

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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Thursday, November 2, 2023

Start: 2:25 P. M.

Recess: 3:33 P. M.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Adrienne E. Adams, Speaker
Keith Powers, Majority Leader

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Adrienne E. Adams
Joann Ariola
Alexa Avilés
Diana I. Ayala
Charles Barron
Joseph C. Borelli
Erik D. Bottcher
Justin L. Brannan
Gale A. Brewer
Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
Tiffany Cabán
David M. Carr
Carmen N. De La Rosa
Eric Dinowitz
Amanda Farias
Oswald Feliz
James F. Gennaro
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Shahana K. Hanif

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING
COUNCIL MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Kamillah Hanks
Robert F. Holden
Crystal Hudson
Kristin Richardson Jordan
Rita C. Joseph
Ari Kagan
Shekar Krishnan
Linda Lee
Farah N. Louis
Christopher Marte
Darlene Mealy
Julie Menin
Francisco P. Moya
Mercedes Narcisse
Sandy Nurse
Chi A. Ossé
Vickie Paladino
Keith Powers
Lincoln Restler
Kevin C. Riley
Carlina Rivera
Rafael Salamanca, Jr
Pierina Ana Sanchez
Lynn C. Schulman
Althea V. Stevens
Sandra Ung
Marjorie Velázquez
Inna Vernikov
Nantasha M. Williams
Julie Won
Kalman Yeger

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING
A P P E A R A N C E S

Invocation delivered by Swami Yuktatmananda,
Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Center of New York,
located at 17 East 94th Street, New York, N.Y.
1012

2 SERGEANT LYNCH: This is a microphone check for
3 the Stated Meeting, recorded on November 2, 2023 in
4 Council Chambers by Layla Lynch.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Please, let's keep it down,
6 please! Find your seats. At this time, please place
7 all electronic devices to vibrate or silent mode,
8 please place all electronic devices to vibrate or
9 silent mode.

10 Thank you so much, all non-staff folks sitting in
11 the back, you can take a seat upstairs in the
12 balcony. You can join us and stay with us for the
13 meeting upstairs in the balcony.

14 Thank you so much.

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS:

16 [GAVEL SOUND] [GAVELING IN]

17 Good afternoon, and welcome to the Stated Meeting
18 of November 2, 2023. I am Majority Leader Keith
19 Powers, and I would like to thank everyone for
20 joining us here today. If you would like to follow
21 along, the agenda for today's meeting is posted on
22 the City Council website.

23 CITY CLERK: Please join us for the Pledge of
24 Allegiance.

25 ALL: [PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE]

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Roll call.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Present

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Present

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Presente

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ayala?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Here

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Barron?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: Here

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member BRANNAN?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Present

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Carr?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: [NO RESPONSE]

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

6

2 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: [NO RESPONSE]

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Present

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Farías?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Present

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Here

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Presente

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Here

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Present

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Holden?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Present

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Present

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Kagan?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Here

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Here

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Lee?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Here

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Louis?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Marte?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Here

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Menin?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Here

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Moya?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Here

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Present

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Present

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Present

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Present

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Restler?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Here

25

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Richardson
3 Jordon?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Present

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Riley?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Rivera?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: [NO RESPONSE]

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Present

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Here

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ung?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Present

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Velázquez?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Present

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vernikov?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Present

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Williams?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Present

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Won?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Present

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Yeger?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Borelli?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Present!

7 [LAUGHTER IN CHAMBERS]

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

9 Council Member Carr?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Present

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Powers?

12 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Present

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Adams?

14 SPEAKER ADAMS: Present

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we will now
16 have today's invocation, which will be delivered by
17 Swami Yuktatmananda of the Ramakrishna-Vivekananda
18 Center of New York, located at 17 East 94th Street,
19 in Manhattan, in my district, welcome.

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

21 SWAMI YUKTATMANANDA: This is an invocation from
22 the Veda, the primary scripture of Hinduism. Ohm.

23 [CHANTING]

24 Ohm, may the Supreme Reality protect us all. May
25 the Supreme Reality nourish us all. May [INAUDIBLE]

2 and deliberations be fruitful and beneficial. May
3 there be no hatred among us, but only love and good
4 will. Ohm. Peace, peace, peace be unto us. Peace
5 be unto all. Thank you.

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, and thank you
7 for joining us here today, and welcome to City Hall.
8 I want to now call on Council Member Shekar Krishnan
9 to spread the Invocation on the record.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Good afternoon, thank
11 you Swami G, thank you Majority Leader, and thank you
12 Swami G. Your message of peace is both timeless and
13 urgent to the moment we are living through now.

14 On a personal note, I have attended services at
15 the Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Center for many years; as
16 a child, when I attended college to law school, and
17 afterwards working as a lawyer. Whenever I needed
18 grounding and renewal, I found it in the Vedanta
19 Hindu tradition taught at the Ramakrishna-Vivekananda
20 Center. With the Deepavali or Diwali starting soon,
21 and as the first council member who celebrates this
22 holiday personally, I find it fitting to open today's
23 Stating Meeting with Swami Yuktatmananda's
24 invocation. It is especially moving to me to be in
25 this position, because it was the Ramakrishna Order

2 of Monks that also delivered the invocation at my
3 college commencement at Cooper Union, coming full
4 circle years later. Vedanta Hinduism teaches us that
5 we are all one, that just as so many streams flow
6 towards the same ocean, we are all on our different
7 paths towards the same truth, as many faiths, as many
8 paths. These words inspire us to pursue our own
9 paths towards a world we believe in; a shared sense
10 of humanity and a shared peace. Once again, I would
11 like to thank Swami Yuktatmananda for being here
12 today, and I make a motion for unanimous consent to
13 spread the Invocation in full upon the record.

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council
15 Member. We will now have the Adoption of the Minutes
16 by City Council Member Rita Joseph.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: I make a motion that the
18 minutes of the Stated Meetings of October 5, 2023 and
19 October 19, 2023 be adopted as printed.

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

21 We will now have Messages and Papers from The
22 Mayor.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

24 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Communications from City,
25 County and Borough Offices?

2 COUNCIL CLERK: M 180, DOE Five-Year Capital Plan?

3 SPEAKER ADAMS: Received, Ordered, Printed and
4 Filed.

5 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Petitions and
6 Communications?

7 COUNCIL CLERK: None

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Land Use Call-Ups?

9 COUNCIL CLERK: None

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We will now
11 hear from Speaker Adrienne Adams.

12 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Majority Leader, and
13 good afternoon, everyone.

14 I want to begin today by acknowledging the loss
15 of a trailblazing leader in the movement for
16 reproductive freedom, Andrea Miller, from the
17 National Institute for Reproductive Health. Andrea
18 was one of our nation's fiercest advocates who
19 committed her life to advancing the rights and safety
20 of women and birthing people across the country. Her
21 tireless work has saved lives, and I am especially
22 proud of working alongside her to expand municipal
23 funding for access to abortion care in New York City.
24 We will continue to uplift Andrea's legacy and
25 advance reproductive health and freedom through our

1 collective work. My thoughts are with her family,
2 friend, and loved ones.
3

4 We are also mourning the death of New Yorkers who
5 were recently killed by preventable traffic violence,
6 the loss of 7-Year-Old, Kamari Hughes, in Council
7 Member Crystal Hudson's district was heart wrenching.
8 As a mother and grandmother, the thought of losing
9 your child is unimaginable, and I cannot fathom the
10 pain that Kamari's family is feeling at this moment.
11 We must do more to prevent traffic fatalities and
12 injuries, and ensure New Yorkers who are impacted can
13 heal from the trauma of these horrifying incidents.

14 Krystyna Naprawa's death in Council Member Joann
15 Ariola's district was also a heartbreaking tragedy
16 that never should have happened. Krystyna served our
17 city with dedication for nearly 13 years as a school
18 crossing guard, keeping our students, families, and
19 pedestrians safe. I am keeping her family and loved
20 ones in my prayers.

21 And as a city, and especially in my own community
22 in South East Queens, we are still grieving the death
23 of Jasmer Singh, a respected member of our Sikh
24 community, a beloved father, and a devoted husband.
25

1
2 My heart is with his family and community as we come
3 together to heal from his killing.

4 These past weeks of devastating violence in Israel
5 and Palestine have brought immense grief to our
6 doorstep, shrouding our communities in despair. My
7 heart is heavy, and I mourn with New Yorkers who have
8 lost loved ones in the violence, and the many more
9 who wait in anticipation to hear that their loved
10 ones are safe. Today, I am saddened, because our
11 greatest fears have begun to materialize with
12 increasing violence, division, and hatred. We must
13 not allow this to overcome us, and instead join
14 together in calling for peace. The targeted attacks
15 on civilians in Israel by Hamas nearly a month ago,
16 inflicted violence on thousands in a devastating and
17 horrific way with over 1,400 people reported killed.
18 We continue to urge and pray for the safe return of
19 kidnapped civilians back to their loved ones.

20 Since the violence began, it is reported that
21 over 8,000 people in Gaza have been killed with
22 entire neighborhoods and refugee camps devastated.
23 This is all tragic, and we must never accept or
24 tolerate this violence. I mourn the killing of all
25 civilians; we must insist that peace is possible, and

1 is what can truly deliver safety and security for all
2 people, and we must commit ourselves to working
3 towards it. This is about preserving our *humanity*
4 and protecting the rights of *all* people to access
5 safety. We cannot allow civilians, elders, children,
6 and families to pay the price of war with their
7 lives. We must protect and preserve *human* life.
8 Violence and war are devastating, creating lasting
9 harm for those impacted and often perpetuating cycles
10 of trauma and more violence. I know these from my
11 own family's history, just as so many others right
12 here in this room, and millions more across our
13 nation do also. Our moral obligation to protect
14 innocent life must transcend *all* boundaries and
15 differences. Many New Yorkers have strong ties to
16 the region, and when they think of Israel and
17 Palestine, they think first of their family and
18 friends, whether they are safe, and whether they will
19 see each other again. These connections engender
20 both pain and passion that is deeply personal, and
21 for many these feelings are charged by generational
22 trauma and violence. Today, friends, family, and
23 colleagues who might normally see eye to eye on
24 issues, now find themselves holding differing
25

1
2 opinions. As Americans, we always protect and
3 encourage freedom speech, and our differences make us
4 stronger. We must remain committed to preserving
5 these principles, and, at the same time, be vigilant
6 in preventing our differences from being exploited or
7 transformed into hate. While we all have the right
8 to express our views, this should never come at the
9 expense of undermining our respect for one another's
10 humanity. There is no place for hate or promoting
11 hatred, discrimination, and violence against any
12 group. Rising tensions of late have led to an
13 increase in antisemitism, islamophobia, and other
14 forms of hate here in New York and elsewhere. This
15 leaves us all less safe, because we are only as safe
16 as the most vulnerable among us. We have seen how
17 hate can lead to violence. We cannot allow it to
18 take hold and spread any further.

19 I want to take a moment now to address our
20 Jewish, Muslim, and other New Yorkers who have been
21 targeted by hate, and to those who have felt unsafe
22 and afraid to be in their own skin, you belong right
23 here in New York City. This is your home. And while
24 we may hold different opinions, we must remember our
25 shared humanity and pursue meaningful dialogue and

1 understanding to despite our differences, because
2 empathy and open conversation is what peace possible.
3 Life is precious, what unites us? Our Commitment to
4 preserving humanity and protecting life is far
5 greater than what divides us. As we navigate our
6 grief and our trauma, we must allow what we share
7 rather than what separates, us to guide our way
8 forward. We must hold space for each other's pain
9 and make room for our collective healing. And by
10 working together and committing ourselves to peace,
11 we can ensure a reality where everyone gets to live
12 safely with dignity and with security.

14 November is Puerto Rican Heritage Month...

15 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: Okay, okay, [LAUGHTER] with that,
17 I want to honor the many contributions and
18 accomplishments of our Puerto Rican communities who
19 help shape our city into what it is today. It is
20 important that we acknowledge these continuing
21 contributions, not just this month, but every day.

22 November is also National Native American
23 Heritage Month, when we uplift the history and
24 cultures of indigenous peoples, it is critical that
25 we recognize that we are currently in the homeland of

1
2 the Lenape, and as a city and country, we must commit
3 to meeting the needs of our indigenous communities
4 and confronting the disparities they continue to
5 face.

6 I want to also acknowledge November as National
7 Alzheimer Disease Awareness Month. This disease
8 affects more than six million Americans, so it is
9 critical that we recognize them and all families and
10 caregivers who support their well-being. Thank you
11 to our Committee Chair on Aging, Council Member
12 Crystal Hudson, and all of our members for all that
13 you do to advance the care for older adults in our
14 city.

15 On November 11th, we will be observing Veterans
16 Day, a meaningful day for all of us, especially
17 veterans and families of those who have served in the
18 armed forces. My father, my father-in-law, and my
19 husband all served in the United States Airforce,
20 so this is a personally important day for my own
21 family. Yesterday, I joined Council Members Linda
22 Lee, Robert Holden, Mercedes Narcisse, and Eric
23 Dinowitz as well as Public Advocate Jumaane Williams,
24 to announce new legislation they are sponsoring that
25 focuses on services for our veterans as the second of

2 the Council's Mental Health Roadmap. I thank all of
3 our veterans for their service and sacrifice. Have a
4 safe and meaningful Veterans Day and National
5 Veterans and Military Families Month.

6 And on November 12th, New Yorkers across our city
7 will be celebrating Diwali. The Festival of Lights
8 is a significant celebration for our Hindu, Sikh, and
9 Jain communities. I look forward to celebrating
10 Diwali in the coming weeks. I hope everyone has a
11 festive Diwali.

12 Next, I want to wish a Happy Birthday to Council
13 Member Lynn Schulman, whose birthday is coming up in
14 two days! Have a great birthday!

15 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: And, colleagues, please don't
17 forget to fall back this weekend! And set your
18 clocks back one hour for daylight savings time. You
19 get to sleep that extra hour.

20 Council Member Oswald Feliz has a birthday coming
21 up also...

22 [CHEERS]

23 SPEAKER ADAMS: We missed your birthday, but I did
24 text to wish you a happy... Happy Birthday, Oswald!

25 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

2 SPEAKER ADAMS: Now, finally, I want to remind all
3 New Yorkers that early voting is underway and runs
4 through Sunday November 5th. And Election Day of
5 course is Tuesday November 7th. Your vote is your
6 voice, so I encourage New Yorkers to get out and
7 vote!

8 Now, let's get to our Stated Agenda.

9 First we will vote on the following Finance
10 items:

11 Introduction 1208, sponsored by Deputy Speaker
12 Diana Ayala, would extend the expiration date of the
13 tax on hotel room occupancy from December 1, 2023 to
14 December 1, 2027. The Council first increased the tax
15 to 5.875% in 2008, and extended it several times. It
16 is estimated that extending it beyond November 30,
17 2023 would generate approximately \$50 million in this
18 current fiscal year, and nearly \$100 million in the
19 next fiscal year.

20 There is also a transparency resolution approving
21 new designations and changes of certain organizations
22 receiving funding in the Expense Budget.

23 Next we will be voting on the following Land Use
24 Items:

1 South Richmond Zoning Relief, an application by
2 the Department of City Planning to modify certain
3 provisions of the Special South Richmond Development
4 District, which was created in 1975 to manage growth
5 and preserve the natural landscape of the area. This
6 text amendment will streamline the approval process
7 for residents who seek lot subdivisions, tree
8 removal, and topographic modifications on their
9 property. The Council is modifying the application
10 to ensure that known development projects in Minority
11 Leader Borrelli's district are not negatively
12 impacted by this change.

14 703 Myrtle Avenue Rezoning, an application to
15 facilitate a new 8-story mixed use building with 54
16 housing units, commercial ground floor, and
17 automobile and bicycle parking spaces, in Council
18 Member Restler's district. The Council is modifying
19 the application to strike MIH Option 2, and add the
20 Deep Affordability Option.

21 Today we will vote on the following resolutions:

22 Resolution 243-A, sponsored by Council Member
23 Julie Menin, a resolution calling upon the New York
24 State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign,
25 S.5256/A.7196, to prohibit the use of a confession of

1 judgment in business loans. Thank you to staff
2 Nicole Cata, Rebecca Barilla, Jessica Boulet, David
3 Seitzer, and Rachel Cordero.
4

5 Resolution 296-A, sponsored by Council Member
6 Althea Stevens, a resolution calling on the Governor
7 to sign S.4266A/A.5088A, which passed several months
8 ago, and establishes a task force on missing women
9 and girls who are Black, Indigenous and people of
10 color. Each year, tens of thousands of Black girls
11 and women go missing. In fact, they make up a
12 disproportionate percentage of missing people, but
13 routinely get far less attention. This is an
14 injustice that we have a responsibility to address
15 ensuring Black women and girls are equally protected.
16 Thank you to our staff members Wiam Diouri, Jessica
17 Boulet, David Seitzer, and Rachel Cordero.

18 We will also vote on the following pieces of
19 legislation:

20 Introduction 1083-A, sponsored by Small Business
21 Committee Chair, Julie Menin, would authorize the
22 Mayor to establish The Office of Nightlife within the
23 Department of Small Business Services. Currently,
24 the Office is housed in the Office of Media and
25 Entertainment. OLN and SBS have previously

1
2 collaborated to support small businesses in the
3 nightlife sector. Thank you, once again, to staff
4 Nicole Cata, Rebecca Barilla, Jessica Boulet, David
5 Seitzer, and Rachel Cordero.

6 Introduction 845-A, also sponsored by Chair
7 Menin, would reduce penalties, allow opportunities to
8 cure certain violations, and eliminate certain
9 requirements for commercial establishments. While
10 regulations put forth by city agencies provide
11 protection for consumers, workers, and surrounding
12 communities, in some cases responding to violations
13 can significantly affect the financial status of a
14 small business. Reducing penalties and minimizing
15 their impacts on small businesses are critical to
16 helping them succeed. Thank you once again to our
17 staff members Nicole Kata, Rebecca Barilla, Jessica
18 Boulet, David Seitzer, and Rachel Cordero.

19 Introduction 816, sponsored by Council Member
20 Lincoln Restler, would add Tisha B'Av to the list of
21 holidays for which the alternate side parking rules
22 are suspended. This law would take effect
23 immediately. Thank you to staff members Nell
24 Beekman, Mark Chen, Audrey Son, and Bradley Reid.

1 Introduction 1192, sponsored by Transportation
2 and Infrastructure committee chair, Majority Whip
3 Brooks-Powers, authorizing physician assistants and
4 nurse practitioners to conduct medical exams of taxi
5 driver license applicants. Currently, the law
6 requires taxi drivers to submit to a physical
7 examination by a preapproved physician before being
8 issued a license. This bill would allow drivers to
9 obtain medical approval from nurse practitioners and
10 physician's assistants as well. This would
11 streamline the application process and reduce the
12 burden on drivers who often face long waiting periods
13 waiting for the approval of their licenses. Thank
14 you to staff members Mark Chen, Audrey Son, and
15 Bradley Reid.

17 Introduction 1191, also sponsored by Majority
18 Whip Brooks-Powers, would change the duration of taxi
19 cab licenses from one year to two years. The
20 duration of these licenses was changed by Local Law
21 110 of 2020 to one year along with other licensing
22 changes; however, this bill would return taxi cab
23 licenses to their original two year duration. Thank
24 you to staff members Mark Chen, Audrey Son, and
25 Bradley Reid.

1 Introduction 569-B, sponsored by Immigration
2 Committee Chair, Shahana K. Hanif, would require the
3 Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP),
4 in coordination with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant
5 Affairs (MOIA), the New York City Commission on Human
6 Rights, and community and labor organizations, to
7 create and publish a workers' bill of rights, which
8 would contain information on the rights and
9 protections under federal, state, and local laws that
10 apply to all workers in the City, regardless of
11 immigration status. Employers would be required to
12 provide the information to employees and post it in
13 an accessible and visible workplace location. MOIA,
14 in coordination with DCWP and community and labor
15 groups, would be required to conduct outreach to
16 workers in the City to raise awareness of the
17 workers' bill of rights. Such outreach would also
18 include information regarding temporary protected
19 status. It is important that our City empowers our
20 immigrant communities and workers with the knowledge
21 about their rights, so that they can be protected
22 from actions that impact their health, safety, and
23 well-being. Thank you to our staff members Jessica
24

1 Foong, Nicole Cata, Jayasri Ganapathy, Rebecca
2 Barilla, Robert Calandra, and Rachel Cordero.

3 Introduction 687-A, sponsored by Majority Leader
4 Keith Powers, would require chain restaurants with 15
5 or more locations to conspicuously post added sugar
6 icons and factual warning statements on menus or menu
7 boards next to menu items and on or near food items
8 on display that exceed a specified level of added
9 sugars as determined by the U.S. Food & Drug
10 Administration or another amount specified by the
11 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Eating or
12 drinking too much sugar can elevate a person's risk
13 of Type 2 Diabetes, which is the 7th leading cause of
14 death in the United States and leads to other
15 negative health outcomes like liver disease and
16 dental issues. Research has shown that sugar amount
17 disclosures can help educate customers on sugar
18 intake, and, at times, convince them to choose
19 healthier options. Thank you to our staff members
20 Sara Sucher, Trevor Littman, and Chris Pepe.

21 And finally, Introduction 968, sponsored by
22 Council Member Mercedes Narcisse, would require the
23 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in
24 consultation with New York City Health and Hospitals,
25

1
2 to create guidance to educate medical professionals
3 and the public on the detection of the sickle cell
4 trait through pre- and post-conception genetic
5 screening and on the management and treatment of
6 sickle cell disease. The bill would also require
7 that pre- and post- conception genetic screening for
8 sickle cell trait be offered to those who fall into
9 an at-risk population or for whom such screening is
10 otherwise medically recommended. It is important to
11 note that sickle cell disease disproportionately
12 effects people of African descent with about 1 in 13
13 Black babies born with the sickle cell trait in the
14 United States due to the racial disparities in
15 medical treatment and access to health care, the
16 impact of this disease on individuals diagnosed, and
17 their families, has remained a major issue of
18 structural racism. Just this week we learned that the
19 FDA is moving towards approval of a potential cure
20 for this illness, so I am so excited about how these
21 advances and our legislation will improve the lives
22 of New Yorkers have sickle cell disease. So many have
23 suffered due to a lack of adequate care and
24 investments in treatment research for far too long.

2 Thank you to our staff members Sara Sucher,
3 Christopher Pepe, and Mahnoor Butt.

4 Thank you for your attention, colleagues. And
5 now I turn it back over to our Majority Leader.

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We are now
7 going to move to Reports of Special Committees? Thank
8 you, sorry, first we are going to move to the
9 Discussion of General Orders.

10 We will start with Council Member Narcisse.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Good afternoon, and
12 thank you Majority Leader, good afternoon, Madam
13 Speaker, and thank you to all of my colleagues.
14 Today, as we prepare to vote on Introduction 968-B, I
15 want to share a personal insight. Not only am I a
16 council member and a nurse, but I also someone who
17 carries the sickle cell trait. This bill isn't just
18 policy to me, it is profoundly personal. In my
19 nursing career, I have witnessed the pain and the
20 challenges that sickle cell disease brings to
21 individuals and their families. I have seen the
22 urgency for early detection, proper education, and
23 unbiased care. My own genetic link to this condition
24 has made me acutely aware of its implications and the
25 need for greater awareness and action. As a proud

1 sponsor of this bill, I introduced that bill with
2 both knowledge as a health care professional and
3 empathy of someone who understands the implication of
4 sickle cell disease. This is a bill that would
5 change lives and help bring to the pressing needs of
6 many New Yorkers to the forefront who live with
7 sickle cell disease throughout their lives. This
8 legislation is a testimony to our Council's
9 commitment to health, to education, and to the future
10 where no one feels marginalized because of their
11 genetic makeup. Please allow me to thank some folks
12 that helped me to get to this point: Sara Sucher,
13 Legislative Counsel, [BACKGROUND NOISE] [INAUDIBLE]
14 Navarro (sp?), and Tristan Massalay-Ellis from the
15 New York Blood Center, Kazim Waterson (phonetic),
16 Marion Blackwood (phonetic), and [INAUDIBLE] of One
17 Brooklyn Health Comprehensive Sickle Cell programs of
18 Brooklyn and Interfaith Medical Center, Ginger Davis
19 from the Sickle Cell Thalassemia Patient's Network,
20 and Milton D. Wade, who lost his son to sickle cell
21 disease, Jeremy John, [INAUDIBLE] [BACKGROUND NOISE]
22 my Chief of Staff, Saye Joseph, and Deputy Chief of
23 Staff, and of course my friend Selvena Brooks-Powers.
24 [BACKGROUND NOISE] I urge my fellow council members
25

2 to vote in the favor of this bill. Let's demonstrate
3 our unwavering commitment to all New Yorkers ensuring
4 [TIMER CHIMES] that we receive the care and the
5 support they rightly deserve. Happy Veterans Day,
6 Happy Diwali, vote for this. And, then, I would like
7 to have permission to... [CROSS-TALK]

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council
9 Member... [CROSS-TALK]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: vote on the items for
11 today? And for that, I vote, aye.

12 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Council Member, you...
13 We have to... We don't know the Land Use items
14 today, so we have to wait until the actual roll call,
15 when we can move you to the front. Thank you...

16 [CROSS-TALK]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: All right, I just want
18 to [INAUDIBLE]...

19 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: All right, Council
20 Member, it will be okay.

21 We will now move over to Council Member Hanif,
22 and then we will to Council Member Restler.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you. I want to thank
24 Speaker Adams for including my bill, Introduction 569
25 on today's agenda.

1
2 Immigrant workers are protected by the minimum
3 wage, overtime, paid sick leave, fair scheduling, and
4 the right to form a union. However, many immigrant
5 workers are unaware of these protections, which
6 leaves them particularly vulnerable to wage theft and
7 other forms of exploitation.

8 Introduction 596 will combat this dynamic by
9 consolidating relevant information into one
10 convenient document called the Immigrant Worker's
11 Bill of Rights, and ensure that this document reaches
12 workers in the languages they speak. Employers will
13 be required to provide a copy of the Immigrant Worker
14 Bill of Rights to employees on their first day on the
15 job, and post it in a conspicuous location in the
16 workplace. MOIA, in coordination with DCWP, and
17 community and labor groups would also be required to
18 conduct outreach to workers including a robust
19 advertising campaign through digital and print media,
20 subway, as well as LinkNYC kiosks. Thank you to the
21 19 members who sponsored this bill, especially
22 Council Member Alexa Avilés, who introduced it
23 alongside me. I want to thank my team Alex Liao,
24 Nora Brickner, Michael Whitesides, and Musarrat Lamia
25 for their hard work on this bill. I also want to

1
2 thank central staff members Nicole Kata, Rachel
3 Cordero, Jessica Foong, Rebecca Barilla, Florentine
4 Kabore, and Nia Harris. Lastly, I need to thank the
5 advocates for their collaboration on this bill, the
6 Legal Aid Society, the Consortium for Worker
7 Education, and especially the New York City Central
8 Labor Council who were particularly critical in
9 getting this across the finish line, Lucia and Kiiru,
10 we owe you a debt of gratitude, thank you.

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We will now
12 hear from Council Member Restler, followed by Council
13 Member Brooks-Powers, followed by Council Member
14 Menin.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Great, thank you very
16 much Majority Leader. I would like to thank Speaker
17 Adams and Chair Brooks-Powers, uh, for helping to
18 shepherd Introduction 816 over the finish line. This
19 bill lifts alternate side parking restrictions on the
20 most mournful day in the Jewish calendar. During
21 Tisha B'Av observant Jews are at shul from early in
22 the morning until late at night. They are praying,
23 they are fasting, and they don't need to be worrying
24 about moving their car. And I want to just
25 especially shoutout Council Member Yeger who has been

1 a real partner on this bill. This was originally
2 introduced by then Council Member David Greenfield,
3 his predecessor, some 10+ years ago, and I am very
4 pleased that we were able to get it over the finish
5 line. I would like to thank everyone who helped this
6 along, especially my Legislative Director, Molly
7 Haley.
8

9 And, also, just briefly, uh, we are very pleased
10 that we are rezoning 703 Myrtle Avenue today. I am
11 proud that the 33rd Council District has had
12 significantly more housing starts than any other
13 council district in the City for the past 15 years.
14 And 703 Myrtle Avenue will continue to contribute to
15 that trend. The developer worked with me and my
16 community to rethink their project to modify the unit
17 sizes, to actually meet the needs of our community,
18 which has large families in the Bed-Stuy area, and
19 reduce the number of one-bedrooms and studios to
20 accommodate the larger family sizes. This is a good
21 project, and I am really proud that we are able to
22 get it done. And I just want to thank everyone who
23 contributed to it, but most of all, Rabbi David
24 Niederman from United Jewish Organizations of
25 Williamsburg in North Brooklyn who helped shepherd

2 this negotiations through with my office, and my
3 Chief of Staff, Mariana Alexander, for her work on
4 it. So, thank you all for the support, and I hope
5 you have a great day.

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we will now go
7 to Council Member Brooks-Powers, followed by Council
8 Member Menin.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you. I am
10 proud to sponsor two bills up for a vote today that
11 will advance equity citywide. Introductions 1191 and
12 1192.

13 The first of these bills, 1191, will allow taxi
14 drivers to renew licenses every two years rather than
15 every year. This helps reduce the regulatory burden
16 on drivers who not have to renew their licenses
17 annually.

18 Introduction 1192, will allow individuals seeking
19 a taxi license to secure a medical approval from TLC
20 approved nurse practitioner or a physician's
21 assistant in addition to physicians. This, too, will
22 reduce the burden on drivers who will be afford more
23 options when seeking medical clearance as part of the
24 application process. This legislation also reflects
25 the national trend towards healthcare visits

2 conducted by nurse practitioners and physician
3 assistants rather than physicians. I look forward to
4 continuing to work in the Committee on Transportation
5 Infrastructure to uplift New York's TLC drivers. And
6 I urge my colleagues to vote aye, thank you.

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, and, finally,
8 we will hear from Council Member Menin.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Thank you so much. I am
10 proud today that the Council is going to be voting on
11 two of my bills. And I first of all want to thank
12 the Speaker for her great support of this.

13 Uh, the first bill is Introduction 845, which
14 reduces penalties on small businesses, specifically
15 it reduces fines in 30 different regulations that are
16 currently effecting small businesses across multiple
17 different city agencies. These small businesses are
18 being socked with thousands of dollars in fines, and
19 it is really hurting them. This bill will now allow
20 small businesses to cure the violation first before
21 receiving a fine.

22 The second bill, Introduction 1083, transfers the
23 Office of Nightlife from the Office of Media and
24 Entertainment, also known as MOME, to the Department
25 of Small Business Services. When I was MOME

2 Commissioner, we created the Office of Nightlife, it
3 made sense to have the office housed there in its
4 inception, but it no longer makes sense, because we
5 really need to support these 25,000 nightlife
6 businesses, and we can best do that by transferring
7 the Office to SBS, which provides support for these
8 small businesses. I want to thank Nichole Katia,
9 Jessica Boulet, Rebecca Barilla, and Rachel Cordero
10 for their work. And from my team, Jonathan Szott and
11 Brandon Jordon, thanks so much.

12 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. Do we have
13 anyone else signed up to speak?

14 Seeing none, now we will move into the Report of
15 Special Committees.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Report of Standing
18 Committees?

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on
20 Finance, Introduction 1208, Hotel Occupancy Tax?

21 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered Resolution 834,
23 Transparency Resolution?

24 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Health,
3 Introduction 687-A, sugar Notifications in chain
4 restaurants?

5 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
6 Orders.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Introduction 968-B, guidance on
8 sickle cell disease?

9 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
10 Orders.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on
12 Immigration, Introduction 569-B, Workers Bill of
13 Rights?

14 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
15 Orders.

16 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Report of the Committee on
17 Small Business, Introduction 845-A, requirements for
18 commercial establishments?

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

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Introduction 1083-A, Office of
22 Nightlife?

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

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on
3 Transportation and Infrastructure, Introduction 816,
4 alternate side parking regulations?

5 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Introductions 1191 and 1192, taxi
7 cab license and taxi driver medical exam?

8 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: General Orders Calendar LU 263 and
10 Resolution 841, South Richmond Zoning Relief?

11 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 275 and Resolution 842, and LU
13 276 and Resolution 843, 703 Myrtle Avenue Rezoning?

14 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Resolution appointing various
16 persons Commissioner of Deeds?

17 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

18 I now ask that the clerk take a roll call vote on
19 all of the items coupled on today's General Orders
20 Calendar.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Permission to vote on
23 today's agenda, and I apologize, and I vote aye and
24 congratulations to all of my colleagues, thank you.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ung?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Barron?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: It is with great
5 trepidation that I request unanimous consent, again,
6 [LAUGHTER] to vote on all General Order items. I
7 vote no on L U 275 and 276, because 75% of it is
8 market, and only 25% of is affordable and the
9 accompanying resolutions. And I vote aye on all of
10 the rest, thank you.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

12 Council Member Abreu?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I would like to disclose
16 that on the transparency resolution, there are line
17 items for Sanitation, and my son works for
18 Sanitation.

19 I am aye on all, except for Introductions 1208,
20 569-B, 687-A, for which I am a no, thank you.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

22 Council Member Avilés?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye on all.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ayala?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: Aye

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member BRANNAN?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

9 Council Member Brooks-Powers?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Aye on all. And

11 congratulations to my colleagues who are passing

12 legislation today.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Carr?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: I'd like to disclose on the

17 record that CUNY is being funded in the transparency

18 resolution today, and my husband is a student at

19 CUNY. And I will be voting no on Introductions 569-

20 B, 687-A, and 1208 and aye on the rest.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

22 Council Member De La Rosa?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Farías?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye on all.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: I vote aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Holden?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye on all except for

16 Introductions 1208 and 569-B of which I vote no.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Kagan?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: I would like to disclose

23 that my daughter is a CUNY student in our

24 Transparency Resolution, and I give funding to CUNY.

25

2 I am voting no on Introductions 1208, 569-B, and 687-
3 A, and aye on everything else.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Lee?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Louis?

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

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye on all, and
13 congratulations to all of those passing bills
14 [BACKGROUND NOISE] today.

15 Colleagues, most of us that have districts that
16 grapple gun violence may understand and empathize
17 with my remarks today. It is difficult to adequately
18 put into words and describe how constituents in East
19 Flatbush and my neighbors in Flatbush Gardens are
20 feeling after the tragic death of Bladimy Mathurin, a
21 47-year-old hard working school bus driver, husband
22 and father, and his 27-year-old son, Chin Wai Mode,
23 both killed due to a noise complaint. The blatant
24 disregard for Black lives is demoralizing, because we
25

2 went from saying, "Don't shoot" to "I can't breathe",
3 back to begging our neighbors not to kill us.

4 Guns are suffocating Black communities, and we
5 remain oppressed by these weapons and the evil that
6 comes along with the mission in what these weapons
7 represent. We have to change public perception that
8 being Black in America is equivalent to a death
9 sentence, which means we cannot say Black Lives
10 Matter today and turn around to hurt our neighbors.
11 The demented and shameful obsession with guns is a
12 cultural disease prevalent in BIPOC communities, and
13 we can no longer give lip service to addressing gun
14 control. On behalf of District 45, I would like to
15 send my condolences to Marie Delille, and her family,
16 and the whole Flatbush Gardens community that is
17 still grappling with this incident.

18 I vote aye on all, thanks.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

20 Council Member Marte?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

25 Council Member Menin?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye on all.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Moya?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: I vote aye except on
11 Introductions 1208, 569-B, and 687-A.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

13 Council Member Restler?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Richardson
16 Jordon?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Aye

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Riley?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Rivera?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

25 Council Member Sanchez?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye on all.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Permission to explain my
5 vote?

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: I am proud to be a
8 sponsor of Introduction 687-A, which will enable
9 people to make a decision about their sugar intake
10 from big chains, and 968-B, on sickle cell disease.
11 Yesterday I was at the launch announcement of Healthy
12 NYC, a new campaign to increase New Yorkers' life
13 expectancy by 2030. It is unquestionable that these
14 bills will help us move towards achieving those
15 goals. And I vote aye on all.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Velázquez?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Aye on all.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye on all, except no on
22 Introductions 569-B, 687-A, and 1208, thank you.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Williams?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Disclosing for the
25 record that I am a CUNY student. I vote aye on all.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Won?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye on all.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Yeger?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: May I be excused to explain
6 my vote?

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you very much, Mr.
9 President.

10 I rise briefly just explain some of my no votes,
11 but before I do, I want to very much appreciate the
12 gentleman, Council Member Restler, for living the
13 dream that was first proposed by my predecessor David
14 Greenfield. The adding of an additional holiday to a
15 list that currently has 24 religious holidays on it,
16 in which alternate side of the street parking rules
17 are suspended, is a recognition that the City is
18 indeed a city for all. A list that includes holidays
19 of all religions, all faiths, it really is another
20 banner of welcoming. And I won't get into the great
21 detail on what Tisha B'Av is, and I urge you to
22 Google it. We are seeing a lot of that right now.
23 And, but I am very grateful to Council Member Restler
24 for this very wise bill. Very briefly, since we are
25 talking about regulation, or at least I am, I am

1 voting no on Introduction 687 and 589. I do not
2 believe this is the environment to require businesses
3 to have more rules, more regulations, and more fines
4 for the Department of Consumer Affairs to go around
5 writing tickets, they love doing that, I'd like them
6 not to. And giving them another set of rules to
7 enforce on businesses is not something that I would
8 very much believe I was sent here to do. I am voting
9 no on Introduction 1208. The reason I am doing that
10 is because this was a temporary tax enacted in 2008
11 that expired in 2011. It has been reinstated,
12 reinstated, reinstated, reinstated, extended,
13 extended, extended, extended. It is a temporary tax.
14 It was always meant to be a temporary tax. It's a
15 temporary tax that should not be continued. It hurts
16 tourism. It makes hotel rooms more expensive. I
17 know it's a little bang in the fisk of the City, but
18 not every time that we see a tax do we have to say
19 this is a good idea. Sometimes it's not. This one,
20 I think we [INAUDIBLE] and should be at least honest
21 enough to say a temporary tax ought to mean that,
22 especially if it has the word temporary in it.

24 I vote aye on the remainder, thank you very much.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Borelli?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: A brief explanation,
3 please?

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: I just want to point out,
6 we are passing a rezoning of the South Richmond
7 Special District of which my whole district is
8 encompassed in. My district and my neighborhood is
9 very fortunate and blessed to have a lot of trees.
10 We have the strongest tree rules in the City of New
11 York. We have open space. We have preserved lands.
12 And those are the reasons, as much as I tend to rant
13 about trees, those are the reasons why so many people
14 move to my part of the city. So, this rezoning keeps
15 the rules on the books to preserve the unique,
16 special characteristics and the natural environment
17 of the south shore of Staten Island. It just takes
18 away the bureaucratic rules. It shouldn't require a
19 City planning process to put a small extension on a
20 house or to build a deck or do some of the more
21 mundane things that property owners do. And, yet,
22 that's what was happening for many years. So, this
23 is literally seeing the forest for the trees and
24 preserving the unique environmental characteristics
25 without placing an extra burden on people.

2 With that, I want to disclose that I am employee
3 of CUNY, and we are funding that in this budget.

4 And I vote aye on all, except 569-B, 687-A, and
5 1208.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Powers?

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: I am so grateful Council
8 Member did not use that full seven minute allotment
9 [INAUDIBLE] given to him, but I vote aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Adams?

11 SPEAKER ADAMS: Aye on all.

12 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: All items on today's
13 General Orders Calendar have been adopted by a vote
14 of 51 in the affirmative, 0 negative, and 0
15 abstentions, with the exception of Land Use items 275
16 and 276, and accompanying resolutions, adopted by a
17 vote of 50 in the affirmation, 1 negative, and 0
18 abstentions... [CROSS-TALK]

19 PROTESTOR: We call for the reform of the Taxi and
20 Limousine Commission! [CROSS-TALK]

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Please throw him out.

22 PROTESTOR: Reform the TLC! Reform the TLC!

23 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Please escort this
24 gentleman out... [CROSS-TALK]

2 PROTESTOR: [INAUDIBLE] has failed the drivers!
3 We have to reform the Taxi and Limousine Commission!
4 Do it now!

5 UNKNOWN: All right, we'll do it now, [INAUDIBLE],
6 we'll do it now. He's right... [CROSS-TALK]

7 PROTESTOR: Reform that TLC! You're hurting the
8 drivers! You're hurting the drivers... [CROSS-TALK]

9 SPEAKER ADAMS: Please remove the gentleman from
10 the Chambers, thank you... [CROSS-TALK]

11 PROTESTOR: Reform that TLC! Do it now! Do your
12 job, reform TLC!

13 [INAUDIBLE CONVERSATIONS]

14 PROTESTOR: [INAUDIBLE] the drivers!

15 [INAUDIBLE CONVERSATIONS]

16 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: I am going to go back...
17 I am going to...

18 PROTESTOR: [INAUDIBLE] the drivers!

19 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: to resume reading the
20 votes.

21 PROTESTOR: [CONTINUES TO PROTEST]

22 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Introduction... Uh, Land
23 Use items 275 and 276 and accompanying resolutions
24 adopted by a vote of 50 in the affirmative, 1
25 negative, and 0 abstentions. Introduction 569-B,

1 adopted by a vote of 43 in the affirmative, 8
2 negative, and 0 abstentions. Introduction 687-A,
3 adopted by a vote of 44 in the affirmative, 7
4 negative, and 0 abstentions. And Introduction 1208,
5 adopted by a vote of 43 in the affirmative, 8
6 negative, and 0 abstentions.
7

8 We will now move into the Introduction and
9 Reading of Bills.

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

12 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We will now
13 move into the discussion of today's resolutions. I
14 will call first on Council Member Stevens.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Good afternoon, today I
16 am deeply honored to be the lead sponsor on a
17 resolution urging the Governor to sign
18 S.4266A/A.5088A, which establishes a task force on
19 missing women and girls who are Black, Indigenous and
20 people of color into law. This resolution is a vital
21 step towards increasing the attention to thousands of
22 missing women of color across the state and the
23 nation by establishing a task force dedicated to
24 missing women of color, we will begin to rectify some
25 of the injustices and disproportionate efforts to

1 ensure the safe return of missing women of color.
2
3 Let's be clear, this resolution is not just a piece
4 of legislation, it is a call for action to ensure
5 that no one, regardless of their race or background,
6 is left behind. It is a collective response to
7 protect and serve all of the members of our
8 communities, especially our BIPOC women, and those
9 who are the most vulnerable in marginalized areas of
10 the country. I am happy that we are taking this
11 significant step towards acknowledging the plight of
12 missing women. A special thanks to Dawn Rowe, who is
13 the founder of Girl Vibe, a nonprofit organization
14 that was deeply involved in sounding the alarm around
15 this issue. Let us stand together in unity to make
16 it known that we will not rest until this silent
17 epidemic is unsilenced, and missing women and girls
18 of color [TIMER CHIMES] are given the attention and
19 care they rightfully deserve, thank you.

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. Seeing no one
21 else signed up to speak on today's resolutions, we
22 will now move into a voice vote on today's
23 resolutions. If you wish to vote against or abstain
24 from any of the resolutions, please notify the
25

2 Legislative Documents Unit by email or by approaching
3 the dais.

4 I will now read today's Resolutions into the
5 record:

6 Proposed Resolution 243-A, calling upon the New
7 York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to
8 sign, S.5256/A.7196, to prohibit the use of a
9 confession of judgment in business loans.

10 Will all those in favor say aye?

11 ALL: Aye.

12 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Will all those opposed
13 say nay?

14 ALL: [SILENT]

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Any abstentions?

16 ALL: [SILENT]

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: The ayes have it.

18 Resolution 296-A, calling on the Governor to sign
19 S.4266A/A.5088A, which establishes a task force on
20 missing women and girls who are Black, Indigenous and
21 people of color.

22 Will all those in favor please say aye?

23 ALL: Aye.

24 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Will all those opposed
25 say nay?

2 ALL: [SILENT]

3 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Any abstentions?

4 ALL: [SILENT]

5 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: The ayes have it.

6 We will now move into today's General Discussion;
7 we will begin with Council Member Hanif, followed by
8 Council Member Schulman.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you, I am proud to
10 introduce Resolution 836 to designate a South Asian
11 Heritage Month annually in the City of New York.
12 Getting to do so alongside Council Member Krishnan is
13 a true pleasure, as we share the joint distinction of
14 being the first South Asian New York City council
15 members. I encourage my colleagues to sign on as
16 sponsors.

17 I also wanted to share that I am proud to be
18 wearing an ALE pin today alongside many of my
19 colleagues. As a former Council staffer, I know how
20 hard our dedicated staff works, and I want to
21 recognize them as they bargain for their contract,
22 thank you.

23 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we will now
24 move to Council Member Schulman, followed by Council
25 Member Riley.

1 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Thank you, Majority
2 Leader. Today I am introducing Introduction 1248.
3 This bill would require the Department of Health and
4 Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to develop a five-year
5 population health agenda for New York City that could
6 be renewed every five years, and focuses on improving
7 public health outcomes and addressing health
8 disparities to increase life expectancy. This
9 legislation comes at a critical point for New
10 Yorkers, because over the past few years, the life
11 expectancy of our city has precipitously declined.
12 It is a comprehensive plan that seeks to elevate our
13 city's well-being in every aspect. The reasoning for
14 the five year time period is the desire for a
15 healthier New York to exist beyond our tenures in
16 city government. Yesterday, the City launched
17 Healthy NYC, a comprehensive campaign aimed at
18 ensuring that every New Yorker has the opportunity to
19 lead a longer, healthier life. This legislation will
20 serve to codify the goals of Healthy NYC, and mark a
21 significant step forward in our commitment to the
22 well-being of all New Yorkers. This legislation
23 would not have been possible without the
24 encouragement and support of City Council Speaker
25

1
2 Adrienne Adams, whose commitment to the health of New
3 Yorkers has been inspiring and unwavering from day
4 one. I encourage my colleagues to sign onto this
5 important legislation, which will enhance the lives
6 of all New Yorkers, thank you.

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we will now
8 move to Council Member Riley, followed by Council
9 Member Paladino.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you, Majority Leader.
11 Today I ask for the support of two bills from my
12 colleagues. The first bill would promote
13 accessibility by ensuring there is a process for
14 outdoor summer basketball leagues to reserve ring
15 sight locations for games. Basketball is a major part
16 of New York City's vibrant culture, and it provides
17 safe spaces for sportsmanship, growth, and
18 development within our communities. Well-known
19 basketball leagues like Dyckman Park summer league,
20 Rucker's Park Tournament, Gersh Park, Hoops in the
21 Sun, and District 12's own Grenada Built to Win,
22 Valley Basketball Tournament, and Gun Hill Basketball
23 Tournament contributes to our city's legendary
24 basketball culture. But, they also create pathways
25 to on ground public safety and community engagement

1 that our youth can relate to. Currently, adverse
2 weather conditions and a lack of access to indoor
3 facilities often leave local teams and leagues unable
4 to function. Introduction 1245 would require the
5 Department of Parks and Recreation to create a plan
6 that connects basketball leagues with indoor courts
7 and gyms for basketball games when the weather does
8 not permit use of outdoor courts.
9

10 The next bill is Introduction 1246, this bill
11 would require the Department of Small Business
12 Services to create a matching pilot program for
13 social media content creators for assistance with
14 marketing and advertisement. SBS would be required
15 to engage the public to maximize outreach and create
16 an application process to pair supportive content
17 creators with small businesses. Not only is this
18 program pivotal to boosting small businesses, but
19 content creators will also be able to educate
20 businesses, providing them with substantial marketing
21 plans tailored to their needs and capabilities.

22 And, lastly, I would like to commend my
23 colleague, Council Member Narcisse, on the
24 Introduction of Intro 1242, requiring that the New
25 York City Department of Education to report on the

1
2 number of students reporting to the Office of School
3 Health with a diagnosis of sickle cell disease or
4 trait. I am proud to be a co-prime sponsor on this
5 bill, which will ensure proper health care support
6 and accommodations for affected students, as well as
7 facilitate [TIMER CHIMES] data drive policy
8 decisions. I would like to encourage my colleagues
9 to support these bills, thank you, Majority Leader.

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council Member
11 Riley. We will now go to Council Member Paladino,
12 followed by Council Member Dinowitz.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Good afternoon,
14 everyone. I am introducing Resolution 840, a
15 resolution calling on the New York City Department of
16 Education to observe Veterans Day the Friday before
17 November 11th, if it falls on a Saturday, and the
18 Monday after the 11th if it falls on a Sunday. This
19 year Veterans Day falls on a Saturday. Some agencies
20 are observing Veterans Day on Friday, like we are
21 here in City Council. Private schools are also
22 observing on Friday the 10th. The Department of
23 Education is not observing Veterans Day, since it is
24 on a Saturday this year. Community members, teacher,
25 parents, and students are expressing concerns about

1 this. I actually want to give a shoutout to MS 67, I
2 have about 300 of your letters here about asking for
3 that day off. I am proposing that the DOE observe
4 Veterans Day the Friday before November 11th if it
5 falls on a Saturday, and the Monday if it falls on
6 after the 11th, if it falls on a Sunday. As a member
7 of the Veterans Committee, I would hope that our
8 students are also learning about the history and the
9 importance of Veterans Day. These letters, I have to
10 tell you, I cannot believe that they were written by
11 kids in the sixth and seventh and eighth grades.
12 Their vocabulary, everything, the way they put it
13 together is great. So, again, a shoutout to my kids
14 in my District 25 and 26. And I hope you consider
15 signing on to Resolution 840, thank you very much,
16 everybody.

17
18 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we will now go
19 to Council Member Dinowitz, followed by Council
20 Member Lee.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Thank you, Majority
22 Leader. First, for the first time, because of this
23 council, we can say Happy Veteran Appreciation *Month*.
24 So, today, in collaboration with Council Member Linda
25 Lee and Council Member Mercedes Narcisse, I am

1
2 introducing Introduction 1237, which would require
3 our city agencies to ask for Veteran status on all
4 application forms for social services. By having our
5 city agencies ask the obvious questions, the City can
6 do more to intervene sooner when a veteran is at the
7 precipice of a mental health crisis. We want our
8 city agencies talking to each other, and I am
9 confident we as a city will be able to more for our
10 veterans by passing this bill. I want to thank the
11 Speaker and Council Member Lee for including my
12 legislation on the next stop of the Mental Health
13 Roadmap. Our veterans deserve our best, and I ask
14 everyone to sign on to this important piece of
15 legislation. Thank you, and Happy Veteran
16 Appreciation Month.

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we will now go
18 to Council Member Lee, followed by Council Member
19 Bottcher.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Thank you, good afternoon,
21 Madam Speaker, Majority Leader Powers, and
22 colleagues. I am proud to be introducing legislation
23 alongside Council Member Hudson today that would
24 address food insecurity for our city's older adults.
25 Introduction 1240 would expand home delivered meals

1 program to 365 days of operation. Currently, the
2 program only delivers on weekdays, leaving our city's
3 most vulnerable to fend for themselves on weekends
4 and holidays. This has been an especially difficult
5 issue in a district like mine, which is a transit
6 desert. Other programs like City Meals only
7 partially fill those weekend gaps and often at much
8 lower reimbursement rates to providers. I hope you
9 can support me in this effort to do right by the 20%
10 of New Yorkers, 1.7 million of our family members,
11 friends, and neighbors who are 60 years and older.
12 Thank you so much, and I hope you sign onto this
13 legislation.
14

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we will now
16 hear from Council Member Bottcher, followed by
17 Council Member De La Rosa.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: In early 2021, the
19 Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act was passed, and
20 this was long overdue, putting an end to the harsh
21 prison sentences and establishing a legal industry
22 that would generate revenue, prioritizing
23 marginalized communities, so that those who suffered
24 the most would be the first to reap the benefits.
25 But, the state dragged its feet on issuing retail

1 licenses, no licenses were issued for a year and a
2 half -- and, then, it was only 36 for the entire
3 state. Because of this foot dragging and the lack of
4 enforcement mechanisms in the law, thousands of
5 unlicensed marijuana stores have opened across the
6 state -- at least 1,500 in New York City. These
7 illegal stores undermine the licensed recreational
8 marijuana market, and they pay no taxes, depriving
9 impacted communities of promised community
10 reinvestment funds. The products sold in these
11 stores are unregulated, and perhaps, most troubling,
12 more and more teens and minors are purchasing
13 cannabis from these unlicensed stores, often before
14 or after school. The law has been adjusted many
15 times, but it is not working. The stores are not
16 being shut down. So, today, at The City Council,
17 Council Member Keith Powers, is introducing
18 legislation, I am proud to be cosponsor, a prime
19 cosponsor of this legislation that will introduce a
20 new category to the Nuisance Abatement Law that
21 allows the City to padlock these businesses. This
22 would also create a new category for selling to
23 anyone under the age of 21. This is necessary [TIMER
24 CHIMES] to getting a handle on this issue, and
25

1
2 closing these illicit stores, and allowing a legal
3 fair market to get up and running. Thank you so
4 much.

5 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council
6 Member, a fantastic bill, if I do say so myself.
7 [LAUGHTER] We will now go to Council Member De La
8 Rosa, and we will hear from Council Member Avilés
9 afterwards.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Thank you so much,
11 Majority Leader. I am proud to introduce our
12 Constitution Justice Act, Introduction 1236 today, a
13 \$40.00 wage and benefit floor, will lift all tides
14 for all workers in our city, and ensure those that
15 build our renowned skyline will be able to afford to
16 live in it. This Introduction includes a communities
17 hiring aspect to bring the subsidies used for
18 affordable housing to the hands of those who need it
19 the most and are often forgotten -- like immigrant
20 workers, women workers, justice-impacted persons, and
21 people who live in Black and brown communities across
22 our city. I want to thank the broad coalition that
23 has come together to support this legislation,
24 including our labor partners and the laborers in
25 Local 79, in addition to our colleagues, Council

1
2 Member Francisco Moya who laid foundation for this
3 bill, and our speaker, and the legislative staff for
4 partnering with us to help get this introduced. This
5 bill will build generational wealth and a new middle
6 class. And I am encouraging colleagues who have not
7 done so already to please sign on. Thank you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, and finally,
9 we will hear from Council Member Avilés.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Thank you. I just want to
11 take a moment and extend my congratulations to
12 colleague, Council Member Shahana Hanif for passing
13 Introduction 569 today, of which I am a proud
14 cosponsor. While our city, which has built on the
15 back of immigrants, still has a long way to go to
16 make sure our new arrivals are treated with dignity,
17 today we can at least be sure that our immigrant
18 workforce will have access to information regarding
19 their rights in the job, a step towards vastly
20 improving working conditions for those who are often
21 exploited immigrant working class folks. Faced with
22 wage theft, discrimination, hazardous working
23 conditions, to name a few, which our immigrant
24 workers constantly face, I look forward to seeing the
25 impact of 569 on communities like mine, which is a

1 majority immigrant community. By being given access
2 to information regarding their rights, in their
3 native language, our city's workforce will be giving
4 a fighting chance to improve their livelihood for
5 themselves and their families, thus allowing our
6 neighborhoods and New York City to prosper. Thanks
7 again to my colleague, Council Member Hanif, and to
8 everyone who voted in support, thank you.

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Nice when your colleagues
11 give you complements, isn't it?

12 We will now hear from Council Member Feliz.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Thank you, Majority
14 Leader. First, I would like to, uh, disclose on the
15 record, I should have done it earlier, that I am an
16 adjunct professor in the CUNY system, CUNY Hostos
17 Community College in the Bronx.

18 Secondly, I want to associate myself with the
19 comments of Council Member Farah Louis, still shaken
20 by the gun violence that we saw in that building. I
21 am sure many of us saw that video, a father and son
22 executed in their own building, of their own home.
23 Last year, we had a lot of that in my district. We
24 had... In 48 hours we had a 13-year-old, a 15-year-
25 old, and an 18-year-old losing their lives to gun

1 violence -- gun and gang violence, and then,
2 literally different groups literally celebrating the
3 gun violence that they had committed against their
4 gang rivals. We must make absolutely no excuses for
5 gun violence, uh, excuses are usually done to the
6 detriment of already marginalized communities. The
7 carrying of a gun never ends well, so I hope was as a
8 city could do more to not only stop the guns from
9 entering our communities, but also stop people from
10 carrying them, because it is very clear that far too
11 many people are carrying, almost like it is not
12 problem, thank you so much.

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council
15 Member. Do we have anyone else signed up to speak?
16 Okay, not seeing anyone, just a reminder that there
17 is the LAC meeting in the conference room right after
18 this.

19 And with that, I will hand it over to Speaker
20 Adrienne Adams to close today's Stated Meeting.

21 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Majority Leader, the
22 Stated Meeting of November 2, 2023 is hereby
23 adjourned.

24 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: [GAVEL SOUND] [GAVELING
25 OUT]

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 November 15, 2023