley?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye on all.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Sanchez?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye on all.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Schulman?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye on all.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Stevens?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Ung?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Velázquez?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Permission to  
24 explain my vote?  
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission  
3 granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: On Land Use  
5 item 12-- I want to thank my colleagues first of all,  
6 Chair Salamanca, Chair Riley, thank you guys for  
7 making it Bronx strong. Open dining is coming from  
8 the Bronx, and when we're talking about the Bronx,  
9 we're talking about an outer borough that has been  
10 neglected historically. We're talking about what it  
11 meant for a community-- meant going from about 30 to  
12 650 licenses. It meant that finally the Bronx can  
13 actually have the same experience as Manhattanites.  
14 As we're looking forward, we are meeting with  
15 different members and their communities to make sure  
16 that everyone's heard, and coming from the Bronx, I  
17 can take tough conversations, right? And coming from  
18 New Yorkers, we can do the tough thing to make sure  
19 that we make it right. We're not seeking perfection.  
20 We're seeing partnership and participation. So what  
21 we're asking folks, give us your ideas. Give us your  
22 voices. Make sure that everyone's heard. Look,  
23 that's what they voted us to do, and that's what  
24 we're doing, and we're going to make sure that we're  
25 holding the agencies accountable, that when we sit

1 with them that we know that they have to be  
2 accountable, that when we're talking for New Yorkers,  
3 we're making sure that we're looking for the  
4 diversity in our communities and that our businesses  
5 are approached in such a way, and our languages are  
6 being spoken and heard. And ultimately, this is the  
7 first step. And I appreciate all the vote-- support.  
8 And if anyone has a question, our doors are always  
9 open, and I appreciate all the criticism. We need  
10 them. We need to work together, and I appreciate  
11 working with you all. So I vote aye on all.

12  
13  
14 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Vernikov?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: I share my  
16 colleagues concerns about Land Use 12 and I so I vote  
17 aye on all, except Land Use item 12 and the  
18 accompanying resolution. Thank you.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Williams?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye on all.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, Council  
22 Member. Won?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: I abstain from Land  
24 Use item 0001 and I vote aye on all the rest.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Mr. President, may  
3 I be excused to explain my vote.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: You are--  
5 Permission granted.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you very  
7 much. So much has been said about this being a first  
8 step, and that's true. It's not just the first step  
9 and it's not just the cart before the horse, because  
10 the cart before the horse is even born. The bill  
11 that we heard about two weeks ago is the first  
12 conversation that this session of the Council about  
13 regulating this program. And to be clear, when Open  
14 Restaurants was created, it was created at a time  
15 when restaurants were closed. They had no  
16 alternative. It was either shut the doors, lock 'em  
17 up, or give them a chance to do some commerce as a  
18 city. What was the chance to do commerce, give them  
19 a chance to be outside? And that was done, and yes,  
20 it's true it was-- I've heard it described as a  
21 lifeline, as a silver lining, as a great success.  
22 All of these things are true, but that emergency time  
23 has passed, and what we're considering today is not  
24 about an emergency. What we're considering today is  
25 about the very future of the neighborhoods that we

1 represent. My job is to protect my neighborhood.  
2 I'm not going to tell anybody else what their job is,  
3 but that's my job. In my neighborhood, these have  
4 taken over the streets in a very poor way. I know  
5 that there are other Council Members who share those  
6 concerns, because we've heard on this floor today,  
7 we've heard at the 10-hour hearing chaired by my  
8 colleague Council Member Velázquez. Council Member  
9 after Council Member after Council Member, district  
10 manager after district manager, if the district  
11 manager, neighbor after neighbor after neighbor  
12 coming and saying these things are horrors in our  
13 neighborhood, what are you doing? And so this will  
14 pass today, because that's the way things happen, but  
15 I'm going to be voting no on LU 12 and Resolution 53.  
16 And what I'll say in the final few seconds is that  
17 the draft bill that we have that's being heard,  
18 that's currently the draft-- it hasn't been adopted,  
19 but it's a bill pending here in this Council, we'll  
20 put the enforcement of this program in the hands of  
21 the DOT. The DOT that can't get a speedbump put in  
22 your neighborhood on any block you want in under  
23 three years. That's the bill. DOT, that's what  
24 we're trusting today. We're voting yes on this to  
25

1 give this over to DOT. That's what we're hearing.  
2 There's nothing more. So I vote aye on the remainder  
3 of the items on the agenda, and I've already stated  
4 my no vote, sir? Okay. LU 12 and Resolution 53.  
5 Thank you very much, Mr. President.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Hanif?  
7 Council Member Borelli?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Hi. Permission  
9 to vote on all Land Use items as well as General  
10 Order?  
11

12 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission  
13 granted.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Thank you. I  
15 vote aye on all.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We  
17 also are going to need to know where you are calling  
18 in from, Mr. Borelli.

19 [laughter]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: We'll let him  
21 answer that one on his own. Happy St. Patty's Day  
22 early, Mr. Borelli.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Thank you, Mr.  
24 Majority Leader.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: I would like to  
3 change my-- or alter my vote. I would like to abstain  
4 from LU 1, and the rest I vote aye.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Powers?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I vote aye.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Adams?

8 SPEAKER ADAMS: I vote aye.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Just going to  
10 hold a minute while the votes are counted.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: All items on  
12 today's General Order Calendar are adopted by a vote  
13 of 50 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and 0  
14 abstentions with the exception of Land Use item 1 and  
15 Resolution 42 which is adopted by a vote of 40 in the  
16 affirmative, 3 in the negative, and 7 abstentions;  
17 Land Use item 2 and Resolution 43 which is adopted by  
18 a vote of 49 in the affirmative, 0 negative, and 1  
19 abstention; Land Use 7 and Resolution 44 which was  
20 adopted by a vote of 49 in the affirmative, 0 in the  
21 negative, and 1 abstention; and Land Use item 8 and  
22 Resolution 49 which is adopted by a vote of 49 in the  
23 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and 1 abstention;  
24 Land Use 9 and Resolution 50 which is adopted by a  
25 vote of 49 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and

1  
2 1 abstention; and Land Use item 10 and Resolution 51  
3 which is adopted by a vote of 49 in the affirmative,  
4 0 in the negative, and 1 abstention; Land Use item 11  
5 and Resolution 52 which is adopted by a vote of 49 in  
6 the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and 1 abstention;  
7 and Pre-considered Resolution 26 which is adopted by  
8 a vote of 49 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative,  
9 and 1 abstention. You guys are making me work today,  
10 alright. And we have to do one more. Got to keep  
11 going. Item M13 and Resolution 46 which is adopted  
12 by a vote of 49 in the affirmative, 0 in the  
13 negative, and 1 abstention; Land Use item 12 which is  
14 adopted by a vote of 43 in the affirmative, 7 in the  
15 negative, and 0 abstentions; and the revised Land Use  
16 Call-ups vote is 49 in the affirmative, 0 in the  
17 negative. Meeting will stand at ease.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I just want to-  
20 - I just want to clarify. My Community Boards say no  
21 both 18 and 15. For me, I abstain.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member, you're  
23 abstaining on Land Use item?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: LU 12.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Okay, thank you.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Thank you.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Okay, updated  
4 vote on Land Use item 12 and Resolution 53, that is  
5 adopted by a vote of 43 in the affirmative, 6 in the  
6 negative, and 1 abstention. We will now move to the  
7 introduction and reading of bills.

8 SPEAKER ADAMS: All bills have been  
9 referred to committees as indicated on today's  
10 agenda.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. There  
12 are no resolutions on today's calendar. So we'll now  
13 move into General Discussion. We'll move in the  
14 order that people signed up. We will start with  
15 Council Member Vernikov and then followed by Council  
16 Member Narcisse.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Thank you,  
18 Majority Leader Powers. Last night, Russia waged war  
19 on the people of Ukraine, the country where I was  
20 born and raised. Although America is my home, I  
21 cannot remain silent--

22 SPEAKER ADAMS: Council Member, I have to  
23 interrupt you. Can you please put your mask on?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: I apologize.

25 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Although

America is my home, I cannot remain silent while a power-hungry tyrant President Putin launches senseless, deadly attacks which have already taken and will continue to take the lives of innocent men, women, and children. In 2014, the world watched in horror as Crimea became the hub for multiple human rights abuses, including torture, arbitrary detention, forced disappearances, persecution, and discrimination. Acting in complete and utter disregard for human suffering, Putin manufactured a crisis and is ready to spill the blood of both Russians and Ukrainians, and so many will senselessly die in this unnecessary conflict. As we sit here right now, ballistic missiles are flying over the country. Ukrainian troops have been taken as prisoners. Ukrainian military planes are being shot down, and many have already been pronounced dead. Ukrainian air space has been shot. People are running for shelter. New York City's home to more than 150,000 Ukrainians, the largest such community in the country, with some residing in Council Member Rivera's district in East Village, and some in my district in Southern Brooklyn. As a child of Jewish

1 refugees, I also cannot fail to mention that Ukraine  
2 has a complicated history with the Jews. Pogroms and  
3 anti-Jewish massacres in the 1940s led to the rape  
4 and murder of thousands of Jews, including one of the  
5 worst atrocities which took place just outside of  
6 Kyiv in Babi Yar where close to 34,000 Jews were  
7 rounded up and shot point blank. However, Ukraine  
8 has gone a long way since the 1940s. Today, it is a  
9 sovereign democracy that strives for freedom,  
10 independence, territorial integrity, and economic  
11 prosperity. Its government has criminalized anti-  
12 Semitism and racism, and its people seek to live in  
13 peace guided by democratic principles and western  
14 ideals. They do not want this war. As a Ukrainian-  
15 born American Jew, I strongly condemn Russia's  
16 unprovoked act of aggression against the people of  
17 Ukraine. Putin's disregard for human life, and I  
18 stand with the people of Ukraine as well as with my  
19 constituents who still have family, friends, and ties  
20 to their homeland. My office stands ready to assist  
21 in any way we can and I thank my colleagues for the  
22 tremendous outpouring of support. Thank you.

24 [applause]

2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll  
3 now hear from Council Member Narcisse followed by  
4 Council Member Kagan.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: For my  
6 resolution that I introduced [inaudible] Tiffany  
7 Cabán [inaudible] that supported this because we  
8 cannot go on without realizing what's going on in our  
9 communities, and not only the city, throughout the  
10 state. Less than three percent of all crime victims  
11 in New York receive any victim compensation. It is  
12 our duty as elected officials serving this vulnerable  
13 citizen to remove any barriers impeding their access  
14 to relief. We must support all crime victims by  
15 guiding them, not impeding them on the road-- I mean,  
16 not impeding them on the road to healing, which is  
17 why I have-- me, myself talked to my colleague  
18 Tiffany Cabán to introduce the resolution calling  
19 upon the New York State Legislature to pass it and  
20 the Governor to sign, A8619E [sic] S7573, which will  
21 expand eligibility for victims and survivors of crime  
22 to access victim compensation funds. So, thank you.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll  
24 have Council Member Kagan followed by Council Member  
25 Barron.

1 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Thank you. I  
2 would like to strongly condemn the aggression--  
3 sorry. I would like to strongly condemn the  
4 aggression by Russian Federation against independent,  
5 democratic, freedom-loving Ukraine. I stand in  
6 solidarity with Ukraine and this all immigrants from  
7 Ukraine, all immigrants from the former Soviet Union,  
8 and if all decent people of the world that condemn  
9 this aggression, and I strongly oppose imperialist  
10 aggression of Russian Federation. And this is not  
11 just against Ukraine. This is against freedom of  
12 speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly,  
13 freedom to choose your own destiny. It's aggression  
14 against neighboring peaceful, beautiful country.  
15 Right now bombs are going on sieges [sic] in the  
16 Ukraine all over the places, and I would like to  
17 thank each one of you, everybody who called me and  
18 who supports beautiful community and beautiful  
19 country. Thank you so much, and God bless America.

21 [applause]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll  
23 now hear from Council Member Rivera followed by  
24 Council Member Menin.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you so  
3 much. Today, I'm introducing my bill to establish  
4 the Office of the Patient Advocate. As the home to  
5 the country's largest public hospital system and  
6 hundreds of clinics, psychiatric facilities,  
7 residential healthcare facilities, and so many more,  
8 New York City needs accountability and transparency  
9 in this difficult-to-navigate industry. From the  
10 discrimination and implicit bias that arise when  
11 vulnerable populations attempt to access a healthcare  
12 system, the challenges patients face, and receiving  
13 timely care, to a lack of culturally competent  
14 information about billing and insurance, there's an  
15 undeniable need for patients to not just feel as  
16 though they have an ally and support system in  
17 government, but to know there is an entity capable of  
18 advocating for better care within the New York City  
19 healthcare system. I had the profound honor of  
20 serving as Chair of the Committee on Hospitals during  
21 the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic in New  
22 York City, and through the early days gauging  
23 hospital preparedness before our first positive case  
24 to conducting oversight testing and equitable vaccine  
25 distribution. I worked closely with Health +

1 Hospitals, the Greater New York Hospital Association,  
2 healthcare advocates, patients, families, and  
3 everyday New Yorkers as they express their concerns  
4 and share challenges they face in overcoming the  
5 systemic inequities in our healthcare system. So this  
6 bill, my colleagues, I urge you to sign on. We have  
7 the history's most diverse New York City Council. If  
8 we can sign on to this to help our families overcome  
9 these challenges, we can ensure an equitable  
10 healthcare experience for all New Yorkers. And let  
11 me just take the last 30 seconds to echo my  
12 colleague's words and share solidarity with the  
13 people of Ukraine. I have the distinct honor of  
14 representing Little Ukraine, a vibrant and resilient  
15 community with generations of history in East  
16 Village. Ukraine is a beautiful nation deserving of  
17 sustained independence and peace. There is no room  
18 for anything, but unequivocal condemnation of this  
19 senseless violence, and I keep all war-impacted in my  
20 prayers. Glory to Ukraine.

22 [applause]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We're  
24 going to now hear from Council Member Menin followed  
25 by Council Member Ossé.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Thank you. So the bill that I'm introducing today requires 311 to track and compile complaints regarding COVID testing sites. There are numerous pop-up COVID testing sites that falsely advertise next-day results. Unfortunately these false and misleading promises leaves people waiting often times for weeks for their results and leading to people infecting vulnerable family members. Some people never get results. Some people get incorrect results, and we have all had constituents contact our respective offices concerning the validity of a testing site that didn't return results or asked too much personal information like social security information, such that people might think that it's a false testing scam. Currently when New Yorkers call 311, the City does not take the complaint. The City is literally not tracking and maintaining 311 complaints for COVID testing sites at all. Today's legislation, Intro 55, requires the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications to create and track COVID testing site complaints on the 311 website and mobile app. DoITT would also be required to maintain a public website that updates daily on the number and nature

1 of the complaints received for each testing site, the  
2 agency each complaint was referred to, and the  
3 disposition of each complaint so that we can properly  
4 and finally bring accountability and transparency to  
5 these COVID testing sites. I respectfully urge my  
6 colleagues to sign on. Thank you so much.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We're  
9 going to hear now from Council Member Ossé followed  
10 by Council Member Marte.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Thank you, Majority  
12 Leader. In recent years, drug usage and overdose  
13 deaths have been on the rise. Thanks to a whole host  
14 of factors, many stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic,  
15 we have an undeniable crisis on our hands. The  
16 opioid crisis is here in New York City. Any action  
17 that mitigates a rolling tragedy is one we should be  
18 quick to take. Whether this bill gets passed or not,  
19 excuse my language, Madam Speaker, I'm so frickin'  
20 [sic] excited to introduce my first bill. Today  
21 myself and Council Member Powers are proud to  
22 introduce Intro. 56, a piece of life-saving  
23 legislation. The bill would require the Department  
24 of Health and Mental Hygiene to the Create the  
25 Nightlife Opioid Antagonist Program to help prevent

1  
2 opioid overdose in nightlife establishments. It  
3 would allow nightlife establishments to request and  
4 maintain a stockpile of overdose prevention kits, as  
5 well as receive training from the City in using the  
6 kits. This is a public health bill that would have  
7 an outsized positive impact on all New Yorkers. It  
8 will relieve those in the nightlife industry of an  
9 undue burden. It will make our streets and small  
10 businesses safer, and providing life-saving  
11 instruments to establishments who will need them free  
12 of charge will ensure that a New Yorker wakes up  
13 tomorrow who would not otherwise. Thank you.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. And  
15 you're allowed to be excited about your first bill.  
16 Congratulations. It's a good one.

17 [applause]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: And I'm happy to  
19 co-sponsor with you. We're going to now hear from  
20 Council Member Marte and then Council Member Hudson.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Hi, everyone. I'm  
22 going to try something a little bit different today.  
23 I don't know if you hear this. Happy Dominican  
24 Heritage Month. That's from a famous Dominican  
25 singer Juan Luis Guerra who is internationally known,

1 and this is a great pride for many Dominicans in the  
2 home country and here in New York City where we have  
3 one of the largest populations from the diaspora, and  
4 I would like to thank all my colleagues, right? This  
5 is the largest Council body with Dominicans ranging  
6 from the Bronx to Uptown and now in Lower Manhattan.  
7 We have reached almost all levels of government, from  
8 Community Boards to Borough President like Antonio  
9 Reynoso and to Washington D.C. like Adriana Espaillat  
10 as the Congress Member. We have become business  
11 leaders and not just baseball players. We've come  
12 leaders, not only in coach or in arts, but we really  
13 put our stamp on where we go and anything we come  
14 across. And so I am happy, and I'm sure all my other  
15 fellow Dominican colleagues are happy to celebrate  
16 our independence day this Sunday, and I would like to  
17 thank Council Member De La Rosa for holding an event.  
18 If you can, stop by. if not, just go home and listen  
19 to Juan Luis Guerra or Aventura [sic] or any other  
20 Dominican band and have some mango [sp?] [inaudible]  
21 salami [sic] and enjoy the day, because it is a  
22 moment to celebrate, especially when we hear so much  
23 darkness in the world. Thank you.

24 [applause]

2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Well said.

3 Council Member Hudson followed by Council Member  
4 Dinowitz.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Today I'm  
6 introducing my first piece of legislation as a new  
7 member of the City Council, a Resolution calling on  
8 the State Legislature to pass and the Governor to  
9 sign, the Fair Pay for Homecare Act, Resolution 0024-  
10 2022. Our State's 400,000 home healthcare workers,  
11 the overwhelming majority of whom are women, people  
12 of color, and immigrants are among our most  
13 marginalized economically vulnerable New Yorkers.  
14 More than half of homecare workers rely on public  
15 assistance, and one in four live below the federal  
16 poverty line. Given the meager wages and poor  
17 working conditions, it's no wonder our state  
18 currently has the worst homecare staffing shortage in  
19 the nation. Without homecare workers, older adults  
20 cannot get the care they need resulting in  
21 hospitalizations or forcing them to enter an older  
22 adult comfortably-- enter an older adult center  
23 rather than aging at home. Now, as our State's  
24 population of older adults is expected to grow faster  
25 than the general population, we'll need to fill more

1 than 700,000 homecare jobs in the next few years to  
2 ensure older adults who want to age at home can do so  
3 safely and with dignity. The Fair Pay for Homecare  
4 Act, introduced in the State Legislature by State  
5 Senator Rachel May and Assembly Member Dick  
6 Gottfried, would require homecare workers to be paid  
7 a minimum of 150 percent of the regional minimum  
8 wage. It would help raise tens of thousands of  
9 homecare workers out of poverty and chip away at the  
10 persistent gender wage gap by raising the incomes of  
11 hundreds of thousands of women. This bill will help  
12 attract more homecare workers and boost our state's  
13 economy by reducing public assistance roles and  
14 allowing family members to return to work who would  
15 otherwise need to stay out of the workforce to care  
16 for a loved one. New York owes it to the older  
17 adults who have made our communities what they are  
18 today to ensure they have the ability to age in  
19 place, and we owe it to the homecare workers to  
20 finally listen to them, treat them with respect, and  
21 pay them the fair wages they deserve. Thank you.

22  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you and  
24 congratulations. We're going to now go to Council  
25 Member Dinowitz, followed by Council Member Barron.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Thank you,  
3 Majority Leader. If any of you are like me on  
4 Election Day, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, last year, you were outside  
5 campaigning for yourself and maybe some other people,  
6 and people in my district, they came excited. They  
7 knew exactly who they were going to vote for, for all  
8 the municipal offices. When it came time for judges,  
9 they had no clue. They had no clue they were even on  
10 the ballot, because those offices are not required to  
11 be in the voter guide. If you are in Manhattan, you  
12 had a District Attorney's race. Those candidates  
13 were not required to be in the voter guide, because  
14 the CFB, the Campaign Finance Board, does not have  
15 to. What they're required to do is put in municipal  
16 offices, but judges, District Attorneys, have such an  
17 impact on our daily lives and the lives of our  
18 neighbors. So I'm introducing Introduction 48 which  
19 would require the CFB to put information about  
20 candidates for non-municipal offices in the voter  
21 guide. We need to make sure that we have an informed  
22 electorate, and this is one piece of that puzzle to  
23 make sure that our neighbors and our voters have as  
24 much information about the candidates they see on the  
25 ballot as possible. I'm also introducing Resolution

1  
2 21 which affirms our commitment to our Purple Heart  
3 Veterans and calls on the State to pass legislation  
4 for the Governor to sign, legislation recognizing New  
5 York State as a Purple Heart State. And lastly,  
6 today's a very important day, and I want to say this  
7 for the record. Today is my Twin boys' birthday. So  
8 I want to say publicly happy birthday to my boys on  
9 this very special day. Thank you.

10 [applause]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Happy Birthday.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Thank you.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: If they're  
14 watching. I don't know if they're watching.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: All they do is  
16 watch this and also CSPAN.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Alright. We need  
18 to talk about your television choices. We're going  
19 to now go to Council Member Barron followed by  
20 Council Member Gennaro.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you very  
22 much to my colleagues. We are entering in the phase  
23 of the budget, the most important responsibility that  
24 we will have is the budget. A hundred billion  
25 dollars is allocated for five-year capital budget.

1  
2 That's about 20 billion a year, and a 98.7 billion  
3 dollar expense budget, nearly another 100 billion. I  
4 want to urge you not to be reduced to petty  
5 conversations and debates around a minuscule part of  
6 the budget, and that is what will the Speaker's  
7 discretionary budget give us in our delegations, and  
8 that is what will the Council projects-- how much  
9 will that be, 700,000, a billion? We're talking  
10 about 100 billion dollars. Never in the history of  
11 me being in this body for over nearly 20 years in the  
12 State and the City Council have I ever seen an  
13 executive come before you as the Mayor did and not  
14 give you a budget document at all. Just verbally  
15 talked, and then didn't even put it up on the screen,  
16 which he did later with the media. Rise to the  
17 occasion. The Speaker has one vote on the budget,  
18 and the Mayor has none. We are the power to  
19 represent the interest of the people and not the  
20 interest of just what you get for your district or  
21 what you get because of you working closely with the  
22 Speaker or the Mayor. Come on y'all. We got to  
23 stand up. Now's the time. Every one of our  
24 communities should benefit from 100 billion dollar  
25 capital budget.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you,  
3 Council Member Barron. We'll now hear from Council  
4 Member Gennaro followed by Council Member Brooks-  
5 Powers.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you, Mr.  
7 Leader. I wish to be associated with the good remarks  
8 of Speaker Adams and Council Members Vernikov, Kagan,  
9 and Rivera regarding the war on Ukraine, and I stand  
10 in solidarity with the people of Ukraine. And I wish  
11 to lend my support, and I hope everyone will support  
12 Council Member Hudson's resolution on fair pay for  
13 homecare workers. My wife during her eight years--  
14 my late wife, during her eight years of terminal  
15 illness, we had home health aides in the house all  
16 the time, and it was difficult to see the wages that  
17 they had to live on, and it's truly a shame, and I  
18 applaud Council Member Hudson and the people in the  
19 State Legislature who are trying to move this  
20 forward. Thank you, Mr. Leader.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. And  
22 to close us out, Council Member Brooks-Powers.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you.  
24 I just wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the  
25 loss of my community with that of the passing of fire

1  
2 fighter Jesse Gerhard [sp?]. Last year I had the  
3 opportunity to visit what we call "The Big House" in  
4 Far Rockaway where Ladder 134 is located, and I had  
5 the opportunity to meet fire fighter Gerhard, and I  
6 remember spending a lot of time there. The fire  
7 fighters there are amazing. They really are invested  
8 in our community and care about the work that they  
9 do, and at his service yesterday it was refreshing to  
10 hear that his life was one well-spent, one that was  
11 living his dream out loud. He wanted to be a fire  
12 fighter since he was a child and he knew what he  
13 wanted to do, and he served the Far Rockaway  
14 community for several years, and he served it with  
15 the passion and joy of his heart. And my deepest  
16 condolences remain with his family, his mom, his dad,  
17 his brother who was very devastated, his sister-in-  
18 law, as well as extended family, and I just ask  
19 everyone to continue to keep our first responders in  
20 our thoughts and prayers because they sacrifice their  
21 life every day that they walk out that door, and some  
22 of them never to return back home to their family.  
23 So thank you for that.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. And  
25 we have one more, Council Member Sanchez.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Thank you. I  
3 would also like to speak about my first bill that I'm  
4 introducing, and I'm also so excited to be doing. So  
5 I will be introducing today Intro. 70. I'm  
6 introducing Intro. 70 today which is to extend New  
7 York City's Rent Stabilization Law of 1969. For  
8 everyone's awareness, it does expire on April 1<sup>st</sup>.  
9 So all of us who live in rent stabilized housing  
10 would actually not have the protections, and so we  
11 are extending the legislation. We're extending that  
12 deadline until July 1<sup>st</sup> in order to provide the City  
13 of New York with enough time to complete the Housing  
14 and Vacancy Survey. The HVS, the Housing Vacancy  
15 Survey, is the survey that actually qualifies the  
16 City of New York to continue its [inaudible], if we  
17 have the findings to continue the state of housing  
18 emergency which is what allows us to have rent  
19 stabilization in the City of New York. So, it's an  
20 important piece of legislation, and I look forward to  
21 colleagues supporting it. Thank you.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you Council  
23 Member Sanchez, and my constituents and I appreciate  
24 that bill myself. And I'll call on Speaker Adrienne  
25 Adams to close today's Stated Meeting.

2 SPEAKER ADAMS: Well, before I close the  
3 meeting, I just want to say I am so encouraged by  
4 this body today. In the midst of such turmoil across  
5 the world, I'm encouraged by your enthusiasm. I'm  
6 encouraged by your brilliance. I'm encouraged for  
7 those new bills. I didn't hear not a bad one in the  
8 bunch. So I'm encouraged by you colleagues, and I  
9 just wanted to close this meeting by saying that to  
10 you. I'm very, very proud of this body. Let's go  
11 forward and let's make all New Yorkers proud of our  
12 service to them. That said, the Stated Meeting of  
13 February 24, 2022 is hereby adjourned.

14 [gavel]

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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 22, 2022