

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
STATED MEETING

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February 12, 2026
Start: 1:36 p.m.
Recess: 2:54 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Julie Menin
Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Shaun Abreu
- Shirley Aldebol
- Joann Ariola
- Alexa Avilés
- Chris Banks
- Gale A. Brewer
- Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
- Tiffany N. Cabán
- David M. Carr
- Carmen N. De La Rosa
- Eric Dinowitz
- Elsie Encarnación
- Harvey D. Epstein
- Amanda C. Farías
- Simcha Felder
- Oswald J. Feliz
- James F. Gennaro

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

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

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

COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Good afternoon and welcome to the Stated Meeting of February 12th, 2026. I am Majority Leader Shaun Abreu, and I'd like to thank you for joining us. As a reminder, decorum must be respected at all times. I would also like to welcome members of the public. As a reminder, if you want to show your support, please use silent approval gesture such as this. If you'd like to follow along, the agenda for today's meeting is posted on our website.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Please join us for the Pledge of Allegiance.

COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Roll call.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Aldebol?

COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ariola?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Avilés?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Presente.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Banks?

COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brooks-Powers? Cabán?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present.
COMMITTEE CLERK: De La Rosa? Dinowitz?
COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Encarnacion?
COUNCIL MEMBER ENCARNACION: Presente.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Epstein?
COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Present.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Farías?
COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Present.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Felder?
COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Feliz?
COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Presente.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Gennaro? Gutiérrez?
COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Presente.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Hanif? Hankerson?
Hanks?
COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Present.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Hudson?
COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Present.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Joseph?
COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Present.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Krishnan? Lee?
COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Here.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Louis?

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Maloney?

COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Marte?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy? Morano?

COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Narcisse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Nurse? Ossé.

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I'm-- I'm here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Paladino?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Hanif? Hankerson?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Restler? Riley?

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Salaam?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Justin Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER J. SANCHEZ: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Pierina Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER P. SANCHEZ: Present.

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Won?

COMMITTEE CLERK: Santosuosso?
COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSSO: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Schulman?
COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Stevens?
COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: I'm here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Thomas-Henry?
COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Present.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Ung?
COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Present.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Vernikov? Williams?
COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Present.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Wong?
COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Zhuang?
COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Carr?
COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Present.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Abreu?
COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Present.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Menin?
SPEAKER MENIN: Present.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you. We
3 will now have today's invocation which will be
4 delivered by Reverend Patrick Henry Young, the Senior
5 Pastor of First Baptist Church of East Elmhurst which
6 is located at 110 Astoria Boulevard in Queens.

7 REVEREND YOUNG: Let us bow our heads.
8 Gracious and eternal creator, we've come before you
9 today with grateful hearts, acknowledging your
10 goodness, wisdom and loving kindness. We thank you
11 for the privilege to serve your people and various
12 cultures this city reflects. On this 100th Black
13 History Month celebration, remember and give thanks
14 to the freedom fighters, truth tellers, organizers,
15 and ordinary people who did extraordinary work for
16 this city we live and love. Creator of all things,
17 we ask your presence in this chamber today. Guide
18 the minds, hearts of each Council Member as they make
19 the right decisions on behalf of the citizens of each
20 community they represent. May they work together to
21 ensure the working families struggling to make ends
22 meet, the elderly on fixed income, young people
23 seeking opportunities, and those experiencing
24 homelessness in the city will be on the minds of each
25 council person while making decisions and funding for

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2 our city. May the work done in this chamber help
3 draw us closer to be a beloved community throughout
4 every borough represented. In your Holy name, I
5 pray. Amen.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you. I will
7 now ask Council Member Chanel Thomas-Henry to spread
8 the invocation on the record.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Thank you.
10 Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce a leader
11 from my district who represents the very best of East
12 Elmhurst, Reverend Patrick Henry Young, Senior Pastor
13 of the First Baptist Church of Corona in East
14 Elmhurst. A proud graduate of my alma mater, Howard
15 University, Reverend Young has been a steadfast
16 spiritual leader, community advocate, and trusted
17 voice for families across our neighborhood. Under
18 his leadership, First Baptist Church has not only
19 been a place of worship, but a pillar of service,
20 fellowship and empowerment for our community. Most
21 notably, he has been tireless in his fight for
22 economic growth and generational wealth building
23 within our community. Understanding that faith must
24 be paired with access and opportunity in all we do.
25 Founded in 1955, First Baptist Church of Corona was

1 built on a foundation rooted in service. In fact, it
2 was here that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. completed
3 his pastoral residency in his early ministry, a
4 legacy that continues to shape the spirit of this
5 congregation today. Every Saturday morning, their
6 foot pantry provides groceries for 2,500 families
7 across East Elmhurst, Corona, and Jackson Heights.
8 The church also provides food for over 1,000 homeless
9 families living in city-run shelters located in East
10 Elmhurst. Additionally, through the Hope and Grace
11 Mental Health Wellness Center in partnership with
12 Northwell Health, they are actively addressing mental
13 health with compassion and dignity, and today, they
14 are working to establish a health clinic to further
15 serve East Elmhurst community. We give thanks for
16 Reverend Patrick Henry Young and for every member of
17 this congregation who has helped build and sustain
18 this church and community across generations. The
19 fruit of their faith is evident every day in the
20 lives they touch and the neighbors they serve.
21 Reverend Young leads with faith, integrity and a deep
22 love for our community, and I am personally grateful
23 for his partnership and friendship in serving East
24 Elmhurst. He is not only a pastor, but a friend and
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2 a neighbor, someone we are proud to bring from
3 District 21 to City Hall today to offer our
4 invocation. Madam Speaker, I respectfully move that
5 the invocation delivered by Reverend Patrick Henry
6 Young be entered into the record. Thank you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Adoption of
8 minutes?

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Messages and
11 papers from the Mayor?

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: M38, Mayoral
13 appointment.

14 SPEAKER MENIN: Referred to rules.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Communication from
16 City, County and Borough Offices?

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: M39, former Council
18 Member Bottcher, Council Member's resignation letter.

19 SPEAKER MENIN: Received, ordered,
20 printed, and filed.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Petitions and
22 communications?

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: M40, Rule 2.120 report.

24 SPEAKER MENIN: Received.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Land Use call-ups?

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you. We'll
4 now have communications from Speaker Julie Menin.

5 SPEAKER MENIN: So, good afternoon
6 everyone, and thank you all for being punctual so
7 that we can start on time which we so appreciate. So,
8 before we talk about today's Stated Meeting, I want
9 to first of all extend my deepest condolences to our
10 Deputy Speaker, Dr. Nantasha Williams, who lost her
11 grandmother, Nancy Williams, recently. Our heart
12 goes out to her and the whole Williams family. Our
13 Deputy Speaker has asked that I send information out
14 when the funeral arrangements have been made, so I
15 will shortly be sending that information out for her.
16 I want to first of all acknowledge, obviously, the
17 extreme weather that our city has gone through the
18 last few weeks, and I recognize that this period of
19 Code Blue can present significant challenges. It is
20 deeply saddening to say that it has now taken the
21 lives of 19 people, 19 New Yorkers. We hold their
22 friends, their families, their loved ones in our
23 hearts, and each loss is truly a tragedy. On Tuesday
24 we heard from city agencies on what they can do to
25 improve operations and outreach to protect

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2 unsheltered New Yorkers, because when the temperature
3 drops, our responsibility to all residents rises, and
4 I'm grateful to every city worker who has not stopped
5 in light of the cold, but continues to work harder
6 because of it to keep New York safe and functioning
7 for all of us who live here. I now want to turn to a
8 topic that we've been working very hard on which is
9 to secure the release of our employee Rafael Rubio
10 [sp?]. So, I want to give an update on that. As I
11 have said repeatedly, Rafael was unfairly and
12 illegally detained. It has now been almost a month
13 after he went to a routine appointment and he was
14 then taken by ICE. He currently remains in ICE
15 custody. I want to be clear, he is currently in New
16 York. That's a very important fact. He is in New
17 York, because the day we found out about his
18 detention we brought in NYLAG to file habeas which is
19 critical to ensure that he remains in New York.
20 We've attended every single hearing that he has had.
21 On February 2nd, his bond was unjustly denied. That
22 decision is now under appeal. We are fighting that
23 decision. We requested that the Law Department file
24 an amicus brief on the Council's behalf, so that
25 amicus brief was filed, and as I have said from the

1 beginning, there is no legal basis whatsoever for his
2 detention. He had all of his legal papers. We are
3 working night and day to secure his release. We are
4 in constant contact on a daily basis with Rafael's
5 family, and we will not rest until we secure his
6 release. Last Wednesday, and many of the-- many of
7 you joined us at the Avenue breakfast, so thank you
8 to all the members who joined us. I announced a few
9 of the major proposals that the Council is working
10 on, including establishing a new office of insurance
11 accountability to shine a light on insurance prices
12 that are hamstringing our small businesses that are
13 standing as a road block to build more affordable
14 housing. So, more to come on that. I also outlined
15 our proactive approach to building more affordable
16 housing, looking at our 215 public library branches,
17 looking at the over 1,000 DCAS sites and some other
18 ideas that we have that we're working in close
19 conjunction with our Land Use Chair, Kevin Riley, and
20 with our Land Use Division. Our plan to end the
21 long-term use of no-bid contracts where we could
22 literally save billions of dollars by doing this, and
23 our plan to make outdoor dining year-round, the plan
24 to move Council Member Restler's bill forward and
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2 some other bills in a package. Tin Cup Day-- so,
3 thank you to the colleagues from leadership who
4 joined us in Albany yesterday on Tin Cup Day. We had
5 a late night. I finished a testimony at 7:00 p.m.
6 last night in Albany. We had a very productive day
7 meeting with legislative leaders, and we touched on
8 some of the key priorities for the Council, and I'm
9 really-- I'm going ahead of the program, because I
10 know he has to leave-- that I had my remarks later on
11 for you. But I really was so happy to see our new
12 State Senator Eric Bottcher there who asked amazing
13 questions. We are so sorry that you've left us in
14 the Council, but our loss is Albany's gain. I gave
15 State Senator Bottcher a proclamation on behalf of
16 the whole council to thank him for his years of
17 service. We are really going to miss you so much,
18 but I know we're going to be working really closely
19 with you on the future, and we're so excited for you
20 on your next steps. But it was so great to see you
21 yesterday. So, I wanted to make sure to acknowledge
22 and thank you now so much for everything that you've
23 done on behalf of us, and can we please give State
24 Senator Eric Bottcher a standing ovation for all of
25 his service.

[applause]

SPEAKER MENIN: So, back to Tin Cup Day.

We advocated that the State fully cover the cost for SNAP, that it not be on the City's burden for us to pay SNAP. We talked about the importance of universal childcare and the funding for that. We talked about the need to build more affordable housing, to do more to address the crisis of homelessness. We talked about our program NYC Future Funds to expand college savings program. We advocated for increased funding for NYCHA to address the backlog of repairs which is unacceptable. We talked about the need for increased funding for organizations like NYLAG that are making it easier for our immigrant communities to secure important access to legal representation. Then we talked about the effects of ICE linger throughout our city, beyond the fear that they're stoking in the streets. We pushed for greater investment in early census preparation, because-- and it's my strong belief that if the state were to invest \$40 million, which was what the invested in 2020, we would go a long way to making sure that our city is properly counted and that immigrant communities who might be reluctant to

1 fill out the census. We need to funding community
2 organizations on the ground now to react against that
3 fear, and that \$40 million in 2020 yielded one of the
4 best rates of return of any city investment, \$1.8
5 billion a year that we are now receiving from the
6 federal government as a result of that investment
7 each and every year until 2030. The pride flag--
8 earlier this morning I was at Stonewall along with
9 our LGBTQIA Co-Chairs and the Council, Council Member
10 Sanchez and Ossé, who had organized this event this
11 morning after the pride flag was taken by the
12 Stonewall National Monument. Yesterday, we sent a
13 letter to the National Parks Service demanding the
14 return of the flag. This is truly unconscionable.
15 Stonewall is clearly sacred ground and the history of
16 civil rights in our county, and that first brick that
17 was thrown in 1969 rippled hope throughout the five
18 boroughs and across our country and across the globe,
19 catalyzing a movement for dignity, for equality, and
20 for freedom, and these are clearly principles that we
21 know our country was built on. They're principles our
22 city stands for, and it's why we in the City Council
23 will not accept this situation. The pride flag, our
24 rainbow flag, has long symbolized struggle,

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2 resilience, and community, and flying it sends a
3 message to our city, our country, and to the world
4 that LGBTQ history is American history. That is this
5 flag of what we represent. It stands for love,
6 inclusion, tolerance, and so we are going to keep
7 fighting until the flag is returned. On a brighter
8 note, February is Black History Month. So, Black
9 history is American history and it's a month to be
10 able to honor these incredible contributions of Black
11 leaders that have shaped our city, our country and
12 our world. And so, we look forward to the continued
13 celebrations, and I know many Council Members are
14 doing some wonderful events. So, we really look
15 forward to participating in those. February is also
16 American Heart Month, a time a time when we raise
17 awareness about the impacts of heart disease which
18 continues to be the leading cause of death in the
19 United States. We also recognized World Hijab Day on
20 February 1st in honor of New Yorkers and millions of
21 people around the world who wear the hijab with
22 pride. And February 14th is also National Donor Day.
23 Organ, eye and tissue donations make it possible to
24 have a second chance at life, so we really want to
25 thank all of the donors for their generosity.

1 February 15th is Black Girl Magic Day. So, we'll be
2 celebrating in the chambers, so please join us on the
3 19th for the Council celebration. February 16th is
4 obviously President's Day. February 17th is Kosovo
5 Independence Day, and February 17th is the Lunar New
6 Year. We had a great celebration in the chambers the
7 other day. And thank you to Council Member Zhuang
8 who has given all of us-- thank you so much. And I
9 really want to-- in terms of Lunar New Year, this
10 will obviously usher in the Year of the Horse. I want
11 to wish all of our communities celebrating Lunar New
12 Year a healthy and prosperous year. The evening of
13 February 17th marks the start of Ramadan for our
14 Muslim communities, as our Muslim neighbors fast from
15 sunrise to sundown. I send my best wishes as they
16 observe this blessed month. Ramadan Mubarak. I also
17 want to acknowledge that we are joined by the
18 incomparable former Assembly Member Jeff Aubry. We
19 so appreciate that you are here with us today. Thank
20 you for your decades of service to New Yorkers. Can
21 we all give you a round of applause.
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23 [applause]

24 SPEAKER MENIN: And now, we're going to
25 move onto our Stated agenda. First, we're going to

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2 vote on the following Land Use items: 7808 Linden
3 Boulevard rezoning will facilitate the development of
4 a 11-story 100 percent affordable building with
5 approximately 267 affordable and senior housing units
6 in Council Member Joan Ariola's district. 247-56
7 90th Avenue rezoning will allow the development of a
8 new two-family home in Council Member Linda Lee's
9 district. And Ethyl's Alcohol and Food, the Council
10 will approve an application for revokable consent to
11 operate a sidewalk café in my district. We'll also
12 be voting on the following Finance items: A
13 transparency resolution approving new designations
14 and changes of certain organizations receiving
15 funding in the expense budget. Next, we will vote on
16 the Mayor's appointment of Steven Banks to the
17 position of Corporation Counsel. And today, we will
18 also vote on the following pieces of legislation: A
19 Pre-considered Resolution sponsored by Council Member
20 Ossé would call on the United States Congress to
21 respect the true history and significance of National
22 Park sites including the Stonewall National Monument.
23 We are passing this resolution after the Trump
24 administration, as I mentioned, took the flag from
25 Stonewall. And again, this resolution is so

1 important as we express that we believe this is an
2 unconscionable action. The Council has called on
3 National Park Service to immediately return the flag
4 along with steps that they will take to ensure that
5 the Stonewall National Monument which is a source of
6 such pride for all of us continues to reflect the
7 truth of its history and the community it represents.
8 Thank you to the staff, Alejandro Carjaval [sp?] and
9 to Regina Paul for drafting. Introduction 437A
10 sponsored by Council Member Lynn Schulman would
11 require the New York City Department of Health and
12 Mental Hygiene to provide guidance on the Health Code
13 to prospective childcare programs applying for a
14 permit. The guidance would include a visual
15 representation of the permitting process and include
16 information relating to any required license,
17 approval or permit from DOHMH or another agency. The
18 guidance must be posted online and available in
19 designated citywide languages. This bill will make
20 it easier to build more childcare facilities across
21 our city which is incredibly important given the
22 shortage of childcare facilities. Thank you to the
23 staff, Christopher Pepe, Jessica Boulet, and Smita
24 Deshmukh [sp?] for their work on this.
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1 Introduction 18A sponsored by Majority Leader Shaun
2 Abreu would require the Department of Sanitation to
3 implement a pilot program, utilizing power washing
4 machines to clean and remove odors and spills from
5 sidewalk surfaces in commercial corridors by April
6 1st, 2027. DSNY would be required to select a pilot
7 program location in each borough that is five blocks
8 long and accessible to mass transit and high
9 pedestrian traffic. The bill also requires DSNY to
10 report on the program by December 1st, 2027. Thank
11 you to the staff Morganne Barrett [sp?], Samia Shell
12 [sp?], Ricky Chawla, and Dirk Spencer [sp?] for their
13 work. Introduction 1510A, sponsored by Council Member
14 Julie Won, would require the City Chief Procurement
15 Officer to ensure that at least one searchable and
16 publicly accessible online interface provides
17 information about city procurements that exceed the
18 small purchase limits. The interfaces would need to
19 provide information at key stages of the procurement
20 process, including anticipated requirements,
21 solicitation summaries, contract award details, and
22 total expenditures upon the completion of the
23 contract. The information would be required to be
24 published within 30 days of the procurement
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1 event, and pre-solicitation information will be
2 required to be published at least 15 days prior to
3 the release of a solicitation document. And finally,
4 Introduction 5A that is sponsored by myself would
5 increase penalties for providing false information on
6 the qualifications of any bidder for city contracts.
7 A new violation punishable by monetary penalties
8 would also be created for providing false information
9 by a subcontractor. In both instances, the penalties
10 would fall within a \$1,000 to \$25,000 range. The
11 bill requires the Mayor and the City Comptroller to
12 keep certain information on the identity of
13 subcontractors who perform work on city contracts,
14 and the information would be compiled into
15 computerized database. This bill addresses some of
16 the corruption issues that have existed in the past
17 around subcontractors. So, I want to thank Alex
18 Paulenoff [sp?], Johari Frasier [sp?], and Alex
19 Yablon [sp?] for their work on this. So, thank you
20 for your attention to all of this, and now I want to
21 turn it back over to our Majority Leader.

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23 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you, Speaker
24 Menin. We'll now move into discussion of General
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2 Orders beginning with Lynn Schulman followed by
3 Minority Leader Carr.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Today, we will
5 be voting on Proposed Introduction 437-A, sponsored
6 by myself. This legislation would require DOHMH to
7 provide guidance to prospective childcare programs
8 when they apply for a permit pursuant to Article 47
9 of the Health Code. Opening a childcare program in
10 New York City shouldn't feel like navigating a maze,
11 but right now, for far too many providers, that's
12 exactly what it is. My bill brings clarity and
13 transparency to this process by requiring the
14 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to create a
15 clear, step-by-step roadmap outlining every required
16 permit, license and approval in the order in which
17 they must happen. It's about removing unnecessary
18 barriers so providers can focus on caring for
19 children, not chasing paperwork. I want to thank the
20 Speaker for her leadership on this issue and I'm
21 asking my colleagues to please vote for this bill.
22 Thank you.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you, Council
24 Member. Council Member Carr?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Thank you, Majority
3 Leader.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Minority Leader
5 Carr, my apologies.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: It's alright.
7 Thank you. I just want to say a few words about the
8 advice and consent being sought for Steven Banks as
9 our next Corporation Counsel. I want to begin by
10 expressing my thanks to Commissioner Banks for making
11 himself available to myself and my delegation to meet
12 and discuss issues that are important to so many New
13 Yorkers. It was an encouraging first step on his
14 part, and it speaks to the character, accessibility
15 and integrity that we would all expect from a
16 Corporation Counsel for the City of New York.
17 However, Commissioner Banks has a rich history of
18 legal activism that gives us pause about his
19 appointment. From issues ranging from the Right to
20 Shelter to Sanctuary Cities, we have philosophical
21 concerns about the approach he would take with
22 respect to important legal issues currently or soon
23 to be facing the Law Department. We all know how
24 important the role of Corporation Counsel can be. We
25 saw it to disastrous effect during the COVID pandemic

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2 and the fluctuating legal position the city took on
3 non-citizen voting in the fall of 2021. Thankfully,
4 on the latter, some of us had and won our day in
5 court. On the former, many still hope and pray for a
6 resolution. We cannot vote to confirm a nominee
7 whose views mirror those we personally opposed at the
8 ballot box only this past November. Therefore, I and
9 colleagues will be voting no on this appointment.
10 Thank you.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you. Seeing
12 no one else signed up for General Orders. Report of
13 special committees?

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Reports of
16 standing committees?

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
18 on Contracts, Intros 5A and 510A, subcontractors and
19 public procurement.

20 SPEAKER MENIN: Amended and coupled and
21 General Orders.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
23 on Finance, Pre-considered Reso 255, transparency
24 reso.

25 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
3 on Health, Intro 437A, childcare program permitting.

4 SPEAKER MENIN: Amended and coupled.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
6 on Land Use, LU 17 through 23, various rezonings.

7 SPEAKER MENIN: Approved with
8 modifications and referred to City Planning pursuant
9 to Section 197D of the Charter.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 24 and Reso 311
11 through LU 26 and Reso 313, 7808 Linden Boulevard
12 Rezoning.

13 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled on General
14 Orders.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 27 and Reso 314,
16 247-56 90th Avenue rezoning.

17 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 30 and Reso 315,
19 Ethyl's Alcohol and Food.

20 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
22 on Rules, Privileges, Elections, Standards, and
23 Ethics, M27 and Reso 316, approving the appointment
24 of Steven Banks, Corporation Counsel.

25 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled on General Orders.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
3 on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management, Intro 18A,
4 sidewalk cleaning in commercial corridors.

5 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled on General
6 Orders. I would now ask that the Clerk take a roll
7 call vote on all of the items coupled on today's
8 General Orders Calendar.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Aldebol?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: I vote aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ariola?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye--
13 well, first, I'd like to disclose that my son Matthew
14 works for the Department of Sanitation which is part
15 of the Pre-considered Reso 255. I would like to vote
16 aye on all with the exception of M27 and accompanying
17 Resolution 316 and Pre-considered Reso 255.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you, Madam
19 Speaker. I'd just like to take a moment to remind my
20 colleagues that there's a transparency resolution on
21 today's General Orders Calendar, and that you should
22 disclose any conflicts before voting. Clerk, you may
23 return to the roll.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Avilés?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: I'd like to disclose that my daughter is a student in New York City Public School system. Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Banks?

COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I teach at Hunter. I don't know if anything's on the list, but I do teach at Hunter, so I'll disclose that, and I am voting aye for all, especially for Steve Banks. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brooks-Powers?

COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Cabán?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Permission to explain my vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you. I'm going to be an aye on all with the exception of Intro 5 on which I will abstain, and I just want to explain that. I understand the impetus for this bill, and you know, I am in support of making sure that harmful actors, bad actors are being held accountable. I

1 absolutely support increases in fines. I support
2 taking buildings from, you know, bad landlords who
3 are putting people's physical health and safety in
4 harm, but as a long-standing principle, I believe
5 that criminalization is not equivalent
6 accountability. And there's a specific word in the
7 bill that has been changed in this updated portion of
8 the bill. So that word is offense. It's being
9 replaced by the word misdemeanor. I have taken some
10 time to talk with our legal team and some others
11 about the implication of that specific word change
12 and if it expands the arena or reach of
13 criminalization, and that's-- without knowing the
14 answer to that, I do not feel comfortable voting in
15 the affirmative for it, but I do want to make clear
16 that I think we should be doing other things. And
17 you know, we had an opportunity to pass COPA, for
18 example, to give the public an opportunity to buy
19 buildings that have not been taken care of by the
20 folks who have been bad landlords or bad owners in
21 those situations. So, I'm going to abstain on that,
22 and I look forward to continuing conversations with
23 my colleagues, with our Speaker and our legal team on
24 related issues. Thank you.
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COMMITTEE CLERK: De La Rosa?

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dinowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Encarnacion?

COUNCIL MEMBER ENCARNACION: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Epstein?

COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Farías?

COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: I vote aye on

all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Felder?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Feliz?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: I vote aye on all,

and also, I'd like to disclose that I teach in the

CUNY system, specifically Hostos Community College,

so I'd like to disclose that. Aye on all.

COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Folks, remember to
start off with your disclosure, and then tell us how
you vote. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Council
Member Feliz. Gennaro? Gutiérrez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: I'd like to disclose that my daughter is a public school student, and I vote aye on all. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Hanif?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Hankerson?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Hanks?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Hudson?

COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: I'd like to disclose on the record that I'm a member of the Brooklyn Museum which is being funded in this transparency resolution. I vote aye on all, including and proudly for Steve Banks. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Joseph?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: I'd like to disclose on the record that my son is a student in New York City Public Schools that's being funded in the transparency reso, and I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Krishnan?

COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: I'd like to disclose that both my children are students in the public school system, and with that, I vote aye on

2 all, and look forward to Steve Banks' appointment as
3 the Corporation Counsel to the City of New York.

4 Thank you.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lee?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: I'd like to disclose
7 that both my children are students in the New York
8 City Public School system, and with that, I vote aye
9 on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Louis?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I'd like to
12 disclose for the record that my brother works for the
13 MTA, and I vote aye on all.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Maloney?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Aye on all.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Marte?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: I vote aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye on all
20 and abstain on M27.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Morano?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Aye on all with
23 the exception of M27 and accompanying Resolution 316
24 and Resolution 269. On those I vote no. 255, excuse
25 me. Yeah, sorry, 255.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Narcisse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I don't see any NYU's, so I guess I don't have nothing to declare, so I vote aye on all. If there's NYU, let me know, because I don't see anywhere they benefit. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Nurse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ossé?

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Paladino?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: I vote aye on all except my no votes are M27 with accompanying Reso 316, and Pre-considered Reso 255. On all the rest I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Restler?

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Permission to explain my vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Thank you. I vote aye on all, and I'd like to congratulate our next Corp Counsel Steve Banks who I think is going to do a phenomenal job, and I think we had a really

1 productive hearing last week, and I'm excited to work
2 with him in this new capacity. And Intro 5 came
3 through the Contracts Committee, so I just wanted to
4 give a little bit of context on that bill. Firstly,
5 the existing law states that somebody who has
6 committed fraud can be sentenced for up to six
7 months. That does not change with this legislation.
8 Secondly, what this bill does that's really important
9 is that it increases the range of fines that can--
10 are currently capped at just 1,000 to 100 times as
11 much up to \$100,000. And for major vendors or who
12 are committing fraud on city contracts, \$1,000 fine
13 is not even a slap on the wrist. And so I think this
14 is an important piece of legislation for that purpose
15 and it increases transparency for subcontracting
16 where far too many vendors just entirely fail to
17 report who their subcontractors are which is where so
18 much fraud actually exists within our contracting
19 process. So, I'm hopeful that this bill is going to
20 make a big difference in both deterring bad actors
21 and increasing transparency and accountability in our
22 subcontracting process, and I'm proud to vote for it.
23 Thank you.

24
25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Riley?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Just have to
3 disclose for the record that three of my kids are
4 part of the New York City Public School system, and
5 aye on all.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Salaam?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: I vote aye on
8 all.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Justin Sanchez?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER J. SANCHEZ: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Pierina Sanchez?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER P. SANCHEZ: I would like
13 to disclose upon the record that my sibling is
14 associated with CUNY BMCC, and I also want to
15 congratulate Steve Banks on becoming the city's Corp
16 Counsel. Look forward to working with you and fully
17 implementing the PHEPS [sic] package that the City
18 Council passed, not negotiating down or watering it
19 down. New Yorkers need this, and I look forward to
20 working with the city on full implementation. And
21 with that, I vote aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Santosuosso?

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

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Permission
3 granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSSO: I vote aye
5 on all, and I just want to congratulate Steven Banks
6 as our incoming Corporation Counsel, particularly as
7 a former Law Department attorney, I was grateful to
8 have the opportunity to speak with him about the
9 importance of funding the Tort Division and cutting
10 down on fraud in suits that are brought against the
11 City of New York, and I look forward to working with
12 him on that. Thank you.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Schulman?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Stevens?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thomas-Henry?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: I'd like to
19 disclose that in FY24 I was the-- on the Board of
20 Directors for Elmcore [sp?] Youth and Adult
21 Activities, one of the organizations being funded
22 through the transparency resolution.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ung?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vernikov?

COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye on all except no on M27 with the Reso 316 and Pre-considered-- and no on Pre-considered Reso 255.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Disclosing for the record my CUNY affiliation, and vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Won?

COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Wong?

COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: Aye on all except for M27 and the accompanying Resolution 316.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Thomas-Henry, did you need to clarify any?

COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: I didn't-- you didn't record my vote. I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Council Member Zhuang?

COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: I want to disclose on the record my kids go to public school, and aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Carr?

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: I'd like to disclose on the record that New York City Health + Hospitals Corporation is funded in the transparency

1 resolution we're voting on, and my husband is
2 associated with that entity, and I vote no on M27
3 with accompanying Resolution 316 and Pre-considered
4 Resolution 255, and aye on the rest.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Abreu?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Menin?

8 SPEAKER MENIN: Aye on all, and
9 congratulations to Steve Banks, the new Corporation
10 Counsel.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: All items on today's
12 General Order Calendar are adopted by a vote of 49 in
13 the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 0 abstentions,
14 with the exception of M27 and Reso 36 which was
15 adopted by a vote of 42 in the affirmative, 6 in the
16 negative and 1 abstention, and Resolution 255 which
17 was adopted by a vote of 43 in the affirmative, 5 in
18 the negative and 0 abstentions, and Intro 5A which
19 was adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative, 0 in
20 the negative, and 1 abstention. Introduction and
21 reading of bills.

22 SPEAKER MENIN: All bills have been
23 referred to committee as indicated on today's agenda.
24

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you. We'll
3 now move into the discussion of Resolutions,
4 beginning first with Minority Leader Carr followed by
5 Council Member Cabán.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Thank you, Majority
7 Leader. I rise to discuss Pre-considered Resolution
8 269 which regards the flag placement at National
9 Parks property. Like many here and around the city,
10 I am proud of who I am, and who I am can be described
11 in many ways, gay man, son of a British immigrant and
12 an Italian-American from Brooklyn, a Christian, a
13 Staten Islander, a New Yorker, and of course, an
14 American. Whenever those groups or communities or
15 nations to which I belong are recognized, celebrated,
16 or the beneficiaries of some positive happening, that
17 makes me happy. When they're ignored, derided or
18 hurt in some way, I feel angry and alienated, even
19 when those events have nothing to do with me
20 personally, and I think that's generally how we all
21 feel as human beings. So, as a gay man, I always
22 want to see pride visible at places like Stonewall or
23 the Alice Austin [sp?] House in Staten Island. As a
24 person of Italian decent, I always want to see our
25 dedications to Christopher Columbus respected. But

1
2 as an American, I always want to see the stars and
3 stripes fly prominently at all national public sites,
4 because that is the only flag that truly represents
5 all that I am and all that we are as a nation, the
6 multitudes of identities, cultures, religions,
7 beliefs--

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: [interposing] Thank
9 you, Council Member.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: and ethnicities.
11 So, as we move forward, I hope that we remember the
12 motto of our country, E. Pluribus Unum, out of many
13 one. And so, I think it's appropriate for NPS to
14 develop a protocol for how--

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: [interposing] Thank
16 you, Council Member.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: pride flags may be
18 flown at this site in the future and for other flags
19 of interest to be flown at other sites--

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: [interposing]
21 Council Member, your time is up.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: around the country,
23 but I cannot vote for this particular resolution.
24 Thank you.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Just a reminder
3 for everybody, for Resolutions is one minute.
4 Council Member Cabán.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you. I am
6 proud to co-sponsor and vote for Resolution 269,
7 defending our national monuments including Stonewall
8 where I was proud to gather this morning with my
9 colleagues, with a bunch of some of the most fierce,
10 fabulous, strong queers thanks to the Queer Caucus
11 Co-Chairs Justin Sanchez and Chi Ossé. And this is
12 about what these actions mean and how they're meant
13 to affect us and our communities. We will not allow
14 the Trump administration to destroy our collective
15 memory at historical touchstones. Our roots are
16 alive. We are here today because of those that came
17 before us, and those historical touchstones are
18 incredibly important in helping keep that alive. We
19 are here. We're queer. We're not going anywhere,
20 and we won't be silenced, and we won't forget our
21 history. So, thank you, and I urge my colleagues to
22 vote aye.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you.
24 Council Member Schulman?

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Thank you,
3 Majority Leader. I am co-prime sponsor of Resolution
4 269 calling on the United States Congress to respect
5 the true history and significance of national park
6 sites including the Stonewall National monument. As
7 a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community, it's quite
8 devastating that the federal government is attempting
9 to eradicate us along with the African-American
10 community and many others. Stonewall stands for
11 protest and progress but now is facing regress. As
12 an open Lesbian, I am not less than and neither is
13 anyone here, so please vote for this resolution.
14 Thank you.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you.
16 Council Member Hudson?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: I'd like to be
18 associated with the remarks of Council Member Cabán
19 and will repeat, we're here, we're queer, and we're
20 not going anywhere. Thank you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Council Member
22 Ossé, do you want to speak on resolutions or general
23 discussion?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Yes, sir.
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Council Member
3 Ossé?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I would like to
5 associate myself with the comments of Council Member
6 Hudson, Council Member Cabán, and Council Member
7 Schulman. You know, our queer history is integral to
8 the fabric of American history. You know, Donald
9 Trump is-- you know, while we're here to advocate for
10 our community and all New Yorkers, want us to remind
11 everyone that Donald Trump is potentially doing this
12 to distract from the fact that he is in the Epstein
13 files. So, he's trying to rile us all up. There's a
14 pedophile of the United States who's sitting in the
15 Whitehouse. He's attacking queer people, trans
16 people, minority that exist within our society to try
17 to distract us from the fact that there are
18 billionaires and pedophiles who are being held
19 unaccountable within this country. So, I urge all my
20 colleagues to vote aye on this resolution. Thank you
21 very much.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Council Member
23 Justin Sanchez?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER J. SANCHEZ: I also want
25 to express my support for Intro 269. I really want

1
2 to give a shout out and a huge thanks to all of my
3 colleagues who joined us today at this morning's
4 rally at Stonewall. Between our fellow Co-Chair Chi
5 Ossé to our Speaker Julie Menin, our colleagues
6 Tiffany Cabán, Crystal Hudson, Shirley Aldebol,
7 Selvena Brooks-Powers, Carolyn Maloney, and Amanda
8 Fariás, thank you for showing your support to the
9 community. The only thing I want to say is ten years
10 ago I was not out of the closet. I would not imagine
11 being in this seat as an open gay man, but here we
12 are, because I was able to look at places like
13 Stonewall and see myself and see the community and
14 see something much bigger. I think it's really
15 important to underscore that we're all Americans and
16 that the American flag and the rainbow flag are not
17 incompatible, but actually they mesh beautifully
18 together because they represent what to me is freedom
19 and love and expression. And so, I urge all my
20 colleagues to join us in this resolution and to
21 restore some dignity to our national parks.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Council Member
23 Paladino?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: I'm going to
25 keep it real simple, real short. It's got nothing to

1 do with Donald Trump. It's got nothing to do with
2 the Epstein files. It has to do with a lot more than
3 that, and to call our sitting President a pedophile
4 is absolutely ludicrous and way out line, because you
5 could look at the Epstein files and find a whole lot
6 of names in there other than Trump.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: They're pedophiles,
9 too.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Please keep it
11 down. Let the Council Member finish speaking.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Thank you. And
13 basically, that's all I want to say. This is very
14 discriminatory, and I could stand here and tweet all
15 I want and say whatever I want about former President
16 Bill Clinton and his lovely wife, but I don't do that
17 because that's not what this subject is about. So,
18 for a colleague in Council to bring up the President
19 in this disgusting way isn't necessary. Thank you
20 very much for your time.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Seeing no one else
22 sign up for General-- my apologies, for Resolutions.
23 We will now have a voice vote on today's Resolution.
24 If you wish to vote against or abstain from today's
25 Resolution, please notify the Legislative Documents

1 Unit by email or by approaching the dais. I will now
2 read today's Resolution into the record. Resolution
3 269 calls on the United States Congress to respect
4 the true history and significance of National Park
5 sites, including the Stonewall National Monument.
6 All those in favor say aye.
7

8 COUNCIL AS A WHOLE: Aye.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: All opposed say
10 nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have it. We will
11 now move into general discussion beginning with
12 Council Member Thomas-Henry followed by Banks.
13 Actually, before I do that, I would like to recognize
14 there was a vote revision. Reso 255 was adopted 44
15 in the affirmative and 5 in the negative and 0
16 abstentions. Thomas-Henry?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Thank you,
18 Majority Leader. Happy Black History month. How
19 fortunate we are to celebrate this month in the
20 presence of living history. A statesman whose legacy
21 is woven into the very fabric of District 21 in the
22 history of New York State. It is my honor to
23 recognize my mentor, former Assembly Member and one
24 of the finest leaders in our community has ever
25 produce, Jeffrion L. Aubry. For 32 years,

1 Assemblyman Aubry represented District 35 with
2 distinction, but titles and tenure alone do not
3 define the scale of his impact. Born in New Orleans
4 and shaped by service long before he entered elected
5 office, Jeffrion Aubry spent 16 years at Elmcore Youth
6 and Adult Activities as its Executive Director.
7 Additionally, as Speaker Pro Temp of the New York
8 City State Assembly, he brought steadiness and wisdom
9 to one of the highest positions in state government,
10 but perhaps most powerfully, he became a national
11 voice for justice. In this role, he led the charge to
12 reform the Rockefeller drug laws, laws that we all
13 know too well disproportionately harmed Black and
14 Brown communities through archaic and unjust policing
15 policies. He championed the Halt Solitary
16 Confinement Act. He fought to challenge wrongful
17 convictions and worked tirelessly to restore fairness
18 to a system that too often failed our communities.
19 His work reshaped our criminal justice system. That
20 was not just legislation, that was legacy. He also
21 invested deeply in the district, from advancing Early
22 Childhood Education to championing the construction
23 of the Louis Armstrong Center and the Langston Hughes
24 Library and Cultural Center, ensuring that culture,

1 education, and opportunity remained rooted in Queens.
2 Assemblyman Aubry is Black history, not just because
3 of the barriers he broke--

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: [interposing]

5 Please wrap up.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: but because
7 of the systems he changed and the lives he
8 transformed, including my own. His leadership shaped
9 the community. Please join me in wishing him a
10 belated happy birthday and thanking him for a
11 lifetime of principled, courageous, and
12 transformative service. District 21 stands stronger
13 because of you, Jeffrion L. Aubry.

14 [applause]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Council Member
16 Banks followed by Council Member Brewer.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Thank you,
18 Majority Leader. I want to first take this moment to
19 speak about NYCHA and outline what I believe must be
20 the focus of the Public Housing Committee's oversight
21 moving forward. NYCHA continues to face serious
22 challenges including aging infrastructure and an
23 estimated \$80 billion in capital needs. We cannot
24 continue to delay meaningful investment. The tragic
25

1 [inaudible] explosion that took place in Mitchell
2 Houses was as painful reminder of what happens when
3 infrastructure failures are allowed to persist. It
4 made clear that investing in NYCHA's infrastructure
5 is not optional, but it's urgent. We can't allow
6 NYCHA residents to wait any longer for safe and
7 reliable living conditions. At the same time, recent
8 reports regarding the fire at Boston Seacor Houses
9 highlight the ongoing need for transparency and
10 accountability, particularly when it comes to safety
11 and security within NYCHA developments. Situations
12 like that should never be allowed to happen.
13 Residents deserve to know what concerns are addressed
14 before they become emergencies. I've been working
15 with colleagues to address the ongoing deficiencies
16 at NYCHA, particularly concerns surrounding the
17 decision to limit capital projects to safety-only
18 categories due to capacity constraints and a growing
19 backlog of work. While safety must always come
20 first, capacity challenges cannot become an excuse
21 for stagnation. We need a forward-looking strategy
22 that not only addresses the immediate safety needs,
23 but also invest in a long-term preservation of public
24 housing. While RAD/PACT has been presented as a tool
25

2 to help preserve public housing, I want to be clear,
3 it's not the answer. It's not a comprehensive
4 solution which brings me to a critical point. We
5 must protect and preserve Section 9 housing. Section
6 9 remains the backbone of public housing in this city
7 and we cannot abandon it in favor of partial fixes--

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: [interposing] Thank
9 you, Council Member.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: and in some
11 situations--

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: [interposing]
13 Please wrap up your thought.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: get rich schemes.
15 Finally, I'm willing and ready and able to work with
16 the administration to establish a clean structure and
17 transparent--

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: [interposing]
19 Council Member, your time is up.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: pathways forward
21 for housing stock--

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: [interposing]
23 Council Member, [gavel].

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: that directly
25 oversees [inaudible] landlord.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Council Member,
3 your time is up.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Residents deserve
5 clarity and accountability and a plan--

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: [gavel]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: that restores
8 public housing and its confidence--

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: [interposing]
10 Council Member, your time is up.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: in a system that
12 is meant to protect them.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Can you mute his
14 mic, please.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Thank you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Council Member
17 Brewer?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you. I'm--
19 Intro 516, which is on the agenda for today, creates
20 uniform contract and invoice paperwork across city
21 agencies. This idea came up in conversations with the
22 Comptroller's office during the migrant crisis, and I
23 think it needs a hearing and a discussion, because it
24 often have duplicative, duplicative, duplicative
25 paperwork. Number two, Intro 517 is about raising

1 the standards for the preservation of biological
2 evidence at the Police Department. I held an
3 oversight hearing about the Erie Basin Storage
4 facility fire in Brooklyn where NYPD stored a massive
5 amount of evidence, some of which was destroyed, and
6 that's the reason for this bill and to have a
7 hearing. Also, I want to mention that Sam Goldsmith
8 who's been with me for four years as Director of
9 Policy and Communications is leaving to go work for
10 the Mayor, and I wish him the best but I will miss
11 him tremendously. He's a former reporter, former Head
12 of Communications at the Department of Education, and
13 he will be a real asset to the Mayor, and I wish him
14 well. I want to also state that today at four
15 o'clock, I'm going to join the Manhattan Borough
16 President to raise the flag at Stonewall, and I look
17 forward to it. Thank you very much.

18
19 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Council Member
20 Morano followed by Zhuang.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Thank you very
22 much. First, I want to thank my colleagues, Council
23 Member Zhuang, for this delightful Lunar New Year
24 trinket and especially Council Member Sanchez who in
25 short time has already demonstrated a great deal of

1 distinction as the Chair of the Sanitation Committee.
2 My son is going to get a big kick out this,
3 especially because of the candy involved. And it's
4 an appropriate segue to Introduction 624, a bill that
5 I am proud to introduce today, to bring a little
6 common sense back to New York City's trash
7 containerization rules, and I want to very clear, I
8 support cleaner streets. Nobody wants piles of
9 garbage bags attracting rats or turning our sidewalks
10 into obstacle courses. Containerization in principle
11 makes sense, but here's the problem, New York is a
12 city of incredible variety. Not every building looks
13 the same. Not every building has a yard, an alley or
14 a place to store these large trash bins, and yet,
15 small mixed-use buildings, the kind with a deli
16 downstairs and a couple of apartments upstairs are
17 being told to comply with rules that are in some
18 cases physically impossible. I've heard from
19 business owners, landlords, and tenants who are
20 trying to follow the law, but literally have nowhere
21 to put the bins. They're being put in an impossible
22 position and sometimes being fined for it. Intro 624
23 fixes that. It creates clear, automatic exemptions
24 for buildings that simply don't have the physical
25

1 space and a fair application process for others. It
2 protects people who are acting in good faith and
3 ensures the system works the way it was intended.
4 This bill does not weaken containerization, it
5 strengthens it by making it fair, workable and rooted
6 in reality. Because government works best when it
7 recognizes that one size does not fit all and because
8 nobody should be forced to store a trash bin in their
9 living room just to comply with city rules. I hope
10 my colleagues will join me in supporting this measure
11 and bringing some practical common-sense relief to
12 New Yorkers who deserve it.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Council Member
15 Zhuang followed by Pierina Sanchez.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Thank you,
17 Majority Leader. I want to wish everyone a very happy
18 and healthy Lunar New Year, the Year of Horse. While
19 we celebrate the Year of the Horse which is marked by
20 resilience and leadership, and I look forward to
21 bring that to our life with all of you and we will
22 lead the way and the fight for all. In that spirit,
23 today, I want to introduce a bill to ask everyone
24 make our children's life better. Every child
25 deserves an education that meets them where they are

1 and help them to grow. But like everything else in
2 this city, children in the outer boroughs have less
3 than others. In this case, less access to gifted and
4 talented program. Children from lower income
5 families also have less access, and the children from
6 the family doesn't speak English has less access.
7 It's sad, well-known in our Black and Brown community
8 doesn't have enough either. Talented Black and Brown
9 children have the same need-- need have the same
10 chance to getting those specialized or gifted and
11 talented programs. We are denying a lot of Black and
12 Brown children have the opportunity, and that must
13 end. We should not think about eliminating these
14 programs. We should have expanding them so every
15 child who can benefit from them can get into it. We
16 need to create more opportunity, not less. I believe
17 that all students deserve access to education
18 programs that meets their needs. Not-- and not
19 student-- no student should be limited to where they
20 live, who their parents, what's their parents income,
21 or the language they speak at home. I urge my
22 colleagues to be the co-sponsor of my bill for Intro
23 684. And every kid should have equal opportunity for
24 gifted and talented program.
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you, Council
3 Member. Council Member Pierina Sanchez, followed by
4 Council Member Dinowitz.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER P. SANCHEZ: Of the 3
6 million homes in our city, a small subset, some
7 10,000 homes are in hazardous, undignified
8 conditions. Ceilings caving in, mold, no heat, or
9 hot water during cold winters like this one, and this
10 is unacceptable. While most building owners are
11 trying their best to do right by their tenants and
12 their properties, this small subset of owners are
13 chronically if not criminally negligent. They use
14 New York City as a piggybank for repairs, laugh at
15 fines they receive, and never pay them, and even fall
16 far behind on their property taxes and water charges,
17 all while tenants suffer with no recourse. No
18 longer. Since the 1970s, the city has had the power
19 to foreclose upon properties like these, but this
20 power has not been used in nearly a decade because of
21 flaws in the original program. Through Intro 657,
22 the Safer Homes Act, we will reform the city's power
23 of municipal foreclosure, the old third-party
24 transfer program, enabling the city to remove the
25 worst of the worst, most neglectful actors from

1 ownership, and support responsible ownership,
2 creating new ownership opportunities, delivering
3 comprehensive repairs for the buildings that need
4 them the most through a fairer, more transparent
5 process. The potential of this tool is clear. You
6 have to look no further than 2201 Davidson in my
7 district where the former owner owed more than \$25
8 million and had racked up more than 650 B and C Class
9 violations. Those are hazardous to health and safety.
10 After a long fight alongside the Northwest Bronx
11 Community and Clergy Coalition, Legal Aid Society,
12 and tenants who refuse to give up, this building is
13 enroute to full repairs and tenant ownership through
14 the city's power of municipal foreclosure. That is
15 what we want to see. Thank you to the 30 Council
16 Members who have already co-primed the Safer Homes
17 Act, formerly Intro 1063 and now 657, because every
18 New Yorker deserves a safe place to live. Thank you.

19
20 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you, Council
21 Member. Council Member Dinowitz followed by Council
22 Member Cabán.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Thank you, Mr.
24 Majority Leader. Yesterday in my district there was
25 a shooting involving three teenagers, a young girl,

1 two young men, and one of them is now dead. And
2 Chris Redding [sp?], a young 16-year-old man went to
3 Law and Finance High School, and the community as is
4 expected is reeling. All of us are filled with
5 immense sorrow and immense anger. And we don't know
6 all the storied situations behind what happened, but
7 it doesn't matter, because a kid is dead. A mom is
8 going to have to do the most unnatural thing which is
9 bury her child. His little sister is not going to be
10 picked up by him anymore from school which he used to
11 do, and his friends aren't going to throw him a
12 touchdown so he can make the touchdown at the
13 football game. And you know, while we have these
14 feelings of anger and sorrow, and we're going to do
15 everything we can to support the community-- in
16 talking to his coach, Alex Vega [sp?], last night, I
17 just want to take a moment to also do something
18 difficult which is to show gratitude, and not just
19 for the community coming together now, but for all
20 the work our principals and our teachers and para's
21 and our coaches do every single day, whether it's
22 that principal letting the kids stay with her during
23 lunch-- it's the coach calling up that kid to make it
24 to early morning practice to make sure he gets to
25

1 school. Para's sitting with the kid in the hallway
2 or, you know, the teacher making sure the kids get
3 out of school safety, every single day our adults are
4 doing amazing things in the classroom that we'll
5 never be able to quantify. We'll never to be able to
6 know how many lives they've saved, but our adults are
7 saving lives every single day, and I just-- for them,
8 I want to say here thank you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you, Council
11 Member. Council Member Cabán followed by Hanif.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you. Today,
13 with the Teamsters in the house, I am proud to be
14 reintroducing the Delivery Protection Act. Thank you
15 to all of our co-sponsors because when workers are
16 fighting for dignity and New Yorkers are fighting for
17 street safety, the City Council shows up loud and
18 proud. And so, you know, thank you to the Chair of
19 the Committee on Consumer and Worker Protection,
20 Harvey Epstein, for the support, for the safety of
21 our city and our workers. Thank you to all the
22 environmental street safety and labor groups who are
23 fighting for public safety and worker dignity. I
24 think some of them are also on the balcony today
25 along with the Teamsters. So, shout out to that

1 coalition. Meanwhile, Amazon is currently spending
2 thousands and thousands of dollars on a shady PR
3 campaign insisting that drivers in Amazon vests
4 driving Amazon vans delivering Amazon packages aren't
5 Amazon employees, and that's not Amazon's fault when
6 their vans create danger on our streets, and they
7 think that we're dumb. But the City Council is not
8 going to fall for it. We're going to pass Delivery
9 Protection Act, because every New Yorker deserves a
10 safe city and every worker deserves a safe and
11 dignified workplace. I also want to extend a very
12 special shout out to my long-time staff member,
13 brilliant collaborator and Policy Director Nomi
14 Tinkleman [sp?]. She has been part of team Cabán
15 since my first election as a City Council Member.
16 She too is heading over to the Mayor's Office, and
17 Nomi has been integral to the work of our team and
18 the accomplishments of our office for four years, and
19 while I'm sad to see her leave to go across the hall,
20 I am deeply grateful for her contributions. Every
21 New Yorker is lucky to have her in public service.
22 So, thank you, Nomi.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Council Member

25 Hanif followed by Narcisse.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: [inaudible]

3 Majority Leader. Today, I rise in strong support of
4 the resolution I authored condemning the recent
5 actions of the Department of Homeland Security and
6 Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the deadly
7 outcomes we have seen in Minneapolis following
8 Operation Metro Surge. Renee Nicole Good and Alex
9 Jeffrey Pretti were shot and killed. We also lift up
10 Luis Gustavo Nunez Caseras [sp?], Hidalgo Lunas
11 Campos [sp?], Victor Manuel Diaz [sp?], Paradi Law
12 [sp?], Luis Beltran [sp?], Yanez Cruz [sp?], and Ava
13 Sanchez Dominguez [sp?]. We condemn these killings.
14 We demand accountability, and we affirm that New York
15 City will continue to protect immigrant communities
16 and uphold constitutional rights. I urge my
17 colleagues to support this resolution. Shifting
18 gears a little. Colleagues of the Council, I rise
19 before you today to speak about something that may
20 seem small, but is frankly piling up across New York
21 City, the pervasiveness of dog waste on our streets.
22 This is a public health and accessibility issue. Dog
23 poop spreads bacteria and pollutes our waterways.
24 When curb cuts and pedestrian pathways are
25 obstructed, it's not just unpleasant, it is

1 inequitable. Last session, Speaker Menin's Intro 281
2 proposed installing and regularly refilling dog waste
3 bag dispensers alongside a public education campaign.
4 That's a practical step that pairs access with
5 accountability, and I hope we revisit it. While it
6 may feel like your dog's poop is the city's
7 responsibility, I must remind you it's yours. Pet
8 ownership brings joy, especially in times of
9 political uncertainty, but it also comes with civic
10 responsibility. We are a proud city of dogs. Let's
11 also be a city of good neighbors. Scoop the poop.
12 Thank you.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Council Member
15 Narcisse followed by Marte.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Thank-- I just
17 want to say thank you to Speaker Menin for that bill
18 5A. It is so important. Probably we take it
19 lightly. As a former small business owner, I know
20 firsthand how difficult it is to get subcontract--
21 subprime contractor able to put their own family,
22 their cousin, their friends to be the other
23 subcontractor without giving you information. So,
24 this is a dying bill that we needed to pass. So, I
25 want to say thank you, because I suffer from that. I

1 just want to add for Black History Month, remind us
2 that civil rights progress is never accidental. It
3 is fought for. As a Black woman and an immigrant, I
4 am proud to celebrate Black History Month. It is all
5 of us decent folks that want a better world history.
6 This is not for only Black folks. For me-- and I
7 want to add something about Stonewall. The flag
8 represent more to me. Stonewall is part of that
9 history. I am not a member of the LGBTQIA+ community,
10 but I support honoring the struggle folks-- they
11 fought very hard for their dignity and equality that
12 the pride flag represents. And I support the efforts
13 to see it restored as soon as possible. We should
14 support communities seeking fairness and equal
15 treatment if you are a decent person, even when we
16 are not a member of that community. So, Black
17 History Month, if you love James Bolgren [sp?], just
18 go read one of the books. You will see how smart and
19 exciting those books can be. So, remember, there is
20 a lot of our brothers and sisters that may be in that
21 community that you don't even know. So, let's be
22 fair to each other, and I have to say we have Aubry
23 that did so much for our community, and I want to say
24 thank you. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25

COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you, Council Member. Council Member Marte followed by Restler.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: I'd like to join my colleague Harvey Epstein as well as local partners on the state and federal levels to express my resolute support for the Merchants House Museum as it faces an impending threat from a development proposed directly adjacent to this historic property. Bill 1832, the building, is the first individual landmark designated by LPC in Manhattan and is the only 19th century in the borough with its original interior and exterior intact. But more importantly, and the reason why I'm standing here today, is because recently they've discovered that it was a safe house during the underground railroad. It's the only marker in Manhattan that shows our connection to what happened in the bondages of slavery in the south. It almost reminds me what is happening today where we see our neighbors, no matter what they look like or what they believe, being abducted by thugs patrolling our streets. These are the same fears that people have who are coming up the underground railroad, coming through the Bowery all the way to the Merchant's House in secrecy overnight, and the threat

1 that the homeowners had to also deal with knowing
2 that even though they were breaking the "law" of the
3 day, they're on the right side of history. And so I
4 hope my colleagues can join me today at 4:30.

5 There'll be other colleagues and stakeholders there
6 in front of the Merchant's House on East 4th Street
7 between Bowery and Lafayette, telling our city that
8 we have to protect this history, we have to protect
9 tis building, because as we see across the country,
10 our history is being unwritten. Our flags are being
11 brought down, and we must stand to make sure that
12 people, especially the future know what we did and
13 how we protected this monument. Thank you all.

14
15 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you, Council
16 Member. Council Member Restler followed by Stevens.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Thank you very
18 much, Majority Leader. I'm proud to be I guess
19 reintroducing 30+ bills today, but one I just wanted
20 to highlight that Speaker Menin mentioned in her
21 opening remarks is Intro 655 which would bring back
22 year-round outdoor dining. You know, during the
23 height of the pandemic, somewhere between 6-8,000
24 restaurants had roadway dining. It was a lifeline
25 for businesses that were struggling. Going into this

1
2 spring, I think it's like 355 restaurants have
3 permits for outdoor dining. We are failing the
4 restaurants of New York City. So, for the
5 restaurants, for the restaurant staff, for
6 restaurant-goers we need to bring back year-round
7 outdoor dining and we need to do it right quick and
8 make it happen for this spring. It's great for the
9 vitality and dynamism in our neighborhoods. I'm
10 grateful for the Speaker's support and for her making
11 this a priority at the beginning of the term, and I'm
12 hopeful that many of you will join in singing onto
13 Intro 655 so we can get this thing passed and singed
14 into law as quickly as possible. Thanks so much.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you. Council
16 Member Stevens?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Good after--
18 sorry. Good afternoon, everyone. Today I Intro a
19 resolution alongside Deputy Speaker Nantasha
20 Williams, Lincoln Restler, and Sandy Nurse, calling
21 to attention and a problem around Raise the Age. In
22 2017, New York State made a historical long overdue
23 decision when passing Raise the Age. Recognizing
24 that young people should be treated as young adults--
25 as young people and not adults in our justice system.

1 This reform worked and in New York City alone
2 juvenile arrests dropped by 77 percent. This is real
3 progress. This is what success looks like. While
4 this policy was moved forward, the funding did not.
5 Nearly one billion dollars in the state funds that
6 were specifically allocated to support Raise the Age
7 remains unspent, and New York City has been locked
8 out of accessing a single dollar of it, not because
9 it's needed-- it isn't needed, but because of a
10 judicial tax cap and a financial hardship waiver
11 required that simply does not make sense for a city
12 the size of ours. Half of young people impacted by
13 Raise the Age come from New York City. Yet, we are
14 drained-- we are denied the resources meant to
15 support them, their families, their community-based
16 organizations doing the real work on the ground. This
17 is unacceptable. Those funds were intended to expand
18 youth services, strengthen community-based
19 programming and ensure that Raise the Age is fully-
20 funded, fairly and fairly implemented. This
21 Resolution introduced today calls for the state to
22 remove the tax cap, the hardship mandates, and New
23 York City can fully access its fair share of funding
24 and investment in the young people we also love.
25

1 Fully funding Raise the Age is not optional. It is
2 essential. If you believe in youth justice, equality
3 and opportunity, then we must make-- put-- make those
4 values come to light. Our young people deserve
5 better, and I ask all my colleagues to sign on. And
6 also, happy Black History Month, and I will see you
7 all back here in the chambers on February 19th to
8 celebrate Black Girl Magic [inaudible]. Thank you.

9
10 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you, Council
11 Member. Seeing no one else signed up to speak.
12 Actually, I see Council Member Mealy for general
13 discussion.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Yes, I just wanted
15 to like take this opportunity to say happy
16 everything. One thing I wanted to say-- I thought
17 about Council Member Al Vann [sp?]. He was a
18 statesman, someone that you would have to look up to,
19 and he was-- he's like my hero, African-American Day.
20 And I wish everyone a happy Valentine's Day, also.
21 Thank you.

22 SPEAKER MENIN: Thank you so much. So,
23 with that, the Stated Meeting of February 12th, 2026
24 is now by adjourned.

25 [gavel]

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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 February 19, 2026