

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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June 10, 2015
Start: 02:08 p.m.
Recess: 04:08 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E:

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Speaker of the Council
LETITIA JAMES
Public Advocate

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Maria Del Carmen Arroyo
Inez D. Barron
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret S. Chin
Andrew Cohen
Costa G. Constantinides
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Elizabeth S. Crowley
Laurie A. Cumbo
Chaim M. Deutsch
Inez E. Dickens
Daniel Dromm
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Mathieu Eugene

COUNCIL MEMBERS: (CONTINUED)

Julissa Ferreras
Daniel R. Garodnick
Vincent J. Gentile
Vanessa L. Gibson
David G. Greenfield
Vincent M. Ignizio
Corey D. Johnson
Ben Kallos
Andy L. King
Peter A. Koo
Karen Koslowitz
Rory I. Lancman
Brad S. Lander
Stephen T. Levin
Mark Levine
Alan N. Maisel
Steven Matteo
Darlene Mealy
Carlos Menchaca
Rosie Mendez
I. Daneek Miller
Annabel Palma
Antonio Reynoso
Donovan J. Richards
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Deborah L. Rose
Helen K. Rosenthal
Ritchie J. Torres
Mark Treyger
Eric A. Ulrich
James Vacca
Paul A. Vallone
James G. Van Bramer
Mark S. Weprin
Jumaane D. Williams
Ruben Wills

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

Brooklyn College Academy Bobcats Team

Nicholas Mazarella
Principal
Brooklyn College Academy

Kathleen Turner
Board Member
Citymeals on Wheels
Accepting Proclamation for Anne Cohen

Bonnie Stone
President and CEO
Women In Need

Imam Khalid Latif
Invocation
Islamic Center at NYU

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2 [gavel]

3 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright, we're
4 gonna get started... [crosstalk]

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
6 chambers. Quiet in the chambers. Everyone, please
7 have a seat.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: There's a lot
9 going on today and I know we're starting a little bit
10 later than usual. We're gonna start with Council
11 Member Jumaane Williams, who has a ceremonial
12 congratulating Brooklyn College Academy High School
13 Girls' Basketball Team, the Bobcats, [cheers,
14 applause] if they can come on up. The Bobcats won
15 the PSAL B Girls Championship. Alright, Council
16 Member.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you,
18 Madame Speaker. The girls in my district play
19 basketball; this is the second school that we're
20 honoring the girls' basketball team. Today we're
21 here to honor Brooklyn College Academy Bobcats who
22 this year beat East Harlem -- I'm sorry East Harlem
23 -- I hope that's not The Speaker's district -- who
24 beat East Harlem Pride 46-42 at Baruch College to win
25 the PSAL Girls B Division city championship. Not

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2 only did the Bobcats have a phenomenal undefeated
3 season; the East Harlem Pride was a tough team to
4 beat and were the defending champions, so I'm very
5 proud of these girls for their outstanding teamwork
6 and achievements this year [background comment];
7 we'll honor these girls with citations as well, and
8 so I'm gonna call each of them out -- Beatrice
9 Wallace, Cierra Smalls, Jocelyn Puanta, Josephine
10 Mitaynes -- and I butchered up some of their names, I
11 apologize -- Ivana Lawrence, Tatiyana Highsmith,
12 Shajuana Henry, Sumaya Greene, Gaelle Cia Georges,
13 Shaniya Cadogan, Shaina Brown and Kyra Blenman.
14 We're also joined today by four of the team's
15 managers, including Sarah Cox, Ashley Meritt, Shanya
16 Toussaint, Jhanai Campbell, the school Assistant
17 Principal, Lynelle Rennis and Principal Nick
18 Mazzarella -- I probably said that wrong; sorry.

19 I also know that we're joined by many of
20 the athletes' families and friends; we'd like to
21 thank them. Under the leadership of Principal Nick
22 -- Mazzarella [background comment] -- Mazzarella BCA
23 is more than just a sports powerhouse; most students
24 excel academically and dozens win full scholarships
25 to college. Brooklyn College Academy is a

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2 collaborative school of community learning in my
3 district that believes that students, staff and
4 parents have unique leadership capabilities. A
5 couple years ago I was proud to take many students
6 from BCA and Flatbush Yeshiva to the Jewish Holocaust
7 Museum and the African burial ground during an
8 educational field trip; it was a great bonding
9 experience for the schools, I remember it fondly and
10 is on the campus of my alma mater, Brooklyn College.
11 Congratulations again. And I guess we'll have the
12 principal speak or the coach and then one of the
13 students? [background comment] Oh, wanna read the
14 Proc. Oh yes; can you please read the Proc?

15 CITY CLERK: Council, City of New York
16 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of
17 New York is proud to honor the Brooklyn College
18 Academy Girls Basketball Team, The Bobcats for the
19 outstanding teamwork that led to their victory in the
20 Public School Athletic Leagues Girls B Division City
21 Championship.

22 And whereas, Brooklyn College Academy is
23 a small comprehensive 9th-12th grade school of
24 approximately 600 students established in 1986 by the
25 New York City Board of Education in collaboration

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2 with CUNY. The mission of the Academy is to
3 strengthen student performance and to expand
4 students' horizons to include: post-secondary
5 educational opportunities and career goals. This
6 year the Bobcats reaffirmed the same tireless
7 commitment to success that the rest of the student
8 body has demonstrated so often.

9 And whereas, since the school's founding
10 30 years ago, Brooklyn College Academy has never won
11 a girls' basketball championship, but Coach Kristin
12 Conlon and the athletes on this year's team were
13 determined to change that.

14 And whereas, this year's Brooklyn College
15 Academy Bobcats include: Beatrice Wallace, Cierra
16 Smalls, Jocelyn Puanta, Josephine Mitaynes, Ivana
17 Lawrence, Tatiyana Highsmith, Shajuana Henry, Sumaya
18 Greene, Gaelle Cia Georges, Shaniya Cadogan, Shaina
19 Brown and Kyra Blenman.

20 And whereas, at the Public Schools
21 Athletic League's Girls B Division City Championship,
22 the BC Academy went head to head with East Harlem
23 Pride. Brooklyn College Academy started off slow as
24 East Harlem Pride's considerable size advantage gave
25 it problems, but it fell behind 11-2 to start the

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2 game; it took nearly the entire quarter for the
3 Bobcats to adjust, but they did and they went on to a
4 14-0 run that would eventually give them a 16-11 lead
5 early in the second quarter. The Bobcats went for
6 another 14-0 run and going into the 4th quarter had a
7 37-24 lead. East Harlem Pride wasn't finished though
8 and cut the lead to three points with just three-and-
9 a-half minutes left in the game. These two teams
10 also battled in last year's city championship, but
11 this year... [background comments] this year the BC
12 Academy Bobcats were victorious.

13 Now therefore be it known, that the
14 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors the
15 2015 Brooklyn College Academy Girls Basketball Team
16 for the outstanding teamwork and triumph [applause,
17 cheers] in the 2015 PSAL Girls B Division City
18 Championship. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the
19 Entire Council; Jumaane D. Williams, Council Member
20 45th District, Brooklyn.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: So we learned
22 that you beat the students from The Speaker's
23 district; [background comment, laughter] I hope I
24 don't lose any discretionary funds, I hope my bills
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2 don't slow down, but congratulations and we're gonna
3 hear from the principal.

4 PRINCIPAL MAZZARELLA: First we're gonna
5 hear from our captain.

6 [background comments, cheers, applause]

7 TEAM CAPTAIN: Good afternoon, we... oh, oh
8 sorry. On behalf of Brooklyn College Academy, we
9 would like to thank the City Hall and Council Members
10 for honoring our hard work and dedication 2015
11 Championship B Division basketball.

12 [cheers, comments, applause]

13 PRINCIPAL MAZZARELLA: And on that note,
14 as Principal of Brooklyn College Academy, you have no
15 idea how proud I am of our girls' team and this was
16 their second consecutive undefeated year and they met
17 East Harlem Pride last year and they beat us, so it
18 was revenge; it was unfinished business. [background
19 comments]

20 Council Member Williams, thank you so
21 much; I really appreciate this honor for Brooklyn
22 College Academy, your alma mater.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: And we'll see
24 you girls next year for your next championship.
25 Thank you.

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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright. Thank you, congratulations again.

Okay, the next ceremonial -- I think this is the first time I used the name -- Council Member Ferreras-Copeland is gonna be doing a ceremonial for Kathleen Turner; right, who's Co-President of City Meals on Wheels, who is retiring after six years of distinguished service. We would like to ask Council Member -- oh... little Mr. Copeland is there. Oh, I didn't know he was here. [background comments]

Alright, we're getting distracted now. [background comments] It's great to have you here. [background comments]

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank you all. Thank you, Madame Speaker. After six years as Co-President and many more, as a member of the City Meals on Wheels, Ms. Anne Cohen is retiring from her position and so we're here today to celebrate her outstanding humanitarian service to the City of New York. Her commitment to providing for New Yorkers has been evident through the outstanding work of Citymeals on Wheels and in litigation, Ms. Cohen has represented renowned cases [background comments] and has received wide praise for negotiating

1
2 groundbreaking deals. All around, Ms. Anne Cohen has
3 demonstrated her compassion and care for others
4 needed assistance throughout our city.

5 Unfortunately, Ms. Cohen could not be here today to
6 receive her Proclamation, but she has sent on her
7 behalf Golden Globe-winning actor and member of the
8 Board of Citymeals on Wheels, Kathleen Turner.

9 [background comments, cheers, comments]

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And I made a
11 mistake; I was just reading what was given to me, but
12 it's a pleasure to have you here, Kathleen; thank you
13 so much for accepting on behalf of Ms. Cohen. We're
14 gonna read the Proclamation, please. Thank you.

15 CITY CLERK: Council, City of New York
16 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of
17 New York is proud to honor Anne Cohen upon her
18 retirement from Citymeals on Wheels after six years
19 of distinguished service as Co-President and her
20 extensive involvement that has prepared the
21 organization for the years ahead.

22 And whereas, Ms. Cohen's commitment to
23 providing for New Yorkers has been evident through
24 her work with Citymeals on Wheels, as well as her
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2 other outstanding contributions in other
3 associations.

4 And whereas, Ms. Cohen's leadership is
5 evident through her memberships on the Boards of the
6 American Council on Germany and the Asian Women's
7 Leadership University Project. As a litigator, she
8 represented renowned cases and has received wide
9 praise for negotiating groundbreaking deals.

10 And whereas, in addition to being a
11 lecturer in law at Columbia Law School, Ms. Cohen is
12 also a member of the Dean's Council. And whereas,
13 Ms. Cohen, a Yale Law School graduate also studied as
14 a Ford Foundation Fellow. She earned her JD from
15 Columbia, where she was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar
16 and an Articles Editor of the Columbia Law Review.
17 She was also a law clerk for the Honorable Richard S.
18 Arnold, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit.

19 And whereas, Ms. Cohen has inspired many
20 others through her compassion and care for others and
21 is worthy of the esteem of all New Yorkers.

22 Now therefore be it known, that the
23 Council of the City of New York proudly honors Anne
24 Cohen for her outstanding humanitarian services in
25 New York City where the fruits of her labor have been

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2 received. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the
3 Entire Council; Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, Council
4 Member 21st District, Queens and many other Council
5 Members.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright.

7 [background comments, cheers, applause] Alright, so
8 Kathleen says thank you on behalf of Anne, so yes.
9 And thank you for coming here; it's a pleasure to
10 have you here.

11 [background comments]

12 Alright, if we see a lot of young people
13 on the floor, today is Council Member for a Day, so
14 welcome to all the young people that are here from
15 throughout the city of New York. [applause]

16 And then now we have the Women's Caucus;
17 I think -- is it Council Members Crowley and Mealy
18 that will be doing -- we're doing a ceremonial
19 proclamation for Bonnie Stone, who's retiring as
20 President and CEO of Women In Need. I don't know if
21 we can have the representatives from WIN.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I ask all the
23 women who make up the Women's Caucus to join us in
24 honoring Bonnie Stone and all the men of the Council
25 to come up as well; this is a very special occasion.

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2 Bonnie is the CEO of Women In Need. Women In Need is
3 an organization that helps thousands of homeless
4 women and their families each and every year. Bonnie
5 has been the CEO for 15 years and sadly, Bonnie has
6 decided to retire at the end of this year, and for
7 your outstanding service to the City of New York; I
8 know you gave us decades even before you started your
9 leadership with WIN, but what you did with WIN since
10 becoming the CEO, you have been able to serve over
11 4500 people every single year; you're taking a heavy
12 weight off our shoulders as elected officials and
13 you're helping women grow in their careers and having
14 them be able to become more stable to support their
15 families and for that we are so grateful to honor you
16 today. If I could have the Proclamation be read,
17 please.

18 CITY CLERK: Council, City of New York
19 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of
20 New York is proud to honor Bonnie Stone upon her
21 retirement as President and CEO of Women In Need in
22 recognition of her extraordinary legacy of service.

23 And whereas, since joining Women In Need,
24 a CEO in 2000. Bonnie Stone has been one of the
25 leading figures in New York City's fight against

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2 homelessness and a fierce champion of women's
3 empowerment. With a unique vision and innovative
4 approach she has shaped the public conversation on
5 homelessness, developed essential programs and
6 spearheaded the creation of 11 shelters and 239
7 permanent housing units that together are responsible
8 for housing 4500 homeless people, including 2,600
9 homeless children in New York every night.

10 And whereas, under her leadership as
11 President and CEO, Ms. Stone has had a transformative
12 effect on Women In Need, increasing capacity to house
13 families by tenfold, raising funding levels to \$65
14 million and building a team of 500 dedicated
15 staffers. Much of her success has been due to a
16 pioneering approach to applying research methods and
17 data science to social services, which she developed
18 over the course of her career in public service.

19 And whereas, even before Ms. Stone's
20 tenure at Women In Need, she has a tremendously
21 positive impact in the lives of countless New
22 Yorkers. From 1978-1986 she served as Deputy
23 Administrator of the New York City Human Resources
24 Administration and opened and operated over 10,000
25 beds for the homeless and oversaw protective services

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2 for adults, shelters for battered women, homecare
3 services for the elderly and disabled, senior citizen
4 centers and family planning clinics. As Deputy
5 Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Health,
6 she oversaw all of the City's drug abuse treatment
7 services, spearheading programs that despite being
8 controversial at the time became mainstays of the
9 City's approach to dealing with drug and alcohol
10 addiction.

11 Now therefore be it known, that the
12 Women's Caucus of the Council of the City of New York
13 gratefully honors Bonnie Stone for outstanding career
14 and enduring contributions to our community and
15 wishes her continued success and happiness in
16 retirement. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the
17 Entire Council; Elizabeth Crowley, Women's Caucus Co-
18 Chair, Council Member 30th District, Queens; Darlene
19 Mealy, Women's Caucus Co-Chair, Council Member 41st
20 District, Brooklyn, and all of the members of the
21 Women's Caucus.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you so
23 much. Bonnie, it's really been a pleasure working
24 with you; Women In Need has several shelters in my
25 district, so I've gotten to know you and the

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2 organization; it's a really great organization that
3 has services citywide and sad to see you go; I'm sure
4 you're retiring but you're gonna still be active in
5 other ways and look forward to continued partnership
6 moving forward. So good luck with everything and
7 thank you. [background comment] Oh yeah, of course.
8 Yes. Yes. Yes. Bonnie.

9 BONNIE STONE: I don't have a lot to say,
10 except Elizabeth here has been reminding me it's been
11 about 45 years of service and I have to tell you, I
12 have loved every single day; some of them I could do
13 without, but mostly I loved it, I've worked for the
14 City and I worked in not-for-profits and with women
15 and children and families and I recommend it, it's
16 been a labor of love for many, many.. my whole life.
17 So thank you very much; I will really treasure this
18 and take it to the beach.

19 [cheers, applause, background comments]

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright, that
21 ends the ceremonials.

22 [pause]

23 [background comments]

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Can all Council
25 Members for a Day please approach the front of the

1
2 chambers for a picture? All Council Members for a
3 Day; that means all of those who are in middle
4 school, high school or... or law school or college or
5 K-5; that may include some Council Members.

6 [background comments] All Council Members for a Day;
7 that's the young ones, up front.

8 [pause]

9 [background comments]

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Ladies and gentlemen,
11 can I have your attention, please? Quiet on the
12 floor, please. Can I have your attention, please?

13 At this time, please place all electronic
14 devices to vibrate. Will all non-Council employees,
15 non-Council employees please leave the main floor of
16 the chambers? Thank you.

17 [gavel]

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
19 chambers. Everyone, please have a seat. Please rise
20 for the Pledge of Allegiance.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise.

22 [collective Pledge of Allegiance]

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.
24 Roll call. Quiet in the chambers.

25 [background comments]

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CITY CLERK: Arroyo.
[background comment]
COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Present.
CITY CLERK: Barron.
COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Present.
CITY CLERK: Cabrera.
COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.
CITY CLERK: Chin.
COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.
CITY CLERK: Cohen.
COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.
CITY CLERK: Constantinides.
COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Here.
CITY CLERK: Cornegy.
COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Here.
CITY CLERK: Crowley.
COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Present.
CITY CLERK: Cumbo. Deutsch. Dickens.
COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.
CITY CLERK: Dromm.
COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.
CITY CLERK: Espinal.
COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.
CITY CLERK: Eugene.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.
CITY CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.
COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Here.
CITY CLERK: Garodnick.
COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.
CITY CLERK: Gentile. Deutsch.
COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.
CITY CLERK: Gibson. Greenfield.
Johnson.
COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Present.
CITY CLERK: Kallos.
COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR A DAY: Here.
[laughter]
CITY CLERK: King.
COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Here.
CITY CLERK: Koo.
COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.
CITY CLERK: Koslowitz.
COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.
CITY CLERK: Lancman.
COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Here.
CITY CLERK: Lander.
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.
CITY CLERK: Levin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Maisel. Matteo. Mealy.
Menchaca. Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

CITY CLERK: Miller.

[background comment]

CITY CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Reynoso.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Here.

CITY CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Present.

CITY CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CITY CLERK: Rose. Rosenthal.

FEMALE VOICE: Can I respond for Julissa?
Oh sorry, here. That's Copeland, Copeland. Here.

CITY CLERK: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Here.

CITY CLERK: Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CITY CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

CITY CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Here.

CITY CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Weprin.

CITY CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

CITY CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Here.

CITY CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Here.

[background comment]

CITY CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Matteo.

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

CITY CLERK: Ignizio. Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Here.

CITY CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

[background comments]

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All quiet in the chambers. Please rise for the invocation, delivered... [interpose]

SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise, remove your ball caps, your caps.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please remove your caps. The invocation will be delivered by Iman [sic] Khalid Latif, Islamic Center at NYU, 238 [interpose, background comments] Thompson Street, New York, New York -- quiet in the chambers.

IMAM KHALID LATIF: Let us pray. Almighty god, most merciful of those who show mercy, bestower of love, source of peace, bless this gathering and all those who are in it. Assembled here today are men and women who truly represent everything great about this city; shower upon us your infinite mercy and instill within each of us a sound sense of respect for others. The diversity of this city is unlike any other; help us to harness that diversity and turn it into a much-needed pluralism that celebrates our differences and respects and seeks to serve our most underprivileged. The coming weeks present opportunities in abundance to better understand that diversity; as Pride Month is upon us,

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2 the Islamic month of fasting of Ramadan is set to
3 start next week and it will be sharing its first day
4 with Juneteenth, a day commemorating the actual end
5 of slavery in this country and a day that all New
6 Yorkers should know and appreciate, especially as we
7 are still trying to understand that black lives
8 matter. Help us to stand with the people and make us
9 not those who wait for them to come to us. Let us be
10 motivated by selflessness, not selfishness; sincerity
11 and not self-centeredness. Increase us in courage,
12 compassion and confidence, shield us from any
13 anxiety, anguish and affliction; protect us from
14 hearts that are not humble, tongues that are not
15 wise, eyes that have forgotten how to cry and grant
16 us and our loved ones only the best in this world and
17 the best in the next. Forgive us for our
18 shortcomings oh lord and guide and bless us all.
19 Amen.

20 [collective amen]

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.

22 [background comments] Quiet in the chambers. A
23 motion to spread the invocation in full upon the
24 record by Council Member Chin, followed by Council
25 Member Steve Levine [sic].

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Motion to spread
3 the invocation in full upon the record and we want to
4 welcome Iman [sic] Khalid Latif to the New York City
5 Council today. I would like to ask my colleague to
6 join me in welcoming Iman [sic] Khalid Latif, who is
7 the University Chaplain for New York University in my
8 district, as well as the Executive Director for the
9 Islamic Center at NYU and a chaplain for the NYPD.
10 He's also a small business owner in a number of
11 faith-based ventures. He has been very involved in
12 public service; he was the youngest NYPD chaplain in
13 the history of New York City, at the age of 24. Most
14 recently he served as a member of Mayor de Blasio's
15 Transition Team and also on the Public Advocate's
16 Task Force to Combat Hate. We are so pleased to have
17 him with us today. Thank you.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Madame Public
19 Advocate, as somebody who has known Imam Latif since
20 our days as children in New Jersey, including his
21 days as a star running back for our middle school and
22 high school football team, I am incredibly pleased to
23 have the Imam here today to deliver the invocation
24 and very proud of his great work, including as the
25 youngest chaplain for the New York City Police

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2 Department in addition to his great work at the
3 Islamic Center at NYU. Imam, we are very happy to
4 have you here today and we're very proud. Thank you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you and we
6 too welcome Iman [sic] Khalid Latif, who tells me he
7 was once a star running back until everyone around
8 him got taller, [laughter] so we welcome you. Thank
9 you, sir.

10 And now Adoption of Minutes, Council
11 Member Espinal.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I make a motion
13 that the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of May 14,
14 2015 be adopted as printed.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Messages and
16 Papers from the Mayor.

17 CITY CLERK: Preconsidered M 296, Saint
18 Michael's park.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: State and Federal
20 Legislation.

21 CITY CLERK: Preconsidered M 297,
22 abutting property owners.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: State and Federal
24 Legislation.

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CITY CLERK: Preconsidered M 298,
disability benefits.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: State and Federal
Legislation.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication
from City, County and Borough offices.

CITY CLERK: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and
Communications.

CITY CLERK: M 299, Resignation of Mark
S. Weprin.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Received,
Ordered, Printed and Filed.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-
Ups.

CITY CLERK: M 300 to M 303.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on Call-
Up Vote. Roll call.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I'm sorry; this is
the... [background comment] oh, aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo. Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

[background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Eye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND:

[background comments] We're gonna say aye, with permission if we could vote also on all Coupled General Orders.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank you. [background comments] I vote aye. Sorry.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick. Gentil...

[crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Garodnick.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile. Gibson.

Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Can I be excused to explain my vote? I would like to vote aye on Land Use Call-Ups and ask for permission to vote on all General Coupled Orders.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes. You vote aye?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye. Quiet in the chambers, please.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander. Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel. Matteo.

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy. Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Palma.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.
COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile.
COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.
COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.
[background comments]
COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo.
COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.
COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.
COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.
COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I'd like to vote
on all General Orders, please.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you very
much. I vote no on M 298, 125-B and 318-A and aye on
all others and want to wish my colleague, Mark Weprin
well. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

[background comment]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Today's Land Use
3 Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of 47 in the
4 affirmative, 0 in the negative... quiet in the
5 chambers. And now we will hear from Speaker Melissa
6 Mark-Viverito.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madame
8 Public Advocate.

9 Today, as we've already indicated, that
10 we're joined by a lot of young New Yorkers from
11 across the five boroughs who are here for our Council
12 Member for a Day program. Shadowing a council
13 member, they learn all about the legislative process
14 we follow and get to join in our Stated Meeting
15 today. So I wanna welcome all our Council Members
16 for a Day; thank you for visiting; good luck in your
17 studies. You are the leaders of tomorrow and we hope
18 that you'll continue your interest in government and
19 leadership, so it's great to have you here with us.

20 I'd also like to note that today is the
21 last Stated for one of our colleagues; Council Member
22 Mark Weprin leaving to accept a position with the
23 Governor's Office. Council Member Weprin has been an
24 amazing representative for his community in Queens;
25 has shown tremendous leadership as Chair of the

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2 Zoning and Franchises Committee and head of the
3 Queens Delegation. So I know, Mark, that I speak on
4 behalf of all of our colleagues you've been hearing
5 and you'll probably hear a lot of goodbyes and good
6 luck, but definitely we'll miss you here and we wish
7 you the best in your new position and I'm sure we're
8 gonna be seeing a lot of you and interacting with you
9 quite often, so congratulations.

10 [applause, cheers]

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright, I...
12 you're welcome.

13 Today the City Council will be voting on
14 a Land Use action to significantly expand the Crown
15 Heights Historic District in Brooklyn; this historic
16 designation will protect over 600 buildings which
17 represent an important part of New York City's
18 architectural history and preserve the special
19 character of Crown Heights. I would like to ask both
20 Council Members Cumbo and Cornegy to say a few words
21 about this. Council Member Cumbo.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. It's
23 my honor to work with Council Member Cornegy; this
24 has been a very important project that happened way
25 before I came into office and as the demographics, as

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2 well as the architectural landscape of Brooklyn, New
3 York and the City of New York changes right before
4 our very eyes, it's so important that we gather
5 together today and in all efforts to preserve the
6 vitality, the architecture, the landscape and what
7 makes Brooklyn, New York such a wonderful place to be
8 is the building and the construction and the care to
9 detail and the craftsmanship; these are all the
10 things that welcome people to Brooklyn that make
11 everyone wanna live in the greatest borough in the
12 world [background comments, laughter], but I just
13 wanna thank my colleague, Council Member Robert
14 Cornegy; this is going to be an amazing opportunity
15 for Brooklynites and New Yorkers all over. Thank you
16 so very much.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I would just
18 like to echo the sentiments of my colleague, Laurie
19 Cumbo, it's been a pleasure to work with her and to
20 the residents of Crown Heights and Bedford-Stuyvesant
21 that will benefit from this designation I wanna say
22 you know we're very pleased with the ability to
23 protect and honor the sanctity of the brownstones and
24 tree-lined streets that we are so proud of in the
25 greatest village, I believe, [laugh, background

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2 comments] in the Council. So thank you, everybody
3 and my colleagues for making this happen. Thank you,
4 Madame Speaker.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
6 Council Member.

7 Over the last several months the Council
8 has engaged in serious and much needed discussions
9 about how to best provide for our city's uniformed
10 officers in case they are seriously injured in the
11 line of duty. Every day the hard-working men and
12 women of the NYPD, the FDNY, DSNY and DOC work to
13 keep New York City safe, clean and operating and we
14 must honor their work with fair policies that make
15 sense. Today the City Council will vote on a Home
16 Rule Message requesting the State to pass legislation
17 to make needed changes to the disability pensions of
18 New York's uniformed employees. This proposal is
19 fair, it's fiscally responsible and will protect all
20 of our uniformed officers regardless of when they
21 were hired. The Council has thoroughly examined all
22 proposals and we are proud to support a plan that
23 strikes a fair balance between safeguarding our
24 city's uniformed officers and our city's finances.
25 The plan the Council is endorsing will raise salaries

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2 for younger workers at a 75 percent tax-free
3 disability benefit for those who are seriously
4 disabled in the line of duty and assure all officers
5 are treated equally. The message we are sending to
6 Albany today is clear; we must protect those who
7 protect New York City. Throughout this process the
8 Council has maintained an open line of communication
9 with the PBA, the UFA union leaders, the
10 Administration and all stakeholders. I thank all of
11 my colleagues for their input throughout this process
12 and look forward to continuing to work with the
13 unions, the Administration and the State Legislature
14 to better our city for all New Yorkers.

15 Today we're also voting on a major
16 legislative package to improve the regulatory climate
17 for small businesses in New York City; these are
18 measures that I first proposed in my State of the
19 City Address and we're all very proud to be voting on
20 them today.

21 We have two bills that require the
22 Department of Consumer Affairs and the Office of
23 Administrative Trials and Hearings to issue reports
24 on violations that are dismissed and that require
25 agencies that issues these violations to report on

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2 plans to minimize the number of unwarranted
3 violations.

4 If simple measures, such as retraining
5 inspectors or clarifying rules can save business
6 owners the hassle of appealing unnecessary
7 violations, it's in everyone best interest.

8 Our next bill requires the Mayor's Office
9 of Operations to engage in outreach efforts to ensure
10 that more small businesses complete the customer
11 service survey available on the City's website. This
12 valuable feedback would be required to be used as
13 these agencies formulate and refine their Council-
14 mandated customer service training.

15 Another bill in this package would
16 require the Department of Consumer Affairs, supported
17 by the Department of Small Business Services, to hold
18 multiple business education events [background
19 comment] across the city each year to provide local
20 businesses with information on the laws and rules
21 that are enforced by the agency.

22 The City's role in regulating business
23 should be to ensure that everyone knows the rules and
24 is able to follow them; not to catch small business
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2 owners off-guard with violations that could easily be
3 avoided with proper education.

4 The next bill creates a small business
5 advocate position in the Department of Small Business
6 Services. This office will be dedicated to helping
7 business owners obtain appropriate services from the
8 Department and other governmental agencies.

9 When we listen to small businesses and
10 when we listen to small business owners, we hear a
11 wide variety of concerns on numerous issues and it's
12 time for them to have a single, convenient point of
13 contact within the Administration to address these
14 concerns.

15 And the final bill in this package is one
16 I'm very proud to sponsor. This bill will require
17 that the Mayor's Office of Operations make available
18 the Business Owners Bill of Rights in at least the
19 top six languages spoken by limited English
20 proficient New Yorkers so that small business
21 operators will know they have a right to language
22 translation services during inspections. It will
23 also require the Mayor's Office of Operations to
24 establish specific protocols for inspectors in
25 multiple agencies to follow in order to determine

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2 whether a business operator needs language
3 translation services and to provide such services.

4 Small businesses have always played a
5 huge role in the immigrant success story that is New
6 York City. Restaurants and shops across the five
7 boroughs allow New Yorkers from all over the world to
8 pursue the entrepreneurial dreams while also
9 enriching the cultural experience for everyone in
10 this city. Simply put, language barrier should be no
11 excuse for the City not to fully communicate to
12 business owners their rights and responsibilities.
13 This bill will ensure that we improve that
14 communication going forward.

15 So now I'm gonna call up a couple of my
16 colleagues to speak on some of the bills that make up
17 this comprehensive small business package. I also
18 do, on the staff side, wanna thank Laura Popa, Matt
19 Gewolb, obviously, Rachel Cordero, David Seitzer,
20 Jeff Campagna, Aboni Raham [sp?] and Shijuade Kadree.

21 So I'd like to first start off with
22 Council Member Vincent Gentile, followed by Council
23 Member Rosenthal, followed by council Member Cornegy;
24 then Espinal and then Chin.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you,
3 Madame Speaker and thank you for your continued
4 support of small business agenda and certainly this
5 package here today. Also wanna thank Chairs Cornegy
6 and Espinal for their support in Int. 729-A, which
7 we're voting on today and certainly the staff that
8 had a part in putting it together.

9 This bill which we're voting on today
10 really will be of benefit to small businesses down
11 the road, because what this bill will do is mandate a
12 study to discover those violations that are issued to
13 business owners [background comment] that are
14 frequently dismissed once the business owner goes to
15 court. And so this bill will mandate that DCA study
16 to find out what violations are commonly dismissed
17 and after finding that out, then work to reduce those
18 violations from being issued by inspectors and in so
19 doing, stop the harassment of small business owners
20 who are required to go down and fight these
21 violations, only to have them dismissed and they lose
22 their time from businesses and basically continue to
23 do this over and over again. So this bill is a good
24 bill to create this study to reduce these violations
25 in the long run, so I appreciate your support today.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thanks so
3 much. You know, I wanna thank the Speaker and
4 Council Member Cornegy for their support in putting
5 this supporting bill through to better understand,
6 like Council Member Gentile's bill, why so many cases
7 are dismissed; it will help our small business
8 people, our restaurateurs; in addition to that, on
9 sort of the flip side, it'll help us understand why
10 landlords aren't paying for violations that are
11 issued against them. You know, of the thousand
12 violations that the Office of Special Enforcement
13 puts out on landlords, we hear stories that many of
14 those violations are simply dismissed or disregarded;
15 similarly, with harassment and eviction of our
16 tenants in rent-stabilized homes, we hear that
17 landlords are bringing lawyers into the OATH with
18 them and getting their cases dismissed. So I'm
19 looking forward to understanding better why the cases
20 are being dismissed and what we can do to better
21 protect our tenants. Thank you so much.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Council
23 Member. Council Member Cornegy.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you,
25 Madame Speaker.

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2 Small business owners do incredibly
3 valuable and incredibly difficult work that benefits
4 the people they employ, the customers they serve and
5 our city as a whole. My goal as Chair of the
6 Committee on Small Business is to do all I can to
7 make their tough jobs easier. Today's bills
8 accomplish that goal by improving the way the City
9 interacts with small businesses in many ways. Going
10 forward, non-English speakers will have a fairer
11 chance during inspections, the number of education
12 events across the boroughs will be increased, and
13 owners will be encouraged to give meaningful feedback
14 and there will be a clear entry point for business
15 owners to share their concerns with the Department of
16 Small Business Services. Moreover, we'll have a
17 better understanding of how business summonses are
18 resolved by the Department of Consumer Affairs and
19 OATH; as these mechanisms tell us more about what
20 business owners need, we'll continue to do better to
21 serve them. [background comment]

22 I wanna thank Speaker Melissa Mark-
23 Viverito and all the members who worked to support
24 and co-sponsor these bills, for their vision and
25 determination. But I wanna really give a special

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2 shout-out to The Speaker because this is a testament
3 to her, even in her State of the City, her commitment
4 to small businesses and I wanna thank you for
5 honoring that in this way and really making sure that
6 small businesses are protected and can meet their
7 mission and vision statements across the City of New
8 York, so you, Madame Speaker.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
10 Council Member for your support and your leadership
11 on behalf of small businesses. Council Member
12 Espinal.

13 [background comment]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Dear colleagues,
15 today I urge you to vote in favor of Int. 726-A, a
16 bill which would expand and codify a successful pass
17 program of DCA; it's called Business Education Days.
18 This bill, which is part of The Speaker's small
19 business package, would require DCA to hold events in
20 two separate locations in each of the five boroughs
21 of the city on an annual basis. It would also
22 require that any lectures or educational materials
23 produced for the events be made available in English
24 and the six languages most commonly spoke in the
25 city. DCA will work together with the Department of

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2 Small Businesses and will provide information at
3 these events, which include the laws and rules and
4 enforced by DCA. Again, small businesses are the
5 heart of the American economy and nowhere is this
6 felt more deeply than here in the City of New York.

7 Historically, New York City hasn't been
8 friendly to small businesses and I'm really proud to
9 introduce this bill and this package alongside The
10 Speaker to make that possible here in New York.

11 Thank you.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you.
13 Council Member Chin.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Madame
15 Speaker. Our city has great services for small
16 businesses, [background comment] but many of our
17 small businesses do not know how to access these
18 programs or whom to turn to when they have questions
19 about the City's rules and regulations. We get a lot
20 of small business owners who come into my district
21 office with questions about tickets they got or
22 looking for help to access new City programs for
23 small businesses. Sometimes they are struggling with
24 language access issues and sometimes they just need
25 help to understand the City's agency. I sponsor this

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2 bill, Int. 724-A, with Council Member Cornegy and our
3 Speaker so that [background comment] small businesses
4 will have a voice and a shepherd within the City
5 government. The advocates in the Department of Small
6 Business Services will be able to help them access
7 and navigate City agencies and speak up for them when
8 there are issues. In a nutshell, this bill is about
9 increasing access and transparency in City government
10 for small business owners.

11 I want to thank our Speaker, Melissa
12 Mark-Viverito and Council Member Cornegy for their
13 support in getting this legislation passed. I also
14 would like to thank Jeff Campagna, who worked very
15 hard on this legislation with us, as well as Matt
16 Gewolb and Laura Popa, and of course, my Chief of
17 Staff, Yume Kitasei, and I ask my colleagues to join
18 me in supporting this bill.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
20 Council Member.

21 Today we're also passing a bill that will
22 require all car wash businesses in the city to be
23 licensed by the Department of Consumer Affairs in
24 order to operate. I'm very proud to sponsor this
25 bill; it's been a bill -- we've been working for over

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2 a year-and-a-half, so very excited we've arrived to
3 this day.

4 In order to receive a license, businesses
5 would, among other things, be required to obtain a
6 \$150,000 bond to cover any claims against the
7 business, including those for labor violations, such
8 as wage theft and damages to vehicles. This bond
9 amount is reduced to \$30,000 for businesses operating
10 with a collective bargaining agreement or those that
11 are under a State-supervised settlement.

12 Car wash businesses would also have to
13 certify that they are in compliance with certain
14 Department of Buildings and Department of
15 Environmental Protection laws and keep records of
16 damaged cars and payments to customers.

17 Over the last few years we've held a
18 number of hearings on this topic and there is a clear
19 record of widespread labor violations in New York
20 City's car wash industry. The car wash licensing
21 legislation provides protections for New Yorkers from
22 unscrupulous car wash owners. The law will help us
23 enforce environmental laws governing the use of water
24 and the disposal of pollutants; it will also help
25 consumers that patronize car washes.

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2 Finally, the law will help protect
3 employees of car washes, and particularly, vulnerable
4 group of low-wage workers. The City Council will
5 continue to stand up for New Yorkers and our
6 legislation will hold businesses accountable.

7 Last year I was proud to stand with
8 Attorney General Eric Schneiderman as we announced a
9 landmark settlement to help those who had fallen
10 victim to labor abuse in the car wash industry and
11 this bill will continue that work by taking a
12 proactive step to prevent such practices from
13 happening in the first place.

14 This has been a long fight for fairness
15 in the industry and today I'm very proud to say that
16 the Council is stepping up and passing this important
17 piece of legislation.

18 I wanna thank Laura Popa, Terzah Nasser,
19 Matt Carlin, Gafar Zaaloff, Natalie Rehagen [sp?],
20 Rob Newman, Lyle Frank, Chris Eshleman and Ray
21 Majewski for all of their hard work.

22 And finally, we're passing a very
23 important piece of legislation that will continue the
24 Council's work to make New York City a more fair
25 place to live and to work for all. Today we're

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2 voting on the Fair Chance Act, a bill that will
3 strengthen our city's human rights law by prohibiting
4 employers from asking about an applicant's criminal
5 background prior to making a conditional job offer.

6 If an applicant is revealed to have a
7 criminal record after being given a conditional
8 officer, the employer would be required to get a
9 written explanation if they intend to rescind or
10 reduce the offer. The applicant would then have a
11 three-day period of time to provide explanation or to
12 correct any inaccurate information. This bill is a
13 balanced and reasonable way to ensure that those who
14 have made mistakes in their past still have the
15 opportunity to improve their lives in the future.

16 We've taken a lot of action and had a lot
17 of discussion in recent months about criminal justice
18 reform. The driving force behind these discussions
19 has the goal to live a city where those who violate
20 the law are punished accordingly but are also given
21 the tools to get their lives back on track. When we
22 take away the chance to find honest employment from
23 those who have made bad decisions in the past, we're
24 only setting up roadblocks to their efforts to
25 rebuild their lives.

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2 This bill still gives employers a choice
3 about who they hire, but it makes the process fair
4 for all parties involved.

5 I wanna thank on the staff side, Matt
6 Gewolb, Rachel Cordero, Rob Newman, Alicia Brown,
7 Muzna Ansari and Eisha Wright.

8 Council Member Williams has led the fight
9 on this issue -- congratulations Council Member
10 Williams; thank you for your leadership and if you
11 could say a few words.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you,
13 Madame Speaker; thank you for your leadership on
14 getting this... helping get this bill this far to be
15 voted on today and wanna thank the Chair of Civil
16 Rights Committee, Darlene Mealy; I also wanna thank
17 Borough President Gale Brewer, who had this bill in
18 the prior session and was instrumental in getting it
19 here today as well.

20 Having a past conviction should not
21 prevent someone from being able to put food on the
22 table or pay rent; the Fair Chance Act will ensure
23 that all New Yorkers, including those who have been
24 stigmatized because of previous convictions, will
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2 have an equal opportunity to compete for jobs for
3 which they qualify.

4 Today is the National Day of Action,
5 urging President Obama to adopt a Fair Chance Hiring
6 policy for Federal contractors to mark the occasion.
7 I'm very proud that New York City Council is expected
8 to pass the New York City Fair Chance Act and join 17
9 states and more than 100 cities and counties who have
10 already adopted similar legislation; I'm very proud
11 that this bill is one of the strongest in the nation.

12 This legislation will not hurt employers;
13 that is it does not require them to hire any
14 particular application; it does however delay the
15 background check, thus [background comment]
16 supplementing [sic] preexisting law that says
17 employers cannot deny a job because of a record
18 unless there is a direct relationship to the job.

19 To be clear, you currently are not
20 supposed to discriminate against someone just because
21 they have a criminal history, but many of the
22 apprehensions to this bill is because people want to
23 continue to use a criminal history to discriminate
24 and we want to prevent that and enforce this law by
25 saying that you cannot ask the question at the

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2 beginning; you have to ask it after you've assessed
3 them as an entire person.

4 Employers who are legally prohibited from
5 hiring people with certain convictions must still do
6 so and employers can still do State-allowed
7 assessment to determine which convictions conflict
8 with the job, but by delaying the background checks,
9 this law will make it possible for some qualified
10 applicants who happen to also have a record to make
11 it through an initial screening process and thereby
12 stand a better chance of being considered for a job.

13 The Fair Chance Act allows people with a
14 conviction history to be evaluated on their merits,
15 without compromising safety and security on the job.
16 Under the act, employers must make a conditional job
17 offer before inquiring into the criminal history of
18 an applicant or conducting any criminal history
19 search.

20 We are right now, in the nation and in
21 New York City, trying our best to deal with many
22 issues, particularly around violence and gun violence
23 in the city; I believe this bill has the pleasure of
24 being a jobs bill, of being a criminal justice reform
25 bill and being a public safety bill. I'm very happy

1
2 that this will affect and help people with criminal
3 backgrounds and even more happy that black and Latino
4 neighborhoods that too often have a higher rate of
5 interaction with the criminal justice system will be
6 helped, and in particular, black males, who have
7 among the highest interaction, will be helped by
8 this. We do know that hurt people hurt people and we
9 think of Kalief Browder, who took his own life, he
10 hurt himself; it's disappointing that we couldn't
11 save him; there are other young men who are hurting
12 each other because they're feeling some of the same
13 pain and it's important that we recognize; either
14 young black males are more prone genetically to be
15 criminals or they're the systemic problem, and if you
16 believe the first part, I don't know what to say to
17 you; if you, like me, are better-minded and believe
18 the second part, please join us in trying to address
19 the systemic issues, not just in criminal justice; in
20 housing, in education and unemployment, so that we
21 can get to the root of the problem.

22 I'd like to thank Chair Mealy for
23 supporting this bill and The Speaker and would like
24 to additionally thank the many staff and advocates
25 who worked on the bill, including on the Council

1
2 side, Matt Gewolb, Rob Newman, Committee Counsel
3 Alicia Brown, the Committee's former Counsel, Julene
4 Beckford, Maya Wiley from the Mayor side, Abades
5 Debasu [sp?], Britney Moore. My staff -- William
6 Berlick [sp?], special thanks to Paul Keefe from the
7 Community Service Society for helping to draft the
8 bill, Alicia from Vocal, and of course the co prime
9 sponsor, Borough President Gale Brewer, who
10 originally introduced this bill in the previous
11 session and her staff -- Shula Warren and Hallie Chua
12 [sp?] -- apologize if I forgot anyone, but I do wanna
13 give special shout-outs to my Deputy Chief of Staff,
14 Nick Smith; since he got here this is what he's been
15 working for, and Committee Counsel Rachel Cordero,
16 who I know I've annoyed incessantly; I know advocates
17 has annoyed incessantly, but we've reached this day
18 and I wanna thank everybody.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
20 Council Member. Before I forget, I just wanna say;
21 today's Stated Meeting will stand in recess until the
22 budget is adopted and while the State Legislature is
23 still in session; needed to say that for the record.

24 Okay, we're also voting on several
25 resolutions of particular importance. One of them

1
2 calls upon the State Government to extend and
3 strengthen rent regulations in New York. Last week
4 many of us went to Albany to demand action on this
5 matter. Keeping New York affordable for the middle
6 class is a defining issue of our time and the last
7 thing we need is skyrocketing rents for New Yorkers
8 across the five boroughs due to inaction in Albany.
9 This Council will continue to fight for middle class
10 and low-income New Yorkers struggling to make ends
11 meet and it's essential that rent regulations be
12 protected so we can move forward, not backward in
13 this fight.

14 Additionally, the Council will vote today
15 on a resolution calling on President Obama to grant
16 clemency to Oscar Lopez Rivera, a Puerto Rican
17 political prisoner who has served more than 34 years in
18 prison for his activism and political beliefs.
19 Rivera has served more time than Nelson Mandela.

20 In 1999, Oscar was offered clemency by
21 President Bill Clinton, but in an act of solidarity
22 with other political prisoners he declined. He was
23 never convicted of specific crimes that resulted in
24 deaths or injuries, nor was he ever convicted of any
25 act of violence. Nobel Peace Prize winners, leaders

1
2 from across the political spectrum and members of all
3 walks of life have called for his release. Today the
4 Council will join its collective voice to this human
5 rights plea.

6 And finally, this is an issue that has
7 just been extremely emotional during these last
8 couple of days; I wanna -- and by asking everyone to
9 join me in honoring the life and memory of Kalief
10 Browder, a bright young man with even a brighter
11 future.

12 Kalief Browder was a New Yorker; he was
13 one of ours and one of us. I know he will be missed
14 by those who loved him and I know that there are
15 millions of people in this city standing in
16 solidarity with his family in the face of this
17 unspeakable loss.

18 In the wake of this senseless tragedy
19 it's important that we recognize that what happened
20 to Kalief Browder happens every day to too many New
21 Yorkers, particularly young men of color. Fully, 85
22 percent of the population of Rikers, yes, that's 85
23 percent of the population of Rikers Island, are pre-
24 trial detainees, innocent in the eyes of the law and
25 we know from the alarming reports coming out of

1
2 Rikers Island that Kalief Browder was not alone in
3 suffering abuse, physical and psychological torment
4 while jailed on Rikers Island. Our criminal justice
5 system locked him up for three years and stole his
6 freedom, his future and ultimately his life. What
7 happened to Kalief Browder was an injustice.
8 Policies that systematically and unfairly
9 marginalize, criminalize, stigmatize and demoralize
10 our young people of color are not justice. If we
11 needed a wakeup call, this is it. We need
12 comprehensive criminal justice reform and we need it
13 now here in New York City and across the nation; we
14 cannot throw away any more time or any more lives.
15 From proposing the creation of a citywide bail fund
16 to advocating for a summons system that is fair and
17 just to increasing accountability and transparency at
18 the Board of Corrections, the City Council is
19 committed to fixing this broken system.

20 In fact, one week from today we will be
21 holding a hearing on our broken bail system, the same
22 system that kept Kalief Browder in jail because his
23 family could not afford \$3,000 in bail, because we
24 can do better than this; we must do better than this,
25

1
2 because we already have paid too high a price. May
3 he rest in peace.

4 And with that I end Communication from
5 The Speaker.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Discussion of
7 General Orders, Council Member Elizabeth Crowley.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: First, Speaker;
9 I wanna thank you for your kind words about Kalief
10 Browder; I want to give you my full commitment as
11 Chair of Criminal Justice that we could work to right
12 this injustice and bring real reform to Rikers
13 Island.

14 Today I also wanna urge my colleagues to
15 vote no on Preconsidered 298. The Mayor's plan still
16 has a second class for newly hired uniformed
17 personnel; it does not fix the problem of inequality.
18 After years of a hiring freeze in the Fire
19 Department, 56 percent of newly hired firefighter
20 probies are either women or people of color; the
21 reduced benefits disproportionately affect groups of
22 new hires. I ask; is this the direction that we
23 should be taking our city? The Mayor is trying to
24 justify support for the reduction of benefits as a
25 cost savings. At a time when our city budget is

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2 growing, with over \$500 million in new proposed
3 programs, do we really need to find a cost savings on
4 the backs of our bravest and finest? In November I
5 introduced a resolution which calls for parity for
6 disability benefits for all New York City
7 firefighters and police officers; this was brought to
8 a hearing two weeks ago and is co-sponsored by 39 of
9 my colleagues. Despite the support of the super
10 majority of the Council, Mayor de Blasio is
11 attempting to push an alternative proposal through
12 the Council with less than 24 hours in notice.
13 Pushing a bill of this significance through the
14 Council without time for discussion is wrong.
15 Uniform personnel respond to the same emergencies and
16 face the same dangers regardless of when they were
17 hired; therefore, they are deserving of equal
18 benefits if sustained a disability [bell] injury;
19 equal means equal. Thank you.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

21 Seeing none other on General Orders, Report of
22 Special Committees.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of
25 Standing Committees.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Civil Rights, Int. 318-A, Fair Chance Act.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Civil Service and Labor, Int. 125-B, licensing car wash businesses.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Consumer Affairs, Int. 726-A, Department of Consumer Affairs education events.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Int. 729-A, Department of Consumer Affairs' tribunal.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance, M 293 and companion Res. 735-739.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 237 and Res. 750, Rose Ellen Smith HDFC.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
3 General Orders.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
5 on Governmental Operations, Int. 456-A, OATH tribunal
6 dismissals.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
8 Coupled on General Orders.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Int. 725-A, agency
10 inspector customer service training.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
12 Coupled on General Orders.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
14 on Land Use, LU 229 and Res. 751 and LU 230 and Res.
15 752, various UDAAPs.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
17 General Orders.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 231 and Res. 753,
19 Crown Heights North Historic District.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
21 General Orders.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 232 and Res. 754
23 through LU 236 and Res. 758, property tax exemptions.

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
25 General Orders.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Small Business, Int. 723-A, protocols for non-English speakers.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Int. 724-A, Small Business Services advocates.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on State and Federal Legislation, Preconsidered M 296, Saint Michael's Park.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered M 297, abutting property owners.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered M 298, disability benefits.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered SLR 1, certificates of occupancy for unmapped streets.

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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered SLR 2,
promotions of captains.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: On the General Order
Calendar, LU 223 and Res. 759, zoning amendment.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Resolution appointing
various persons, Commissioner of Deeds.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
General Orders and at this time I ask for roll call
on all items on the Coupled General Order Calendar.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye. Is the time
where I'd explain my comment on the resolution about...
[crosstalk]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: No, not yet.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay. Aye.

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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you...

[crosstalk]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: No on M 298 and
aye on the rest.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: No on 318-A and
aye on all the rest.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye on
all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: No on 125-B and
yes on all the rest.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: No on 298...

[interpose]

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: and aye on the
rest. So that's no on Preconsidered 298 and aye on
all the rest.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Congratulations to all my colleagues and aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: No on 298 and yes on everything else.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye on all except no on Preconsidered 298.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: No on Preconsidered M 298 and no on Int. 125-B and aye on the rest.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye on the Land Use Call-Ups and aye on the rest. Thanks.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: No on Preconsidered M 298, abstain on Int. 318-A; aye on the rest.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson. Greenfield.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you;
I'm here. I vote aye on all with the exception of
298, which I vote no.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: No on M 298 and
aye on the remainder.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request
permission to explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you. I
vote aye on all. I wanna give a special
congratulations to The Speaker on the Car Wash
Accountability Act, which I think is a dynamite piece
of legislation which is... [applause, cheers]

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excuse me.

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Excuse me. Excuse me. [gavel]

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: which sets...

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[crosstalk]

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: a standard for

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how we protect low-wage workers in dangerous

8

industries. I wanna give a big congratulations also

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to Council Member Williams on the Fair Chance Act;

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I'm proud of a city that's giving everybody a real

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fair chance to work. And I also wanna say that I

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really [interpose, background comments] think the

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Council is doing the right thing in supporting the

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resolution on M 298; we had a hearing two weeks ago

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at which we were presented something that we thought

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needed some work; we considered it in Committee, we

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pushed back; this is a fair bill that strikes the

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right balance; makes sure people with severe

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disabilities are restored to that higher level of

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pension where they were before, thanks to the pushing

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of this Council that makes sure that workers in their

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early and there for seven years [sic] are elevated up

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above where they would've been; doesn't make people

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make a difficult choice between those two things; I

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2 think we've significantly improved the proposal and I
3 think we're doing the right thing here today and I
4 proudly vote aye on all.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. All
6 spectators, please demonstrate your support with a
7 wave. Thank you.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Permission to
10 explain my vote.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Madame Public
13 Advocate, Madame Speaker, I'm gonna be voting aye on
14 all. I wanted to speak for a second here about
15 Preconsidered M 298.

16 I had to do a lot of thinking about this
17 piece of legislation and I was a sponsor of Council
18 Member Crowley's resolution since December, when two
19 police officers, Officers Ramos and Liu from the 84th
20 Precinct, were assassinated and you know ultimately
21 we have to do something; the status quo is something
22 that we view as unacceptable and this piece of
23 legislation before us today is doing something, it is
24 better than the status quo; many more cops and
25 firefighters that are severely injured through this

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2 legislation would be covered at full 75 percent
3 disability than are covered today and that is doing
4 something. If legislation or if a compromise is
5 reached between uniformed unions and the
6 Administration is proposed in the future, I would
7 look forward to that; that would cover more cops and
8 firefighters, but this legislation that is before us
9 today that we are charged with voting on does in fact
10 improve the status quo significantly and for that I
11 will be voting aye. Thank you.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Permission to
17 explain my vote.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: On the Reso 740,
20 I've always believed that an unjust to one is an
21 unjust for all and as I vote for this... [interpose]

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member...

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.
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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: you can speak
3 regarding a resolution at a later point in the
4 program.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Okay, alright.
6 Then no on M 298.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: No on M 298, no
10 on 125 and no on 318; aye on the rest.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Pass.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: MENCHACA.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to
15 explain my vote.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Just really
18 quickly, I also wanted to give a shout-out to all the
19 advocates that have been really hard, including The
20 Speaker of the City Council and all the members,
21 including those of us who were fighting district
22 battles in Brooklyn for the car wash workers; the
23 Fair Chance Act in Council Member -- thank you,
24 Council Member Jumaane Williams and Torres and Corey
25 and all the members who've really fought and fought

1
2 hard on that piece of legislation and thank you to
3 all advocates as well.

4 I also just wanna just mention the 723-A
5 piece of legislation that really brings language
6 access to small businesses and we are slowly
7 transforming that access for everybody on the
8 language access issue. I vote aye on all. Thank
9 you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I abstain on M
13 298 and I vote aye on all the rest.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Permission to
16 explain.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I first wanna
19 congratulate my colleagues on the phenomenal, well
20 thought-out, commonsense legislation put forth today;
21 [background comment] there were so many great pieces
22 today, but in particular I wanna -- Council Member
23 Williams, I think that is an extraordinary piece of
24 legislation, very necessary and I simply wanna say,
25

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2 but there before the grace of god go I. And I vote
3 aye on all, except abstain on 298. Thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 Continue with roll call.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Palma.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Permission to
10 explain my vote.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: I feel that
13 along with affordable housing it is also extremely
14 important that our communities have affordable places
15 to shop and eat and that the good shops that these
16 establishments often provide continue to be available
17 for people who need them. These bills are a great
18 step in the right direction and I hope that we as a
19 Council can continue to do more to preserve small
20 businesses.

21 I would also like to thank the Council
22 Members for allowing me to have this experience as
23 Council Member for a Day. Special shout-out to the
24 community schools and the UFT.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And how do you
vote, Council Member?

[laughter]

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Aye on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excellent job.
[applause] Okay, outburst on that, okay. Continuing
with roll call... girl power... [crosstalk]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards. Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: We vote aye;
we would also like to congratulate Council Member
Jumaane Williams.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excellent. Girl
power. Yes. Next.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Permission to
explain my vote.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: First, I couldn't
3 be prouder about the passage of the Car Wash
4 Accountability Act and the Fair Chance Act; these are
5 two of my favorite pieces of legislation; I think
6 they embody the progressive conscience of the City
7 Council, so I wanna congratulate The Speaker, as well
8 as Council Member Jumaane Williams and I feel like I
9 should explain; I'm going to vote yes on all the
10 items, but I am... was... I still am on the resolution,
11 Council Member Crowley's resolution, but you know as
12 an elected official I do reserve the right to rethink
13 my position in light of new information and I do
14 believe that the Mayor's plan strikes a thoughtful
15 balance between fairness and fiscal responsibility,
16 so I'm at peace with the decision that I'm making. I
17 vote aye.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Continuing.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to
21 explain my vote.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: So I, like
24 Council Member Levine mentioned as well, in my
25 district Officer Guerra gave the ultimate sacrifice

1
2 and died trying to save lives in a burning building
3 in Coney Island and Officer Rosa has been permanently
4 injured and I appreciate certainly some of the big
5 improvements that have been made; I still however
6 have a major problem and a concern with leaving it to
7 the Social Security Administration to decide if
8 injured officers and firefighters and service people
9 are ultimately disabled or not; the same way I have
10 problems with accessori [sic] determining whether
11 people are disabled or not and people who have walked
12 in... who barely could even walk have been denied. So
13 I remain concerned about that, while I still
14 appreciate many people's efforts to try to improve
15 the bills. But I will vote no on M 298 and aye on
16 the rest. Thank you.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

18 Continuing with roll call.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I'm voting no on
21 Int. 125-B, 318-A and also voting no on Preconsidered
22 M 298 and aye on all others.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.
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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: No on 298 and 318
and aye on the rest.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Madame
Advocate, I vote no on M 298 and aye on all remaining
items.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excellent.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: And Madame
Advocate, if I may just say a special farewell to
Mark Weprin whose been a friend, a mentor and our
delegation chair; he's been nothing but a friend to
me since day one and our family, often referred to as
the fourth Vallone and we happily will adopt him.
Mark, thank you for your leadership and you will be
missed.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Weprin.

[background comment]

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Opportunity to
explain my vote. And I apologize to my Council
Member for a Day, Stella Shay, who is here, but this
may be my last chance to speak on the floor, so
you'll forgive me. I vote aye on all but no on 298
also. But I do just want to say thank you to
everybody for the nice warm welcome. Stella, you can

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2 stay till November, actually if you want, you know,
3 we're gonna have an open seat. [laughter] No one's
4 gonna throw you out, don't worry about it.

5 So just briefly, this has been a great
6 experience for me; I have loved serving in the New
7 York City Council; it's been great working with all
8 of you. I love this job, I love being a Council
9 Member and what I think I love most about politics
10 and government is really getting to know people from
11 different places and different backgrounds and the
12 Imam gave a great opening invocation today where he
13 talked about the diversity of this body and the work
14 you do; you work very hard, your City Council works
15 extremely hard every day, they're the frontline and
16 we're close to the people and this room really is
17 full of people who really have the right motivations
18 and working hard for their constituents and doing a
19 great job and I've enjoyed getting to know you and
20 making friends, it really is a real honor to be here.
21 And I wanna thank the staff... [interpose]

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Don't worry,
23 we're gonna stop the clock.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Oh okay,
25 [background comments] that went quick... that went

1
2 quickly. [background comment] I wanna thank all the
3 staff, they've just been so kind to me over the
4 years; I loved working with them, so many of the
5 advocates who come here everyday -- this is a great
6 body, a real example of democracy. Madame Speaker,
7 you've done a great job of opening up this body,
8 giving members a chance to speak out and to be heard.
9 It's a bittersweet day today; I'm very excited about
10 my next job, I'm very excited about the new
11 challenges and to continue my public service. I
12 wanna thank member of the press even who are here
13 today, even -- no -- who really do an incredible job
14 as well, and I'm not in politics anymore, you know
15 running anymore, I don't have to kiss up to them, but
16 I [laughter] continue to because I tell you, they
17 work a -- you have a very tough job and you spend
18 many, many hours and stand around a long time waiting
19 for things to happen and then spending a lot of time
20 writing about it and really do a good job.

21 But I thank you all really for the
22 friendships. I'm not going far away, I'm still gonna
23 be living here in beautiful Queens, New York and
24 working in Manhattan for the most part, traveling
25 around the state a little bit, but I look forward to

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2 continuing our friendships, working together on
3 behalf of the people of this city and the state and
4 without getting choked up, I just wanna say thank you
5 very much.

6 [cheers, applause, background comments]

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Continuing with
8 roll call and let's resume the clock.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I be
11 excused to explain my vote?

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I just wanna
14 say, Mark, I think the love you're receiving is real
15 and I wanna pay you the highest honor that I can pay
16 someone in this business that we have; you are a
17 genuine person and I really appreciate that. Yes
18 means yes; no means no and I think you genuinely care
19 about your colleagues and the people you represent,
20 so I'm gonna miss you here; hopefully I'll see you on
21 Twitter, and when the Knicks are playing, I'll always
22 be able to catch you over there, but good luck on
23 everything you're doing. [background comment] Yes
24 we can; we can still go to the game.

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I just wanna say I'm very proud of this Council; I think we are doing a lot of things to chip away at the systemic and structural issues that are preventing people from moving forward and I'm proud that I'm able to be here, I'm proud to be in a body that not only talks about it, but takes it seriously to move it forward. So I proudly, I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Pass.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I abstain on 125-B; I vote no on [background comments] M 298 and all on the rest.

[background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: I vote no on 125-B and yes on M 298. Aye on all the rest.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Permission to explain my vote briefly... [crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: and number one, I wanna thank and recognize my Council Member [background comment] for a Day, Sabria Islam [sp?], who is just wonderful [background comment] and makes me feel good about the future because she's so spectacular.

I want to also thank my colleague, Mark Weprin; Council Member Williams said genuine, [background comment] which is true, but Mark is also inherently [background comment] decent; he is just an incredibly decent person and human being and I will miss him, but congratulate him, and with that, I vote aye on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Vote aye on all.

[sic]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
Council Member Gibson.

[background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gibson.

[pause]

[background comments]

FEMALE VOICE: What happened?

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: She'd like a
3 minute. [background comments] While Council Member
4 Gibson is reviewing the agenda, I'd like to invite my
5 colleagues to sign on to Int. 820, a bill to increase
6 recycling throughout our city. This bill would
7 require the Department of Sanitation to establish a
8 pilot program to provide incentives to all residents
9 to encourage recycling. The model envisioned by this
10 legislation leverages participation by retailers,
11 [background comments] restaurants and other
12 businesses. This model has been successful at
13 spurring increases in recycling in a number of
14 jurisdictions, including Philadelphia, Fort Worth,
15 Texas and some 75 other jurisdictions. Department of
16 Sanitation data demonstrates that recycling rates are
17 lower in community districts with higher rates of
18 public housing residents; this is due in part to
19 infrastructure challenges. In order to overcome some
20 of these challenges, we of course need NYCHA to do
21 more to ensure that recycling is feasible at their
22 developments and I believe that by adding a set of
23 incentives we can truly encourage recycling. We must
24 [background comments] reduce waste in our city and
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2 recycling is one meaningful thing we can all do.
3 Please sign on to the bill. Council Member Gibson.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very
5 much, Madame Public Advocate; I do apologize for
6 being late.

7 I want to first comment Council Member
8 Williams on passing the Fair Chance Act, I think it's
9 a great bill that gives an opportunity for many
10 people to get a second chance at life, at opportunity
11 and future employment; I don't think they should be
12 discriminated against based on any criminal
13 background and I do appreciate all of the work of the
14 advocates that was put into making this bill a
15 reality. And I also want to commend our Speaker for
16 passing the car washers bill; the carwasheros, many
17 of whom I represent in the Bronx, and I know this was
18 a long, hard-fought battle and I appreciate all of
19 the work that has been put into that. And I would
20 like to vote aye on all, with the exception of
21 Preconsidered M 298; I will be abstaining on that and
22 I will be voting aye on all. Thank you very much,
23 Madame Public Advocate.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
Council Member Wills. [background comment] No.
[background comment] No. Sorry.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: I will; how close
is the count? I will vote... oh okay.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Sorry.
[background comments] While they're calculating the
vote, I believe we have a reception for Council
Member Weprin offsite, and is the Caucus meeting
after Stated as well? What? [background comments]
Four o'clock. As we await the vote... Caucus meeting...
[background comments] No? [background comments]
Okay, we're all going to Council Member Weprin's
party. Quiet in the chambers for the vote.
[background comments]

All items on today's General Order
Calendar were adopted by a vote of 51 in the
affirmative, 0 in the negative and 0 abstentions,
with the exception of Preconsidered M 298, which was
adopted by a vote of 31 in the affirmative, 17
negative and 3 abstentions. And Int. 125-B, which is
adopted by a vote of 43 in the affirmative, 7
negative and 1 abstention. And Int. 318-A, which was
adopted by a vote of 45 in the affirmative, 5

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2 negative and 1 abstention. The revised Land Use
3 Call-Up vote is 51 in the affirmative, 0 negative.

4 Introduction and Reading of Bills.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All bills are
6 referred to Committees as indicated on the agenda.

7 [background comment]

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now,
9 discussion of resolution, beginning with Res. 740,
10 led by Council Member Mendez.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you, Madame
12 Public Advocate and thank you, Madame Speaker. Today
13 we are... [interpose, background comments]

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
15 chambers, please. Excuse me, Council Member. Quiet
16 in the chambers. If you're leaving the chamber,
17 [background comments] please leave quietly. Thank
18 you.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Today we are
20 introducing Preconsidered Res. 740 and in 1998 in
21 this body, [interpose, background comment] former
22 Council Member Jose Rivera introduced a resolution
23 asking the President to give clemency to the Puerto
24 Rican political prisoners and in 1999 President
25 Clinton did offer clemency to almost all the

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2 prisoners; Oscar Lopez Rivera was offered clemency,
3 but since [interpose, background comment] everyone
4 else was not offered the same, he rejected it. As he
5 had done previously in his life, he refused to leave
6 his compatriots behind. When he was in the Vietnam
7 War, his group was under siege by a hidden mine; he
8 brought people to safety, got a perimeter where a
9 helicopter could land and bring people back and he
10 saved lives; he did not abandon [bell] them then; he
11 did not abandon them now. He is the only political
12 prisoner still in jail after 35 years, of which 12
13 were in solitary confinement. President Clinton said
14 that the punishment was unjust, did not fit the
15 crime, and today... [crosstalk]

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,
17 please conclude your remarks.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I ask all my
19 colleagues to vote yes. Thank you... [crosstalk]

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Thank
21 you. Council Member Mark Levine.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you, Madame
23 Public Advocate. I also wanna urge my colleagues to
24 vote yes on this important resolution.

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2 Oscar Lopez was not convicted of an act
3 of violence; the most serious charge which he was
4 convicted was seditious conspiracy, a charge rarely
5 used in American history; in fact, the last time it
6 was used was widely was in the Civil War, it's a
7 relic of another era and a sentence of 55 years which
8 he received is virtually without precedent for this
9 charge and in fact, after the Civil War, virtually
10 all -- not virtually; all of the southern soldiers
11 who were convicted of seditious conspiracy were
12 released in short order. By any reasonable
13 assessment, Oscar Lopez has received a sentence far
14 out of proportion with the crime for which he has
15 been convicted, and an incredibly diverse array of
16 leaders have stood up to say just that, people like
17 former President Bill Clinton, Desmond Tutu, Cardinal
18 John O'Connor, here from New York City, and many
19 others of many faiths and many backgrounds [bell] and
20 I urge my colleagues to support this resolution
21 today. Thank you, Madame Public Advocate.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
23 Inez Barron.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madame
25 Public Advocate. I want to do several things in my

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2 two minutes; one, add my voice to those who are
3 calling for the adoption of this resolution; I think
4 that it's important, given the circumstances, given
5 the history of Oscar Lopez Rivera and given the
6 excessive time that he was given, and given his
7 integrity to say no, since all of us are not being
8 offered clemency, I will decline this officer, but I
9 think that now it certainly is an opportunity for
10 President Obama to take that on.

11 And I want to call attention to Resos
12 that are being introduced; is this is the time for
13 that? [background comments] No. Okay. So then I
14 want to just encourage my colleagues to please vote
15 in the affirmative on this very important issue and I
16 think that it also addresses the issue of the use of
17 something -- seditious conspiracy, as has been
18 indicated, is a throwback to a time that goes back to
19 [bell] Civil War days; it's outdated, it's excessive
20 time that he has already served and we're calling on
21 the President to again grant him clemency. Thank
22 you.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
24 Council Member Maisel.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Thank you very much. I've always believed that an injustice for one is an injustice for all and I'm going to be voting for this resolution for Oscar Lopez Rivera.

I would also like to ask my colleagues, when a similar resolution comes up on behalf of Jonathan Pollard, who is in Federal penitentiary way beyond the number of years that he should have sentenced for what he did. So I think Oscar Lopez Rivera deserves to be released and I think so does Jonathan Pollard and when the resolution to that effect comes along, I hope members of the Council will support that as well. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Yes, just a brief reminder, due to time constraints, the BLAC will be on the steps at four o'clock with Laurie Cumbo for the Father's Day Pledge, so today's meeting will be postponed; we'll be outside on the steps at four o'clock; that's for a caucus [sic]. And for...

COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: My name is Caitlyn [sp?]... [crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now...

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: I'm 6 years
3 old; I go to PS 41; I'm the Council Girl and I just
4 wanna say congratulations to everybody.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. And
6 now we will be voting on the resolutions.

7 Res. 692, a resolution calling upon the
8 New York State Legislature to pass and the Governor
9 to sign Assembly 4762 and Senate 1291, which would
10 extend labor protections to farm workers. All of
11 those in favor say aye. [collective aye] All of
12 those opposed. Any abstentions? The ayes have it.

13 Preconsidered Res. 731, a resolution
14 calling upon the New York State Senate to pass and
15 the Governor to sign Assembly 7526 in relation to
16 strengthening rent regulation. All of those in
17 favor. [collective aye] All of those opposed. Any
18 abstentions? The ayes have it.

19 And Preconsidered Res. 740, a resolution
20 calling on President Obama to grant clemency to Oscar
21 Lopez Rivera so that he is immediately released from
22 prison, as his continued incarceration is unjust and
23 serves no legitimate purpose. All of those in favor
24 say aye. [collective aye] All of those opposed.
25 Any abstention? The ayes have it.

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2 And now a revised vote on Int. 125-B,
3 which was adopted by a vote of 44 in the affirmative,
4 6 in the negative and one abstention.

5 Now General Discussion, beginning with
6 Council Member Kallos.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: [background
8 comment]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Today I will
10 introduce four bills, three are co-sponsored with
11 Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: The legislation
13 introductions 807, 810, 811; 812 will improve the way
14 the City issues and collects Environmental Control
15 Board fines. Our city is owed \$1.5 billion in unpaid
16 fines, 84 percent of which is over two years old.

17 I am sponsoring a bill to allow issuing
18 agencies to suspend or revoke licenses and permits
19 for large unpaid ECB debts, dangerous constructions
20 sites that owe tens of thousands in fines could
21 finally be suspended.

22 We also have a bill requiring specific
23 location details, including lot and building ID
24 numbers so the City can follow up with those who do
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2 not pay, and a bill allowing 30 days to correct typos
3 or small errors in violations issued.

4 Council Member Ferreras is prime-
5 sponsoring a bill requiring agencies in Department of
6 Finance to seek to [background comments] find the
7 actual name of the violator so tickets do not get
8 thrown out.

9 I believe these bills will go a long way
10 towards improving quality of life.

11 I want to take a moment to introduce
12 Annabel Dennis, in 6th grade at MS 177 and Alison
13 Lee, in 5th grade at PS 183. They wrote very special
14 essays on what they'd like to do as council member.
15 Alison would start knocking docking on doors to find
16 out what people wanted from her, which is something
17 we've all had experience with. And Annabel would
18 like to keep our [background comments] streets clean
19 and amongst many other pieces, and they won our
20 office's contest.

21 And I just wanna thank Mark Weprin for
22 his years of leadership and for this program and
23 allowing a member of the Manhattan Delegation to join
24 the Queens Delegation for this amazing program.

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2 I also wanna thank and congratulate Miss
3 Rachel Belsky [sp?], as well as Miss Ashley
4 Silverstein, who taught both students. I expect
5 these two back in City Hall some day, as we soon have
6 as many women in the City Council as we do in the
7 rest of the city; there are more than 50 percent of
8 our city that are women and that needs to be
9 reflected in our legislative body. Thank you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. We
11 are still in session; please, quiet in the chambers.
12 Council Member Richards.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Good afternoon.
14 First I'd like to acknowledge my Council Member for a
15 Day, from Excelsior Prep High School and the
16 Springfield Gardens Complex of Queens, Miss Christine
17 Saturn, and also I would like to acknowledge my
18 newest addition, Intern Danny Hupper [sp?], who's
19 joined me from Whitman [sp?] College and I would like
20 to thank both of them for their hard work.

21 So I also am going to speak on Int. 803,
22 which I have the pleasure of following The Speaker's
23 lead on, so I will begin. Chemicals like
24 formaldehyde, benzene, lead, mercury, arsenic,
25 cadmium or cobalt can impact the ability of children

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2 to learn [background comments], harm their
3 reproductive systems and are linked to various
4 cancers. With the introduction of this bill, the
5 Council is moving to make sure that our children will
6 be protected from harm and their parents can rest
7 assured that when they go shopping for clothing,
8 school supplies and other children's products that
9 they are not playing Russian roulette with their
10 children's lives. Passing this bill is not only good
11 for children and their parents, but it also good for
12 business. Leading companies are increasingly looking
13 to identify new safer alternatives to the toxic
14 chemicals currently used in their products. Passing
15 a bill like this would send a strong signal that
16 there is a market in New York City for those
17 businesses to thrive. And as New York City goes, so
18 goes the nation and our ability to impact the market,
19 which will benefit many children and parents well
20 beyond the boards of our great city. Some parents
21 can afford to [background comments] buy less toxic
22 toys and children products, but if you live in the
23 Rockaways, East Harlem or the South Bronx, that is
24 likely not an option to many parents. This bill
25 would level the shopping field for all parents in the

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2 City of New York; it would make the Dollar Store on
3 the corner, where a recent study conducted this year
4 found that 81 percent of these products tested
5 contained at least one hazardous chemical [bell] as
6 safe as the most high end stores.

7 I'd like to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-
8 Viverito for her outstanding leadership... [crosstalk]

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,
10 please conclude.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: also Peggy
12 Shepard from WE ACT, my staff, Jarrell Burney,
13 Mercedes Buchanan, Laura Popa, and also my newest
14 addition, once again, Danny Hupper... [crosstalk]

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Thank you,
17 Public... [interpose]

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
19 Council Member Williams.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.
21 First, I just wanna thank my colleagues for passing
22 Int. 318, the Fair Chance Act, and just wanna say,
23 not 15 minutes did we pass it an employee of the City
24 Council came to me with tears in his eyes to thank us
25 for passing this bill because of what he went

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2 through. I just want people to know we are having an
3 impact on real people's lives with what we're doing
4 here. So just, I think it's an amazing thing that we
5 did and know that people here are even affected by
6 that.

7 On that same vein, I just want to
8 continue in saying there's just a lot more to do in
9 these communities; the New York Times had a piece
10 that mentioned 1.2 million black males between 25 and
11 50 are missing from everyday life; just in New York
12 City 120,000 black makes from 25-54 are missing from
13 everyday life; we have to address these issues and we
14 can't just address it with police, although they are
15 partner. We have to make sure that the structural
16 issues in these communities are dealt with; we have
17 to make sure the budget reflects all of the things
18 that we have to do to address these structural
19 issues; we know that Commissioner Bratton made some
20 comments yesterday; my hope is that that wasn't his
21 final comment on the issue; we wanna make sure that
22 we don't overly stigmatize communities. In addition,
23 we have to fix the issue, there are two places where
24 we lose applicants; one is in the criminal background
25 history, the other is in psychological questions that

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2 are asked; we need to look at those to make sure that
3 they're being applied evenly and across the board; we
4 need to make sure that the psychological testing is
5 evenly applied across the board because they're not
6 specific questions that are the same for everyone;
7 depends on the psychologist you see. And I would
8 like to see that there are questions that are asked
9 about people's feelings on race and religion that I
10 think we should ask as well to make sure that people
11 who are being hired have the appropriate mental
12 health. So there's a lot of issues that we have to
13 follow-up on; my hope is that what we did today
14 [bell] was a good movement and we have to keep moving
15 forward. Thank you.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
17 Council Member Barron.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madame
19 Public Advocate. I do want to acknowledge the
20 passing of one of the great education leaders in
21 Brooklyn; her name was Ollie McClean and she ran the
22 Sankofa International Academy, a small private,
23 independent Afrocentric school; she passed recently
24 and I just want to put into the record the great
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2 accomplishments that she was able to achieve through
3 students and the programs that she ran at her school.

4 I also want to commend all of those who
5 were able to have legislation passed today,
6 especially the Fair Chance Act, which will now have a
7 greater opportunity for those who have had negative
8 encounters with the criminal justice system to have a
9 greater opportunity to get a better shot at moving
10 forward. I'm very concerned about comments that
11 Commissioner Bratton has made recently while in
12 Harlem as well as the reported comments that he made
13 to the magazine interview that he did and I think it
14 bears a close watch on.

15 And I want to call my colleagues'
16 attention to several pieces of legislation that I'm
17 going to be introducing; one is a reso that calls for
18 the changing of the title of one of our standing
19 committees to the Committee on Civil and Human
20 Rights; I invite you to sign onto that. Another is a
21 resolution calling on the State to make the necessary
22 investment to be able to reach an equitable contract
23 settlement with PSC, which are the people who work at
24 our City University.

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2 And finally, there is an intro for
3 reasonable accommodations so that those persons who
4 need accommodations at their workplace will be able
5 to have a good faith interactive dialogue with their
6 employers so that they can come to a common
7 agreement. Thank you.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May Miss McClean
9 rest in peace. Council Member Miller.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Madame
11 Public Advocate. I have my Council Member for the
12 Day with me, Ms. Ianna [sp?] Cox and I'm proud to
13 have her here today. I also wanna mention that we
14 were joined by my second Council Member for the Day,
15 Ms. Jada [sp?] Miller, who had to return back to the
16 district, and we have a couple of resolutions that we
17 wanna speak on.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: I have a
19 number of resolutions being introduced to the Council
20 today, most pertaining to state matters and would
21 like to draw your attention to them for a moment.

22 Res. 741, to require that every foreign
23 procurement contracted entered into by a state agency
24 contain a statement from the contractor that no
25 forced labor was used. This includes child labor,

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2 slave labor and indentured servitude and provides for
3 stiff penalties.

4 Res. 742, calling on the State to allow
5 lawful permanent residents of the United States to
6 serve on juries.

7 Res. 743, calling on the State to ensure
8 that much-discussed pension for future provisions are
9 limited only to elected public officials and are not
10 used as a tool to disparage [sic] our civil servants.

11 Res. 744, a Federal item in support of
12 the Student Loan Interest Deduction Act to increase
13 the maximum tax deduction for interest paid on any
14 qualified education loans to \$5,000 and \$10,000 for
15 joint filers and also to remove qualifying income
16 caps on this deduction.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you,
18 Council Member. And finally, I would like to
19 highlight Res. 745, co-sponsored by Council Members
20 Wills, Richards, Barron, Rose and Garodnick, calling
21 on Albany to allocate funds received through
22 settlements with lending institutions for subprime
23 and predatory loans to those communities most
24 affected by those loans and foreclosed crisis. We
25 have seen over 100,000 foreclosed homes in the city

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2 since 2008 and a few new federal policies [bell] will
3 now allow for cities across the nation to get a first
4 chance to buy back FHA insured discounted homes,
5 allowing municipalities like ours... [interpose]

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,
7 please conclude your remarks.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: to keep their
9 families in the home, provide affordable housing and
10 mitigate the impact of foreclosed crisis on our
11 cities and communities of color. I urge you to sign
12 onto this resolution and help keep homeowners in
13 their homes.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
15 Council Member Mark Levine.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you, Madame
17 Public Advocate. I just want to invite colleagues to
18 join me and many others in toasting to our colleague
19 Mark Weprin at five o'clock at Barleycorn. There
20 will be free snacks, just in case you need more
21 motivation; a chance to toast our wonderful
22 colleague. Thank you.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
24 Council Member Rosenthal.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you very
3 much, Madame Public Advocate. You know I'm really
4 proud today to be introducing and then to be second
5 on the introduction of a bill that will help us
6 alleviate the problem of illegal hotels in New York
7 City. With the advancement of Airbnb and other
8 short-term rental platforms we've been seeing our
9 affordable housing stock, you know, plummet even
10 faster than it would normally do. In my district,
11 we're losing 650 units of affordable housing every
12 month; most recently at the Imperial Court Hotel,
13 which is an SRO with 227 units; we watched as the
14 owner has harassed and evicted out 180 of the tenants
15 in order to warehouse those units which he is now
16 renting out illegally as short-term rentals on a
17 short-term rental platform; there are only 40
18 remaining tenants; those tenants report seeing the
19 maids' carts going in and out of rooms; it's
20 outrageous and we need to make our violations against
21 these landlords serious, mean something; be more than
22 the cost of doing business, which is why I'm so
23 pleased that one of these bills will raise the
24 minimum amount of the violation from \$1,000 to
25 \$10,000. Also, with Council Member Rodriguez's bill,

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2 we'll be able to track exactly what happens to each
3 of these violations. What we're seeing right now is
4 at least 10 percent get dismissed altogether; we need
5 to stop those dismissals, we need to make these
6 violations serious, we need to go out against these
7 illegal hotel operators, but also [bell] tenants who
8 illegally rent out their units... [interpose]

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,
10 please conclude your remarks... [crosstalk]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you very
12 much.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
14 Council Member Cumbo.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you so much.
16 I wanna welcome my Council Member for the day, Will
17 Shapiro, who's an intern with me in my office as
18 well, but he's also a junior at Birch Wathen Lenox on
19 the Upper East Side and so it's a great Brooklyn and
20 Manhattan collaboration.

21 I also want to... [interpose, background
22 comment] Now I like Manhattan, right; I tried to mix
23 it up really quickly. I'm also very pleased but also
24 saddened at the same time that Mark Weprin is going
25 to be leaving us to join the Governor's Office and

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2 Mark, you are an incredible friend, you bring such an
3 energy of humor as well as bringing up the tough
4 topics that are so difficult to talk about. So I
5 thank you for your friendship; I thank you for your
6 mentorship; I thank you for always bringing a smile
7 to every situation, and you're gonna be missed and
8 I'm so thankful that you were here in this Council; I
9 feel like -- I just feel like you can't go, but we're
10 gonna let you go and I know that you'll remain
11 friends with all of us.

12 I'm so pleased today at four o'clock the
13 Father's Day Pledge; we are going to be so honored
14 because Mayor Dinkins will be joining us today; he is
15 a father of two and really the Mayor and the father
16 of New York City. So I'm so pleased that he'll be
17 joining us for the Father's Day Pledge and I hope
18 that all of you will come out with us.

19 This Saturday is also Brooklyn Pride and
20 I hope to see all of you in Brooklyn, New York for
21 this amazing celebration that's going to bring
22 together all of New Yorkers in the Borough of
23 Brooklyn.

24 But I also wanna bring to your attention
25 something that I've been talking a great deal about,

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as we are finalizing on the budget, as we all know, there are 14 day care centers, many of you have seen children all over here at City Hall, they're not coming here for a class trip or to shake the Mayor's hand, they are coming here to fight for their day care centers, many of which have been in business for 30, 40 and 50 years and through a process that we feel is untransparent or that we know is untransparent, many of these centers, because of the result of three people in a room and we don't know who those three people are, have unilaterally decided that these businesses and organizations don't deserve a right [bell] to continue to service our children. So the movement is growing and I hope that all of you will continue to join me in this fight for our day care centers, 'cause we can't let these institutions close. Thank you... [crosstalk]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, yes, keep our day care centers open. Council Member Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you, Chair. I'm not standing, but I solicit [laughter] support for Int. 824, police deployment, and Int. 825, domestic workers bill.

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2 Last year I was shocked to read in the
3 press that 7 of the 10 most-sued police officers in
4 the NYPD were based in my district; it left me and my
5 constituents with a lot of questions. Today I'm
6 introing [sic] Int. 824, a bill that will require the
7 New York City Police Department to report to the
8 Mayor and Council the locations of 200 officers with
9 the most accumulative CCRB complaints, substantiated
10 CCRB complaints, and lawsuits alleging police
11 brutality. This information will enable us to look
12 at where officers are and why these complaints might
13 be happening; it may also help the Police Department
14 determine whether additional training is needed; it
15 will also allow us to review where there are problems
16 and help us to rectify them. I am introducing this
17 bill because accurate information and transparency
18 can only strengthen our department and our public
19 safety.

20 The domestic workers bill, Int. 825, the
21 human rights law, prohibits employers from engaging
22 in workplace discrimination. Currently this
23 prohibition only applies to employers with four or
24 more employees. This bill will extend protection to
25 include employers of domestic workers, even if only

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2 one employee is a domestic worker. I am introducing
3 this legislation in an effort to send a message to
4 all that discrimination in New York City will not be
5 tolerated. Additionally, it will give New Yorkers in
6 the domestic service industry the opportunity to seek
7 recourse if they have been discriminated against in
8 the workplace. Domestic workers deserve the same
9 civil rights protections as other workers.

10 And I'm also asking my colleagues to
11 consider supporting the Women's Suffrage reso and the
12 predatory loans; [bell] many of our districts are
13 impacted greatly by predatory lending. Thank you.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
15 Council Member Lander.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you, Madame
17 Public Advocate. First I wanna call attention to a
18 big package of bills introduced by lots of different
19 members that go to strengthening the New York City
20 human rights law; in some ways The Speaker spoke of
21 in her State of the City. I think Council Members
22 Dromm, Barron, Rose, Mealy, Mendez, Torres, Williams
23 and I all have bills in that regard and a few spoke
24 about them already; many of them will be heard at a
25 Civil Rights Committee hearing chaired by Chair Mealy

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2 on June 24th, and I urge people to co-sponsor them
3 and also come to that hearing.

4 Our friends from Families for Safe
5 Streets were here, so folks may have the opportunity
6 to see them afterwards and obviously always inspire...
7 [interpose]

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: They are still
9 here.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: still here;
11 thanks to them for being here, for continuing to
12 inspire us and standing up for Vision Zero and
13 standing up for this Council's Right-of-Way law,
14 which is so important to do.

15 And finally, Mark, what can I say --
16 first I wanna point out that the Council Member for a
17 Day I think was something that you originated here,
18 so it's nice to see your traditions will continue
19 even after you go, but just personally, you've been a
20 wonderful friend to me and our families have gotten
21 to be friends, you're a real person of decency and
22 integrity in public service, which we don't always
23 get, and just as we say, a real mensch and we're
24 really gonna miss you, so thank you.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: We welcome Safe
3 to this body. Council Member Dickens.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,
5 Madame Public Advocate. I congratulate all of my
6 colleagues on the passage of their bills; I join with
7 Council Member Barron on encouraging the State that
8 there should be a fairness and a contract for PSC in
9 order to protect our young people and their minds so
10 that the staff is secure in their positions.

11 I also encourage that as we talk about
12 fairness for the workers that we talk about MWBEs,
13 that our small businesses be protected and that there
14 should be a fairness and that the State, although
15 they have raised their threshold to 30 percent, is
16 for all agencies, that in New York City that it
17 should be the same, that when we discuss MWBE that it
18 should be for all agencies and that none of the City
19 agencies should be exempt from MWBE.

20 I wanna thank my colleague, Council
21 Member Mark Weprin, I have enjoyed sitting next to
22 him; not only has he brought levity, he has also
23 brought parity and a fairness, he has been supportive
24 and loyal to this institution. Thank you, Mark for
25 your years here; I look forward to the work that you

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2 will bring to the State, to the Governor's Office and
3 I look forward to continuing to work with you. Thank
4 you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
6 Crowley.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you,
8 Madame Public Advocate. I too want to give great
9 thanks to my colleague Mark Weprin, he has made the
10 Council a better place to work; I am sad to see him
11 go, but I know that he won't be too far and we'll see
12 him often, I hope. But I really wanna thank you for
13 your years of service to this body, you've been an
14 exceptional Council Member and a good friend.
15 [background comment] Thank you, Mark.

16 I'd like to introduce my Council Member
17 for a Day, Gretchen Flugler [sp?]. Gretchen is a
18 student at IS/PS [sic] 113 in Glendale; she will soon
19 be going to high school to the Academy for Careers in
20 Television and Film and what she loved most about her
21 years at 113 was the respect that students have for
22 all and the lack of bullying that happened there and
23 Gretchen was a big part of making sure that students
24 respect each other; her favorite subject is social
25 studies and she's a great debater; she learned that

2 in her social studies teachers class and I'd like to
3 have Gretchen just say hello and tell us about how
4 she enjoyed being a Council Member today.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A DAY: Okay. Well I
6 just wanna thank everyone like for the experience and
7 it's like really cool seeing like what you guys do
8 and it's like pretty awesome, and yeah, so...

9 [laughter]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: See that; we are
11 awesome. [interpose, background comment] Yeah.

12 Thank you, Council Member for a Day.. [crosstalk]

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: and thank you
15 all.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
17 Steve Levine [sic].

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you, Madame
19 Public Advocate. I just too want to stand and
20 acknowledge the wonderful service to this council of
21 Council Member Mark Weprin, it has been a great joy
22 for me to be able to serve with Mark; Mark
23 illustrates and embodies the best about public
24 service, which is about caring, conscientiousness,
25 being circumspect and being respectful to everybody

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and I really look up to him as somebody that has set a great example for me and sets a great example for this entire body and for public servants everywhere. So really, really sad to see him go, but I'm glad that he's gonna be continuing public service and working on behalf of New Yorkers around the state. But Mark, it's been a great, great joy. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And I believe that's all of our speakers; let me just say, a number of us are wearing orange as our -- Council Member King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Just real quick. Mark Weprin, I wanna thank you; I'm gonna miss you; you and I are truly Met fans, but I'm gonna wear the blue and gold for both of us. So thank you, stay strong; the Governor's getting a wonderful and a great man. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. A number of us are wearing orange as a symbol of our ongoing commitment to end gun violence in our streets and in our nation. A shout-out to the Families Safe, we look forward to working with them to keep our streets safe. Council Member Weprin, I do not say goodbye, but I say I'll see you later; we will close

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with comments from our Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito. Quiet in the chambers.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madame Public Advocate, as always and thank you to my all my colleagues, our meeting is adjourned at -- I'm sorry, recessed again until we adopt a budget and until the Albany legislative session. So ending a little bit later than usual, but it's about 4:05. Thank you very much.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And we stand in recess in memory of Kalief Browder.

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 June 13, 2015